2022 Rights Catalogue

Impress Books & Aelurus Publishing

Impress Books page 2

Historical Fiction, Crime, Memoir/Biography, Contemporary Fiction and more

Aelurus Publishing page 18

Young Adult, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Climate Fiction, Dystopian and more

For translation rights, please contact Reynolds Literary – Angela Reynolds – angela-reynolds@reynoldsliterary.com; +34 606 436 224

For all other rights please contact Jeff Collyer – jeff@impress-books.co.uk; +44 7941 307834

Historical Fiction

The Survivors by Susan McRae

The Ukrainian famine of 1931-33 is estimated to have killed up to 13% of the population. This story tells of a small boy, Misha, whose whole family dies in a rural village as a result of Stalin's policies towards Ukraine and continues through World War 2. Misha must make impossible decisions during a war in which his friends, seeking an independent Ukraine, alternate between supporting Germany and then Russia, and some of his best friends are massacred by the Germans for being Jewish. Carrying guilt for the rest of his life, can a meeting in old age bring him peace?

Just signed

Page-count:
Approx 400

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Susan McRae is a Canadian-born British citizen of Ukrainian heritage. She worked in London at the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) from where I published various works on women's employment, family life, unemployment etc.. I then took up the post of Dean of Social Sciences at Oxford Brookes University, eventually becoming PVC for Research and Research Professor. Susan's grandfather emigrated from Ukraine to Canada prior to the famine of 1931-33, but she wondered what the life of her father would have been like had they stayed. The result is this riveting piece of historical fiction, *The Survivors*.

The Virgin of Florence by Katherine Mezzacappa

In 17th century Florence and young woman was taken from an orphanage to be the test subject of a prince's virility. Approved by both Church and State, this is a powerful story resonant for our times

A Renaissance *#MeToo* story, published Sept 2022

Forthcoming

Page-count:
Approx 400

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Katherine Mezzacappa work sas a manuscript assessor for The Literary Consultancy and for The Oxford Editors. She also reviewesfor the Historical Novel Society's quarterly journal and is one of the organisers of the Society's 2022 UK conference. Katherine is a member of the Irish Writers Union, the Irish Writers Centre, Irish PEN/PEN na hÉireann, The Society of Authors, The Historical Writers' Association and the Romantic Novelists' Association. Katherine has previously been published under the pen names Katie Hutton and Kate Zarrelli

Conquest: Daughter of the Last King by Tracey Warr

While the sons of William the Conqueror fight each other for control of the Anglo-Norman kingdom created by their father, Nest ferch Rhys – daughter of the last independent Welsh king, fights to chart her own path.

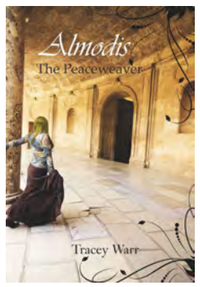
Page-count: 310

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 322

Page-count: 398



Almodis the Peaceweaver by Tracey Warr

In 11th century Occitania, a political marriage is intended to bring harmony to the region. But at a time when a noblewoman's purpose is to produce heirs, Almodis de la Marche resolves to create her own dynasty.

Page-count: 346

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

The Viking Hostage by Tracey Warr

Set in late 10th century France and Wales, this story weaves together the stories of three women living through a time of turbulent power struggles across Europe, Viking raids and fears of The End of Time.

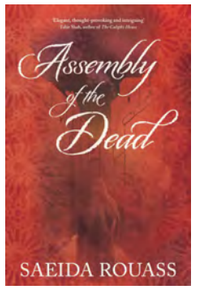
Page-count: 392

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Tracey Warr is a writer based in Wales and France, and has published novels on women in the medieval period and books on contemporary art. She was Senior Lecturer, teaching and researching on art history and theory of the 20th and 21st centuries, at Oxford Brookes University, Bauhaus University and Dartington College of Arts. She reviews for *Times Higher Education*, *Historical Novels Review* and *New Welsh Review*.

