

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.

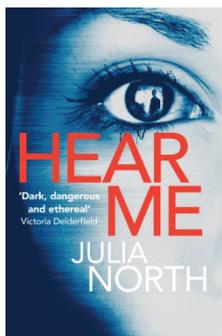


Crime fiction

Out April 2017:

Hear Me **Julia North**

A psychological thriller for readers who like to mix 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 the only solution is rehab. Lissa refuses to go but after yet another shameful one-night stand, she gives in. Therapy, she thinks, will be a waste of time. However 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

252 pages

Paperback: £9.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: worldwide, all languages.

Victoria Delderfield, author, *The Secret Mother*: 'Dark, dangerous and ethereal'

Nina Milton, author, the *Shamanic Mystery series*, 'Will grip and move the reader right to the final page'

Reading groups said:

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

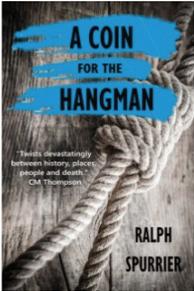
'Such a refreshing change with an engaging voice.'

'I loved this to the very end.'

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

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

Paperback: £9.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: all except US ebook.

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.'

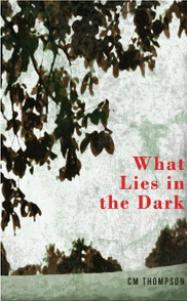
NewBooks journal: 'A hidden gem.'

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. Rights available: All except US ebook

What Lies in the Dark CM Thompson

Repeated gruesome murders with a well-scripted female detective and superbly written witness scenes. Ideal for 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

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: all except US ebook.

Patrick Neale, former chair of the Booksellers Association: 'An author to look out for in the future.'

More than 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.'

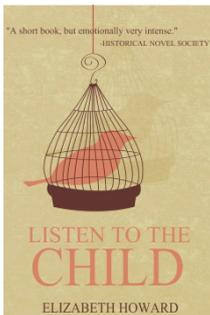
Charlotte has an MA from Portsmouth University. She is in her early twenties and is working on her next novel.

Rights available: All except US ebook.

Historical fiction

Listen to the Child Elizabeth Howard

Based on the true story of orphans who were shipped to Canada in the 1870s. Ideal for 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: Oct 2016

254 pages

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: worldwide, all languages.

Historical Novel Society: '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.

Underground **Gayle O'Brien**

A teenager flees underground crime while a parallel story set in US Civil War follows a privileged teenage girl hiding a runaway slave and running with him to safety.

This will suit readers who like a strong plot, especially those who favour 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

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

**Mohammed Hanif, author, *A Case of Exploding Mangoes*:
'A riveting read.'**

Bryony Doran, author, *The China Bird*: 'A spellbinding tale, cleverly woven between two ages.'

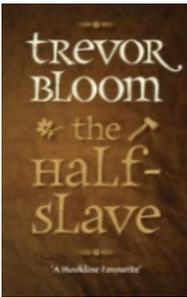
Andrew Cowan, author, *What I Know*: 'A gripping, suspenseful story of secrets and self-sacrifice, friendship and courage.'

Underground is a tremendous first novel.'

Gayle has an MA from the University of East Anglia.

The Half-Slave Trevor Bloom

Historic fiction set in the decline of the Roman Empire. 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

Paperback: £10.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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."*

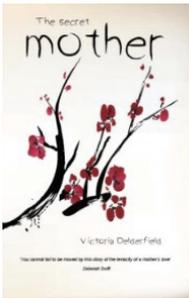
Level 4 Arts and Culture Magazine: *"A compelling read with flawless characterization."*

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

Literary fiction

The Secret Mother Victoria Delderfield

Fiction for women who have crossed the threshold to motherhood as it considers issues of childbirth and adoption. 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

Paperback: £9.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

Deborah Swift, author, *The Lady's Slipper*: '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, difficult choices and some beautiful moments that were wonderfully described.'

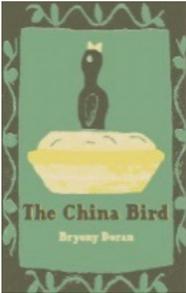
Shortlisted for the International Rubery Book Award.

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

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

Paperback: £9.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

Livi Michael, author, *The Whispering Road*: 'Explores the precariousness of relationships with precision and insight.'

