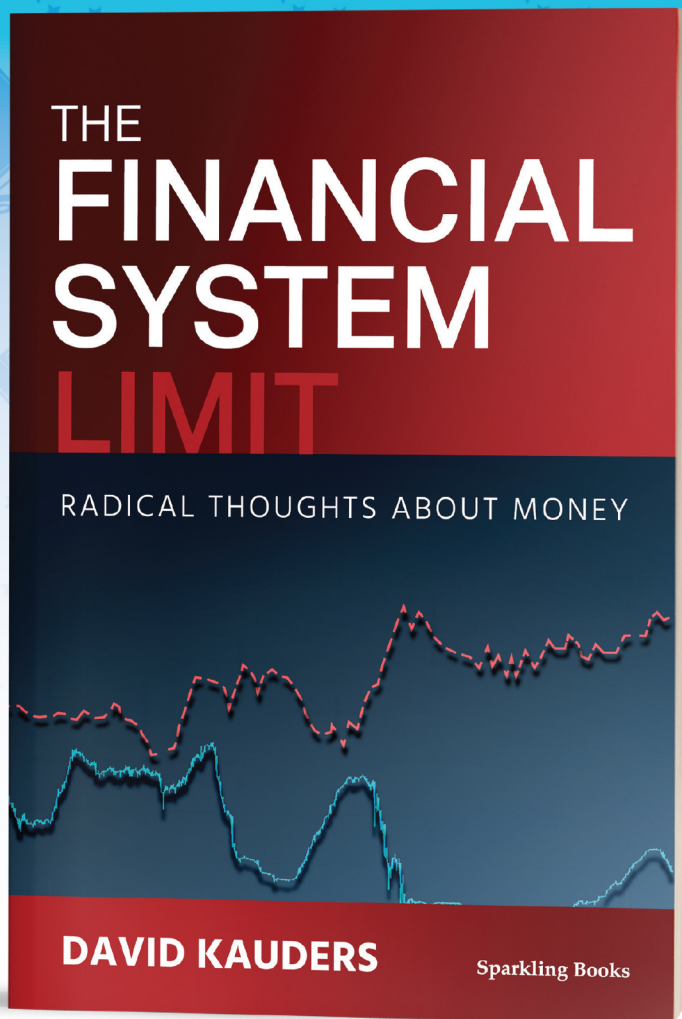


# Catalogue



## Sparkling Books

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+44 20 3291 2471

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Retail print purchases in the Middle East:

**Exhibited titles listed at [amazon.ae](http://amazon.ae), all print titles available from [booksetc.co.uk](http://booksetc.co.uk) and [wordery.com](http://wordery.com) – see page 9**

This catalogue consists of published and represented titles. Published titles are available for all. Represented titles are for publishers and agents only.

Titles exhibited in print marked **XP**, titles exhibited as e-books marked **XE**, three titles included in *Three British Mystery Novels* marked **XP3**

<b>Published</b>	<b>Crime fiction</b>	<b>Page</b>
	Three British Mystery Novels (omnibus edition)	2 XP
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*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Three British Mystery Novels

Presented in one omnibus edition

**Booksellers: add this title to your seasonal gift selection**

Rights: all three titles licenced separately

**Thema:** DNT, FF, FKM, FFC, FHX

**BISAC:** FIC003000, FIC022000, FIC031080, FIC005000



**Print ISBN:** 978-1-907230-73-8    **Pages:** 522    **Size:** 234 x 156 mm

Published by Sparkling Books, available now

**Price:** USD 29.95, £25

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-74-5    **Price:** USD 14.99, £9.99

Full title details and reviews: see the following individual title pages

*Ellipsis*, page 10

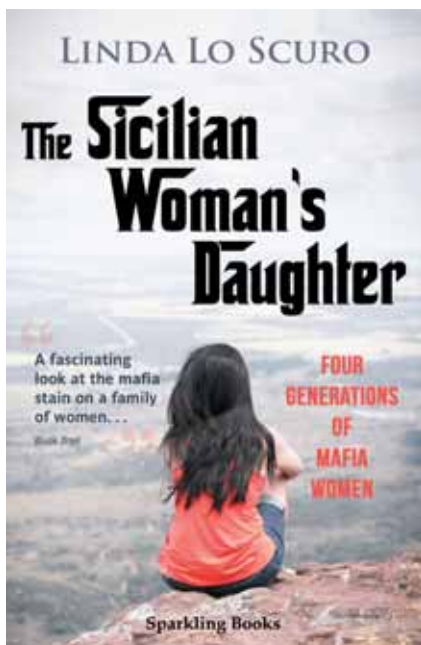
*Lynnwood*, page 12

*A Taste for Blood*, page 14

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# The Sicilian Woman's Daughter

**Linda Lo Scuro**



Most victims of the **mafia** are the Sicilians themselves. The role of women both as **perpetrators** and **victims** has been grossly overlooked. Until now.

As the daughter of **Sicilian** immigrants, in her teens Maria turns her back on her origins and fully embraces the English way of life. Notwithstanding her troubled and humble childhood in London, and backed up by her intelligence, beauty and sheer determination, she triumphantly works her way up to join the upper middle-class of **British society**. There she becomes a bastion of civility.

But a minor incident wakes up feelings of revenge in her like those

lurking in Maria's Sicilian origins. As she delves deeper into her mother's family history a **murky past unravels**, drawing Maria more and more into a mire of **vendetta**.

**Linda Lo Scuro** is a pen name. The author lives in London.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-69-1      **Pages:** 296      **Size** 203 x 133 mm

Published by Sparkling Books, available now **Price:** USD 19.95, £9.99

**Thema:** FBA, FC, FF, FS, FT, 1DST-IT-UL, 1DDU-GB-ESL

**BISAC:** FIC031010, FIC022080, FIC044000, FIC045000, FIC008000

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-70-7      **Price** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of The Sicilian Woman's Daughter**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for more reviews)

"An extraordinary and inherently riveting read from beginning to end, *The Sicilian Woman's Daughter* is an original and deftly crafted novel showcasing the genuine flair for narrative storytelling by author Linda Lo Scuro (a pen name)...highly recommended for community library Contemporary General Fiction collections."

*Midwest Book Review, USA*

"I have always considered women to be the "power behind the throne"... and this book proves it to be true. It was fascinating to read about how different her lives were depending on where she was or WHO she was that day.

This is an addictive read from page one to last and thoroughly enjoyable!

Great book!"

*Janet Cousineau, Librarian, Canada*

"This is a cracking good read... A story that brings alive the heat and the underbelly of life in a Mafia controlled Sicilian village."

*Ann Gough, UK*

"The charm of reading this book is that: always, and I mean always, the reader is satisfied with the result... a confrontation between raw, unpolished power (men) and the sophistication of women's minds."

*Manuela Iordache, Romania*

"Linda Lo Scuro weaves the story about the daughter of Sicilian immigrants with layer upon layer of substance. It's a must-read for mystery lovers."

*Carolyn Bowen, USA*

"An exciting plot, great characterisation and an unexpected ending all add up to a thoroughly enjoyable read."

*Millie Thom, UK*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

"An interesting and thought provoking read this one... this separation of identities and anonymity is crushing to read about.

"Maria tells her story of her Sicily and the image the world has of that place – its mafia connections and how she and everyone from there is tarred with the same brush. As the story takes us on that (very fascinating) train journey across to the island, secrets start to float to the surface, as do the bodies...

"A fascinating look at the mafia stain on a family of women and what they have to do to survive, bring justice and not be a victim. There's four generations of women's stories to immerse yourself in and this is a real treat, never too much nor too long. Sicilian words pepper the text as they would the pasta.

