

BLACKBIRD LITERARY AGENCY



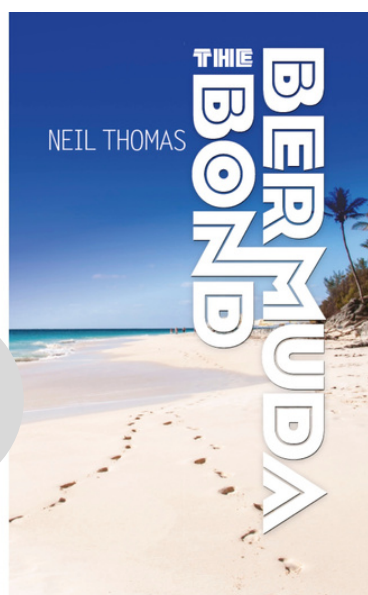
RIGHTS GUIDE

FICTION - WINTER 2023



DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

Bermuda
Thriller



The Bermuda Bond By Neil Thomas

Set on the beguiling Atlantic Ocean island of Bermuda, this thriller reveals financial scams, deceit and crimes that lie beneath the surface of respectability.

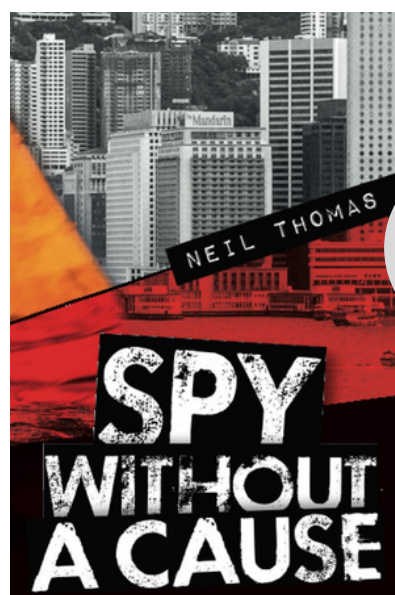
Owen Ash – Ash to his friends – runs a conference company, and is putting on a big event in partnership with a Bermudian firm. Not everyone is who they seem, and Ash can't avoid being drawn into a world of crooked professionals and their web of corruption.

A local investigative journalist, corporate intelligence agents from London, the FBI and the local police are all drawn in to uncover and unravel the web of deceit and lies. But will everyone survive and emerge unscathed?

Additional Information:

Published 2021 (Thorogood) - Paperback - ISBN: 9781854189363 - 256 pages

Rights: World



Spy story
Fast-paced

Spy without a Cause By Neil Thomas

IA fast-paced story of an ordinary man who becomes accidentally involved with villains in business and government in Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore, this is Neil Thomas' third gripping novel. With a background of intrigue, corruption and tax avoidance, this intricate novel is set against events in the early 1980s in Britain's Hong Kong, the Manila of Marcos and Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore. A young publisher travelling through the East on business is confronted with personal greed, kleptocracy, espionage and murder as matters move, Eric Ambler style, out of his control. In this fast-paced story, an ordinary man, confronted with shady and unsavoury characters, becomes accidentally involved with villains in business and government in three different locations who operate according to a different moral code from his own.

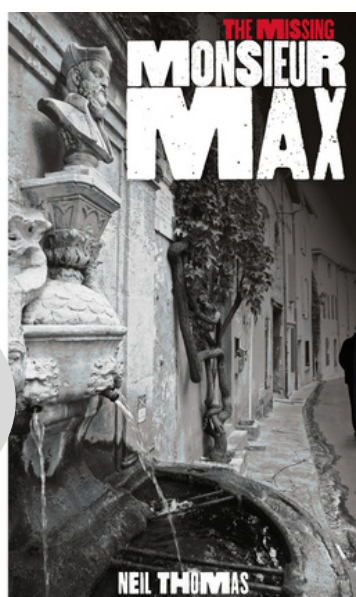
Additional Information:

Published 2020 (Thorogood) – ISBN: 978-1854189127 – Paperback - 352 pages

Rights: World

DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

Crime
Mystery



The Missing Monsieur Max By Neil Thomas

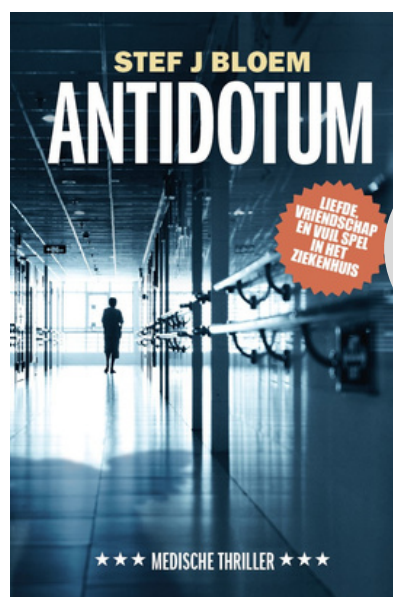
An intriguing crime mystery, this is a book about the disappearance of an Englishman in France. Perfect for fans of Maigret. The focus is on the people and the setting of St Rémy de Provence, Southern France in 2006, when an expat Englishman has gone missing. After a false start by the local police, Avignon's answer to Maigret, Commandant Ruppert, is brought in to pick up the investigation. The family back in England are pushing for answers – is this a missing person or a murder case?

