Fiction Rights Guide

Digital Imprints

FBF 2020
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When Orly’s boyfriend and business partner runs out on her, she finds herself single and unemployed in one fell swoop – and decides to pack her bags and leave her old life behind her.

After years as a luxury concierge, providing wealthy clients with once-in-a-lifetime experiences, Orly decides it’s time to give herself the life she really wants: a simpler one, where she can get back to nature and really and truly switch off. And that’s how she finds herself in a rundown cottage with an overrun garden and no central heating.

But Orly revels in her new freedom, and she’s soon making friends in her new community, including Leo, a local investor who helps her to set up a new business offering countryside retreats for burned-out city-dwellers.

As Orly’s new life starts to blossom, so does a romance between her and Leo – until an anonymous note arrives, warning her off... Was she wrong to trust him? Or is someone from her past trying to get in the way of her future?
If you want to know the A–Z of love then it starts with Alice and ends with Zach. Alice is a self-confessed cynic when it comes to love. She’s never had a serious relationship herself and after supporting her best friend through a devastating breakup, she’s not about to let down her barriers anytime soon. Relationships always end badly.

Zach is a romantic. Even after his parents got divorced, he still believed in love and is eager to settle down and have a family of his own. He just hasn’t met The One yet.

After a chance meet-cute at an art gallery, Zach is immediately intrigued and realising their names bookend the alphabet suggest their next date needs to begin with a B. Alice agrees to one date while Zach is determined to make her believe in love.
Meet Miranda Brown: you can call her Mim. She’s jobless, homeless and living in her car; but with a history like hers she knows she has a huge amount to be grateful for.

Meet Beatrice and William Howard: Bill and Bea to you. The heads of the Howard family and owners of Venhallow Hall, a sprawling seaside Devonshire estate, stranded in a layby five hours from home the night before their daughter’s wedding.

When fate brings the trio together, Mim doesn’t think twice before offering to drive the affable older couple home. It’s not like she has anywhere else to be. But as the car pulls into the picturesque village of Littlemead, Mim has no idea how her life is about to change.
The late Matty Devlin was so much more than Ruby Graham’s boss. He was her best friend, her father-figure, and she is showcasing a series of his favourite classic movies at the independent cinema in Notting Hill which was his life’s work and of which she is now part owner.

Matty left the other half of The Royale to his nephew, Luke, the elusive Manhattan property developer and rumoured son of a Hollywood icon.

It’s all beginning to sound like the plot of one of Ruby’s beloved films until it becomes clear Luke is no more interested in swooping in to save the crumbling Royale than he is in talking about his famous father. He’s bad-tempered, cynical, and he couldn’t care less about the cinema!

But saving The Royale is about far more than just Matty’s legacy. The Royale is the only place where Ruby gets to live in a world of dreams and happy endings, a place where there are no lost causes, and where falling in love is just like in the movies or is Luke about to change all that?

Praise for *Just Like In The Movies*:

‘A sizzling summer read!’ Sarah Morgan
The Dog Sitter

Zara Stoneley

One dog. Two strangers. An unforgettable romance.

Wanted: someone nice, normal and trustworthy to housesit a beautiful cottage in the Lake District while the owner is away on a business trip. Must like dogs.

Wanting to escape from crap bosses and useless boyfriends, Becky jumps at the chance of being a dog sitter and the perfect escape – rest, relaxation and a very cute pooch called Bella.

But looking after Bella comes with a catch, namely gorgeous, brooding, Chris Hemsworth–worthy Ash James, who claims Bella is his dog and will stop at nothing to get her back!

Becky’s not about to hand over lovely Bella to any Tom, Dick or Ash. She’s determined to watch every move Ash James makes... even if it gets her very hot under the collar.

Imprint: One More Chapter
Editor: Charlotte Ledger
Publication: 11 Feb 2021
Extent: 400pp

Genre: Romantic comedy

The Author: Zara Stoneley is the USA Today bestselling author of The Wedding Date. She lives in a Cheshire village with her family, a lively cockapoo called Harry, and a very bossy (and slightly evil) cat called Saffron.