"An enthralling read on many levels."

*Book Trail, UK*

"I felt I was reading a true account of how ordinary lives can be turned upside down by family connections we try to remove ourselves from (in this case the Mafia). Insightful, well written and I found the pace just right. The storyline took an interesting twist at the end which didn't disappoint."

*Dawn D'Auvin, Teacher, UK*

"OUTSTANDING. This book makes very interesting reading and a lot of research has gone into it. I also like Linda's writing style, and the plot flowed. I have awarded this book 5 deserving stars."

*Haley Norton, UK*

"No matter how many rosaries you say, how faithful you are, there are always excuses to take revenge if that suits you well. Female sophistication and guns, poison, and network connections do the trick. The plot's convincing and rich in local flavors."

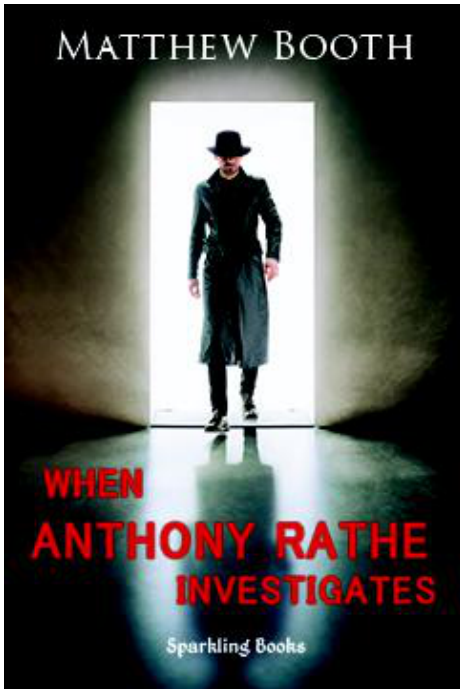
*Henk-Jan van der Klis, Netherlands*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# When Anthony Rathe Investigates

**Matthew Booth**

*Four cases investigated by barrister Anthony Rathe*



The original Anthony Rathe stories of courtroom criminal cases appeared on American public radio, syndicated by the late Jim French through his *Imagination Theatre*. **When Anthony Rathe Investigates** continues where the radio stories finished.

Prosecuting criminal cases, **barrister Anthony Rathe** convinced a jury to imprison an innocent man, who subsequently took his own life. Horrified at his mistake, Rathe abandons his glittering legal career, vowing to truly serve justice. A series of cases come his way.

These four stories, linked by how Rathe is racked with guilt over the suicide, explore crime from a different angle: determination to find the truth, no matter how inconvenient to the investigating officer, **Inspector Cook**. The first story, *Burial for the Dead*, exposes sordid family history that led to a murder in a church. In *A Question of Proof*, Inspector Cook needs Rathe to unravel an underworld murder; in *Ties that Bind* Rathe solves a crime of passion; and in *The Quick and the Dead*, modern slavery intrudes into his own personal life.

*Published titles, available to everyone*

**Matthew Booth** is the author of *Sherlock Holmes and the Giant's Hand* and was a scriptwriter for the American radio network, Imagination Theater, syndicated by Jim French Productions, contributing particularly to their series: *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Matthew is an author in the MX Publishing Undershaw Preservation project, having contributed to their anthologies of new Sherlock Holmes stories. He is joint author of *Further Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (see page 17).

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-68-4

**Pages:** 248      Available now

Published by Sparkling Books

**Price:** USD 19.95, £9.99

**Thema:** FFC    **BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022000, FIC022100, FIC029000

**Size** 203 x 133 mm

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-67-7

**Price** USD 6.99, £4.99

### **Reviews of When Anthony Rathe Investigates**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for many more reviews)

"This had a perfect balance of deduction and soul searching to make the main character compelling. The mysteries were well written with refreshing style."

*Bridgit Davis, South Africa*

"This gripping collection of detective stories is an excellent blend of contemporary and traditional crime drama. Each story is tightly plotted, exciting, and each with a satisfying twist at the end. There is a variety to the stories, ranging from dark secrets being exposed to genuinely tragic family secrets coming to light.

"But the real success of these stories are the two main characters and their relationship. Rathe is a fascinating and original character, a troubled man trying to make sense of his life in the wake of a tragedy which still haunts him. Contrasted with Rathe's private quest for redemption is Inspector Cook, a man with his own troubles, trying to come to terms with the violence he sees in his everyday life in the best way he can.



*Published titles, available to everyone*

"The contrast between the two of them is set off against their mutual desire to find the truth and it forms the basis of an uneasy alliance. It is their uncertain partnership which sets these stories aside. It is not the usual detective duo combination and this amiable hostility between them is a welcome change. Rathe and Cook are wary of each other but what these stories show so well is the slow building of trust and respect between them as they investigate the crimes at the centre of these four excellent stories. A sequel can't come soon enough."

*Shirley Rothel, UK*

"He investigates now because he's driven by guilt. One of his cases went badly and he can't forgive himself. So he is going to try to find justice for those cases he's asked to help on.

"These are short stories of several cases, all of them sad. Trying to prove who the real villain is can be hard and unrewarding but Rathe doesn't give up. He's trying to balance the scale and make his life feel right again.

"The stories aren't easy to figure out but Rathe does it. I don't think I'd like him breathing down my back either. Give it a read. It'll make you think about life..."

*Jo Ann Hakola, Bookseller, USA*

"Short form crime fiction is difficult. The author cannot rely on red herrings, a host of possible suspects, or deeply technical sleuthing. The scene, character and plot must come immediately. The four novellas of this book are masterpieces of their kind.

"Meet Anthony Rathe, a barrister who abruptly retired from practice when a brilliant prosecution resulted in an innocent man's conviction and subsequent suicide. He is now a shade of his former self, haunting the cemetery staring at gravestones meditating on justice. Until, that is, he is forced to consider (not investigate really) four different murders, one for each novella.

"Rathe is a handsome, wealthy, cultured, yet empathetic man who listens to his intuition. Each story is different and enjoyable, if a bit reminiscent of Sherlock Holmes written by Martin Gatiss."

*Anonymous, USA*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

## **Retail book availability**

This information is correct at 4th August 2020. Please visit

[www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com)

for links to both print and e-book stores

### **Printed books**

For a fair combination of speedy delivery and price, we recommend wordery.com and booksetc.co.uk — both shops will supply all our titles.

amazon.ae list most of our titles as US imports, including all print titles exhibited at Sharjah.

Titles exhibited at Sharjah are also printed in India and may be obtained from stores there.

### **E-books**

All amazon kindle, apple, google play and kobo stores list all our e-books. Many other stores also list our titles.

### **Choosing a gift?**

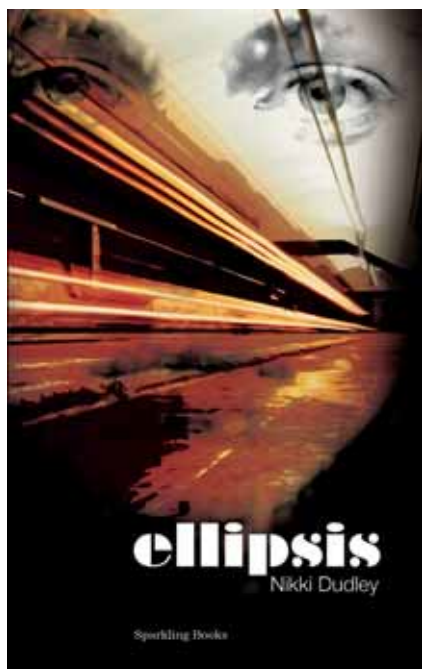
Read a free preview of any title on our website!

