

Hookline Books

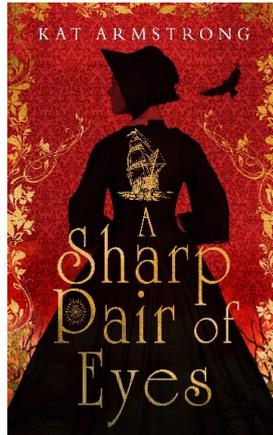
We consult with book groups and serious readers in choosing the novels we put to print. Such close contact with readers means that our novels carry universal themes that cross cultural boundaries.

All our authors have MA degrees in writing from UK universities.



Historical fiction

A Pair of Sharp Eyes Kat Armstrong



Coronation hears of the murders before she even reaches the slave port of Bristol – six boys found with their throats slit. Horrified, she wonders at the locals' readiness to blame the killings on Red John, a travelling-man few have actually seen. Coronation yearns to know more about the mystery. But first she has to outsmart the bawds, thieves and rakes who prey on young girls like her, fresh from the countryside and desperate for work.

When the murderer strikes shockingly close to Coronation, she schemes, eavesdrops and spies on all around her until the shameful truth is out.

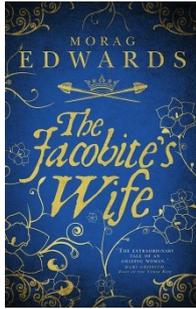
'A treat for fans of Ambrose Parry.' Mick Herron, Jackson Lamb Thrillers

'Fans of historical fiction will love this one. An outstanding debut.' Stephen Booth, Cooper and Fry Crime Series

'Highly recommended,' Roz Watkins, DCI Meg Dalton Thrillers

Historical fiction

The Jacobite Wife Morag Gornall



King and country are a powerful lure, especially to a titled young man with little to occupy him. So goes the life of William, Earl of Nithsdale. However, his wife has already seen her mother, father and brother imprisoned because of their support for James II, the Catholic king exiled to France. Winifred can barely speak to her husband as he takes up this cause. While she wants to be loyal to her husband, she also wants to protect him from imprisonment – and worse, the scaffold!

204 Pages

Sept 2018

'An impressive, lively narrative of a memorable woman who, aside from her one daring exploit, is lamentably little-known.'

Historical Novel Review

'The extraordinary tale of an amazing woman.' Mari Griffith,
Root of the Tudor Rose.

Morag has spent thirty years as an educational psychologist in the UK. She also has an MA in creative writing. The story of the Earl of Nithsdale and his escape from the Tower of London is one she heard during her Scottish childhood. As she looked into the story as an adult, she realised that the story of his wife Winifred was far more interesting.

Literary

The Water and the Wine Tamar Hodes

A novel based on Leonard Cohen's early life.



It is the 1960s and writers and artists gather on the Greek island of Hydra. Leonard Cohen is at the start of his career and in love with Marianne Jensen, who is also a muse to her ex-husband, Axel. It is a hedonistic time of love, sex and new ideas. As the island hums with creativity, Jack and Frieda join the artistic community, hoping to mend their broken marriage.

250 pages

Reissued: July 2019

'Well-turned storylines, excellent character development, and a generous portion of the world as lived in the 60s make this a very fine treasure of a book.' *The San Francisco Review of Books*

'An enchanting, entertaining read.' *Cohencentric*

'A read that deserves recommendation.' *Book Traveller*

In this fictional account of real events, Tamar Hodes explores the destructive side of creativity and the price that we pay for our dreams.

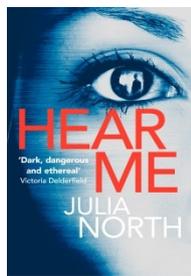
Growing up, Tamar Hodes' neighbours were Leonard Cohen, his girlfriend Marianne, and other writers and artists on the Greek island of Hydra (her parents were pursuing their own art and writing there). *The Water and the Wine* is a fictional account of those bohemian days of the 1960s.

Italian rights sold.

Crime

Hear Me Julia North

Psychological thriller for readers who like crime and romance.



Lissa has dealt with tragedy by using alcohol. To her sisters, it is obvious that her drinking is out of control and that the only solution is rehab. However, Lissa thinks therapy will be a waste of time and refuses to go. But after a particularly shameful one-night stand she gives in, and one patient proves to be a pleasant surprise. Just as she is beginning to see the reasons for her alcoholism, life takes a dark turn.

