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International Rights Autumn 2025

Non Fiction:

CHRONIC by Gillian Best

Fiction:

TOXIC by Natasha Devon

CHRONIC

By Gillian Best

UK Publisher: Icon (April 2026)

Translation and 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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TOXIC

By Natasha Devon

Debut YA Fiction

UK Publisher: UCLAN (July 2022)

Translation and 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.