With no hard evidence or clues, Ruppert uses some unconventional police methods to uncover the truth. He encounters shady business dealings and interviews suspect local characters. Can Ruppert solve the mystery? What dark secrets are the local characters hiding?

Additional Information:

Published 2020 (Thorogood) – ISBN: 9781854189141 – Paperback - 140 pages

Rights: World



Hospital
Captivating

Antidotum By Stef J. Bloem

Alexander de Graaf is a young, recently graduated doctor. He works in the department of gastrointestinal diseases in the Malleria hospital and is fighting for a training place.

His supervisor's attitude and a number of unexplained deaths seriously jeopardise his career. And then there is his turbulent love life....

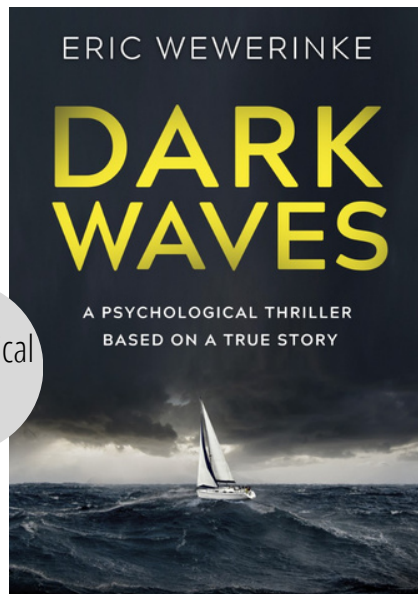
The young doctor and the angel of death is a modern doctor's novel. Captivating from beginning to the surprising denouement.

Additional Information:

Published 2020 (Dutch) – Complete English translation - ISBN: 9789079624379 – Paperback - 286 pages - **Rights: World**

DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

Psychological
Thriller



Dark Waves

By Eric Wewerinke

To his enormous delight Tim is asked to help sail a yacht from the Netherlands to Greece. For the skipper, a millionaire called Robert, Tim's negligible sailing experience doesn't appear to present any problem at all. Once aboard, Robert keeps Tim and his friend Julia entertained with the most captivating stories.

However, as the journey progresses, Robert starts to act rather strangely. Little by little Tim begins to realize that Robert is not quite the man he appears to be to the outside world. Could it be Tim's imagination running riot after weeks at sea, or might he actually be dealing with a psychopath? *Black Waves* is a thriller that gets right under your skin. A story about trust in human goodness, but also about people who present themselves differently to how they really are deep inside.

Additional information:

Published (Uitgeverij Water) - Paperback

Complete English Translation - 63.000 words - 220 pages **Rights:** World (incl. World English)

- Over **5.000** reads/copies sold in the Netherlands
- The **top 5** literary thriller of Holland's largest bookseller Bol.com (Dutch equivalence of Amazon)
- The **nr 1** non-fiction audio-book of Storytel
- With great reader ratings

Audio Book



"Lifelike, compelling, suffocating" - **Prof. Hjalmar van Marle** (Holland's most renowned Forensic Psychiatrist)

"Very good & interesting" - **Peter R de Vries** (Holland's most famous crimefighter)

"A pageturner" - **Wereldgenieten.com**

"An impressive story" - **Readabook.nl**

DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

'...vivid descriptive prose and historical accuracy.' - Publishers Weekly



A Child Lost (nr. 5) By Michelle Cox

When Clive, anxious to distract a depressed Henrietta, begs Sergeant Frank Davis for a case, he is assigned to investigating a seemingly boring affair: a spiritualist woman operating in an abandoned schoolhouse on the edge of town who is suspected of robbing people of their valuables. What begins as an open and shut case becomes more complicated, however, when Henrietta - much to Clive's dismay—begins to believe the spiritualist's strange ramblings. Meanwhile, Elsie begs Clive and Henrietta to help her and the object of her budding love, Gunther, locate the whereabouts of one Liesel Klinkhammer, the German woman Gunther has traveled to America to find and the mother of the little girl, Anna, whom he has brought along with him. The search leads them to Dunning Asylum, where they discover some terrible truths about Liesel.