[www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com)

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Ellipsis

## Nikki Dudley



“Right on time,” Daniel Mansen mouths to Alice as she pushes him to his death. Haunted by these words, Alice becomes obsessed with discovering how a man she didn’t know could predict her actions. On the day of the funeral, Daniel’s cousin, Thom, finds a piece of paper in Daniel’s room detailing the exact time and place of his death.

As Thom and Alice both search for answers, they become knotted together in a story of obsession, hidden truths and the gaps in everyday life that can destroy or save a person.

**Ellipsis** is a disturbing psychological thriller stemming

from what is left unsaid, what bounces around in the mind and evaporates when trying to remember. Can there be a conclusion when no-one seems to know the truth?

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-18-9

**Pages:** 320     Available now

Published by Sparkling Books     **Price:** USD 14.95, £9.99

**BISAC:** FIC031080, FIC027110, FIC050000, FIC025000     **Thema:** FHX

**E-book:** 978-1-907230-21-9

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Ellipsis* is included in *Three British Mystery Novels* (page 2)

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of Ellipsis**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for many more reviews)

"It's a tale that will keep them wondering, gasping, thinking, smiling, grimacing, rereading. What more can a reader ask for?"

*Spinetingler Magazine*

"I wouldn't have stopped reading if my house was on fire!"

*Cas Peace*

"The pacing is excellent, the characters fragile, flawed and consumed with grief and guilt. I could not recommend this book enough."

*Review posted on goodreads.com*

"Tight, evocative gut-punches tempered by the desperate details of everyday life."

*Shawn Kupfer*

"This is the type of story that keeps a reader up half the night."

*Maureen Vincent-Northam*

"Exciting, psychologically complex, and disconcerting, it is a powerful tale of two misfits trying to uncover long hidden secrets about themselves and their pasts. Dudley has an often startling eye for description and her simple poetic prose will delight readers looking for something slightly different in the crime thriller genre."

*Sam Ruddock, Writers' Centre, Norwich*

"This is a work of literacy .. the pleasure is in the writing style"

*The Truth About Books*

"*Ellipsis* is a very stylish, compelling read that will stay with you for a long time"

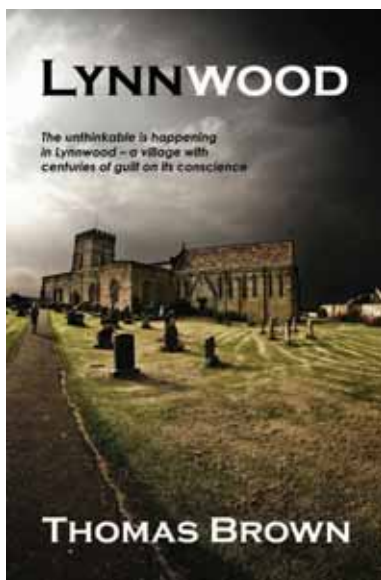
*Kevin Mahoney, Authortrek.com*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Lynnwood

**Thomas Brown**

**Lynnwood was a finalist in The People's Book Prize 2013/14**



*The unthinkable is happening in Lynnwood – a village with centuries of guilt on its conscience.*

Who wouldn't want to live in an idyllic village in the English countryside like Lynnwood? With its charming pub, old dairy, friendly vicar, gurgling brooks, and its old paths with memories of simpler times.

But behind the conventional appearance of Lynnwood's villagers, only two sorts of people crawl out of the woodwork: those who hunt and those who are prey. Visitors are watched by an entity between the trees where the Dark Ages have endured to the twenty-first century. Families who have lived

behind stone walls and twitching curtains know that the gusts of wind blowing through the nearby alluring Forest bring with them a stench of delightful hunger only Lynnwood can appease.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-38-7

**Pages:** 176      Available now

Published by Sparkling Books,

**Price:** USD 12.95, £9.99

**Size:** 197 x 134 mm

**BISAC:** FIC015000, FIC019000, FIC012000, FIC000000    **Thema:** FKM

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-42-4

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Lynnwood* is included in *Three British Mystery Novels* (page 2)

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of Lynnwood**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for many more reviews)

"A dark and disturbing horror story set in a picturesque village. Full of rich description, it depicts the horrifying, ravenous secret lurking beneath the surface of the village. I would recommend this to fans of classic English horror as well as fans of Stephen King."

*Lucy O'Connor, Waterstones bookseller, UK*

"A quintessentially British folk horror chiller, with an escalating power of dread that is rendered deftly. A new voice in British horror, that you'll want to read, has entered the field."

*Adam Nevill, Author of Apartment 16 and The Ritual*

"The plot line is new and exciting, I won't say any more about that because I don't want to give it away! But I know I was surprised more than once at what was happening. If you are looking for a good book, definitely pick up this one."

*Alison Mudge, Librarian, USA*

"... A dark journey not only of the mind, but of the soul. This beautifully crafted tale of the horror that lurks in a picturesque English village is hopefully the first of many to come from this brilliant young author. Mr. Brown's extraordinary talent is evident as he paints a virtual feast for the reader with eloquently chosen prose in this powerfully engaging novel."

*Nina D'Arcangela*

"An exciting, on the edge of your seat gothic that will have readers begging for more."

*Rosemary Smith, Librarian and Cayocosta Book Reviews*

"An exciting début from a new young writer with a dark imagination. Thomas Brown's beautifully written novel proposes a modern gothic forest far from the tourist trail, a place filled with strange events and eerie consequences."

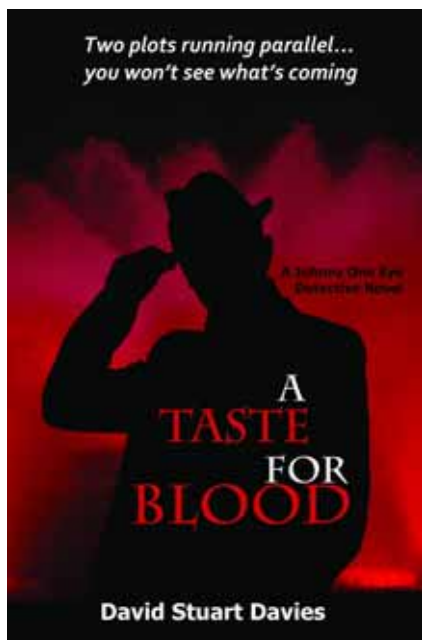
*Philip Hoare, historian of the New Forest, UK*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# A Taste for Blood

David Stuart Davies

**Book 6 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**



***Two plots running parallel...  
you won't see what's coming***

Two laser-sharp detectives, two thought-provoking cases and two skilful plots.

Featuring private investigator Johnny (One Eye) Hawke, and his one-time colleague in the police force Detective David Llewellyn. Llewellyn is investigating the chilling crimes of a top psychiatrist and his scheming patient who the doctor believes has knuckled under his authority. In the meantime, Hawke is on the case of a mysterious suicide in Edgware Road... soon discovered as not your average suicide.

The guts and insight of the two investigators bring both cases to a head – though you won't even begin to see how until you have turned the last pages.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-46-2

**Pages:** 224      Available now

Published by Sparkling Books

**Price:** USD 14.95, £8.99

**Size:** 197 x 134 mm

**BISAC:** FIC022000, FIC030000, FIC050000, FIC022090    **Thema:** FFC

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-48-6

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*A Taste for Blood* is included in *Three British Mystery Novels* (page 2)

This is book 6 of the Johnny Hawke detective series. All six titles in the series are available for translation rights.

