

North American Rights Fall 2024

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THERE SHE GOES edited by Esa Aldegheri

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KINGFISHER by Rozie Kelly

TOXIC by Natasha Devon



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CHRONIC

By Gillian Best

UK Publisher: Icon (April 2026)
North American rights available

Chronic pain is one of *the* major issues facing humans in the 21st century. 1.5 billion people live with the condition worldwide. Modern medicine can manage pain in some cases - but a cure remains elusive.

At the age of 20, Gillian Best was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis - a severe form of arthritis and auto-immune condition which causes chronic pain. When, in 2022, she read an article in The Guardian about a new type of therapy which had successfully treated another auto-immune disease, she thought that there may be an end to her pain (and that of millions of others) in sight.

CAR-T cell treatment is used to treat rare cancers. It needs a molecular target to retrain the fighter T-cells, so they attack the disease. The article outlined how it had recently been used on lupus but with no molecular target currently identified for Gillian's condition, CAR-T therapy wasn't going to be possible. So, she decided to try to find it herself.

In her day job in the fundraising department at UCL, she works alongside top scientists and researchers, telling the story of medical research. In **Chronic**, she tells the story of her quest to find this molecular target and ultimately, the quest to end her pain. Along the way, she meets scientists and medical researchers who are at the cutting edge in their respective fields.

Chronic is about so much more than painkillers. It's about where researchers are looking, what they're thinking, and how they're approaching pain. And ultimately, it's a book about hope.

Gillian Best is the author of **The Last Wave** which was published in 2029 by Anansi in Canada and Text in Australia and UK and shortlisted for the Kobo Emerging Writer Prize in Canada. Originally from Canada, Gillian has been living in the UK for the best part of twelve years.

The finished book will come in at about 80,000 words with a delivery date of June 2025

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MINING MEN: Britain's Last Kings of the Coalface

By Emily P Webber

UK Publisher: Chatto & Windus (February 2025)

US rights available

Britain's last deep coalmine closed in 2015, yet just fifty years ago the mining industry was a juggernaut, employing over 250,000 workers and was considered the backbone of Britain. Based on hundreds of new interviews conducted by the author, who grew up in a former mining community, from 2019-2021 and featuring extensive archive research MINING MEN showcases the different lives, experiences and perspectives on the industry and includes the voices of the miners themselves. It tells the story of the remarkable and varied men who kept Britain's lights on and does so with the dignity and respect they deserve, looking beyond stereotypes of the miner to tell the stories of the real men and their families. Written in dazzling and poetic prose, richly alive with minute detail, MINING MEN is filled with evocative descriptions, unusual photos and rarely seen before paintings.

'MINING MEN is a rare thing – a book which comes from generous, sustained and informed listening. Emily Webber has collected and curated stories from the life and death of an industry which defined Britain. She pays tribute to the miners in her subtle, evocative prose. It is a skilful book, full of compassion. She has done the industry and the "kings of the coalface" proud.' — *Helen Mort*

'A powerful, enlightening study of the beauty and brutality of British coal mining, and a hymn to the men who were born into and lived through the mining way of life - told through their authentic voices, it is essential reading for those who care about the social and political effects of coal mining history, and the history of us working-class.' — *Natasha Carthew*

Emily P Webber completed a PhD at the University of Reading and University of Exeter, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. She was previously the Research Manager of the Imperial War Museum and acted as a curator for the award-winning Holocaust Exhibition. She was also awarded the University of Reading's PhD Researcher of the Year award for the Humanities. She has presented her research at conferences both in the UK and overseas, including at Northwestern University, the Institute of Historical Research, and the University of Birmingham, and she has published in *History Workshop Journal*, *Contemporary British History* and *Twentieth Century History*. She has also written for *Time Out London*.



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THERE SHE GOES: An anthology of travel writing by women

Edited by Esa Aldegheri

UK Publisher: Saraband (March 2025)

North American rights available

There She Goes brings together seventeen women writers – of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry – in an anthology of travel tales to inspire, encourage and empower women adventuring through the world in different ways and stages of life.

There She Goes celebrates the stories of women getting on with getting from one place to another – the grit, courage and determination of moving through the world with babies, with periods, with grief and loss, with the menopause, with magic and humour, with bodies that are ill or disabled or seen as foreign and Other. These are stories so often shared verbally between women, but rarely printed. This is a book offering a new perspective on what it means to be adventurous. In times where fear and worry seem so prevalent, it is a gift of courage and celebration.

This is a genre-expanding anthology which challenges the male dominated genre of travel writing and includes experiences such as migration and travelling with children. Contributors include Kerri ni Dochartaigh, Leila Abouleila, Chitra Ramaswamy, Nadine Aisha Jassat and Lee Craigie.

Editor **Esa Aldegheri** is a multilingual writer, scholar and educator. Her book **Free to Go** (John Murray 2022) moves beyond a simple travel narrative to explore different aspects of freedom and borders, both geopolitical and personal. Esa's other non-fiction has been published by Granta, MAP Magazine, Gutter Press, the Dangerous Women Project and others. Esa works as a Research Associate at the University of Glasgow, studying and supporting refugee integration across Scotland

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The GLASS CLIFF : *Why Women in Power Are Undermined - And How to Fight Back*

By Sophie Williams

UK Publisher: Macmillan Business (March 2024)

North American rights available

People who don't fit our typical image of a leader – those who aren't both white and male – are often only hired in a leadership role when a business is already underperforming. And when a business is doing well, these same candidates are overlooked, considered to be risky appointments. This is the story of *The Glass Cliff*: a well-researched yet widely unrecognised phenomenon that sees the chances of success for underrepresented leaders cut short before they even begin.