Previous rights sold: Random House (German), Newton Compton (Italian), Balto Leidybas Namai (Lithuania)
THE LITTLE SWISS SKI CHALET

Romantic Escapes Series (7)

Julie Caplin

It’s time to pack your bags and head to the breath-taking, snow-covered peaks of the Swiss Alps for velvety hot chocolates, delicious cheeses and a gorgeous love story.

Food technician Minna has always believed that chocolate will solve everything – and it’s just what she needs when her latest relationship mishap goes viral!

So with her bags packed and a new determination to sort her life out, Minna decides to drown her sorrows with the best hot chocolate in the world at her godmother’s cosy Swiss chalet. Chocolate: yes. Romance: no.

Until she has a run in on an Alpine train with a mysterious but oh-so-gorgeous stranger.

Praise for Julie Caplin:

‘Irresistible [and] unputdownable’ Sunday Times bestseller Katie Fforde

‘Up there with the best of them... A big, fat five stars from me’ Sue Moorcroft

‘An irresistible slice of escapism’ Phillipa Ashley

Imprint: One More Chapter
Editor: Charlotte Ledger
Publication: 22 Jan 2021
Extent: 400pp

Genre: Escapist, romance

The Author: Julie Caplin is addicted to travel and good food. Formerly a PR director, she took top food and drink writers around Europe on press trips, sampling the gastronomic delights of the continent. It was a tough job but someone had to do it. These trips have provided the inspiration for her novels.

Rights sold: Grada (Czech), Rowohlt (German)

Previous rights sold: in 13 languages (details available upon request)
THE SPARK

Jules Wake

The perfect uplifting romcom for fans of Sophie Kinsella, Beth O’Leary and Lindsey Kelk.

Imprint: One More Chapter
Editor: Charlotte Ledger
Publication: 31 Dec 2020
Extent: 400pp

Genre: Romance

The Author: After reading English at the University of East Anglia, Jules Wake began a life in the glamorous, but deeply shallow world of PR, where she honed her fiction writing skills on press releases and other copy-writing projects. With her eldest having now taken flight to university she’s hoping to have even more time to devote to writing.

Jules Wake

Jess is falling for Sam.

Sam is falling for Jess.

But it seems life will do whatever it takes to make them fall apart.

When Jess and Sam lock eyes at a party, a spark ignites. The spark. But love at first sight isn’t like the movies, especially when Sam’s ex, Victoria, is determined to make their honeymoon period a living hell.

Is love at first sight enough?

Previous rights sold: Albatros (Czech), J’ai Lu (French), Droemer (German), Vulcan Izdavasto (Serbian)
THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Natalie Normann

Discover Christmas the Norwegian way with this book full of romance, cosy traditions and hygge.

In the bleak midwinter, a really frosty wind is making Holly’s life absolutely miserable.

After all the years of hard work it took Londoner Holly Greene to become a doctor, now it could all be taken away and she only has herself to blame. She’s retreating to her brother’s rustic home on an island off the coast of Norway to lick her wounds. Only, it’s the middle of winter and icy slush plus endless darkness isn’t exactly the cheery, festive getaway she had imagined.

Nearly stumbling off the edge of a cliff in the dark, Holly is saved by Frøy, a yellow-eyed cat of fearsome but fluffy proportions, and his owner – grouchy, bearded recluse, Tor. Tor has his own problems to face but the inexplicable desire to leave a bag of freshly baked gingerbread men on Holly’s doorstep is seriously getting in the way of his hermit routine.

Call it kindness, call it Christmas, but Holly’s arrival means midwinter has never looked less bleak.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

SUMMER ISLAND

Natalie Normann
CRIME + THRILLER
WHERE RAVENS ROOST

Detective Kjeld Nygaard (1)

Karin Nordin

Atmospheric and chilling, Where Ravens Roost is a thrillingly fast-paced crime debut perfect for fans of Jo Nesbo, Helen Fields and Angela Marsons. The beginning of exciting new crime series following Detective Kjeld Nygaard.

No evidence, no body, no murder?

Stenar Nygaard witnessed a murder in the old barn behind his house. But there is no evidence, no body and Stenar suffers from Alzheimer’s so the local police presume he must have imagined it.

