



2026 CATALOGUE



An independent publisher with authors at its heart.

We are delighted to present our first Firefinch catalogue.

The seven launch authors on our eclectic 2026 list include global bestseller Heather Morris, author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, who returns to her heartland next October with *The Piano Teacher of Montparnasse*, an astonishing novel based on a true story of bravery and Resistance in wartime Paris, and acclaimed writer Christy Lefferi, author of *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, whose compelling new novel explores the football leagues formed by women factory workers during the first world war. It promises to be a heart-breaking and exhilarating story of conflict, family, and a game that changed the world.

Our publishing year opens in March with *I Am You* by Victoria Redel. A mesmerising meditation on gender and artistic creation, this unforgettable love story reimagines the life of renowned still life painter Maria van Oosterwijck during the Dutch Golden Age.

In June, comes *The Secret History of the Universe*, Jonathan Black's follow-up to his ground-breaking first book *The Secret History of the World*. Here, Black offers pure intellectual entertainment in a character-driven history of mysticism and its influence on modern science. In July, we publish *Black Earth*, the first in the ambitious Stoke Rising trilogy. Set against the background of the miners' strikes of 1984 and a family divided, it will cement crime writer and ex-Met detective Kate London as a uniquely talented writer to watch.

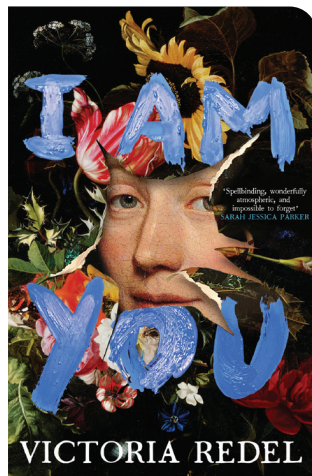
In November we publish France's most-read novelist Marc Levy. *The Bookshop of Forbidden Books* is a brilliant and thought-provoking comedy, a love story, and a tribute to the transformative power of literature. It is destined to capture the hearts of book lovers everywhere. Our 2026 ends with *Marian of Sherwood*, Anya Bergman's feminist retelling of the Robin Hood legend. Part folk horror, part heroine's quest, it will delight readers with its universal themes of love, nature, selfhood and destiny.

Our thanks to our authors for their faith in us, to their agents for their support, and to our stellar team of associates for helping make our first publishing programme a reality. We're excited to see Firefinch fly!

Best wishes,
Kate & Margaret



January – June



I Am You

Victoria Redel

'Victoria Redel masterfully evokes the rich period of Golden Age Amsterdam . . . It is spellbinding, wonderfully atmospheric, and impossible to forget' **Sarah Jessica Parker, SJP Lit**

'A story of ferocious insights into the human psyche and the drive to create art . . . It's a stunning accomplishment' **Michael Cunningham, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Day and The Hours**

At eight years old, Gerta Pieters is forced to disguise herself as a boy and sent to work for a genteel family. When their brilliant and beautiful daughter Maria sees through Gerta's ruse, she insists Gerta accompany her to Amsterdam and help her enter the elite, male-dominated art world.

While Maria rises in the ranks of society as a painting prodigy, Gerta makes herself invaluable in every way: confidante, muse, lover. But as Gerta steps into her own talents, their relationship fractures into a complex web of obsession and rivalry, until the secrets they keep threaten to unravel everything.

Victoria Redel is a first-generation American poet and novelist whose work has been widely anthologised, awarded and translated. She is a professor in the graduate and undergraduate Creative Writing programs at Sarah Lawrence College.

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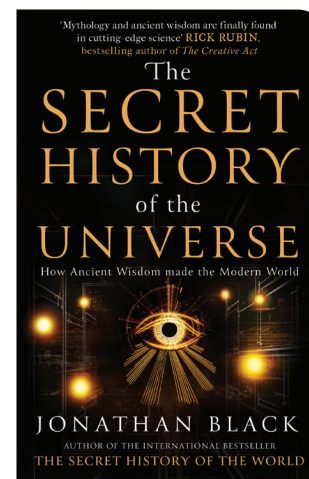
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The Secret History of the Universe

Jonathan Black

'Mythology and ancient esoteric beliefs are finally found in cutting-edge science' **Rick Rubin, bestselling author of The Creative Act**

'The Dancing Wu Li Masters of the 21st century' **Professor Jordan Giddings**

In this character-driven history of mysticism and its influence on modern science, from nuclear physics to the latest AI, Jonathan Black shows how scientists have walked a line between genius, madness and ancient mystical ideas to create a picture of the universe which is deeply mysterious and unexpectedly spiritual.