April 2017
235 pages

'Dark, dangerous and ethereal,' Victoria Delderfield, The Secret Mother

Reading groups said:

'An exciting novel set in the new South Africa.'

'Such a refreshing change with an engaging voice.'

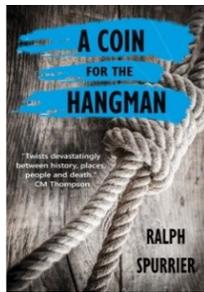
'I loved this to the very end.'

Julia North grew up in South Africa and has an MA from Edinburgh University.

Crime

A Coin for the Hangman Ralph Spurrier

A murderer leaves a diary – should we believe what we read?
Set in present day England with flashbacks to World War II.
For sophisticated crime and mystery readers.



When browsing through a collection of old books, a bookseller finds leather straps and a hood and he quickly realises they are the tools of a hangman. Also in the collection is a diary, the final words of a man sentenced to die for murder. Was there a miscarriage of justice? Did the wrong man die at the noose?

April 2016
266 pages

Minette Walters, 'A fiendishly clever plot set in the aftermath of World War II. I thoroughly enjoyed it.'
Peter Lovesey, 'A compelling book, superbly plotted.'
NewBooks journal: 'A hidden gem.'
Crimesquad: 'A very moving piece of fiction.'

Ralph Spurrier is a bookseller who specialises in crime fiction. He studied for his MA in creative writing at Sussex University.

Crime

What Lies in the Dark CM Thompson

Repeated gruesome murders with a well-scripted female detective and superbly written witness scenes.
Will suit younger readers of thrillers.



One murder can make a town nervous. Two brings fear. Add three, four and even more, and watch neighbour turn on suspicious neighbour. Victoria Bullrush – or Bullface, as she is called by fellow police officers – is a stickler for rules. As she tries to maintain a faultless investigation, she can't ignore the public's growing anger.

Feb. 2015
190 pages

80 percent of Netgalley reviewers gave it 4-5 stars:

'My hands are still trembling as I write this review – creepy, very creepy.'

'An edge of your seat well-written thriller.'

'A debut novel that deserves to be read.'

'CM Thompson has perfectly captured human nature.'

Charlotte has an MA from Portsmouth University. She is in her early twenties. Her next novel, Who Killed Anne-Marie? Will be out in 2018.

Crime

Who Killed Anne-Marie?

CM Thomson



No one likes Anne-Marie. But when she turns up dead, who is to blame? The neighbours who despised her drunken rants? The mother disappointed in her? The husband who wonders how much more he can take of her alcoholism? Or is there another killer?

214 Pages

October 2018

'Masterfully written sequel to What Lies in the Dark... superb and suspenseful thriller about a marriage gone deathly wrong.' LM Bryski, Book of Birds and Blood Chill.

'A winner from the opening scenes: the filthy kitchen, the grumbling husband, the wife in her stinky pyjamas hiding in what used to be their bedroom. It makes you read on. Each chapter comes alive.' Rhonda Lomazow.

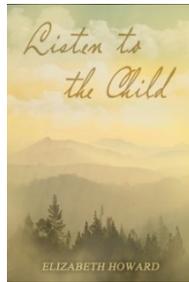
CM Thomson has an MA in creative writing from the University of Portsmouth. Her first novel, *What Lies in the Dark*, came out in 2014.

Historical

Listen to the Child Elizabeth Howard

Based on the true story of the British Home Children who were shipped to Canada in the 1870s.

Will suit keen readers of historic fiction who like a strong reliance on facts.



It's 1875 and London's East End heaves with child prostitutes, hawkers, beggars and thieves. Constance rescues as many children as she can but feels overwhelmed. A solution is offered that sounds perfect – Canadian farmers need workers, their wives want housemaids. Shipping children to this land of plenty offers them a future. Widow, Mary Trupper, is wary, but the promise of a good life for her children is strong.

Pub: 2016

254 pages

Historical Novel Society: 'This is a short book but emotionally very intense.'

Book club comments:

'I was drawn in straight away.'

'I cared so much about what happened to these children.'

'I knew nothing about this and loved how it told both sides.'