Historical Fiction continued



Optioned for TV/Film

Page-count: 284

Assembly of the Dead by Saeida Rouass

Based on the true story of the so-called 'Moorish Jack the Ripper' who killed 36 women in Marrakesh in the early 20th century.

Rights available: Translation

About the author:

Saeida Rouass is of Moroccan heritage, born and raised in London. She spent ten years working internationally as a trainer and project manager for various charities and NGOs. She currently works within international development and security with a focus on the Middle East & North Africa, and Morocco in particular. She is currently working on *Library of Untruths*, set in 1912 Fes, the sequel to Assembly of the Dead.

Page-count: 300

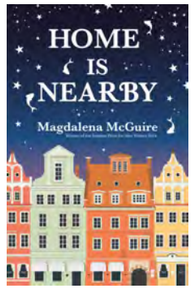
The Day's Heat by Roberta George

Lee James, a dark-skinned, Catholic, Lebanese girl comes to a small 1960's Georgia town. Confronted with prejudices from both the community and her husband's family, Lee struggles with her growth as a wife, mother and an individual. Winner of the Impress Prize 2017.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Roberta George was born in Bisbee, Arizona, and also lived in California and Texas. Almost every summer of her life, she spent with her German grandmother on a 20-acre farm in the South, which left her with an overwhelming desire to pick blackberries every spring and make wine. She has seven children and lived with a third-generation Lebanese husband in Valdosta, Georgia. Roberta also writes for the Valdosa Daily Times.



Page-count: 288

Home is Nearby by Magdalena McGuire

1980: the beginning of the Polish Crisis. Artists Ania and Dominik find their lives change overnight when martial law is declared. With tanks on the street and curfew introduced, they go underground and fight back. But at what cost?

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Magdalena McGuire was born in Poland, grew up in Darwin, and now lives in Melbourne. Her short stories have been published in the UK and Australia by The Big Issue and The Bristol Prize, and by Margaret River Press respectively. She has published widely on human rights topics, including women's rights and the rights of people with disabilities. She is an avid reader and particularly enjoys reading books about girls who like reading books. Her first novel, *Home Is Nearby,* is set in Poland, Australia and the United Kingdom, in the eventful period of the 1980s. She is also working on a collection of short stories that focus on questions of place, identity and unbelonging, particularly in cross-cultural contexts, as well as another historical fiction novel.

Page-count: 234

Electric Shadows of Shanghai by Clare Kane

It's 1931 and diplomat William Graves and his wife, Amelia, are flung headfirst into the enticing, neon-lit streets of Shanghai. As Will helps to maintain the fragile peace between China and Japan, Amelia seeks solace with a Russian ballet troupe that are more than they seem.

Rights available: Translation

About the author:

Clare Kane studied Chinese at the University of Oxford. Following this she worked as a financial journalist for Reuters in London and Madrid. She is a Fellow at marketing communications group WPP and currently based in Shanghai, where she writes about culture, travel and Chinese history in her spare time.

Crime / Thriller

Forthcoming

Page-count: Approx 340

He's Back by Alex Clare

A Crime/Thriller with a transgender Inspector Detective. This is the third in the series, but works as a standalone novel. Publication in May 2022

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

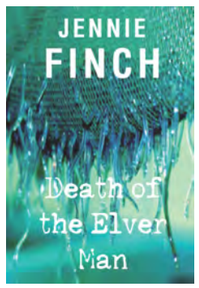
Other books in the series:

Page-count: 350

Page-count: 286

About the author:

After nearly twenty years of being a committed corporate person, Alex Clare was made redundant. She had always enjoyed writing, studying fiction part-time through the Open University and managing to complete a novel in her commuting time, though no one had ever read it. Now, with more time on her hands, she began to enter competitions and joined a writing group, which encouraged her to try out new genres and styles. After a period focusing on short stories, she wanted to try another novel. Inspiration came from watching Parliament debate the Equal Marriage Act in 2013. Astounded by the intensity of feeling generated, she created a fictional world to explore some of the issues and attitudes.