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of A Taste for Blood**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for many more reviews)

"Johnny Hawke breathes new life into the traditional British mystery. He's a hero with a heart."

*Val McDermid*

"This book by Davies is a good read for mystery followers. The characters are well sketched out and the plot will twist and turn and leave you wondering how it will all turn out – that's what you want isn't it? This is a delightful read because you are not quite sure what will happen and you are hooked enough to keep on reading. Enjoyable."

*J Robert Ewbank, author*

"Interesting mystery that takes place in the 1930s in England. Private Investigator Johnny Hawke is investigating a suicide that seems off and his police buddy, Detective David Llewellyn is investigating a bloody crime involving an escaped convict and a psychiatrist. The two stories merge for a twisted ending. The details are grisly and the main villain enjoys his victims just a bit too much. But other than that, it was a good story with an unpredictable ending – just how I like my mysteries.

"Although this is the sixth Johnny Hawke novel, you can read it and understand it without reading the previous books. Enough background is given so that you know who Johnny is."

*Donna Miller, Librarian, USA*

"A well crafted thriller that had me gripped from the first chapter. *Taste for Blood* far exceeded expectations with its carefully crafted plotting and characterization. So good were these that it encouraged me to read the novel a second time.

*Alan Semmens, Teacher, UK*

"I wholeheartedly recommend David Stuart Davies to those who enjoy a good read."

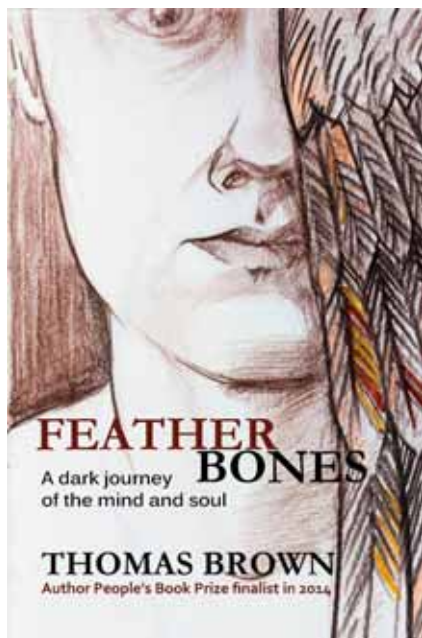
*Amazon review*



*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Featherbones

**Thomas Brown**



Felix walks the same way to work through Southampton every morning, and the same way home again in the evenings. His life up to this point feels like one day repeated over and over; a speck of silt caught in the city's muddied waters. Sometimes it is all he can do to sit and watch while the urban sprawl races indifferently around him. But when the city stares back at him, one evening after work, everything changes.

**Thomas Brown** is a graduate of the University of Southampton, where he is researching the relationship between Horror and the Sublime in literature. He has been Co-Editor of Dark River Press and has written for a number of magazines, websites and independent publishers.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-51-6      **Pages:** 176      Available now

Published by Sparkling Books **Price:** USD 14.95, £9.99

**Size:** 198 x 129 mm

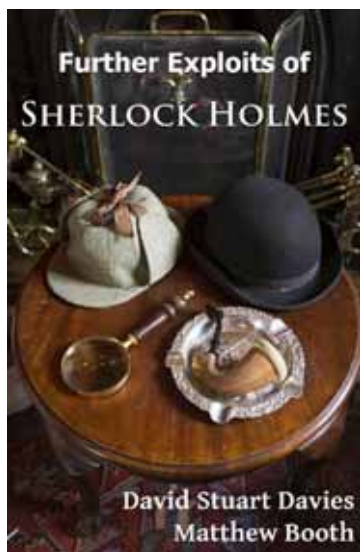
**BISAC:** FIC048000, FIC000000, FIC043000, FIC011000    **Thema:** FXB

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-52-6

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Further Exploits of Sherlock Holmes

**David Stuart Davies, Matthew Booth**



## **A collection of short stories**

The Reichenbach Secret  
The Adventure of the Brewer's Son  
The Secret of the Dead  
Murder at Tragere House  
The Dragon of Lea Lane  
The Fairmont Confession  
The Mornington Scream  
The Riddle of Satan's Tooth  
The Tragedy of Saxon's Gate  
The Verse of Death  
Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost of  
Christmas Past #  
A Certain Notoriety #

This exciting anthology brings together the work of two much admired Sherlock Holmes writers. In these stories Holmes and Watson are engaged in daring exploits applying their razor-sharp intelligence in new cases.

**Published by Sparkling Books and available as an e-book only**

**BISAC:** FIC000000, FIC014000, FIC050000, FIC022000 **Thema:** FFC

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-61-5

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

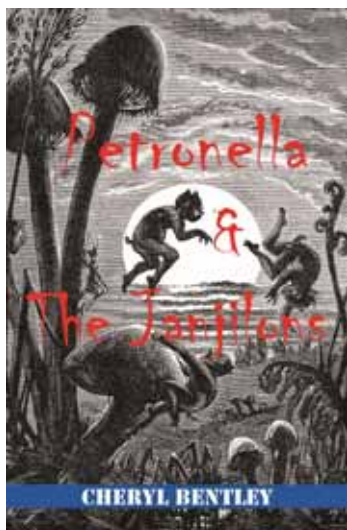
**This title is exhibited on the e-book displays**

*All twelve stories available for translation rights. The two stories marked # are excluded from our published book. Author biographies: pages 7 and 28.*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Petronella and the Janjilons

**Cheryl Bentley**



The Janjilons are not what they seem. They look like a type of monkey but they are really children. How did they turn into Janjilons? And could it happen to anyone?

Behind this mystery is someone evil, Judge Ormerod who wants to be the next Duke of Westshire. With the help of three weird sisters, he has to rid the land of clever children from being an obstacle to him. The Janjilons work for him as the three sisters mete out punishment and keep them locked up.

Petronella starts to look into these strange happenings. But time is running out because when the Judge no longer needs the Janjilons, they will be destroyed.

*Cheryl Bentley is a children's author from England*

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-60-8

**Pages:** 144 *see note*

Published by Sparkling Books, available now

**Age:** 9 to 14

**Size:** 198 x 129 mm

**Price:** USD 14.95, £9.99

**BISAC:** JUV100000, JUV037000, JUV012030, JUV002020 **Thema:** YFH

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-58-5

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Note: 144 pages from UK and USA sources. 188 page version exhibited, printed in some other countries*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of Petronella and the Janjilons**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for more reviews)

"Loved this book - engaged with it straight away – especially liked Betty. Delightful book. Well recommended."

*Lorraine Baker, Bookseller, Wales*

"... a great book for reluctant readers ... A good fantasy read with good vs. evil"

*Ann Klausing, Books-a-Million*

"There are three witches, a hidden school and a lot of evil in this story. You'll meet characters that will surprise you and the ending is great.

"Ms. Bentley does not write boring books. I can see a young one reading this book more than once. Maybe they can even write a story of their own..."

*Jo Ann Hakola, Bookseller, USA*

"You'll have to jump on this fast moving fairy tale thriller to find out what happens..."

*Bill Baker, Teacher, USA*

"Petronella and Edmundus Chewnik live in their Manor House in Fort Willow. Their friend, the Duke of Westshire, a fair and heir-less man, has just died. Before going, he left explicit instructions as to how the next Duke will be chosen. The problem is, one of his councillors (as the British spell it) wants that dukedom more than he can fathom. That's when the trouble starts.

