

# COVER COMING SOON FAIRLIGHT BOOKS

UK Pub: 23 Oct 2025 Ext: TBC (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, North America

## **BEFORE THE LEAVES FALL** Clare O'Dea

#### A bittersweet and moving novel set in Switzerland, sensitively exploring the topical issue of assisted dying. Accessible literary fiction perfect for readers of Elizabeth Strout and Maggie O'Farrell.

Seeking a new purpose in life, Swiss widower Ruedi signs up to work with Depart, an assisted dying organisation. His role is to spend time with those who have sought out Depart's services, acting as a guide and companion in their final weeks.

Margrit, his crotchety first client, wants only to get on with things. Marking time in a care home, with poor health weighing down on her, she has decided it's time to go. By the end of the summer, she'll have left the world behind - and on her own terms.

Yet when she and Ruedi realise their paths have crossed once before, an unexpected bond forms. One that will illuminate both their lives.

CLARE O'DEA is the author of one previous novel, *Voting Day* (2022), and three non-fiction books: The Naked Swiss: A Nation Behind 10 Myths (2016), The Naked Irish: Portrait of a Nation Beyond the Clichés (2019) and All About Switzerland (2024). Originally from Dublin, she has lived in Switzerland since 2003. She has worked as a journalist for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and the Irish Times.

# COVER COMING SOON



UK Pub: 21 Aug 2025 Ext: TBCpp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, North America

# THE HOMETOWN BOOKSHOP

## **Jenna Warren**

Upmarket commercial fiction with a cosy bookshop setting, for readers of Found in a Bookshop, The Reading List and Days at the Morisaki *Bookshop*. Warm and witty in tone, this uplifting novel will appeal to fans of David Nicholls and Beth O'Leary.

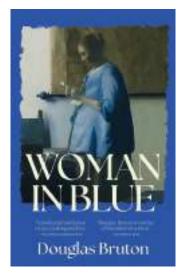
Actress Charlotte LeRoux has it all: a starring role in a West End show, a glittering social life and an equally high-flying boyfriend. But when her perfect existence abruptly falls apart, she retreats to her hometown on the North Yorkshire coast, finding a summer job in the local bookshop.

Greg, the grumpy, old-fashioned manager of Seaswept Books, is alarmed by Charlotte's attempts to revitalise the tired-looking bookshop. But when she discovers his secret passion for amateur dramatics, an unlikely friendship blossoms.

As Charlotte begins to question whether her showbiz life was really all that dreamy, and as Greg ventures beyond his comfort zone - with a little help from handsome librarian Nick - can both of them find the courage to start a new chapter?

JENNA WARREN grew up in Saltburn-by-the-Sea. She is the owner of Book Corner, an independent bookshop in Saltburn. Her debut novel The Moon and Stars was published by Fairlight in 2022; The Hometown Bookshop is her second novel. She studied Theatre at the University of Hull and completed an MA in Creative Writing at Teesside University.





UK Pub: 20 Feb 2025 Ext: 144 (PB with flaps) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, North America

#### WOMAN IN BLUE Douglas Bruton

# A delicate and tender literary novel inspired by a Vermeer painting, for readers of James Cahill and Rachel Cusk.

'You will live beyond one lifetime and beyond even two in the painting he makes of you.' In the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam, there is a painting called 'Woman in Blue Reading a Letter'. Each day a man visits to gaze at it. He is irresistibly drawn to it. Obsessed by it. He studies the painting, in search of resolutions to his past and present loves, and the Woman in Blue studies him back. For there is more to the Woman in Blue than any of the men who gaze upon her realise. She has a story of her own to tell.

With a delicate balance of truth and fiction, past and present, Bruton masterfully explores the intersection between art, artist and viewer.

'A profound meditation on art, looking and love ... This slim novel asks the reader to slow down, to take time, and to allow subtle meanings to surface, from both the painting and Bruton's elegant words' – **Victoria Mackenzie**, author of *For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain* 

DOUGLAS BRUTON is the author of five previous novels: *The Chess Piece Magician* (2009), *Mrs Winchester's Gun Club* (2019), *Blue Postcards* (2021), *With or Without Angels* (2022) and *Hope Never Knew Horizon* (2024). *Blue Postcards* was longlisted for the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction 2021.



UK Pub: 5 Sept 2024 Ext: 288pp (PB with flaps) Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland

#### PLEASE FEAR ME Jennifer Love

A biting contemporary novel exploring family, identity and addiction from the perspective of a teenage runaway in America, for readers of *Burnt Sugar* by Avni Doshi and *Bunny* by Mona Awad.