Page-count: 248

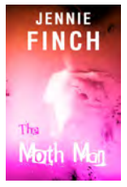
Death of the Elver Man by Jennie Finch

Probation Officer Alex Hastings is determined to prove her client is innocent of a murder. First in a series and finalist in the Impress Prize in 2009. The fifth book in the series is due out late 2022.

Rights available: Translation

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 314

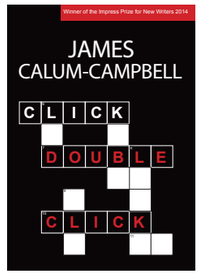


Page-count: 326

Page-count: 326

About the author:

Jennie began writing fiction following a year at Teesside University where she studied on the MA in Creative Writing. After graduation she began to enter competitions to gauge the market and was runner up in the Lit Award of the Ruhr in 2010. Her first novel, Death of the Elver Man was shortlisted for the Impress Prize in the same year and published by Impress Books in 2011.



Page-count: 254

Click, Double Click by James Calum-Campbell

Emergency Room doctor Alistair Cameron-Strange believes he's discovered a terrorist threat in a cryptic crossword. When no-one believes him, he takes matters into his own hands. Winner of the Impress Prize in 2014.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 254

About the author:

James Calum Campbell was born in Glasgow. He read Medicine at Edinburgh, and practised in Papua New Guinea, Queensland, and Auckland, where he was Clinical Head of the busiest emergency department in Australasia. He now divides his time between Scotland and New Zealand.

Page-count: 334

Cobra by James Calum-Campbell

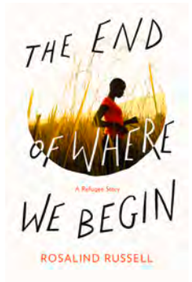
Satirical thriller. When a criminal organisation says they've captured a British nuclear submarine and will destroy London, the government emergency response team proves itself utterly incompetent. Only Brent Crude can save them.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

James Calum Campbell was born in Glasgow. He read Medicine at Edinburgh, and practised in Papua New Guinea, Queensland, and Auckland, where he was Clinical Head of the busiest emergency department in Australasia. He now divides his time between Scotland and New Zealand.

Memoir / Biography



The End of Where We Begin by Rosalind Russell

Written by an international journalist, this follows the true stories of three young people made homeless by the war in South Sudan and they make their dangerous journeys to one of the largest refugee camps in the world.

Winner of the 2021 Moore Literary Prize

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Page-count: 288

About the author:

Rosalind Russell is a journalist and editor with two decades of international experience. She has been a foreign correspondent for Reuters and The Independent in East Africa, the Middle East and Asia, including covering the fall of Kabul in the Afghan war and the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the anti-American insurgency. During nearly three years in Myanmar, Ros reported undercover under a pseudonym on the Saffron Revolution, elections and the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. She is the author of two non-fiction books – *Burma's Spring*, a character-driven account of Myanmar's turbulent transition and *The End of Where We Begin*, the story of three young South Sudanese refugees, which was published late last year. She lives in London and has just launched Vaccine for the World for the Evening Standard, a year-long reporting project focused on the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in Africa.

A Stranger in Paris by Karen Webb

In the early 1990's, Karen left university in Wales for Paris, chasing a love who had told her not to follow him. He was nowhere to be found, but 30 years on and Karen is still in France. This the first in a 3-part memoir. Both hilarious and poignant, this shows the *real* Paris. The second book in the series is due out in late 2022.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

The second book in this wonderful trilogy is due out in Autumn 2022

Page-count: 376

About the author:

Karen attended Lancaster University where she graduated with a Masters in Creative Writing in 2015, after which she set up a series of Creative Writing retreats, "A Chapter Away", inviting world famous authors, literary agents and publishers to teach aspiring novelists. Inspired by the comments of tutors on the memoir writing course, she began *A Stranger in Paris*. Passionate about theatre, and script-writing, Karen has also written plays, several short stories and a novel – all of which are lurking in the bottom drawer. "A Stranger in Paris" is her first published work, and is the first novel of the trilogy La Vie Française. Karen now lives in Gascony with her husband and son, and has a grown-up daughter who works in London. Much of her writing is inspired by the North West of England where she grew up, and France which became her country of adoption.