Additional information:

Published 2020 (She Writes Press) - ISBN: 9781631528361 - 408 pages - **Rights: World**



Murder
Romance

A Spying Eye (nr. 6) By Michelle Cox

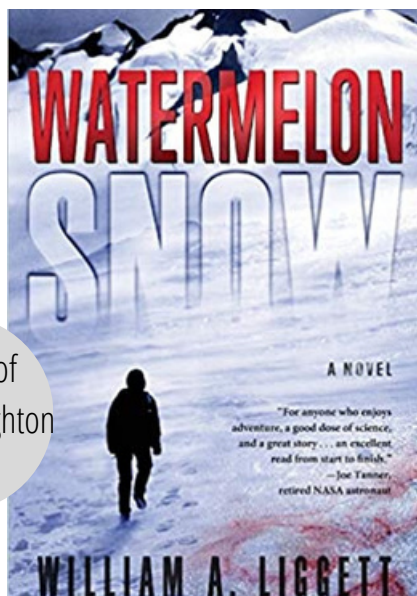
In this sixth book of the series, Clive and Henrietta return to Europe in an attempt to resurrect their failed honeymoon. While in London, they are approached by their old friend, Inspector John Hartle, who convinces them to search for the missing panel of the Ghent Altarpiece, a famous Renaissance painting, of which Hitler's top men are also in pursuit. Meanwhile, back in Chicago, Oldrich Exley threatens to cut off financial support for the entire Von Harmon brood if Elsie continues with her plan to marry Gunther—a situation made worse by the sudden appearance of one Heinrich Meyer, who claims to be little Anna's father and threatens to take her away. Desperate, Elsie seeks the help of Clive's sister, Julia, who is herself the victim of domestic abuse and who has fallen under the spell of a handsome Texas millionaire bent on acquiring a rare painting from the Howard collection.

Additional Information:

Published 2022 (She Writes Press) - ISBN: 9781647425005 - Paperback - 256 pages - **Rights: World**

DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

For fans of
Michael Crichton



Watermelon Snow By William A. Liggett

An ambitious climate scientist uncovers a long-held secret, releasing an ancient virus that threatens her career, her team—and the lives of millions around the world.

Deep within the melting Blue Glacier in the Washington wilderness, climate scientist Dr. Kate Landry makes a remarkable discovery. Determined to conceal it from colleagues eager to steal her work, she must distract the behavioral scientist NASA sends to study her team. From the moment he sets foot on the ice, Dr. Grant Poole finds himself in a strange world of unexpected beauty but fraught with extreme dangers he has tried his whole life to avoid. Greeted with suspicion, he soon realizes Kate is hiding something. When a mysterious illness strikes her crew and an intense storm engulfs their tiny research station, Kate can no longer shield the truth from Grant.

Additional information:

Published (Sandra Jonas Publishing) -
9780997487107 – Paperback - 252 pages
- **Rights: World**



Madness
Mental Health

A Particular Madness By Sheldon Russell

Growing up in the rural impoverishment of post-Depression Oklahoma, and surrounded by feuding family factions, free-spirited Jacob Roland hungers for knowledge and a world beyond his reach.

But dark forces are growing in Jacob, twisting with the same ruthless, relentless power of a tornado across the Oklahoma prairies. Jacob battles against these aberrant forces, but, trapped by poverty and a growing mental illness, he is thwarted at every turn. For every light - a chance at college, the love of a poised, sophisticated woman - there is a greater darkness within him.

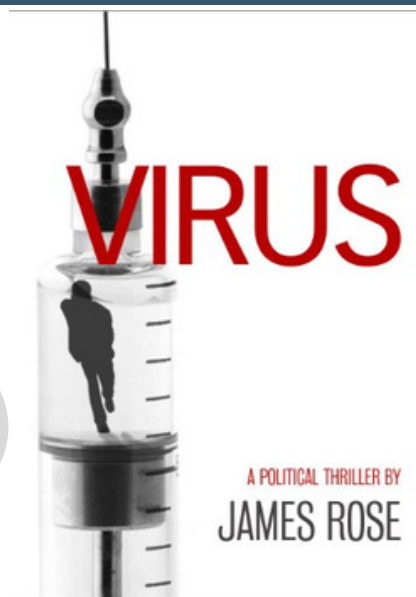
Failed by circumstance, community, and his own mental health, is there an escape for Jacob's bright, wounded spirit, or will he forever be a prisoner of a particular madness?

Additional Information:

Published 2021 (Cynren Press)
9781947976269 – Hardback - 312 pages
Rights: World

DETECTIVES & POLITICAL THRILLERS

Crime
Thriller



Virus

By J.J. Rose

When struggling Ethics Detective Asher Fox gets a contract to do some research for a client, he stumbles onto a dark secret in the global pharmaceuticals industry. With cohorts Cal West and Windsor Obili, he gets swept up into a dangerous international web of spin and counter spin, involving big business, the White House and US foreign policy, the HIV-AIDS epidemic, media politics, a major charity, an African government, thousands of hapless Africans and the Israel/Palestine dispute. Championed by a sympathetic newspaper editor, the trio become headline news and the target for the deadly intentions of the world's most powerful figures. Virus touches on issues of politics, business, ethics and justice and asks questions about how we might approach the examined life in today's complex world. This is fiction taken from the very real issues of the day.