Sixteen-year-old Smidge is on the run, after her tumultuous upbringing culminated in a shameful secret. Together with fellow runaway Violet, Smidge devises a performance act that will allow them both to rise above the past. As they attempt to sell their new performance, they travel through the underbelly of America, eventually finding home in a travelling circus. Under the influence of the sinister ringleader, Violet is drawn deeper into their new lifestyle, while Smidge realises she can never fully break her connection to home. Forced to change her compass, Smidge must confront the shame and fear that have shaped her, and recast her relationship with her flawed mother, before it is too late.

'A poignant and atmospheric coming-of-age story. Love has produced the literary equivalent of the best kind of road movie' – **Ola Mustapha**, author of *Other Names, Other Places* 

JENNIFER LOVE is a writer and Bay Area native who currently calls Oakland in California home. Her debut short story collection, *Punch a Hole in the Sky to Let In the Light*, was published by 5ever Books in 2023, and her short fiction and poetry have appeared in *X-RAY*, *Minola Review*, *Storm Cellar*, *Autre* and elsewhere. *Please Fear Me* is Jennifer's debut novel.



UK Pub: 18 April 2024 Ext: 336pp (HB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada, Italy Dramatisation rights handled by Annette Green Authors' Agency Italian rights sold to Edizioni Piemme

## THE MAIDEN OF FLORENCE

#### Katherine Mezzacappa

#### A powerful reimagining of a woman forgotten by history, reminiscent of *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell.

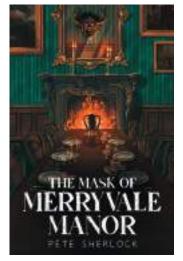
Florence, 1584. Rumours are spreading about the virility of a prince marrying into the powerful Medici family. Orphan Giulia is chosen to stop the gossip. In return she will keep her life – and start a new one with a dowry and her own husband. Cloistered since childhood and an innocent in a world ruled by men, Giulia reluctantly agrees, only to be drawn under the control of the Medicis' lecherous minister.

Years later, married and with a growing family, Giulia hopes she has finally escaped the legacy of her past. But when a threat arrives from a sinister figure from her youth, she must finally take control of events – and become the author of her own story.

'I read this enthralled... Bravo!' – Kate Quinn, author of *The Alice Network* 

'A sensuous and raw story about beauty, sex, sacrifice, and a mother's undying love' – Gina Buonaguro, author of *The Virgins of Venice* 

KATHERINE MEZZACAPPA is an Irish author currently living in Carrara, northern Tuscany. Her debut novel *The Gypsy Bride* (written as Katie Hutton) made the last fifteen in the Historical Novel Society's 2018 new novel competition. Her short fiction has been short- and longlisted in numerous competitions, and she has been awarded residencies at Cill Rialaig Artists village by the Irish Writers Centre in 2019 and at Hald Hovedgaard by the Danish Centre for Writers and Translators in 2022.



UK Pub: 20 June 2024 Ext: 320pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

# THE MASK OF MERRYVALE MANOR

## **Pete Sherlock**

A literary mystery set in the 1960s, focused on a wealthy family following the discovery of a body in the grounds of their estate. For fans of Daphne Du Maurier and Donna Tartt.

On the cusp of the 1960s, when fourteen-year-old Ben moves into the ancestral home of his aunt and uncle, he is shocked by their wealth and glamour. Under the watchful eye of the Merryvale Mask, his sophisticated cousins teach him how to appreciate their languid opulence and draw him into the world of the elites. But five years later, when a woman's body is found on the estate, his new life begins to crumble.

As the family is placed at the centre of a murder investigation, Ben starts to see their manipulative power in a harsher light. Placed on a collision course with his family, Ben faces a dilemma: how far is he willing to go to fit into their world?

'A fabulously dark and atmospheric page-turner full of complex characters and deceit' – Amanda Geard, author of *The Midnight House* 

PETE SHERLOCK is an investigative journalist at the BBC, based in Birmingham. He started his journalism career working for several local newspapers across London, and has won a Wincott Award for data journalism and an award for editorial innovation at the Drum Online Media Awards. *The Mask of Merryvale Manor* is Pete's debut novel.