Detective Kjeld Nygaard wants nothing more than to forget his family and Varsund, the small mining town he once called home, even exist. But while on suspension, after his last case went disastrously wrong, his estranged father Stenar leaves a voicemail on his phone claiming he’s seen a murder.

Returning to Varsund, the hometown he hasn’t seen in twelve years, Kjeld can’t stop himself from beginning an off-the-books investigation into what his father actually saw, and must confront his own family’s past to solve the mystery before the truth is lost forever.
A gripping thriller from the author of *The Perfect Widow*, perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Lucy Foley.

Imprint: HQ
Editor: Abigail Fenton
Publication: 12 Feb 2021
Extent: 384pp

**Genre:** Domestic thriller

**The Author:** Before turning to crime, A.M. Castle had a long career as a feature writer on national newspapers including the *Daily Express*, *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. She grew up in south London and, after a stint in Brussels, she is back where she belongs. As well as writing psychological thrillers, she also writes cosy mysteries as Alice Castle.

Thirteen guests. One killer. No escape.

When Vicky accepts the invitation it’s reluctantly. She’s barely seen Rachel for years, but she can’t resist the opportunity to see what her friend’s imposing new home, courtesy of her recent marriage, is like.

On an island just off the coast of Cornwall, cut off from the mainland by the tides for most of the day, thirteen old friends meet at Tregowan Castle.

By the next evening only twelve remain.

Amongst them is a killer – but who? With no escape from the island and everyone keeping secrets, this is one invitation you won’t want to turn down.
MURDER ON THE MENU

Fiona Leitch


Still spinning from the hustle and bustle of city life, Jodie ‘Nosey’ Parker is glad to be back in the Cornish village she calls home. Having quit the Met Police in search of something less dangerous, the change of pace means she can finally start her dream catering company and raise her daughter, Daisy, somewhere safer.

But there’s nothing like having your first job back at home to be catering an ex-boyfriend’s wedding to remind you of just how small your village is. And when the bride, Cheryl, vanishes Jodie is drawn into the investigation, realising that life in the countryside might not be as quaint as she remembers.

With a missing bride on their hands, there is murder and mayhem around every corner but surely saving the day will be a piece of cake for this not-so-amateur sleuth?

Rights sold: HarperCollins (Italian)
THE BETRAYAL

Terry Lynn Thomas

The first in an explosive new series featuring attorney Olivia Sinclair, for fans of Alafair Burke, Gillian McAllistair and The Good Wife.

Attorney Olivia Sinclair is shocked when she receives an anonymous video showing her husband Richard sleeping with someone else. After years of handling other people’s divorces, she thought she could recognise a marriage in trouble.

She angrily throws Richard out of the home they share. But days later she’s arrested—for the murder of his mistress.

Olivia knows she’s innocent but, with all the evidence pointing at her and an obvious motive, she must find the real killer to clear her name.

She may be used to dealing with messy divorces, but this one will be her most difficult case yet.

Olivia’s husband has already betrayed her—but would he set her up for murder?
A stranger died to save you... now it's your turn. For fans of The Perfect Couple by Jackie Kabler and The Wife by Shalini Boland.

Meet Beth Turner.

From the outside she looks like any other thirty-three-year-old woman, with a gorgeous house and beautiful daughter.

But Beth has a secret that has haunted her past for as long as she can remember. A secret that only those closest to her know.

Aged seven, she almost drowned on a family holiday... and a stranger died saving her life. Survivors guilt has been the defining characteristic of her life ever since.

So, when Beth receives a threatening text message from an anonymous number on the way to her surprise birthday party, she knows her time is up.

Enjoy your birthday, Beth. It'll be your last.

As she arrives at her house, there's only one thing she knows for certain, someone at the party wants her dead.
A catastrophic attack. A country in chaos. A race to prevent war.

British M16 agent, and former SAS trooper, Jack Tate is trying to escape his past when he witnesses a terrorist attack of unthinkable scale. An electro-magnetic pulse knocks out the US power grid, killing anything with a computer processor, throwing the whole country into chaos.

Under the cover of the blackout, a clandestine operation aims to assassinate prominent public figures on US soil. Looting and violence spreads across the country. And Jack Tate’s past comes back to haunt him. As the only intelligence operative on the ground, he is hurled into a mission that will put him – and the people he loves – in immediate danger.