Additional information:

Published (ebook) 2011/2022 – ISBN: 9780646569185 – Ebook - 404 pages

Rights: World (Incl. World English)



FBI
Clean Energy

The Dragon's C.L.A.W.

By Dr. Gerold Yonas

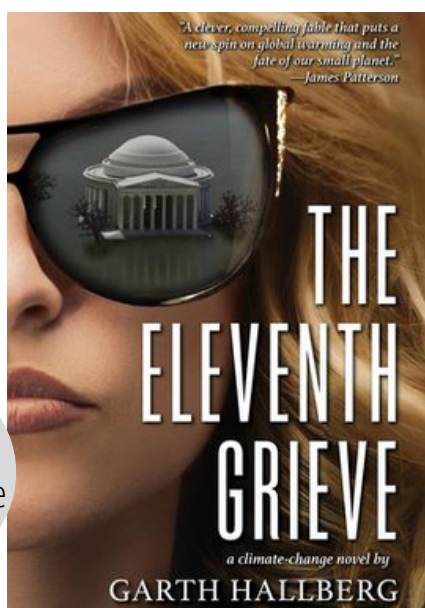
At America's premier research lab in New Mexico the race is on to create a limitless source of clean energy before it can become a deadly beam weapon. Dr. Alek Spray and his team are on the verge of a breakthrough in the development of complex pulse-beam technology that uses the physics of a Low Energy Nuclear Reaction, also known as cold fusion, to create clean energy. An accident and the disappearance of two of the team's members not only shows that the technology can work, but reveals threats not only to the project, but to the United States. Alek, along with FBI Agent Gabi Stebbens, lead a team that must discover the secret of LENR and who else is trying to harness this new technology. Their investigation takes them to Mexico and China as they discover a plot of intrigue, money, and power as a rogue Chinese general, funded by drug-cartel money, tries to harness the power of this new technology into the Dragon's CLAW, a new space-based weapon of unparalleled power.

Additional information:

Published 2023 (Artemesia) - 300 pages - ISBN: 9781951122584 - Paperback - **Rights:** World

GENERAL FICTION

Redemption
Climate-change



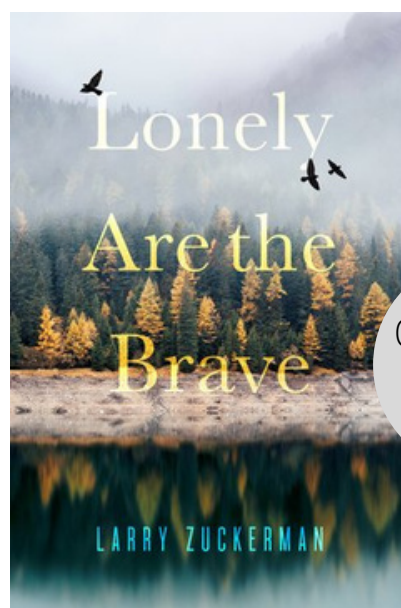
The Eleventh Grieve By Garth Hallberg

- The story of a climate-change denier who's set straight romantically and professionally by two smart women, three if you count his mother. And one of them may not be entirely of this world!

Jake Krimmer is a brash, thirtysomething financial speculator making a killing off of "weird weather" disasters. But he's about to lose his secret weapon, his meteorologist and ex-girlfriend, Samantha Richards. She's deeply troubled about getting rich off the misery brought on by what she knows is climate change. Enter Rita Ten Grieve, a mysterious, otherworldly young woman who commands a futuristic technology that takes Jake back and forth through time to reveal the truth about the impending crisis for the planet. But will that be enough to convince him to change his ways and win back Samantha?

Additional information:

Published 2023 (The Reason for Everything Press)
- ISBN: 9780991377053 – Paperback - 256 pages
Rights: World



Contemporary
World War I

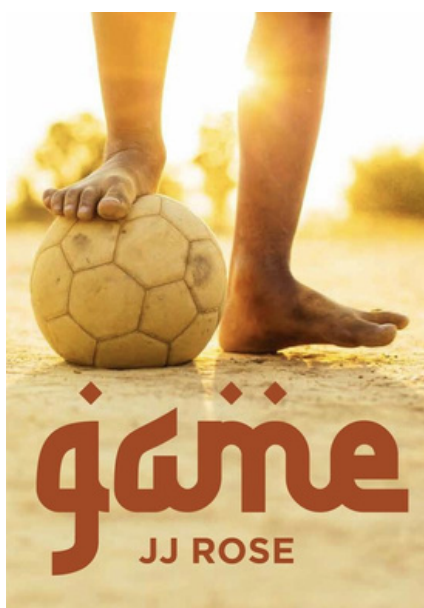
Lonely Are the Brave By Larry Zuckerman

When Rollie Birch returns home from the Great War in 1919 with a cluster of medals, he feels as if he's landed in the wrong country. His wife has died, leaving behind an infant daughter born while he was overseas. His small logging town of Lumberton, Washington, has grown but still runs on gossip. Almost overnight, Rollie the hero becomes a pariah for his scandalous decision to raise his daughter by himself, and for refusing to talk about his wartime exploits. The past two years have changed Kay Sorensen as well. Daughter of the Lumberton timber baron, Kay spent the war working for her father, organizing patriotic and charitable efforts, and discovering her love for politics and business. But when her husband returns, Kay expects, correctly, that he'll make her quit her job. She's dreamed of marriage as an equal partnership; now, she chafes under her husband's cold tyranny. Did the war change him?