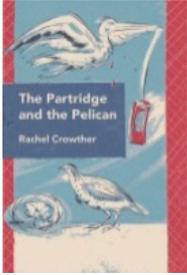
The Bookbag: '*An unusual story of love and art that challenges our notions of beauty. Character driven and beautifully written.*'

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*.

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

Paperback: £9.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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.'

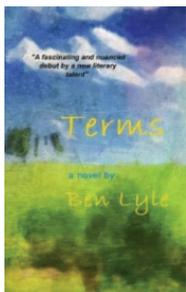
'One of the best books I've read for a while.'

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

Her second novel, *The Things You Do for Love*, has just been published by Zaffre (Bonnier).

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.

Pub: Sept 2015

220 pages

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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.

His second novel, *The Irregular: A Different Class of Spy* will be published by Hodder & Stoughton in May 2017.

Ben Lyle has an MA from the University of East Anglia and works in television production.

Romantic fiction

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?

Pub: 2011

215 pages

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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

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

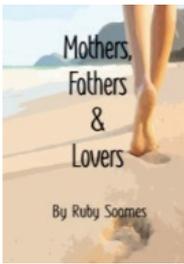
The Riviera Reporter: 'Ruby Soames offers McEwanish sophistication of style and structure.'

Ruby has an MA from Manchester Metropolitan University. She lives in France and teaches sociology and education at an American university in Aix-en-Provence.

Also by Ruby Soames:

Mothers, Fathers & Lovers

Romantic comedy for women over thirty with lashings of feel-good factor and empathy.



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.

Pub: 2014

268 pages

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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.'*

Ruby has an MA from Manchester Metropolitan University. She lives in France and teaches sociology and education at an American university in Aix-en-Provence.

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

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

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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'.

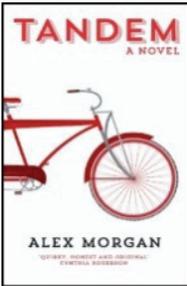
"Made me laugh out loud – reminded me of my own family in many ways.'

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

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

Paperback: £8.99

Ebook: £2.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

Sara Maitland, author, *Daughter of Jerusalem*: ‘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.’

Cynthia Rogerson: ‘Quirky, honest and original.’

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 Guides

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.

Pub: Jan 2017

120 pages

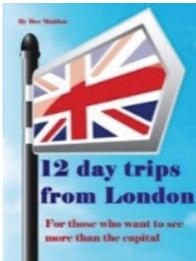
Paperback: £6.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: worldwide, all languages.

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

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

Dee Maldon is a former teacher who lives in Cambridge.

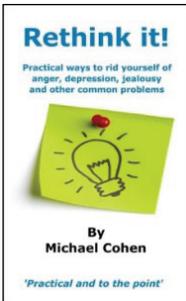
Self-help

Rethink it!

Practical ways to rid yourself of anger, depression, jealousy and other common problems

Michael Cohen

Cognitive behaviour therapy to help cure 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

Paperback: £7.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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.

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

Paperback: £7.99

Ebook: £3.99

Rights available: All except US ebook.

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: All except US ebook.

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: All except US ebook.

Recycle Your Gladrags **How to find and repair old clothes**



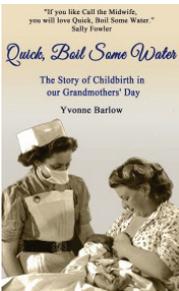
Second-hand clothes can have promise – especially for those who want to wear something very different. But the search can be overwhelming. Dee Maldon offers an overview of fashion history, along with advice on how to examine clothes, how to remove old stains and odours and how to revamp the clothes you find.

Pub: 2012

63 pages

Rights available: worldwide, all languages.

Quick Boil Some Water **The stories of childbirth in our grandmothers' day** **Yvonne Barlow**



Our grandmothers gave birth when there were no washing machines, few hot water boilers and heating came from coal carried in from outside. First person accounts of childbirth during the war, post-war, the 1950s and sixties. Many women began their stories by saying, 'I've never told anyone this.' Some cried, while others blamed themselves and their difficult births for the problems their children developed later in life.

Pub: 2008

150 pages

Popular with viewers of the BBC series *Call the Midwife*.

Rights available: All except US ebook.