With the fate of the United States on the line, only he can prevent the horror of a new world war.

Praise for Alex Shaw:

‘Looking for breakneck pace and a relentless hero? Alex Shaw has you covered’ James Swallow

‘Alex Shaw is one of the best thriller writers around! Fast paced, Total Blackout gripped from page one and didn’t let go ... as fast as a Hollywood movie’ Stephen Leather
HISTORICAL
AN ISLAND AT WAR

Deborah Carr

Deborah’s first novel, The Poppy Field, sold over 60k copies in the US and UK.

Imprint: One More Chapter
Editor: Charlotte Ledger
Publication: 19 Feb 2021
Extent: 400pp

Genre: Historical

The Author: Deborah Carr lives on the island of Jersey in the Channel Islands with her husband and three rescue dogs. She became interested in books set in WW1 when researching her great-grandfather’s time as a cavalryman in the 17th 21st Lancers. She is one third of the Blonde Plotters writing group and was Deputy Editor on the online review site, Novelicious.com for seven years.

An Island at War is a moving historical novel about the German occupation of the Channel Islands. While her little sister Rose is sent to the UK to keep her safe from the invading German army, Estelle is left behind on Jersey to help her grandmother run the family farm. When the Germans occupy the island, everything changes and Estelle and the islanders must face the reality of life under Nazi rule.

Interspersed with letters from Rose back in London, the novel is also inspired by the real life stories from the author’s own family who were on the island during the occupation and is a true testament to the courage and bravery of the islanders.

Previous rights sold: HarperCollins (Dutch)
HARPERCOLLINS
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THE GERMAN NURSE

M.J. Hollows

A powerful and heartbreaking novel for fans of The Tattooist of Auschwitz, The Nightingale and Beneath a Scarlet Sky.

Imprint: HQ Digital
Editor: Finn Cotton
Publication: 21 Jan 2021
Extent: 384pp

Genre: Historical

The Author: Michael J. Hollows has told stories since he was little. Goodbye for Now, published in Oct 2018, is his first novel, which he started as part of his MA in Writing from Liverpool John Moores University. Michael also writes for Black Library. He is currently researching towards a PhD in Creative Writing.

Her past could kill you.
Guernsey, 1940. As war storms across Europe, Guernsey remains an oasis of peace – until the day Churchill orders the evacuation of the military personnel who protect it. As the islanders hurry to prepare for the worst, and men rush to enlist, Jack Surname stays to protect his family – and the woman he loves, Johanna.

Her love could save you.
When the Nazis come, everything changes. Bombers sweep across the harbour and Jack, a policeman, must serve the officers or face retribution not only against him, but against his family. To protect those he loves, Jack has to keep in line: their lives depend on his obedience.

Her fate is in your hands.
And then a list of Jews on the island is drawn up, and Jack realises how close everything is to falling. Because Johanna is a Jew, and Jack has to make a choice. If he writes her name on the list he condemns her, but if he resists he condemns his family.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

GOODBYE for NOW

Two brothers. One war. A fight for survival.

M J HOLLOWS
BENEATH A STARLESS SKY

Tessa Harris

An absolutely gripping and emotional historical fiction novel for fans of My Name is Eva and The Woman of War.

Imprint: HQ Digital
Editor: Belinda Toor
Publication: 9 Dec 2020
Extent: 400pp

Genre: Historical

Of note: Her debut, The Anatomist’s Apprentice, won the Romantic Times First Best Mystery Award 2012 in the US.

The Author: Tessa Harris read History at Oxford University and has been a journalist, writing for several national newspapers and magazines for more than thirty years. She is the author of nine published historical novels. She lectures in creative writing at Hawkwood College, Stroud and is married with two children. She lives in the Cotswolds.

Twitter:@harris_tessa
www.tessaharrisauthor.com

Munich, 1930.

Lilli Sternberg longs to be a ballet dancer. She practises eight hours a day and seven days a week without fail.

But outside the sanctuary of the theatre, Lilli’s beloved city is in chaos. The Nazi party are gaining in popularity and the threats to those that fail to comply becoming more frequent. Families are being targeted and businesses raided, even her father’s shop is left in rubble after being torched because of their Jewish faith.