"It seems that the boys of Fort Willow are all being offered free places at a nearby boarding school. Most parents here can't afford it, so they jump at the chance to educate their sons at a prestigious school. But Soloman, the local orphan, doesn't think anything good is going on. So he enlists the help of Petronella to see if she can sort things out. But before she can get started, Soloman is discovered in the woods by three witchy types and the judge who was responsible for sending the boys off to school. Unfortunately, they see him, and he soon learns of their nefarious plans.

"A cute story, this book is the second in the series starring Petronella. Part Grimm Brothers, part Enid Blyton and part Tarzan, it's sure to please kids looking for adventure."

*Audrey Wilkerson, Reviewer, USA*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Petronella & The Trogot

**Cheryl Bentley**



Petronella moves to Charis Cottage hidden in the thick dark woods at the bottom of a track on the outskirts of Fort Willow. Everything is perfect. Except for one thing. Since she moved an enormous black tree has appeared in her back garden in the shape of a giant with a big black circle on the ground under it. Petronella finds out it is a deep pit and is terrified to go near its ridge. But one night...

How is the tree linked to

- the strange night-time visits by the Hooded Horseman?
- the boy ghost, Percy, she finds in

her bed one night?

- and the invasion of ghosts of the ancient Strincas population all over Fort Willow?

**Reviews** (see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for more reviews):

"Kids will like this. Girls will like it for romance and boys will like it for the scare factor." – *Ann Klausing, Bookseller for Books-A-Million*

"Full of ghosts and ghoulies, this is an imaginative tale." – *Bertrams Book Wholesalers*

"This was presented as a supernatural chiller and I must admit...it was a fantastic and unique read for MG and YA readers.

*Jolene Haley, Librarian, USA*

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-46-2

**Pages:** 192

Published by Sparkling Books, available now

**Age:** 9 to 14

**Size:** 198 x 129 mm

**Price:** USD 14.95, £9.99

**BISAC:** JUV001000, JUV018000, JUV012030, JUV064000 **Thema:** YFD

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-48-6

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# The Boy Who Made it Rain

## Brian Conaghan's first book



When a school tragedy happens, you probably lay the blame on society, the Internet, TV or violent films. Not many of you think it could be the parents' or the teachers' fault, do you? But then, is it? We all have our say, spout off opinions in different directions according to our view of the world. In this novel, too, they all have their say, but who's right?

At only sixteen Clem's world is turned upside down. His father, a travelling salesman and a loser, is transferred from Eastbourne to Glasgow and with him go Clem and his passive mother. But his new sink school is rough.

Clem's posh accent, love of learning, and attraction to the school beauty, Rosie, soon make him the target for McEvoy's gang of thugs whose most important ambition in their depraved lives is slashing faces.

### Reviews

"innovative and insightful... I couldn't wait to devour part two" – *Times Educational Supplement*

"I was utterly flabbergasted... one of the most compelling novels I've ever read" – *Heffers Review, Cambridge*

"definitely up there with the modern classics" – *What? Magazine*

"Brilliant writing, brilliant structure, brilliant book" – *Des Dillon*

More reviews at [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com)

The author went on to win a Costa prize.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-19-6

**Pages:** 208

Published by Sparkling Books, available now

**Age:** 13+

**Size:** 216 x 140 mm

**Price:** USD 14.95, £9.99

**BISAC:** YAF054000, YAF058020, YAF052000, YAF036000 **Thema:** YXQ

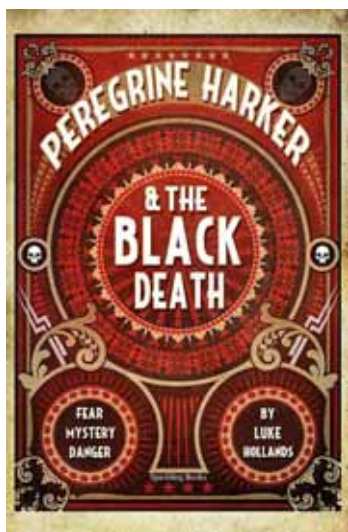
**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-37-0

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Published titles, available to everyone*

# Peregrine Harker & The Black Death

**Luke Hollands**



**MURDER. SPIES. EXPLOSIONS.  
REVENGE.**

**This book has it all.**

*Peregrine Harker is about to learn you're  
never too young to die.*

**London 1908:** A secret society stalks the murky streets, a deadly assassin lurks in the shadows and a series of unexplained deaths are linked by a mystery symbol...

When boy-detective Peregrine Harker stumbles across a gruesome murder he sparks a chain of events that drag him on a rip-roaring journey through a

world of spluttering gas lamps, thick fog, deadly secrets and dastardly villains.

Every step of Peregrine's white-knuckle adventure brings him closer to the vile heart of a terrifying mystery – the true story behind the Brotherhood of the Black Death.

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-44-8

**Pages:** 192 *see note*

Published by Sparkling Books, available now

**Age:** 10 to 15

**Size:** 198 x 129 mm

**Price:** USD 12.95, £7.99

**BISAC:** YAF001000, YAF042000, YAF029000, YAF000000 **Thema:** YFC

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-49-3

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

*Note: 192 pages from UK and USA sources. 260 page version exhibited, printed in some other countries*

*Published titles, available to everyone*

### **Reviews of Peregrine Harker & The Black Death**

(see [www.sparklingbooks.com](http://www.sparklingbooks.com) for many more reviews)

"A great middle-grade mystery novel that will keep readers hooked from the first page. Well done!" – *Jenni French, Morgan County Library, USA*

"Great story. I will recommend it to my middle school readers." – *Librarian, USA*

"Such a great fast paced book... FUN FUN read!!!" – *Love to Read Always book blog*

"One hell of a lot of fun! Readers of all ages will gobble up this non-stop rip roaring adventure – don't miss this one!" – *Bill Baker, Educator, USA*

"I am so excited to discover an adventure book with a boy for the protagonist/narrator. Peregrine is such a great character and one I think middle grade students (especially boys) will fall in love with. The story is highly imaginative and original, and I love how the plot was fast paced." – *The Hopeful Heroine Blog*

**LUKE HOLLANDS** is a former lion tamer, motorcycle stunt-rider and ruler of a small South American country. He is also a compulsive liar. He learnt how to tell tall tales while interviewing famous politicians, celebrities and criminals as a newspaper journalist. Thinking he should get a proper job he joined the BBC. Since then he has produced and presented quirky radio documentaries, appeared in the odd drama and danced on television dressed as a giant bear. He now makes wildlife films, some of which he briefly appears in, and has travelled the world, swimming in shark-infested waters, tramping through crocodile-stuffed lagoons and being eaten alive by various species of nibbling insect. Surprisingly for Luke, everything apart from the first two sentences of this biography is actually true.

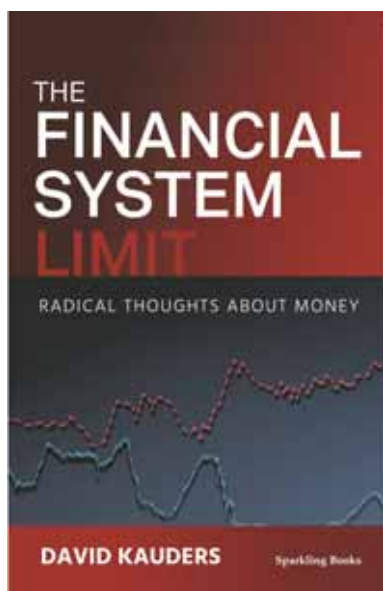


*Published titles, available to everyone*

# The Financial System Limit

Radical thoughts about money

David Kauders



This book shows that all schemes that borrow from the future are thwarted by three related concepts:

- the true cost of debt to society,
- the central banking economic cycle, and
- the financial system limit.