The Russian Countess by Edith Sollohub

Separated from her three young sons, stripped of her possessions and fearing for her life, Countess Edith Sollohub found herself trapped in revolutionary Russia. This is Edith's personal account of her escape from Russia in which she assumed new identities as a Polish refugee, a travelling musician and even a Red Army nurse.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Also available:

Page-count: 188

Page-count: 456

About the author:

Edith Sollohub taught herself to type in order to support herself and her sons in their one-room apartment in Paris. She typed some of her account of her life in Russia in snatched moments, and added to these in later life. The manuscript of The Russian Countess was left to her youngest son and daughter-in-law after her death in 1965, who lovingly deciphered the handwritten notes, edited the text and unearthed photographs to ensure that her wish – that her memoirs might one day be published – be fulfilled

Being Luis by Luis Muñoz

A powerful memoir reflecting a life of a magical childhood in Chile, through left-wing activism, arrest and torture by the military regime and the author's eventual exile to England.

Rights available: Translation*, Film/TV

*Rights for Spanish language in parts of South America have been sold; this book has been translated into Spanish by the author

Page-count: 254

About the author:

Luis Muñoz escaped oppression in Chile in the mid-1970s after having been incarcerated and tortured under the Pinochet regime.

Eventually he found asylum in London and has been campaigning for the abused and 'disappeared' in Chile ever since. He now lives in Brighton and is a well-known commentator on Chilean affairs, often appearing on national TV and radio. He is closely linked with the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and works for the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre specialising in asylum cases.

Memoir / Biography continued

Page-count: 178

Paulette by Martin Sorrell

This is the colourful story of Paulette Tourdes, based in part on recordings she made in 2002, told by the eldest of her children, Martin. It is a tale of two languages and two cultures, overshadowed by two World Wars, political uncertainties and mental illness. It examines what it means to leave your homeland and to embrace another and, for the children, the challenges of growing up bilingual. Sometimes funny, *parfois triste*, this is a story that explores the strong bonds between the two countries from a deeply personal level.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Martin Sorrell taught French at Exeter University until 2012. He has written widely on French literature . His translations of Verlaine, Rimbaud, Apollinaire (and Lorca) have all been published in Oxford World's Classics, and his anthology of modern French poetry by women by University of Exeter Press. Nick Hern Books have brought out his three translations of Moliere comedies. Sorrell has also written plays, features, and essays for BBC radio. He and his wife live in Exeter.

Page-count: 168

Sift by Lawrence Sail

Sift is the memoir of writer and poet Lawrence Sail's formative years in post-war Exeter. Sail paints a wonderfully evocative picture of British life in the 1940s and 50s, while exploring the richness and bafflements of a child's life.

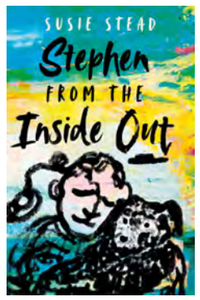
Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Also available:

Page-count: 224

About the author:

Lawrence Sail is a freelance writer who was brought up, and still lives, in Exeter. He has been a visiting reader and lecturer for the British Council in various countries, including Bosnia, Colombia, Egypt, France, India, Kenya, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Ukraine. In 2012 he recorded a selection of his work for The Poetry Archive and a number of his poems, including a sequence on the theme of silence, have been set to music. He has been chairman of the Arvon Foundation and programme director of the Cheltenham Festival of Literature. He was awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship in 1992, and an Arts Council Writer's Bursary the following year. He was on the management committee of the Society of Authors from 2007 to 2011 and, in 2011, president of the U.K. jury for the European Literature Prize. In 2004 he received a Cholmondeley Award for his poetry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