This is pure intellectual entertainment, full of dark drama, humorous anecdotes and wild ideas. In it, we embark on an exhilarating journey in the company of some of the greatest minds of our age towards a deeper understanding of our place in the cosmos.

After reading Philosophy and Theology at Oxford, **Jonathan Black** went on to have a long career in publishing. Now writing full time, he is the author of a number of books exploring ancient wisdom, including the critically acclaimed global bestseller *The Secret History of the World*.

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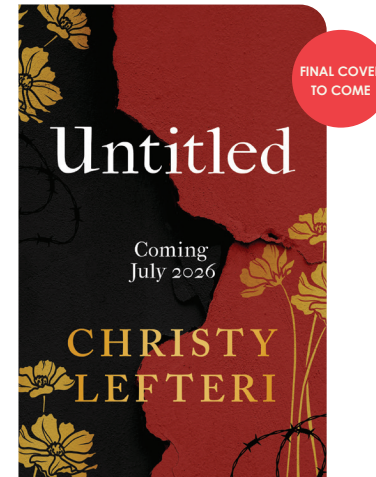
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July – December



Untitled

Christy Lefteri

Praise for *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*:

'It's impossible not to be moved by Lefteri's plea for humanity and perhaps inspired too' **Guardian**

From the international bestselling author of *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, *Songbirds* and *The Book of Fire*, Christy Lefteri returns with a moving and powerful new novel which reimagines the story of the football leagues formed by women factory workers during the first world war while their husbands and brothers were away fighting. These teams became a national sensation, but when the men came home, the women were stood down – from work and from football.

This promises to be an illuminating novel that uncovers an extraordinary period in our history, and the legacy of these women sporting heroes, which echoes down to today.

Christy Lefteri is the author of four novels, including the international bestseller, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, which tells the heartbreaking story of a young Syrian refugee couple seeking sanctuary, and won The Aspen Words Literary Prize. Her novels are sold in over 40 countries.

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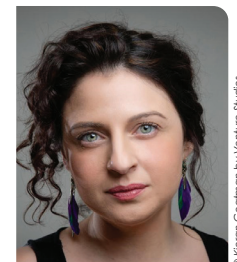
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Black Earth: The Stoke Rising Series No.1

Kate London

'Kate London, the new rising star of crime fiction, is the real thing'
Tony Parsons, bestselling author of *Man and Boy*

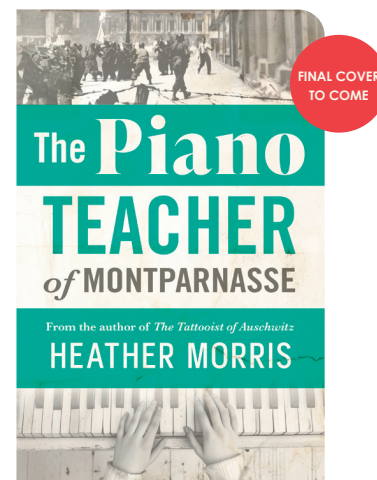
Black Earth is set against the background of the miners' strikes of 1984. Detective Ian Wheedon is an ex-Met Detective in rural Staffordshire. His brother, Stephen, is on the front lines of the strike in Silvertown. The force is already stretched to breaking point when Ian is called in to investigate a brutal murder. The case brings him face-to-face with his past, his family, and with the life he left behind. As tensions erupt and tempers fray, Ian and his family must fight for the answers they need and the future they want.

The Stoke Rising trilogy spans three decades from the miners' strikes of the early 80s to the rise of New Labour and the far right in the early 00s. It cements Kate London as a uniquely talented writer to watch.

Kate London is a former detective on the Met's homicide command. She resigned in 2014 to focus on her writing. She is the author of four books in the Tower series, which have been adapted and broadcast by ITV.