*This is the story of *The Glass Cliff*: a story of a structural inequality disguising itself as the personal failures of women. When Sophie Williams gave her viral TED talk on the subject, she was subsequently flooded with accounts of confident, accomplished women who had taken what seemed like a dream leadership role only to quickly find themselves in a waking nightmare. Without the language to describe their experiences they had been left blaming themselves. But learning about The Glass Cliff enabled them to reframe and reexamine what they'd gone through.*

Once we understand The Glass Cliff – once we can stand together and face it head-first – we can start to unravel so many other false narratives about women's leadership experiences that just don't make sense without it. By understanding the phenomenon, and by telling one another about it, we can affect the conversation, empower one another to overcome societal bias and, ultimately, change the world of work for women forever.

Sophie Williams is the author of *Anti-Racist Ally* (HQ, 2020, Amistad 2021) and *Millennial Black* (HQ, 2021), the Instagram voice behind [@OfficialMillennialBlack](https://www.instagram.com/OfficialMillennialBlack) (with over 150K followers), and a Racial Equity Consultant. She is a UK Delegate to the United Nations CSW67, an Ex-Netflix Global leader, and has held the positions of COO and CFO in London Social and Advertising agencies. Her TED [talk](#) on this subject now has over 1.5 million views. She has written for publications including [The Guardian](#), [Bustle](#), [Cosmopolitan](#), [Marie Claire](#), [Elle](#), [Stylist](#), and [Grazia](#)

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TEN MEN

By Kitty Ruskin

UK Publisher: Icon Books (April 2024)
North American rights available

'BOOK EVERY YOUNG WOMAN SHOULD READ' *Daily Mail*
'BOLD AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING' *Glamour*

As heard on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour

A *Stylist* pick of the best non-fiction for 2024
A *Cosmopolitan* and *Glamour* best new book for April 2024

TEN MEN, MANY STORIES.

At the beginning of the year, Kitty Ruskin decided it was time to embrace her sexuality, taking advantage of all the joys that being young, free and single bring and having fun, easy, no-strings sex with whomsoever she desired.

She got on the apps and started swiping. What followed was sometimes sexy, frequently funny, occasionally shocking and, sadly, all too often fraught with pain and danger. It was not the carefree adventure she had envisaged; it was something altogether darker.

Ten Men is one woman's tale told with searing honesty. It's an exploration of the 'blurred lines' that even seemingly nice guys can exploit, a meditation on the lack of clarity around consent and a call to arms to combat a culture that seems to thrive on women's vulnerability.

Kitty Ruskin is an assistant audience editor at *Time* magazine, where she specialises in writing about technology and mental health. She was previously a writer and social media expert at *The Times* and *Sunday Times*.



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KINGFISHER

By Rozie Kelly

Debut literary fiction

UK Publisher : Saraband (February 2025)

North American rights available

An arrogant writer in a supportive gay relationship finds himself drawn to an enigmatic poet, until he begins a passionate affair with her. But the poet is vulnerable and frail, and when her cancer returns, their affair begins to quieten into tender care.

As reality begins to slip from his grasp, the writer grapples with intense emotions as he grieves the death of his mother, with whom he'd had a love-hate relationship that left him damaged, and revisits childhood memories of his father.

The more the poet ails, the writer's creativity blossoms, and he sustains himself by writing her story, imagining a metamorphosis that will lead to a happier ending.

Rozie Kelly is a prose writer based in West Yorkshire. After reading English Literature and Creative Writing at Warwick University and the University of Manchester, she moved to Hebden Bridge where she works for Arvon, hosting creative writing courses. Her current work-in-progress, *Salt Tooth*, was shortlisted for the PFD Queer Fiction Prize 2023. She is one of the eight participants in the inaugural 2024 Prototype Development Programme, a new scheme offering extended support and career development to eight emerging writers and artists in partnership between Prototype Publishing and New Writing North.

TOXIC

By Natasha Devon

Debut YA Fiction

UK Publisher: UCLAN (July 2022)

North American rights available

'A hugely accomplished debut novel about the complexities of teenage girlhood. Menacing, heartfelt and oft very funny, Natasha Devon is a new YA voice to watch' - **Juno Dawson**

'Natasha is the cool older sister all teens need in their lives. She truly cares about the mental wellbeing of young people and this makes her such an exciting new author of YA fiction' -

Holly Bourne

Llewella has straight-A grades, a lead in the school play, a prefect badge, a successful blog and a comfortable life. Despite this, she feels like a brown, chubby square peg at a school full of thin, white girls. She's never had a best friend. Could the new student at sixth form - glamorous, streetwise Aretha - be the one? Llewella and Aretha get tight, quick. Before long, Llewella is following a diet Aretha has designed for her and has abandoned her own passions to dive headfirst into Aretha's world. She's determined to be the most loyal, greatest friend she can be, even when Aretha says and does things which make her feel the opposite of great. Even when the anxiety disorder she thought was cured starts to re-emerge. Isn't that how friendships work?

Fans of Holly Bourne and Sara Barnard will love this story about when friendship turns sour. It explores some of the most contentious topics affecting today's young people, including mental health, race, identity, sexuality and social media. Ultimately, it's about a young woman's quest to discover who she really is and to appreciate the qualities which make her unique.

Natasha Devon MBE is an author and activist who has spent more than a decade working with teenagers in schools, colleges and universities throughout the world. She is a Trustee for the charity Student Minds, writes regularly for **Grazia** and has a weekly radio show on LBC. Her nonfiction book for teenagers *'Yes You Can: Ace Your Exams without Losing Your Mind'* was published by Macmillan Kids in 2020. **Toxic** is her first novel. Like Llewella, Natasha is of mixed heritage, unusually tall and very opinionated.