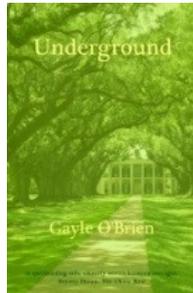
Elizabeth Howard is a former history teacher and a graduate of Sheffield Hallam University.

Historical

Underground **Gayle O'Brien**

Teenage in current era flees underground crime while parallel story set in US civil war follows a privileged teenage girl hide a runaway slave and flee with him to safety.

Will suit readers who like a strong plot, especially those who like the YA.



On the run from a killer, Annie and her mother flee to a remote farmhouse in New England. When Annie finds an unsent letter from a debutante in the Civil War, she is drawn to the story of a Southern girl immersed in a love that cannot see light in the American South.

Pub: 2012
215 pages

Mohammed Hanif: 'A riveting read.'

Bryony Doran: 'A spellbinding tale, cleverly woven between two ages.'

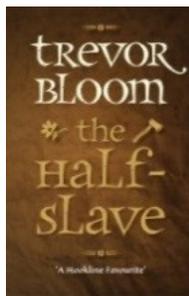
Andrew Cowan: 'A gripping, suspenseful story of secrets and self-sacrifice, friendship and courage. Underground is a tremendous first novel.'

Gayle has an MA from the University of East Anglia.

Historical

The Half-Slave **Trevor Bloom**

Historic fiction covering a little-known era of European history – as the Roman Empire declines, large tribes vie to fill the vacuum. This novel suits male readers although some of our female book group readers said: *“It’s not the kind of thing I would normally read and it was a bit bloody at times but I thoroughly enjoyed it.”*



Ascha is the son of a Saxon warlord and a Roman slave mother, a half-slave, locked in the limbo between slave and free. This is a tale of competing tribes in 5th century northern Europe in territory that extends from France, across Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to Denmark.

Pub: 2009
350 pages

Historical Novel Review: ‘The deftly woven plot strands made this a gripping story.’

Slingshot, Journal of the Ancients: “Gripping, I avidly read late into the night.”

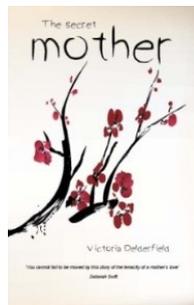
Level 4 Arts and Culture Magazine: “A compelling read with flawless characterization.”

Trevor is an ex-lawyer with an MA from City University.

Literary

The Secret Mother **Victoria Delderfield**

Fiction for women who have crossed the threshold to motherhood – issues of childbirth and adoption as it ponders the question of what makes a mother.



Mai Ling is chasing the Chinese dream. She's escaping to the city, seeking a new life, running away from the old customs of arranged marriage and domestic drudgery.

The Secret Mother puts a face to the label *Made in China*. It tells the bittersweet story of a girl – like millions of others – willing to risk everything.

Pub: 2015
260 pages

Deborah Swift: 'You cannot fail to be moved by this story of the tenacity of a mother's love.'

More than 75 percent of Netgalley reviewers gave it 4-5 stars: 'Really enjoyed this book.'

'A compelling heroine with interesting motivations.'

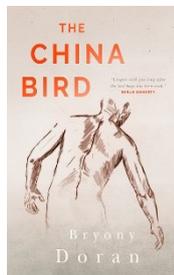
Shortlisted for the International Rubery Book Award.

Victoria works in the charity sector and obtained her MA in writing from Lancaster University.

Literary

The China Bird **Bryony Doran**

Literary fiction and romance – a beauty and beast tale that will appeal to art lovers and those who like works written in the present tense.



An art student with a love for Egon Schiele sees beauty in Edward's twisted spine, and begs him to pose for her. This tale of secrecy, love and understanding explores our perceptions of beauty and lust.

Pub. 2008
270 pages

Livi Michael: *'Explores the precariousness of relationships with precision and insight.'*

The Bookbag: *'An unusual story of love and art that challenges our notions of beauty. Character driven and beautifully written.'*

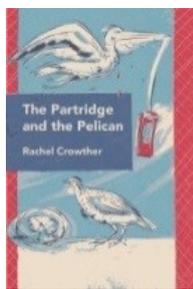
Berlie Doherty, poet: *'Characters are sympathetically drawn and entirely believable.'*

Bryony was a fashion designer and has an MA from Sheffield-Hallam University. She has published a short story collection, *The Sand Eggs*, and a collection of poetry, *Home Front*.