The author challenges the existing academic and political consensus about how economies should be managed. Estimates show that one-fifth of all economic output is spent on paying interest: this is too high an overhead and cannot be allowed to increase. The old arguments about sound money versus stimulus, as well as contemporary arguments that

governments controlling their own currency can create as much credit as they wish, are fundamentally inappropriate to the deflationary world that we are moving towards.

**“Radical thinkers might have a point”** was how the *Financial Times* described David Kauders’ first book *The Greatest Crash: How contradictory policies are sinking the global economy*. This new book offers further original thought.

*David Kauders FRSA is an investment manager.*

Published by Sparkling Books. E-book available, print edition: 2021

**BISAC:** BUS069000, BUS027000, POL000000, BUS039000, BUS004000

**Thema:** K, KCB, KCP, KCY, KCSA

**E-book:** 978-1-907230-77-6

**Price:** USD 6.99, £4.99

**This title is exhibited on the e-book displays**

*Published titles, available to everyone*

**Revivals translated for/edited by and published by Sparkling Books**

**Please see our website for more information about these titles**

*Rights not applicable*



Goldoni's dramatic comedy

Italian and English parallel text

**Hardback PPC Edition Pages:** 160

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-00-4

**BISAC:** DRA004030, FIC004000, FIC027250, PER015000 **Thema:** DDA

**Price:** USD 28.00, £15.99

**E-book** (English) 978-1-907230-34-9

Gustave Le Bon's original work is still the basis of mass psychology

Edited and annotated from the French 2nd edition by Sparkling Books

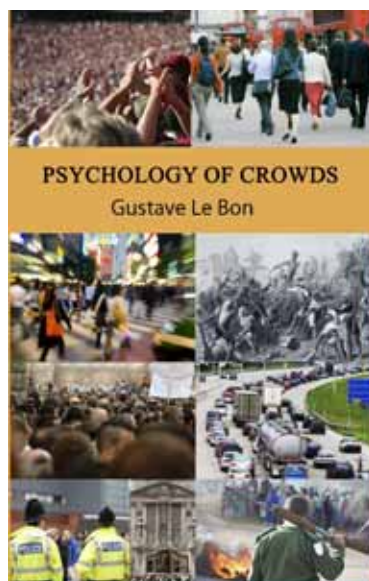
**Hardback PPC Edition** 208 pages

**ISBN:** 978-1-907230-08-0

**BISAC:** PSY000000, SOC000000, BUS000000, POL000000 **Thema:** JM

**Price:** USD 29.50, £15.99

**E-book ISBN:** 978-1-907230-55-4



E-books for both the above price USD 4.99, £3.99

*For wire-bound edition of The True Friend please contact Sparkling Books*

# The Crew

## Dougie Brimson



Dougie Brimson served with the Royal Air Force for 18 years, during which he also played football. He has written numerous football books.

Sparkling Books represent his football crime thrillers **The Crew** and its sequel, **Top Dog**, for translation rights only.

**BISAC:** FIC031010, FIC022080, FIC038000

*The Crew* is about the lengths two men on opposite sides of the law will go to, and the risks they will take, to achieve their own aims. The novel builds up to an astonishing climax which ultimately ends in disaster. But for who?

The central character is Billy Evans who has a sinister dark side to his nature as well as being a frightening football hooligan. Using violence as a tool, Billy has worked his way up to a position of power within the hooligan hierarchy. But for him, violence is only a means to an end. He has other ambitions, and not all of them involve football either. His adversary is Detective Inspector Paul Jarvis of the National Football Intelligence Unit. He is well aware of Billy's involvement with organised hooliganism and crime outside the football field.

Jarvis has sworn that he will never give up trying to nail Billy down. His chance comes when Jarvis manages to infiltrate the group during the build up to an international fixture involving England and Italy in Rome when Jarvis finds out that Billy Evans is recruiting a gang of violent hooligans to cause serious trouble.

**Review:** "*The Crew* surprised me, and ended up being a page-turner. It turned out to be a clever plot, for which several people were used, unaware of their purpose."

# Top Dog

## Dougie Brimson

*Sequel to The Crew, same BISAC codes*

Billy Evans is now above the law. He knows it, they know it. And when you regard the law as an irrelevance, all kinds of opportunities open up to you. Especially when you own a security firm that plies its trade amongst the backstreet pubs and clubs of East London.

So when Billy stumbles across the opportunity to make some serious money very quickly by helping a football club with an insurance scam, he grabs it with both hands. But Billy's about to discover that he has finally pushed his luck too far.

### **Reviews**

"Great to see that someone has finally moved the hooligan genre away from the increasingly boring autobiographies of sad, self-obsessed idiots and on to something more interesting (and genuinely fictional). As with his previous novel *The Crew*, Dougie has delivered a cracking story which, if anything, drives along at an even more frantic pace than the first book. The story, clearly based on rumours that surrounded a certain East London club throughout the 80's (!) is both credible and thought provoking and is delivered in a brilliantly descriptive and atmospheric manner. If this is the future of the genre, all I can say is thank goodness. Lets have more of this and less of the non-fiction dross please."

"Having read the brilliant *The Crew* last year, I was eagerly awaiting this book. This is certainly an excellent sequel and is, if anything, even punchier than the first book. The descriptive but raw style of the writing leaves the reader in no doubt that here is an author who knows exactly who his books are pitched at while the content shows, if there were any doubts, that he clearly knows his stuff. A great read and I only hope that this isn't the end of the line for the hero Billy."

**Detective stories by**  
**David Stuart Davies**



**David Stuart Davies** is the author of six novels featuring private detective hero, **Johnny Hawke**, and seven pastiche novels featuring **Sherlock Holmes** as well as several non-fiction books about the Baker Street detective including the movie volume *Starring Sherlock Holmes*. He is also an author of **Sherlock Holmes** short stories (see page 17).

As well as being a committee member of the Crime Writers' Association, and editing their monthly magazine, *Red Herrings*, David is the general contributing editor for Wordsworth Editions Mystery & Supernatural series and a major contributor of introductions to the Collectors' Library classic editions. David is a member of The Detection Club.

On the following pages you will find his Sherlock Holmes titles and then the first five of his series of Johnny (One Eye) Hawke private detective stories. For the final Johnny (One Eye) Hawke story, see page 14.

Apart from *A Taste for Blood* (page 14) and *Further Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (page 17), both of which are published by Sparkling Books, these titles are represented for translation rights only.

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# **Sherlock Holmes & The Hentzau Affair**

## **David Stuart Davies**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022030

This novel is an exciting fusion of a Sherlock Holmes mystery with the Ruritanian world of intrigue and skulduggery of Anthony Hope's novel *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

Colonel Sapt of the Ruritanian Court journeys to England on a secret mission to save his country from anarchy. His mission is to engage the services of Rudolph Rassendyll once more to impersonate the king while the monarch recovers from a serious illness. But Rassendyll has mysteriously disappeared. In desperation Sapt consults Sherlock Holmes who, with his faithful companion Watson, travels to the Kingdom of Ruritania in an effort to thwart the plans of the scheming Rupert of Hentzau in his bid for the throne.

### **Review**

"Sherlock Holmes and the Hentzau Affair is a wonderful blend of detective story and rousing adventure yarn." - *Baker Street Journal*

### **English rights note**

English language rights are also available, except in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and Republic of Ireland.