# **Rights List** The Kanha and Colbey Trillogy



UK Pub: 6 July 2023 Ext: 326pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

#### **DIRTY GEESE**

#### Lou Gilmond

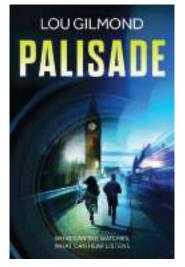
A legal thriller set in the near future with Orwellian inspiration, for fans of *Black Mirror* and *Designated Survivor*.

WHAT CAN SEE WATCHES, WHAT CAN HEAR LISTENS – the gripping first instalment of the Kanha and Colbey Thrillers series.

When Chief Whip Esme Kanha learns of the sudden death of the Minister for Personal Information, she bitterly regrets missing his desperate calls the previous evening. Unconvinced by the verdict of suicide, and suspicious that corrupt colleagues played some part in the man's death, she decides to investigate – but she must tread carefully in a near-future world dominated by technology, where 'what can see watches, what can hear listens, and what can be followed is tracked'.

Meanwhile, big tech executive Henri Lauvaux arrives in London. His mission: to ensure the new minister, Harry Colbey, will not prove as problematic as the last. As the West inexorably slides towards an Orwellian 'Big Brother' future, Harry Colbey and Esme Kanha join forces in a deadly cat-and-mouse game against political corruption – at great cost to themselves.

LOU GILMOND is a writer of fiction and non-fiction based in Oxford, UK. Find out more at www.lougilmond.com



UK Pub: 21 Nov 2024 Ext: 384pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

#### PALISADE Lou Gilmond The second instalment in the Kanha and Colbey Trilogy.

When opposition Chief Whip Esme Kanha is handed a secret dossier containing evidence of government corruption, she suspects its original owner, a top journalist, was murdered for gathering it. Despite the danger, she feels she must investigate. Meanwhile, lowly backbencher Harry Colbey is working his own leads. A known campaigner against big tech, he is often sent data from anonymous sources and this time round he has something truly alarming.

But both Colbey and Kanha must tread carefully in a world dominated by AI, where 'what can see watches, what can hear listens, and what can be followed is tracked'. As Kanha and Colbey again join forces, they are locked into a deadly race against political corruption, no matter what the cost. But when an old enemy returns, it may already be too late...

#### Praise for Lou Gilmond's Kanha and Colbey series:

'I love books that show me behind the closed doors of the corridors of power. And this book does it brilliantly' — *Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC, author of Unlawful Killings; Life, Love and Murder: Trials at the Old Bailey* 'Highly recommended, *Dirty Geese* is so smart and dramatic it makes for a heady and addictive read' — LoveReading 'Compelling from the outset' — Precarious Gothic

LOU GILMOND is a writer of fiction and non-fiction based in Oxford, UK. Find out more at www.lougilmond.com



UK Pub: 14 Sept 2023 Ext: 160pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

# THE OLD HAUNTS

#### Allan Radcliffe

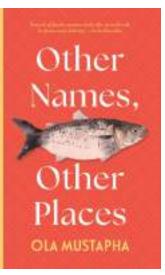
A wistful coming-of-age story set in Edinburgh and rural Scotland, for fans of Douglas Stuart and Ocean Vuong. Shortlisted for the McKitterick Prize and the Saltire Society First Book Award and adapted as a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime.

Recently bereaved Jamie is staying at a rural steading in the heart of Scotland with his actor boyfriend Alex. The sudden loss of both of Jamie's parents hangs like a shadow over the trip. In his grief, Jamie finds himself sifting through bittersweet memories, from his working-class upbringing in Edinburgh to his bohemian twenties in London, with a growing awareness of his sexuality threaded through these formative years. In the present, when Alex is called away to an audition, Jamie can no longer avoid the pull of the past: haunted by an inescapable failure to share his full self with his parents, he must confront his unresolved feelings towards them.

'Equally heart-warming and sorrowful. Each and every sentence has been so elegantly penned' *— The Scots Magazine* 

'There is much to admire in this novel: the elegance and economy of the writing, the understanding of emotional difficulties, the truth to life' -The Scotsman

ALLAN RADCLIFFE was born in Perth, Scotland, and now lives near Edinburgh. His writing has won the Allen Wright Award and the Scottish Book Trust New Writer's Award. With an MA from the University of Glasgow, he works as an arts journalist and editor, and is currently a freelance theatre critic and feature writer. His short stories have been published in anthologies including *Out There, The Best Gay Short Stories* and *New Writing Scotland*, and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. *The Old Haunts* is his debut novel.