So, when the opportunity arises to escape Germany and make her big break in the United States, dancing with Hollywood’s biggest names, Lilli jumps at the chance. Only her love for Captain Marco Zeiller and the promise of a future together would be enough to make her stay.

But battle lines are being drawn, and Marco has been spotted by the Reich as an officer with great potential. A relationship with Lilli would compromise them both.

Will Lilli be able to escape the threats facing her family and choose between the two great loves in her life?
THE SECRET AGENT

Elisabeth Hobbes

A page-turning and gripping romance set in occupied France during WW2. For fans of – Pam Jenoff.

An unknown location, occupied France, 1944.

Dropping silently behind enemy lines, Sylvia Crichton, codename Monique, is determined to fight for the country of her birth and save it from its Nazi stranglehold.

As one of the dancers at the nightclub Mirabelle, Sylvie’s mission is to entertain the club’s German clientele and learn their secrets. In a world of deception and lies, she can trust no one. Not even Mirabelle’s enigmatic piano player Felix… a part of the resistance or a collaborator?

But despite her SOE training, nothing can prepare Sylvie for the horrors she is about to face – or the pain of losing those she grows closer to undercover.
What would you do to protect the ones you love?

1861. George’s life changes forever the day he meets Lucy. She’s beautiful and charming, and he sees a future with her that his position as the second son in a wealthy family has never offered him. But when Lucy dies in a suspected poisoning days after rejecting George, he finds himself swept up into a murder investigation. George loved Lucy; he would never have harmed her. So who did?

Now. On the surface Cassie is happy with her life: a secure job, good friends, and a loving family. When a mysterious gift in a long-forgotten will leads her to a dark secret in her family’s history she’s desperate to learn more. But the secrets in Cassie’s family aren’t all hidden in the past, and her research will soon lead her to a revelation much closer to home – and which will turn everything she knows on its head.
The Brothers of Auschwitz

Dov and Yitzhak live in a small village in the mountains of Hungary, isolated both from the world and from the horrors of the war.

But one day in 1944, everything changes. The Nazis storm the homes of the Jewish villagers and inform them they have one hour. One hour before the train will take them to Auschwitz.

Six decades later, from the safety of their living rooms at home in Israel, the brothers finally break their silence to a friend who will never let their stories be forgotten.

Malka Adler’s extraordinary biographical novel of a family separated by the Holocaust and their harrowing journey back to each other is based on interviews with the brothers she grew up with by the Sea of Galilee. When they decided to tell their story, she was the only one they would talk to.

Reviews for The Brothers of Auschwitz:

‘I am sitting here, stunned, after finishing this book. It was so incredibly harrowing, heartfelt and heartbreaking ... I could never hope to give it the justice it truly deserves’ Netgalley reviewer

‘This book is so moving. It is harrowing and stunning, really well written and heartbreakingly raw. The author writes this book with such compassion’ Netgalley reviewer

‘I sat down and read this within a few hours, my wife is now reading it and it is bringing tears to her eyes’ Amazon reviewer

‘The story is so incredible and the author writes so beautifully that it is impossible to stay indifferent. I gave the book to my mom and she called me after she finished crying and telling me how much she loved it’ Amazon reviewer

‘It is a book we all must read, read in order to know ... It is harsh, enthralling, earth-shattering, rattling – but we must. And nothing less’ Aliza Ziegler, Editor-in-Chief at Proza Books, Yedioth Ahronoth Publishing House
Young Adult Fantasy
In a world where the Roman Empire never fell, two starcrossed lovers fight to ignite the spark of rebellion.

Londinium, the last stronghold of the Romans left in Britannia, remains in a delicate state of peace with the ancient kingdoms that surround it. As the only daughter of a powerful merchant, Cassandra is betrothed to Marcus, the most eligible bachelor in the city.

But then she meets Devyn, the boy with the strange midnight eyes searching for a girl with magic in her blood.

A boy who will make her believe in soulmates.

When a mysterious sickness starts to leech the life from citizens with Celtic power lying dormant in their veins, the imperial council sets their schemes in motion. And so Cassandra must make a choice: the Code or Chaos, science or sorcery, Marcus or Devyn?
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