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# The Scroll of the Dead

**David Stuart Davies**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022030

The Dead Shall Rise. In this fast-paced adventure, Sherlock Holmes attends a séance to unmask an imposter posing as a medium. His foe, Sebastian Melmoth, is a man hell-bent on discovering a mysterious Egyptian papyrus that may hold the key to immortality. The action switches from London to Norfolk to the picturesque surroundings of Cumberland's Lake District, as Holmes and Watson once more battle with the forces of evil.

## **Review**

"A thundering good yarn... I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone who has an affection for Holmes and a good, old-fashioned page turner." – *Sleuthing the Shelves*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# **The Shadow of The Rat**

**David Stuart Davies**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022030

When Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson meet up with an old acquaintance, they do not immediately realise that this innocent encounter will draw them into a vast conspiracy.

A body found floating in the river – a body which has deliberately been infected with the plague virus – is the first warning; and soon Holmes and Watson find themselves seeking answers at The Bridge of Dreams, a club where a person's darkest wish can be granted – for a price.

In this twilight world of depravity and corruption, the great detective falls into the grip of an enemy whose will even stronger than his own; a grip which turns him against his closest friend, and threatens to leave the government – indeed Britain itself – open to a deadly terror, the monstrous Giant Rat of Sumatra.

## **Review**

*“Another excellent Holmes tale from the pen of David Stuart Davies” – Roger Johnson of Sherlock Holmes Journal*

## **English rights note**

English language rights are also available, except in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Republic of Ireland, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives.



*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# **The Tangled Skein**

**David Stuart Davies**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022030

*With a Foreword by Peter Cushing.*

It is the autumn of 1888. Following the successful conclusion of the investigation into the affair of the Hound of the Baskervilles, Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson have returned from Dartmoor, little realising that fate will see them back in Devon before the year is out.

Holmes receives a potentially lethal package, the first strand in the tangled skein which he will need to unravel before this new adventure is resolved. A threat to Holmes' life, murders on Hampstead Heath, and a strange phantom lady lead Holmes and Watson into the most dangerous investigation they have ever undertaken – an encounter that brings them face to face with evil itself, embodied in Count Dracula, the Lord of the Undead.

## **Review**

“One of the best Holmes pastiches of all.” – *Crime Time*

## **English rights note**

English language rights are also available, except in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and Republic of Ireland.

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# The Veiled Detective

**David Stuart Davies**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022030

It is 1880 and young Sherlock Holmes arrives in London to pursue a career as a private detective. He soon attracts the attention of the criminal mastermind, Professor James Moriarty, who decides that he must control this fledgling genius. What happens next is both shocking and thrilling.

The Veiled Detective takes a fresh, exciting and controversial look at the relationship between the great detective Sherlock Holmes, his friend and chronicler, Doctor John H. Watson and Professor Moriarty. The novel deconstructs the myth of Sherlock Holmes and reveals a fascinating and excitingly dramatic alternative view of the man. The novel will amaze and thrill readers of crime fiction as the truth is finally revealed about the world's most famous detective.

## Reviews

"The Veiled Detective is the best Sherlockian mystery novel I have seen all year...I do not hesitate to recommend it." – *Classic Specialities*

"Davies does a wonderful job of reimagining Holmes' and Watson's adventures in this slightly bent world, but he does an even more masterful job with the people in it" – *wellreadsherlockian.com*

"I just can't keep quiet about this book. It is a real page turner, an exhilarating roller coast ride of suspense, appalling crimes, hidden clues, with more twists and turns than a dark foreboding maze. Come! Join the chase... after all the game is afoot!" – *Mystery Net Community*

"The novel gives us a uniquely intelligent, thought-provoking and fresh view of one of the great friendships in all literature." – *Roger Johnson, The District Messenger*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# **Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

## **David Stuart Davies**

Invalidated out of the army after losing an eye in a rifle accident, Johnny Hawke sets up as a private detective.

Sparkling Books represents the first five titles in the series for translation rights, and the sixth and final title is published by Sparkling Books.

“Johnny Hawke breathes new life into the traditional British mystery. He’s a hero with a heart.” – *Val McDermid*

# **Forests of the Night**

**David Stuart Davies**

## **Book 1 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022090

In the autumn of 1940 Johnny Hawke is asked to investigate the mysterious death of a young woman, who had led a double life.

What is the connection between her brutal murder and the fading film star, Gordon Moore, of the popular Tiger Blake B-movies fame? Johnny also becomes involved in the plight of a runaway boy who may have witnessed something terrible.

An engrossing mystery.

### **Review**

“A neatly crafted crime novel offering an unusual perspective on London, by turns dark and poignant.” – *Andrew Taylor*

## **Comes the Dark**

**David Stuart Davies**

### **Book 2 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022090

In the darkness of the blackout of World War II, Johnny is drawn into investigating the deaths of several prostitutes strangled by a desperate killer. At the same time, he infiltrates the Britannia Club, a dangerous underground fascist organisation bent on a Nazi invasion of Britain. As his investigations reach a thrilling climax, he is faced with the greatest challenge of his life.

This complex and engrossing mystery is told with wit and humour, while evoking the atmosphere of London during the Second World War.

#### **Review**

"A strong story immaculately told. What a rare pleasure it is to discover a book that you can truly call a thriller. Wartime London is beautifully evoked in a plot as crafty as the black market." – *Peter Lovesey*

## **Without Conscience**

**David Stuart Davies**

### **Book 3 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022090

In London 1942, Rachel Howells, in the capital for the first time, is trapped in a web of violence with army deserter Harryboy Jenkins, who will stop at nothing – not even murder – to enjoy his illicit freedom. Meanwhile private detective Johnny Hawke is involved in the bizarre murder of one of his clients, while trying to find Peter, the runaway boy he had befriended in an earlier case.

Inexorably the divergent paths of Harryboy and Johnny grow closer together until they collide with frightening consequences. Harryboy has a tortured past and is without conscience. How far will he go?

#### **Review**

"Juicy... Wartime London makes a great setting for crime fiction and Davies uses it shrewdly. Johnny Hawke is a keeper." – *Booklist*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

## **Requiem for a Dummy**

**David Stuart Davies**

### **Book 4 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022090

Successful ventriloquist Raymond Carter begins receiving death threats over the telephone, especially unnerving as the threats are made in the voice of his dummy, Charlie Dokes. Disturbed, Carter calls on the services of private detective Johnny Hawke to get to the bottom of this bizarre case. However, when one of the cast of Carter's radio show is brutally murdered, the ventriloquist becomes a suspect and the investigation begins to take a dark and surreal path. This not only places Johnny in danger, but also those who are close to him.

This complex mystery thriller is set against the grim backdrop of war-torn London, and is told with wit, humour and suspense.

#### **Review**

"A clever and unnerving detective thriller. A real page turner." – *Tangled Web*

## **The Darkness of Death**

**David Stuart Davies**

### **Book 5 of the Johnny (One Eye) Hawke series**

**BISAC:** FIC050000, FIC022090

"Do you believe in ghosts, Mr Hawke?" When a woman who died two years ago inexplicably reappears, private eye Johnny Hawke is immediately called upon to investigate. What emerges is an elaborate maze of deception and brutal murder. The case sees Johnny drawn into the world of the crooked Bernstein family, particularly the cruel and domineering Gina, who will allow no one to stand between her and her evil goal. As the danger closes in on him and escape seems increasingly impossible, Johnny begins to fear for the safety of those closest to him.