Page-count: 382

Stephen From the Inside Out by Susie Stead

An emotional, heart-stopping, tear-jerking and often hilarious true story of how one woman, while trying to 'do good' to a local man with complex psychological needs, ends up in an unorthodox friendship and finds herself falling into his story and charting his remarkable and difficult life.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Susie Stead is an award-winning writer with an MA in Dramatic Writing and twenty years' experience writing and producing drama and short films, including collaborations with people with lived experience of mental illness. She is also a freelance accredited mindfulness teacher. Stephen from the Inside Out is her first book and she was mentored by Kate Clanchy MBE, whose recent memoir won the Orwell Prize. Susie lives for the moment in East Oxford.

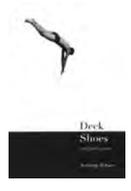
Page-count: 262

Love For Now by Anthony Wilson

In this journal of the days that followed a cancer diagnosis, poet Anthony Wilson contemplates love, family and mortality alongside celebrations of Peter Osgood, Ivor Cutler and 'cooking chicken while listening to funk'.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Also available:

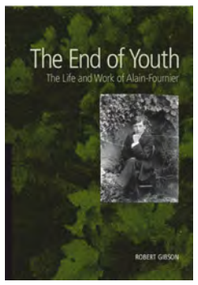


Page-count: 192

About the author:

Anthony Wilson is a poet, writing tutor and Senior Lecturer at the Graduate School of Education, University of Exeter. He has held writing residencies at The Poetry Society, The Times Educational Supplement, Apples and Snakes, Tate Britain, and The Poetry Trust, for whom he will be the 2014 Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Blogger. He is a writing tutor for The Arvon Foundation and The Poetry School. Anthony researches in the field of creative writing in schools. He was co-convener of the ESRC Seminar Series Poetry Matters (2011-12), and evaluated Bath Festivals' The Write Team project on the impact of creative writers in schools.

Memoir / Biography continued



Page-count: 370

The End of Youth by Robert Gibson

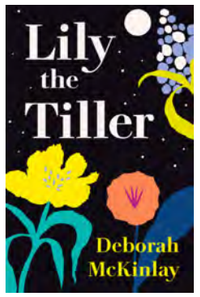
A compelling re-appraisal of the life of Alain-Fournier's life and work sensitively and movingly told. This is a book which will appeal both to the serious scholar and the general reader.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Robert Gibson was a retired Professor of French from the University of Kent. He lived and wrote in Sidmouth, Devon. His previous books include: The Quest of Alain-Fournier, Modern French Poets on Poetry (1961), and The Land without a Name (1975). Also published by Impress Books, he wrote *Best of Enemies,* a history of Anglo-French relations.

Contemporary Fiction



Forthcoming

Page-count: 264

Lily the Tiller by Deborah McKinlay

Lily the Tiller, a nomadic gardener, scours the lanes of south west England looking for work. When she pitches up at Motthoe, a dilapidated, but once grand, country estate, its neglected grounds blossom in her care. The greening magic of new life touches each of Motthoe's cast of idiosyncratic inhabitants, but, even in the midst of this blooming, dark hints and ill-omens suggest Lily's grim history can be run from no longer.

Rights available: Translation

About the author:

Deborah McKinlay has published half a dozen non-fiction titles in the UK, and her books have been translated into numerous languages. She is the author of three novels, *The View From Here*, *That Part Was True* and *Lily The Tiller.* She lives in South West England. *That Part Was True* is currently under option for TV/Film

Page-count: 192

This Farewell Symphony by Edmund Bealby-Wright

This intriguing novel, structured in movements like a classical symphony, follows a group of day-trippers on a tour of places significant to the life of court composer Haydn. At its centre is widower Edward, travelling with his two young children in the hope of introducing them to music and bringing them closer to the memory of their late mother, a violinist. A wonderfully sustained tour de force of comic writing. Winner of the Impress Prize 2010

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Edmund Bealby-Wright is a former journalist who has published in the Independent and worked on radio. He is currently studying for a diploma at the National Academy of Writing. His short story *Count Me Out* was published in the Book of Numbers anthology, 2009.