Literary

The Partridge and the Pelican Rachel Crowther

A family saga of women looking back at their early years and wondering where their ideals have gone.



Two girls find a baby abandoned in a phone box, and the event casts a long shadow as their lives unfold through careers, marriages and motherhood. As they meet again, older and wiser, they must ask themselves if they behaved in wisely.

Pub: 2011
280 pages

Tatler: *'A twist in the tail.'*

Cambridge Journal: *'Intelligently written and thought-provoking.'*

Book groups said:

'I felt compelled to find out what would happen next.'

'Beautifully written...I thought the writer captured perfectly that mid-life crisis that women often feel.'

'One of the best books I've read for a while.'

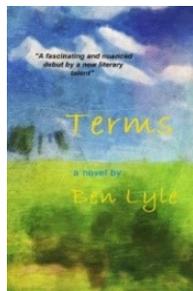
Rachel is a medical doctor and has an MA in writing from Oxford Brookes University.

Her last two novels have been published by Zaffre (Bonnier).

Literary

Terms Ben Lyle

A coming of age story about youth, friends and the teachers we grow to love - and how those years influence the person we become.



Twelve-year-old James hates life at his hippy boarding school where lessons are optional and homework forbidden. All he wants is an academic education with proper exams. When a strict new maths teacher strides into his world, James latches onto him as a symbol of hope. At first, Mervyn's eccentricities seem comic but as a more tragic story unfolds, the adult James is forced to confront his own part in a grand downfall.

Sept 2015

220 pages

D.W. Wilson: 'A fascinating and nuanced debut by a new literary talent.'

School Library Association: 'An intriguing read.'

More than 50 percent of Netgalley reviewers gave it 4-5 stars.

Ben Lyle has an MA from the University of East Anglia. His latest novel has been published by Hodder (H.B. Lyle).

Romance

Seven Days to Tell You Ruby Soames

For the female reader who likes intelligent romance blended with mystery. Also popular in the romance/erotica genre.

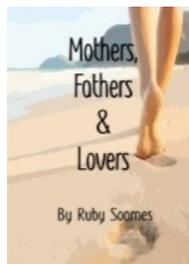


Seven days isn't a long time to prove anything. But Kate's husband promises to explain where he's been for the last three years, and why he left so suddenly. He also promises to prove his love. But Kate has been doing her own investigations. Is a week long enough to learn the truth?

NewBooks: *'The feel of One Day about it.'*

France Magazine: *'An irresistible read- fast-paced and finely crafted.'*

Mothers, Fathers & Lovers Ruby Soames



Ever wonder what it's like to date an actor who hits the big time? Intrigue, jealousy, resentment – and that's just your closest friends. When Sarah Tyler's boyfriend shoots from penniless waiter to Hollywood star, she sinks from city lawyer to homeless, lovesick dog walker.

ChickLit Club: *'A funny tale and well told.'*

Books, Chocolate and Wine: *'One of the best openings I have read in a long time.'*

Vine: *'Part love fable, part commentary of contemporary society.'*

Romance

A Young Woman's Guide to Carrying On **Jilly Woskow**

Romantic comedy in the style of Jilly Cooper but, instead of posh homes and polo players, this novel is set in the industrial city of Sheffield.



After a row with her mother, Kathryn collects her belongings and slams the door for the final time. It's 1974 and the beginning of a new life – but how much can Kathryn really leave behind?

Pub: 2009
235 pages

The Star: 'A lively, well-written romp.'

Book group reviews:

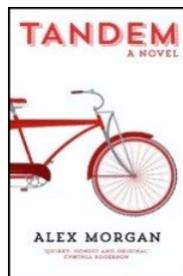
'This was a fantastic book. Well written, the author did a fantastic job of carrying you through all the emotions of the characters and didn't let them do the 'right thing'. Nothing in real life is straight forward and we often go down a path that we regret later.'

Jilly is a glamorous 60-something who sunbathes in stilettos and a smattering of SPF 2. She has an MA from Sheffield-Hallam University.

Romance

Tandem **Alex Morgan**

Romance with a difference – a family saga that features Scottish humour and unusual characters.



Paula abandons her London life and travels through the night to a Scottish village where she once spent a childhood holiday. Desperate to avoid a painful loss, she tries to hide away. However, the locals are keen to know more about their unhappy visitor. Can we ever run away from the past?