Additional Information:

To be publ 2023 (Cynren Press) - 312 pages
9781947976399 – Paperback - **Rights:** World

GENERAL FICTION



Game

By J.J. Rose

The World Cup is supposed to be a celebration of the beautiful game, but the dark political underbelly has made it otherwise. When Asher Fox receives a mysterious call begging for his help to bring back the light, he sets off on a worldwide search for the heart of the game.

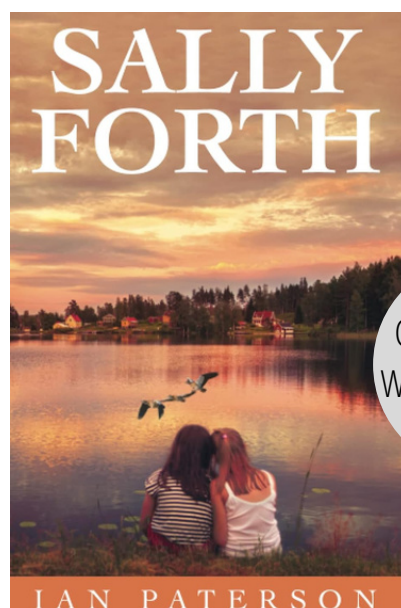
But Asher doesn't know the danger that awaits. Huge, warring corporations and governments stand in his way, and he is in the crossfire. To get the game back to the people, he will need to be part of something more - a revolution.

A book that makes you wonder just how much fiction is fact.

Additional Information:

Published 2022 (Popcorn Press) – ISBN: 978-1-925914-41-2 – Paperback - 296 pages

Rights: World



Sally Forth

By Ian Patterson

Sally meets with a succession of unusual events, bizarre twists and life-changing ordeals including one particularly devastating event which overwhelms her and changes her life in a way that she could never have predicted.

Although she is highly intelligent, resourceful and engaging, Sally finds it difficult to forge relationships (even with her twin sister) and to develop a sense of who she is. This is essentially a story of Sally's search for identity and of how she copes with the many misunderstandings, misjudgments and deceptions which assail her on her journey through life – a journey which, with the assistance of her penchant for wordplay and her pre-occupation with names, Sally is, nonetheless, able to take with good humour and fortitude.

Additional Information:

Published 2022 (Thorogood) - ISBN: 9781914928017 – Paperback - 388 pages

Rights: World

Contemporary
Women's Fiction

GENERAL FICTION



Love
Friendship
War

Olga's Secret by Aneta Marovich

From the cobble stoned streets of Zagreb, Yugoslavia to sun-bleached Adelaide, Australia, *Olga's Secret* is a novel about love and friendship tested by separation and war. Is there a time in life when it's too late to leave your country forever? Anya returns to her homeland after her new life in Australia ended in heartbreak.

Back in her homeland she renews her friendship with Olga and rekindles her past love with Filip. But both relationships are marred by secrets and the country she came back to will self-destruct in a war.

Returning once again at the war's end, Anya finds her home country in ruins. Her closest attachments, like the country, are in danger of being destroyed when her best friend reveals a disturbing secret. Juxtaposing landscapes and cultures to evoke the nature of displacement and belonging, this is a story of love in all its forms involving the three protagonists.

Written with sensitivity and compassion *Olga's Secret* explores life's universal questions: What is the nature of friendship and love? Is there a limit to their endurance?

Additional Information:

Not yet published - 165 pages - Rights: World

'*Olga's Secret* is a powerful novel, spanning decades and continents and encompassing the most pressing human themes - home, belonging, migration, war, love and friendship - with deep insight and enormous heart. With resonances of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels, *Olga's Secret* will draw you in with its warmth, humour, empathy and wisdom.' - **Emily Bitto**

GENERAL FICTION

Net Galley
Reviews (see
website)



On the Run

By Izai Amorim

New York City, early 1990s: a young, rich, and well-educated Central American man on the run from the police and Colombian drug dealers. He is accused of crimes he didn't commit. Ready to do what it takes to survive, Pablo ironically embraces the very drug trade that threatened his life in the first place. Who is he? What is he really capable of? The question of identity is at the heart of *On the Run*. More than a contemporary story of survival, it's a journey of self-discovery. Pablo's voice is funny, sometimes mean and merciless. He moves with nightmarish ease from recounting his adventures to recollecting his early life. Not always politically correct, *On the Run* gives you an insightful, twisted, humorous, and often disturbing view of conflicting worlds and beliefs: North and Latin America; black, brown, and white; rich and poor; rational and esoteric – and shows how they mix, match, and clash.