UK Pub: 18 July 2024 Ext: 304pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada Audio rights sold to Saga Egmont

# OTHER NAMES, OTHER PLACES

## Ola Mustapha

A fresh, dynamic and witty debut novel dealing with identity and culture clash, for readers of Zadie Smith, Kiley Reid and Naoise Dolan. Growing up in London with Tunisian parents, wayward Nessie finds herself caught between cultures. Her parents don't want her becoming too English, while at school she doesn't feel 'white enough' or 'African enough' to fit in with any group. She even has multiple names: Nesrine officially, Susu to her family, Nessie to everyone else. And then there's Mrs Brown: a charismatic woman who befriends her parents and soon becomes the glue holding their dysfunctional family together. Yet after a catastrophic betrayal, Mrs Brown abruptly disappears from their lives. Years later, Nessie seeks independence but struggles to escape a pattern of self-sabotage. As unsolved family mysteries resurface, she begins to wonder: what really happened between her parents and Mrs Brown?

'This is a novel of rootlessness and family secrets, which tells its truth with briskness and deftness, aiming straight at the reader's heart' – **Leila Aboulela**, author of *River Spirit* 

'An immersive and gorgeous read' – **Eva Verde**, author of *Lives Like Mine* OLA MUSTAPHA was born in London and spent part of her childhood living in Egypt. In her twenties she spent several years teaching English in Japan, and she now works as an editor in London. Her short fiction has been published in literary journals including *Aesthetica*, *Storgy* and *Bandit Fiction*. *Other Names*, *Other Places* is her debut novel.





UK Pub: 17 Aug 2023 Ext: 192pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

## **RED DUST, WHITE SNOW**

#### Pan Huiting

Literary sci-fi about identity, technology and changing realities in an increasingly digital world, set in near-future Singapore. For fans of *Black Mirror* and readers of Sayaka Murata and William Gibson.

When an office worker receives a mysterious device promising to transport her to a parallel universe, she assumes it is just another marketing stunt. That night, she visits a fantastical place in her dreams; on waking she returns to her normal life, only to return to the same dream the following night.

At first she finds the ongoing dreams bizarre, but the more time she spends in the dream world, the less she wants to wake up. Yet as her fantasy begins to encroach on her waking life, dream and reality collide with drastic consequences.

'A dizzying, inventive, page-turning debut' **– Daryl Qilin Yam**, author of *Lovelier, Lonelier*, longlisted for the 2023 Dublin Literary Prize

'A wry satire of the way the virtual has bled into people's lives' *– The Straits Times* 

PAN HUITING lives and works in Singapore. After studying Fine Art at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, she completed a Master of Arts in Singapore and a Master of Research in Fine Art at the Royal College of Art, London. Huiting has taught courses in global art and art criticism at Nanyang Technological University and has displayed her art in exhibitions across Singapore and London. *Red Dust, White Snow* is her debut novel.



UK Pub: 16 May 2024 Ext: 368pp (HB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada Audio rights sold to Saga Egmont

## MOTHER SEA Lorraine Wilson

Winner of the ADCI Literary Prize, shortlisted for Scotland's National Book Awards and longlisted for the British Science Fiction Awards.

Lyrical climate fiction about a pregnant scientist living on a remote island threatened by climate change. For readers of Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Leone Ross.

Sisi de Mathilde lives on a remote island in the Indian Ocean. With the seas rising, the birth rate plummeting and her community under threat, she works as a scientist, reporting on local climate conditions to help protect her island home. But her life is thrown into turmoil when she finds herself newly widowed and unexpectedly pregnant. When a group of outsiders arrive and try to persuade her community to abandon the island, Sisi is caught between the sacred 'old ways' of her ancestors and the possibilities offered by the outside world. As tensions rise and the islanders turn on one another, Sisi must fight to save her home, her people and her unborn child.

'Lyrical, moving, and at times haunting' - Awais Khan, author of No Honour

LORRAINE WILSON is an ex-conservation scientist who writes speculative fiction influenced by folklore and the wilderness, and by her third-culture heritage. Her debut novel *This Is Our Undoing* (2021) was shortlisted for the Kavya Prize and longlisted for the British Science Fiction Association's Best Novel award, and her second novel *The Way the Light Bends* was published in 2022.



UK Pub: 14 Mar 2024 Ext: 256pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada, Italy, Turkey. Italian rights sold to Astoria Edizioni, Turkish rights sold to Liber Plus

## DANCING IN THE SHALLOWS

#### **Clare Reddaway**

# A moving novel about the chains of inheritance and whether they should be broken or embraced, for fans of Rachel Joyce.