Page-count: 296

South of Hannah by David Norman

A book capturing the magic and mystery of jazz, when Jazz musician Cole Howland returns from touring to find that Suzette is leaving him for another man, his world disintegrates. Cole will discover those things he could never live without, and he'll have to fight for them.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

David Norman is a native of San Antonio, Texas. His short fiction has appeared in Euphony, Image, Descant, Gulf Stream, American Literary Review, Southern Humanities Review, The Ledge, Rio Grande Review, and other publications. He earned his MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University and his MA in Humanities from New York University. He plays the piano and has taught university courses in writing and professional editing for over ten years.

Page-count: 180

The Price of Everything by Giles Ward

As the only witness to a suicide , Danny Lunt grabs the opportunity to live the life that the dead man no longer wants and that he always thought he deserved – if only he'd had the money. Told along the timeline preceding and following Jocelyn's death, the novel weaves the lives of these two men together and asks the age-old question: Is the grass really any greener…?

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Giles is a Devon-based novelist and storyteller with four novels and countless short stories to his name. He is also a qualified designer, artist, sculptor and photographer. As Creative Director of his own business, Chalk & Ward Advertising in Exeter, Giles gets to apply his writing skills to the promotion of companies both regionally and nationally.

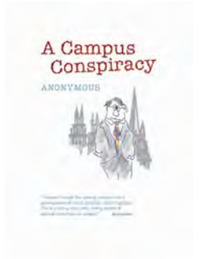
Page-count: 212

100 Ways to Improve the World by Giles Ward

Peter Staines thinks God made rather a ham-fisted job of constructing the world, trying to shove millions of years' worth of work into just six days. Typical cowboy builder. And as a carpet salesman with over twenty years in the trade, he feels he's more than qualified to comment.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Contemporary Fiction continued



Page-count: 212

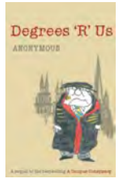
A Campus Conspiracy by Anonymous

A comic portrayal of modern university life seen through the eyes of a Professor of Christian Ethics. Seeking to escape from a web of deceit surrounding him, he uncovers the dark side of the modern university. Written anonymously by a prominent academic this comic novel exposes the petty jealousies, excitement and intrigue of campus life in the twenty-first century.

'*This is a rattling read, and a chilling exposé of political correctness on campus.*' – *Boris Johnson*

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:



Page-count: 218

Page-count: 202

Page-count: 184

Consider the Lilies by Carol Fenlon

The haunting and beautifully crafted tale of a girl's feral childhood in 1960s Lancashire and her friend Jack's search for the missing homeless adult she becomes. Powerful and thought-provoking, this debut novel uses unique language and devices to challenge perceptions of homelessness, identity and exclusion in modern society. Winner of the Impress Prize 2007

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Carol Fenlon wrote and sold short stories and magazine articles for many years before writing Consider The Lilies as part of her PhD thesis at Edge Hill University in Lancashire. Since winning the Impress Prize in 2007 and gaining her doctorate she has become a creative writing tutor, running workshops in Liverpool and Ormskirk. She is a member of Edge Hill University's Narrative Research Group and is on the Editorial Board of the journal, Short Fiction in Theory and Practice.

Forthcoming

Page-count:
Approx 300

Train by Angela Kecojevic

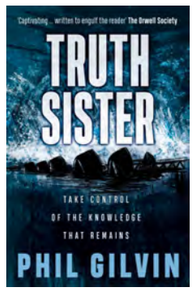
The earth is dead. A sphere of ice, unmoving, shrouded in fog. A third of the population gone. Taken to a secret location, Flint is placed with other talented teenagers from around the world and they begin their training. What for? They know they're being lied to, but discovering the truth is more dangerous than Flint can imagine.