Additional information:

Published revised ed. 2021 - 358 pages -
Paperback

Rights: European Languages



The Games

By Izai Amorim

The Games is a humorous but dark, even mean, political thriller. This mother of all conspiracies starts slow but the action accelerates quickly. Good guys don't win in the end because there are none. It's a battle of evil against evil involving environmental protection organizations operating extortion rackets; terrorism without a cause; secret services running amok; global television networks manipulating the news; politicians and profiteers hijacking major international sport events; etc. More than just humor and action in an international setting, this thriller exposes a dark side of our information age and reveals a serious political threat to our democracies: conspiracies to use information, communication, and storytelling to establish power structures not accountable to anyone. Power without accountability undermines the principle of representative government by the people and for the people.

Additional Information:

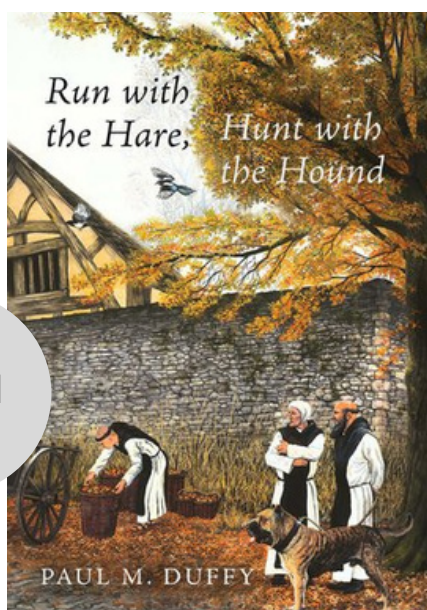
Published revised ed. 2021 - 356 pages -

Rights: European Languages

Net Galley
Reviews (see
website)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Slave
Medieval
Ireland



Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound By Paul M. Duffy

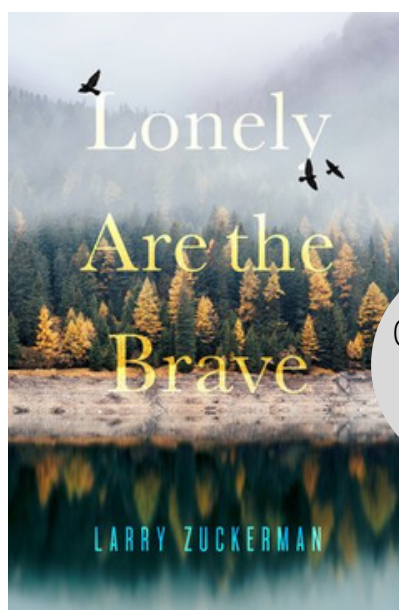
On a remote Gaelic farmstead in medieval Ireland, word reaches Alberic of conquering Norman knights arriving from England. Oppressed by the social order that enslaved his Norman father, he yearns for the reckoning he believes the invaders will bring—but his world is about to burn.

Captured by the Norman knight Hugo de Lacy and installed at Dublin Castle as a translator, Alberic's confused loyalties are tested at every turn. When de Lacy marches inland, Alberic is set on a collision course with his former masters amidst rumours of a great Gaelic army rising in the west.

Can Alberic navigate safely through revenge, lust and betrayal to find his place amidst the birth of a kingdom in a land of war?

Additional information:

Published 2022 (Cynren Press) - Hardback - 342 pages - **Rights:** World



Contemporary
World War I

Lonely Are the Brave By Larry Zuckerman

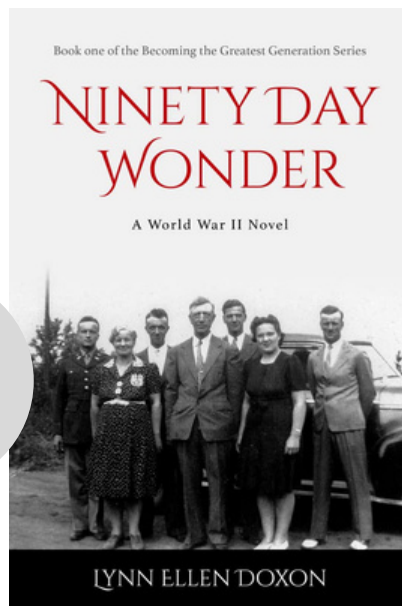
When Rollie Birch returns home from the Great War in 1919 with a cluster of medals, he feels as if he's landed in the wrong country. His wife has died, leaving behind an infant daughter born while he was overseas. His small logging town of Lumberton, Washington, has grown but still runs on gossip. Almost overnight, Rollie the hero becomes a pariah for his scandalous decision to raise his daughter by himself, and for refusing to talk about his wartime exploits. The past two years have changed Kay Sorensen as well. Daughter of the Lumberton timber baron, Kay spent the war working for her father, organizing patriotic and charitable efforts, and discovering her love for politics and business. But when her husband returns, Kay expects, correctly, that he'll make her quit her job. She's dreamed of marriage as an equal partnership; now, she chafes under her husband's cold tyranny. Did the war change him?