Isla Wintergreen has not seen her grandfather since she was seven, but when she unexpectedly inherits his cottage on the Isle of Skye, she cannot resist the opportunity to escape her purposeless life. As she slowly becomes a part of the island community, she learns more about the family she never really knew – from her estranged father, to her reclusive grandfather, and her intelligent but oppressed great-grandmother. Meanwhile, her mother Cathy reflects on her own past. Mother and daughter both hope to find new freedom – but can family patterns ever really be broken?

'An impressive and memorable debut novella of intergenerational relationships, *Dancing in the Shallows* masterfully explores the loves, losses, and secrets of Isla Wintergreen and her family' **– Emma Timpany**, author of *Travelling in the Dark* 

CLARE REDDAWAY is a Bath-based writer of short stories and plays. Her short stories have been widely published online and in anthologies, and she has won and been listed for many short story competitions, including the BBC National Short Story Awards and the Bridport Prize. Clare's plays have been performed throughout the UK, including runs at the Edinburgh Festival and in London and Bath. *Dancing in the Shallows* is her debut novel.

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UK Pub: 14 Mar 2024 Ext: 288pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

# SMALL WARS IN MADRID

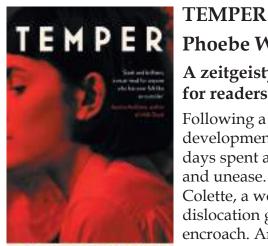
#### **Anthony Ferner**

Set in Madrid, a story about faith, identity and love in an increasingly uncertain world. Perfect for readers of Howard Jacobson.

David Aguilera's life is collapsing around him. After the catastrophic loss of the vessel under his command and a perilous trek across the Baltics to safety, he returns home to find himself unable to reconnect with his family. Frustrated by his inability to express what he is feeling, his wife Margalit moves out to stay with friends, taking their children with her. As David anxiously awaits the official inquiry into his conduct, he turns to those who are most important to him – his closest friend and comrade Marce; his Catholic adoptive mother; his Jewish birth mother; and Margalit, herself Sephardi Jewish. Faced with the prospect of losing his family altogether, he must confront his conflicting identities and faiths and decide the man he wants to become.

'A thoughtful novel about trauma, coming-to-self, and the sometimes inextricable links between such complex processes' **– Ilana Masad**, author of *All My Mother's Lovers* 

ANTHONY FERNER started writing fiction back in the 1990s and has been a member of the Tindal Street Fiction Group since 2010. He has previously published three short novels: *Winegarden* (2015), *Inside the Bone Box* (2018) and *Life in Translation* (2019). With a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Oxford, and a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Sussex, Anthony had a career in academic research.



#### PHOEBE WALKER

UK Pub: 13 April 2023 Ext: 144 (PB with french flaps) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada Audio rights sold to Saga Egmont

# **Phoebe Walker**

#### A zeitgeisty millennial novel exploring loneliness and disconnection, for readers of Jenny Offill, Megan Nolan and Jessica Andrews.

Following a move to the Netherlands, a young woman dissects the developments of her new life: awkward exchanges with the people she meets, days spent alone freelancing in her apartment, her confrontation with boredom and unease. In her newfound isolation, she develops an unusual friendship with Colette, a woman she neither likes nor can keep away from. As her feelings of dislocation grow, larger anxieties about her purpose – or lack of it – begin to encroach. And underneath it all, a burgeoning frustration bubbles.

'*Temper* explores loneliness, alienation and transience in lucid, gorgeous prose. Walker's observations on the nature of work and the hollowness of modern life are stark and brilliant' – Jessica Andrews, author of Saltwater and Milk Teeth

'Written in a uniquely poetic style, littered with acerbic wit and masterfully created observations, Temper captures the lingering frustration that is so widely felt; the need, the inability, and the pain of finding a place to belong' – NB Magazine

PHOEBE WALKER is originally from Northumberland. She has lived in both London and the Netherlands and is now based in Manchester. Her debut poetry pamphlet, Animal Noises, received an Eric Gregory Award in 2021; she also won the Mairtín Crawford Poetry Award in 2019 and a Northern Writers' Award for poetry in 2012. Her poetry has been published in *Ambit, The Moth* and *Magma*. *Temper* is her debut novel.



UK Pub: 15 June 2023 Ext: 224pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada Audio rights sold to Saga Egmont

## **BECOMING DELILAH** Sara Marchant

#### A charming and captivating drama exploring identity, new beginnings and illicit romance, set among an insular island community.