Published May 2022

Rights available: Translation, Foreign, Film/TV

About the author:

Angela has written for the Oxford Reading Tree programme and is also the author behind award winning adventure park Hobbledown. She is a member of the Climate Writers Fiction League, a group of international authors who use climate issues in their work.



Page-count: 426

Other books in the series:

Forthcoming

Page-count: 430

Truth Sister by Phil Gilvin

In a world ravaged by climate change, Britain has broken up into its ancient kingdoms. In the Women's Republic of Anglia, teen Clara Purdue wants to be a Truth Sister – a prestigious role enforcing the republics laws – even if it means betraying friends. But when secrets emerge that suggest the Republic isn't all it claims, she must choose where her true loyalties lie.

Rights available: Translation, Foreign, Film/TV

About the author:

Originally from Liverpool, Phil Gilvin now lives with his wife in Swindon, amid the rolling Wiltshire downland with its neolithic barrows, ancient droveways and stone circles. Phil, a scientist by profession, came to writing "when his children grew too old to have stories read to them" and has produced not only novels but also short stories, a number of which have won or been shortlisted in competitions. As a writer Phil is interested in the challenges facing us today: climate change, infectious diseases and dwindling resources – and what they will do to our society. His short stories cover a range of topics, with the most recently-shortlisted tale, A New Deal, describing a dystopian near-future Britain.

Page-count: 408

Watcher by AJ Eversley

In a city destroyed by bots, teenager Sawyer is a Watcher – taking out the bots one by one, protecting what's left. But the Carbons are evolving and their plans go deeper than she believed possible. When a horrific plan comes to fruition, Sawyer will have a choice: who to save and who to let go.

Rights available: Translation, Foreign

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 386

Page-count: 406

Page-count: 338

EverMarked by AJ Eversley

Sienna has spent her entire life inside the DEZ, a glorified orphanage for unwanted Marked kids. But only months away from graduation, an explosion rocks the city and the Marked kids find themselves at the centre of a war. And when the truth about that they were trained for surfaces, it's more terrifying than Flint could have imagined

Rights available: Translation, Foreign

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 416

Page-count: 400

Page-count: 446

About the author:

AJ grew up in a small town in central Alberta Canada where there wasn't much to do but read, cheer on the Oilers and attempt to enjoy the long winter months. After high school, she attended college where she played 4 years of college basketball and eventually went into Recreation as a career. AJ stayed at the college she graduated from, where she is currently still employed full-time (as well as writing full-time…some days she wishes clones were real so there could be two of her!) and is heavily involved in the fitness industry.

Page-count: 438

Tree Magic by Harriet Springbett

When tragedy strikes, Rainbow's life is torn apart, creating parallel worlds in the process. In one life, the vulnerable Rainbow strives to salvage her family. In the other, her alter-ego, Mary, flees her past. Could France offer more than a mere escape? As the two worlds draw closer and memories resurface, Rainbow and Mary's futures must be determined. Can they receive the healing they need? Or will the renewed pain be too much to bear?

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 426

Page-count: 504

About the author:

Harriet Springbett's childhood on a small farm in West Dorset gave her an early exposure to nature, which continues to inspire her writing. She qualified as an engineer but, during a Raleigh International expedition in Chile, she realised she preferred words to numbers. She abandoned her profession, moved to France, studied French and then worked as a project manager, feature writer, translator and TEFL teacher. She now lives in Poitou-Charentes with her French partner and their teenage children. Since her first literary success, aged 10, her short stories and poetry have been published in literary journals and placed in writing competitions, including a shortlisting in the 2017 Bath Short Story Award. Harriet leads writing workshops and has judged the Segora international short story competition