© Tim Flach



The Piano Teacher of Montparnasse

Heather Morris

Praise for *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*:
'A remarkable story of survival and how love triumphed in that lawless hell. A phenomenon' **The Times**

In 1942, the Nazis arrested a Jewish family living in Montparnasse, occupied Paris. In the chaos, the eleven-year-old daughter fled to the only person she trusted: her piano teacher, Andrée Levallois, secretly a French Resistance operative. Andrée took her in, risking everything. But the authorities were closing in, and soon Andrée and the girl were caught in a desperate race to stay alive. Andrée was denounced, arrested, tortured, and sent to the hell of Ravensbrück Women's concentration camp. She fought for her life, determined to return and honour her promise to save the girl who had been entrusted to her care.

Epic in scope and based on astonishing true-life people and events, *The Piano Teacher of Montparnasse* is gripping, heartbreaking and uplifting.

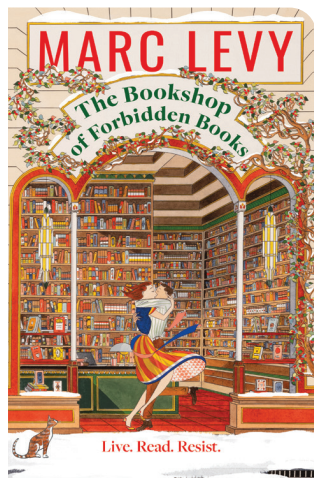
Heather Morris was born in New Zealand. Her life changed in 2003 when she met Lale Sokolov. His story formed the basis of her first novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and its follow-up, *Cilka's Journey*. Her third novel, *Three Sisters*, concluded the trilogy. Heather's books have sold over 19 million copies worldwide and been translated into over 50 languages.

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The Bookshop of Forbidden Books

Marc Levy

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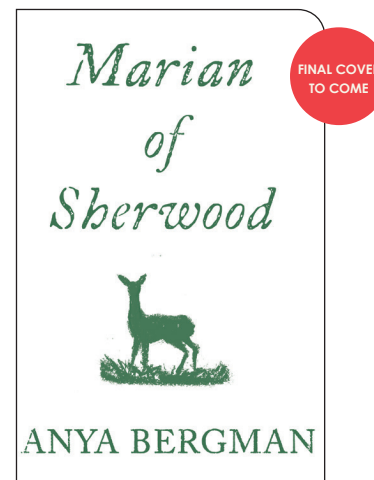
Praise for Marc Levy's writing:
'Mesmerising' *Financial Times*

LIVE. READ. RESIST.

Mitch, a passionate bookseller, is arrested one morning for committing an unthinkable crime: selling books that have been banned. After five years in prison, all Mitch wants to do is to regain his freedom and settle back into his bookshop. But fate has other plans. On the same day Mitch crosses paths with the man who put him behind bars, he also encounters Anna, a woman who could well be the love of his life. From that moment on, Mitch finds himself caught between an irresistible desire for revenge and an irresistible desire for love . . .

A whimsical comedy brimming with charm, tenderness and humanity, and a tribute to the transformative power of literature, this is a novel that will capture the hearts of book lovers around the world.

Marc Levy has written 25 novels to date. His work has been translated into 50 languages and has sold over 50 million copies worldwide. When *Le Figaro* newspaper commissioned a poll asking the French to rank their favourite authors, Marc Levy and Victor Hugo shared first place. He currently lives in New York City.



Marian of Sherwood

Anya Bergman

Praise for *The Witches of Vardø*:

'Powerful, deeply moving' *The Sunday Times*

Anya Bergman's new novel is a powerful retelling of the Maid Marian story, reimagined but still steeped in the history, mythology and folklore of the era. Part folk horror, part feminist love story, part heroine's quest, Anya brings Marian's story to life in sumptuous, rich historical detail.

Anya Bergman's Marian is a strong, bold heroine who is both modern, but also far truer to her original mythology than any retelling so far. *Marian of Sherwood* will delight readers with its universal themes of love, nature, selfhood and destiny.

Anya Bergman is the bestselling author of *The Witches of Vardø*, shortlisted for the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year 2023 and a *Sunday Times* Historical Fiction Book of 2023, and *The Tarot Reader of Versailles*, published in June 2025. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and is a co-programme leader of Edinburgh Napier University's Global Online Master's degree in Genre Fiction. Anya currently lives in the wilds of County Kerry in Ireland with her ginger rescue cat Orlando. Her work has been translated into over fourteen different languages worldwide.

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