Pub: 2014
234 pages

Sara Maitland: 'Sometimes terrible things happen. Lives hit unexpected reefs, break up and sink; they can never be put back, but with love and effort life can be salvaged from the wreck. Tandem is a wonderful 'salvage' novel – funny, edgy, acute and tender.'

Clio Gray: 'A novel about perception and the changing nature of relationships, both with oneself and with others. It reminds us that – like penguins – not everything is as black and white as it first seems.'

Alex is a former journalist and has an MA from Lancaster University.

Bookline & Thinker

Non-fiction publisher specialising in travel,

Self-help and social history.



Travel Guide

The Solo Travel Guide: Just Do It **By Dee Maldon**

Travel tips for those, especially women, who are thinking of taking a trip alone but are a little fearful and need encouragement and advice. Includes planning, behaviour, dangers and destination suggestions.



Do you want to travel, but your friends or family don't? So why wait? Travelling alone is better than never travelling at all.

In the *Solo Travel Guide: Just do it* we give you suggestions on how to plan, how to cope when you are at your destination alone, how to stay safe, and even some suggestions on where to go – good destinations for the solo traveller, places with wonderful things to see but where you will not stand out from the crowd. We also offer inspiration – snippets from those women who set off centuries ago without a guide book, a mobile phone and very little advice.

Travel well – but just do it.

Published: 2017
120 pages

Travel Guide

12 Day Trips from London - A simple guide for visitors who want to see more than the capital **Dee Maldon**

Places to visit outside of London and by using public transport.



Aimed at visitors who want to see more than the capital – but don't want to drive or vacate their hotel room.

This little book provides information on using public transport to visit Cambridge, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon, as well as less well known places such as England's smallest cathedral city, Ely, and Brighton, a vibrant university town that once offered royals freedom from protocol.

Pub: 2014
103 pages

Dee Maldon is a former teacher who lives in Cambridge.

Self-help

Rethink it!
**Practical ways to rid yourself of anger, depression, jealousy
and other common problems**
Michael Cohen

Cognitive behaviour therapy to help with destructive behaviours.



Rethink it gives practical advice on tackling the destructive thoughts that lead to anger, rejection, shame, jealousy, fear and worry. Words affect the way we feel and act, and negative talk leads to fear, anxiety, depression and a 'why bother' attitude. 'Practical and to the point.'

Pub: 2015
135 pages

National Council for Hypnotherapy: "A brilliant book with simple, easy to follow exercises to help people help themselves."

Michael Cohen is a London therapist with more than 28 years of experience. He runs a busy practice in London and is a specialist in the treatment of anxiety disorders.

Self-help

The Power of Accepting Yourself **Michael Cohen**

Cognitive behaviour therapy to help people feel better about themselves.



Are you your own worst enemy? Does fear stop you from being the person you want to be? Do you always think you can't - whether it is passing an exam, finding a new job, maintaining a healthy weight or tackling any of the problems life puts your way?

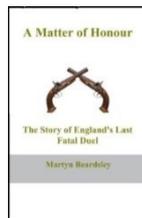
Pub: 2011
160 pages

Tom Butler-Bowden, *50 Self-Help Classics: 'An excellent book that doesn't take long to read but could change your life.'*

Michael Cohen is a London therapist with more than 28 years of experience. He runs a busy practice in London and is a specialist in the treatment of anxiety disorders.

Social History

A Matter of Honour The Story of England's Last Fatal Duel Martyn Beardsley



The insults that drew men to duels were often petty - a splash, a scrape or a disparaging word could all lead to pistols at dawn. When Charles Hawkey watched James Seton flirt with his beautiful wife, there was only one way to respond. The two men were honour bound to meet in a duel, but only one of them could return.

Pub: 2012

190 pages

Martyn is a successful children's author (Orion Books).

Rights available: worldwide

Once Upon a Time in the Sixties Peter Maddick



'If you remember the Sixties, then you weren't there'.

Well Peter Maddick was there and he remembers most of it - the King's Road, Chelsea; the trendy models and hip photographers; the ad men; the road to St. Tropez; the hippy trail from Kathmandu. And let's not forget what the sixties is really famous for - free love!

Pub: 2013

160 pages

Peter lived through the sixties and became a London Ad man.

Rights available: worldwide