Page-count: 252

The Darkness in Lee's Closet and the Others Waiting There by Roy Schwartz

When her father dies, Lee's life is torn apart. The only comfort she finds is in the complete darkness of her closet, where she sleeps at night. When she discovers the darkness leads to the afterlife, she hatches a plan—to find her dad and bring him back home. With the help of four very talkative, very dead companions she finds trapped in the darkness, she sets off on a quest through the afterworlds. But a little live girl does not belong there. Lee will have to face frightening dangers and use all her courage and cunning if she wishes to save her father, her friends, and herself.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

About the author:

Roy Schwartz graduated magna cum laude from The New School University with a BA in English, majoring in creative writing, and cum laude from NYU with an interdisciplinary MA in English and social thought. Roy has written for newspapers, magazines, websites, academic organisations, tech companies, toy companies, and production studios. He's also taught English and writing at CUNY, the City University of New York, and is a writer-in-residence at the New York Public Library. When not writing, he is the director of communications of a regional law firm.

Page-count: 336

The Phantom Nightingale by Shauna E Black

Being blind isn't so bad when it gives you a magic singing voice – and Xanthe has been using it to free his enslaved race. But he must now lead his crew of kids into the heart of the empire that wants him dead. A pirate, alien, fantasy, sci-fi mix.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 310

Page-count: 350

About the author:

Like the legendary sirens of old, Shauna enjoys luring innocent readers into the stories she creates and trapping them there. As a child, Shauna's parents recognized her persuasive tendencies and moved her from the coast of Panama to the landlocked safety of Utah to protect innocent sailors. But she found other ways to beguile the unwary. Her home is sprinkled with enchanted wind chimes, spontaneous singing, and the enticing smells of fresh baked bread and cookies. By far her most cherished ploy lies in her passion for writing. From the time she first plotted at a tender age to ensnare the public, she has relentlessly sought for opportunities to improve her nefarious skills. Readers should beware of entering her fantastical worlds, lest they lose all touch with reality and find themselves waiting under lampposts for fauns and talking beavers to appear. You have been warned.

Page-count: 316

Excelsior by George Sirois

High school senior Matthew Peters thinks he's just writing some online fiction about an alien superhero, Excelsior. But when a woman arrives at his school claiming to be from the distant planet he's writing about, he must think again. What's more, she says a God's life-force lives within him.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 438

About the author:

George Sirois has yearned to be a storyteller all his life, no matter the medium. That drive first led him to drawing his own characters while in grade school, and then – when his skills never advanced beyond the most primitive sketches – writing about them in various short stories and screenplays before moving on to novels such as "Excelsior" and the five-part serial "From Parts Unknown." He is a regular contributor to Write Pack Radio and was named Vice-President of the Missouri Writers Guild in 2016.

Page-count: 278

Into Shadow by T.D. Shields

With her father, the President, assassinated, Poppy is on the run. But hiding in the war-torn and climate-ravaged ruins of Denver can't offer safety forever because it's not only the government that wants her dead now.

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 252

About the author:

TD has a full-time job and a weekend job along with a husband, four kids, and five cats to take care of, so where does time to write fit in? Luckily, she's a bit of an insomniac and her most productive hours are between midnight and five a.m. It's the perfect time to write! If she tried to go to sleep she'd just be laying there writing a story in her head to entertain myself; so why not just write it down instead?

Page-count: 466

Dreams and Shadows by Jeffrey Collyer

Living a solitary life in the local library, 18-year-old Michael is only too eager to enter a magical world where souls are sewn together and where music enchants the heart. There, he finally feels at home. But deadly beasts also live here, as do hidden evils. Little does Michael know their eyes are on him. And that soon truth will become indistinguishable from lie …

Rights available: Translation, Film/TV

Other books in the series:

Page-count: 621

About the author:

Jeffrey spent the best part of two decades working in healthcare management, but during a period of ill-health began writing. Having always been a lover of fantasy, he gravitated towards this and his Aylosian Chronicles series is a combination of high fantasy, epic fantasy, literary and young adult. He has a degree in Biomedical Sciences with post-graduate qualifications in medical Microbiology and Applied Management. He is currently undertaking a Masters in Publishing Studies.