Additional Information:

To be publ 2023 (Cynren Press) - 312 pages 9781947976399 – Paperback - **Rights:** World

HISTORICAL FICTION

WWII
Struggle
Duty



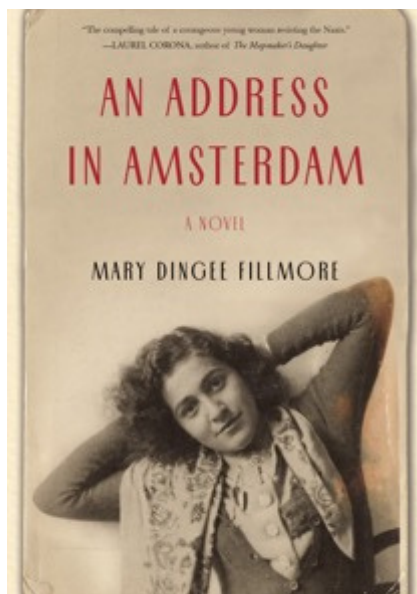
Ninety Day Wonder By Lynn Ellen Doxon

In the crucible of war, one man struggles with his duty to his country and love. Gene Sinclair's life's goal was to become a medical doctor, to get away from the tedium of teaching high school chemistry. But as World War II looms, Sinclair is drafted and sent to train on coastal artillery. Sinclair sees his life's plan ruined by the army and struggles to find his place. Eventually when he is posted to the pharmacy training program, life in the army seemed to be improving until Pearl Harbor attack. Dragged back into the artillery, Sinclair is sent to the ninety-day Officer's Training School. Despite his resolve to avoid romantic relationships, Sinclair meets Sarah Gale and falls in love with her. Commissioned as an anti-aircraft artillery officer, Sinclair struggles to come to grips with his duty as an officer and to Sarah Gale as she joins the WAACs.

Additional Information:

Published 2022 (Artemesia) - 9781951122386 –
Paperback - 350 pages - Rights: World

HISTORICAL FICTION



Award-winning author

An Address in Amsterdam By Mary Dingee Fillmore

An Address in Amsterdam is about an 18 year old Jewish woman, Rachel Klein, who risks her life in the resistance.

When her Gentile boyfriend must go underground because of his anti-Nazi activism, Rachel changes from a naive young woman falling in love to a messenger for the resistance. She's not only in peril of her life, but must keep her activities secret from everyone. After months of clandestine action during intensifying raids, Rachel goes into hiding along with her parents, moving from their comfortable canal house to a dank basement, where much is revealed.

Additional Information:

Published (She Writes Press) - ISBN: 9781631521331 - 336 pages - paperback

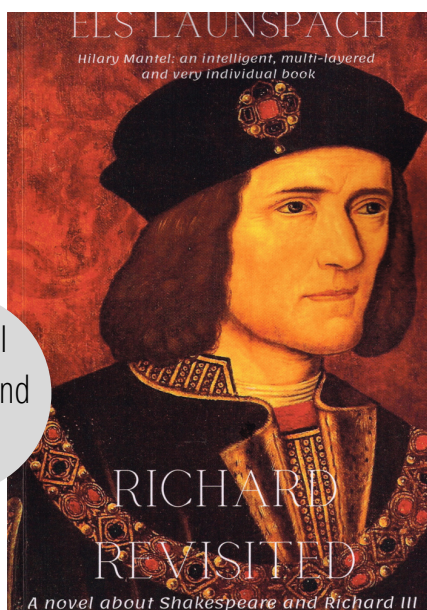
Rights: World

An Address in Amsterdam was selected as a **Kirkus Reviews** Indie Book of the Month, and **won the Sarton Women's Book Award for Historical Fiction.**

'This compelling and emotionally touching tale brings the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands to light, told through the eyes of a courageous young woman determined to put aside her fears and risk all for the noble cause of resistance.' - **Laurel Corona**, author of *The Mapmaker's Daughter* and *Until Our Last Breath: A Holocaust Story of Love and Partisan Resistance*



HISTORICAL FICTION



Richard III
Rural England
Politics

Richard Revisited By Els Launspach

'An intelligent, multi-layered and very individual book.' - Hilary Mantel

Reality: an intricate fabric of sustained lies.

For centuries Richard III counted as the villainous murderer of his young cousins and usurper of his brother's throne. But how much of this reputation was born of the facts, and how much of political urgency?

Richard Revisited offers a poignant image of three inquisitive minds caught up in an age-old struggle. The statesman Thomas More; master of the revels George Buc; and lastly Jennifer Simpson, witness in the Trial of Richard III broadcast in 1984. In their efforts to be true to themselves, each risks either humiliation or loss of integrity. In the same vein the novel questions the sources Shakespeare used while writing his play about Richard III. To what extent did the dramatist falsify the facts?