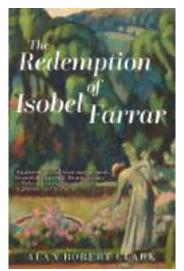
On a windswept island off Cape Cod, Delilah moves into a cottage by the shore. After growing up in precarious circumstances with her Abuela, both of them hiding a terrible secret, all Delilah wants now is a place of her own – and she's paid a high price for it.

The neighbours watch the newcomer and wonder about her. They don't like it when she plants a wild and colourful garden in the front yard, and they like the visits from her married lover even less. Meanwhile, her new cottage shares a driveway with the reclusive Anton, who has a secret of his own. When the two meet, sparks fly - but will the past catch up with them?

'A serene and sensuous novel of love, trauma, and redemption. Marchant's prose is as measured and lush as a summer garden' – Liska Jacobs, author of The Pink Hotel

'A meditative novel about trauma, healing, and what comes next' – Foreword

SARA MARCHANT lives in Southern California. She is the author of a novella, The Driveway Has Two Sides (2018), and a memoir, Proof of Loss (2019). Her short fiction and essays have been published in numerous literary journals and anthologies. Sara is a founding editor of Writers Resist. She holds and MFA in Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts from the University of California, Riverside.



UK Pub: 01 June 2023 Ext: 288pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada Dramatisation rights handled by The Ampersand Agency

# THE REDEMPTION OF ISOBEL FARRAR Alan Robert Clark

#### An atmospheric historical novel exploring family ties and LGBTQ+ relationships in the 1920s, for fans of Salley Vickers and Rose Tremain.

England, 1926. After years of living abroad, Lady Isobel Farrar has returned home to Halcyon Hill, her beloved country house, and finds herself dwelling on a longburied secret. In the wake of a terrible tragedy in her youth, Isobel gave up a child for adoption, and now she can't help but wonder what became of him.

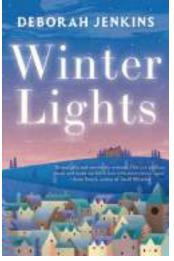
Life has not been kind to Frank Brodie. Cruelly mistreated by his adoptive parents, he spent his young adulthood struggling to survive on the harsh streets of London. Now he has found safety with Arthur, an older man who loves and protects him – but something is still missing from his life.

When mother and son are finally reunited, will they be able to lay the past to rest?

'An absorbing read from start to finish. Well plotted and beautifully narrated. Heartwarming' **– Melanie Levensohn**, author of *A Jewish Girl in Paris* 

'Beautifully composed... clever and original' – On: Yorkshire Magazine

ALAN ROBERT CLARK was born and educated in Scotland. He has worked as a copywriter and creative director with leading advertising agencies, and has also ghost-written and co-authored a number of biographies. He is the author of three previous novels, including *The Prince of Mirrors*, which was included on the Walter Scott Prize 'Academy Recommends' list in 2019.



UK Pub: 09 Nov 2023 Ext: 112pp (PB) Rights held: World Rights available: World excl. UK and Ireland, US and Canada

## WINTER LIGHTS Deborah Jenkins

#### A heartwarming short story collection for the festive season by ADCI Literary Prize-shortlisted author, for readers of Matt Haig.

Across the small town of Henford, families are preparing for the holiday season. A teacher, pulled in every direction by family and work, forms an unexpected friendship following a collision; a mother and daughter unexpectedly forced to stay with the in-laws open themselves to new family; a carer on New Year's Eve brings something more than her nursing skills when she visits the client no one wants to see. Meanwhile, in nearby Ashdown House, an elderly woman hopes to bring her family and community together as they never have been before. Told through a series of heart-warming and uplifting stories, Winter Lights explores the complexities, struggles and joys of everyday life, showing that light can still bloom even in the darkest places.

'Beautifully and sensitively written...This is a brilliant book, and made me fall in love with short stories again' **– Anne Booth**, author of *Small Miracles* 

DEBORAH JENKINS is a freelance writer and primary teacher who has worked in schools in the UK and abroad. Her novel *Braver*, published with Fairlight Books in June 2022, was shortlisted for the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Best First Novel Award and the Society of Authors ADCI Literary Prize. She has written several educational textbooks, as well as articles for the *TES* online and *Guardian Weekend*, among other publications. Her short fiction has appeared in magazines and anthologies, and she has also published a novella, *The Evenness of Things*. She lives in Sussex.