Additional information:

Published 2022 (Perseverance) - 246 pages - ISBN: 9789090359021 - Paperback - **Rights:** World



1939
Poland
WWII

What She Lost By Melissa W. Hunter

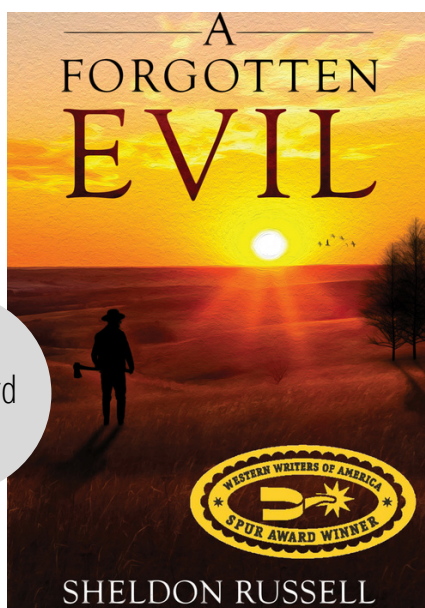
For thirteen-year-old Sarah Waldman, life in the small Polish town of Olkusz is idyllic, grounded in her loving, close-knit family and the traditions of their Jewish faith. But in 1939, as the Nazis come to power, a storm is gathering—a relentless, unforgiving storm that will sweep Sarah and her family into years of turmoil in the ghetto and concentration camps, tearing them apart. Will Sarah's strong will and determination be enough for her to survive when everything she loves is taken from her? Is it possible to resurrect a life—and find love—from the ruins? Or will Sarah be forever haunted by the memories of what she lost? Part memoir, part fiction, *What She Lost* is the re-imagined true-life story of the author's grandmother growing into a woman amid the anguish of the Holocaust. It is a tale of resilience, of rebuilding a life, and of rediscovering love.

Additional Information:

Published 2019 (Cynren Press) - ISBN: 9781947976153 - Paperback - 320 pages
Rights: World

HISTORICAL FICTION

Western
Spur Award
Winner



Forgotten Evil By Sheldon Russell

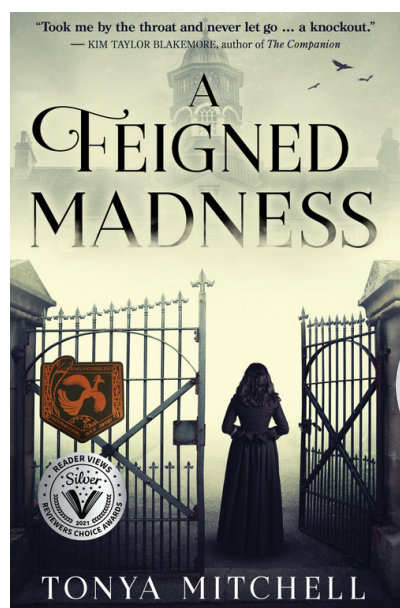
In the American West, as the nation heals from the Civil War that nearly destroyed it, new battle lines are being drawn. Caleb Justin, orphaned and grieving, and his comrade Joshua Hart, a tough, worldly runaway, leave their home along the Ohio River bound for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, intent to join Sheridan's troops in their pursuit of Indian lands. But a badly healed foot injury ends Caleb's dream of joining up. While Joshua is assigned to George Armstrong Custer's troops, Caleb finds himself alone and undefended on the war-ravaged prairie, picking up whatever work he can - until his capture by Indians changes everything. Joan Monnet, daughter of a wealthy railroad magnate, is traveling West when her caravan is attacked by Indians. A timely rescue saves her life but leaves her lost on the vast American prairie with Caleb. Together, they must fight their way back to the world they once knew.

Additional information:

Published 2019 (Cynren Press) - ISBN: 978-19479761399 - Paperback - 280 pages

Rights: World

Asylum
Secrecy



A Feigned Madness By Tonya Mitchell

Winner of the **Silver 2021 reader views reviewer's Choice Award** in Historical Fiction. Elizabeth Cochrane has a secret. She isn't the madwoman with amnesia the doctors and inmates at Blackwell's Asylum think she is. In truth, she's working undercover for the New York World. When the managing editor refuses to hire her because she's a woman, Elizabeth strikes a deal: in exchange for a job, she'll impersonate a lunatic to expose a local asylum's abuses. When she arrives at the asylum, Elizabeth realizes she must make a decision - is she there merely to bear witness, or to intervene on behalf of the abused inmates? Can she interfere without blowing her cover? As the superintendent of the asylum grows increasingly suspicious, Elizabeth knows her scheme - and her dream of becoming a journalist in New York - is in jeopardy.

Additional Information:

Published 2020 (Cynren Press) - ISBN: 978-1947976207 - Paperback - 396 pages

Rights: World

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