#### **Review**

"Dark, deadly and exciting." – *Tangled Web*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

## Bill Kirton

Bill Kirton was born in Plymouth, England, but has lived most of his life in Scotland. He has written stage and radio plays, songs and sketches for revues, flash fiction, short stories, novels, stories for children and books aimed at helping students to write effective academic essays and dissertations and get the most out of university and work. He has been a university lecturer, actor, director, TV presenter, visiting professor and artist at the University of Rhode Island and spent a few years as a Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow in universities in Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews.

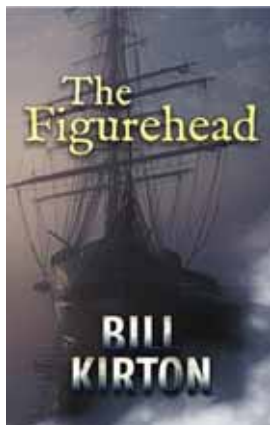


Sparkling Books represents selected Bill Kirton titles for translation rights. They are the historical fiction title *The Figurehead* and four detective titles in a series, *Detective Chief Inspector Jack Carston*.

**BISAC** for the DCI Jack Carston series: FIC050000, FIC022000

# The Figurehead

**Bill Kirton**



## **Short listed for the Rubery Award**

1840: Return to an age where sail was being challenged by steam, new continents were opening, and the world was full of opportunities for people to be evil.

When the body of a local shipwright is found on the beach, neither the customers and suppliers he cheated, nor the women he molested are surprised. But the mystery intrigues woodcarver John Grant, who determines to seek out the truth of the killing.

His work and investigations bring him into contact with William Anderson, a rich merchant — and his daughter Helen. Commissioned to create a figurehead that combines the features of two women, John eventually uncovers a sordid tale of blackmail and death as, simultaneously, he struggles to resist the pangs of unexpected love for Helen.

**BISAC:** FIC014000, FIC022060

## **Reviews**

“... a marvellous intertwining of crime thriller and tender romance... The characters force you to care about them... this is so well written, you struggle right along with them... Do yourself a favour, grab this book. You will not regret it.” – *Suzanne Burke*.

“... a beautifully written murder mystery set in Aberdeen, Scotland in the mid-1800's... story telling at its finest, written so vividly you can see the details.” – <http://historicalnovelreview.blogspot.co.uk>

“The story is far more than a simple whodunit... it paints a picture of the past... In particular Kirton shows the roles of women; how (depending

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

on their place in society) they were used, abused, or placed on pedestals as ornaments. They and their men are placed in their settings, lovingly described... The reader is drawn into these people's lives." – *Greta van der Rol*

"Murder, mystery, intrigue and romance – *The Figurehead* is full of action and recommended for any reader who enjoys historical fiction and mysteries... a great work of Indie historical fiction which I would highly recommend." – <http://historicalnovelsociety.org>

"As well as a gripping murder story, *The Figurehead* touches on other issues including domestic violence, class differences and integrity (and lack of it) in the business of making money." – *Mary Smith*

"...a hugely satisfying read, by a writer whose love and knowledge of the sea shines through on every page... The characters are skilfully delineated and the mystery at the heart of the novel makes it a real page turner." – *Myra Duffy*

"Excellent, well paced story set in the Aberdeen of 1840. The sights and sounds of the period are brought to life by an accomplished author... Highly recommended. Great depiction of women in the period." – *Rosemary Gemmell*

"The plot is complex and believable, the characters are well-rounded and the dialogue is perfectly judged. Other reviewers have commented on how well Kirton writes female characters; this is one of the great strengths of his writing. The research behind this book is meticulous and fascinating but it never gets in the way of a rippling good story." – *Ruth Howell*

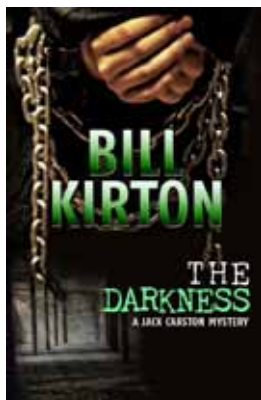
"Bill Kirton weaves a fine net of words that will keep you trapped from the beginning to the end." – *P.D.Allen*



# The Darkness

**Bill Kirton**

**A DCI Jack Carston novel**



**Forward National Literature Award**

**Runner-up**

*Trailer voted the most intriguing in the New Covey Awards.*

DCI Jack Carston is faced with a series of disappearances then a murder. But there's a problem... He feels sympathetic towards whoever is responsible. If he does not solve the case in a hurry, the endgame will be chilling and the darkness will fill him too.

## Reviews

"...a wonderful, thrilling, dark, compassionate book." – *Gillian Philip*

"...clever, tightly constructed, immensely satisfying and peopled with a cast of completely believable characters, who don't let you go until the final word." – *Michael J. Malone*

"A truly gripping novel with two unforgettable story lines depicting a darkness which (scarily) we all might be capable of." – *R. Gemmell*

"...a book you will keep on reading because you simply 'have' to know what's going to happen next." – *M. Gray*

"...a great read—really disturbing material but gripping and very difficult to put down." – *Gothenburger*

"...not only a good read but a lesson in human nature." – *Jean Henry Mead*

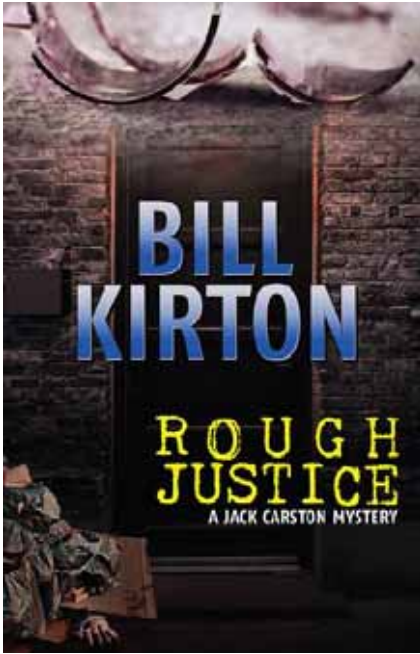
"...a dark, intense ride ... a book that keeps you guessing right until the exciting conclusion." – *P. S. Gifford*

"This book has a careful psychological precision that hits the very tricky balance between dispassionate honesty about and sympathy for basically good people squashed by cruel circumstances." – *Kate Kasserman*

# Rough Justice

**Bill Kirton**

**A DCI Jack Carston novel**



Floyd Donnelly is only 26, but he has already spent four years in prison for violent robbery. Foul-tempered and amoral, he has made himself no friends. Even so, it is a shock when his corpse is found.

Detective Chief Inspector Carson thinks he knows who is responsible: David Burchill, self-made man and owner of the property where Donnelly was squatting. Burchill admits that he sent his men round to encourage the squatters to leave. But he has a cast iron alibi for his actions on the night of Donnelly's death. Burchill is always one step ahead.

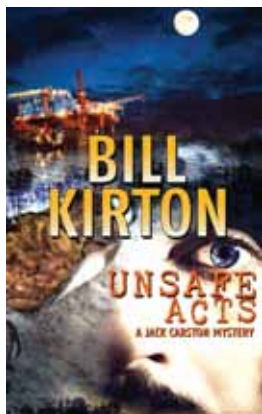
## **Review:**

"There is a brutal rape in *Rough Justice* by Bill Kirton. It isn't there to titillate, but to carry the story forward and ultimately bring about the climax to a thoughtful and thought provoking book. The detective leading the hunt for the killer of a young thug from a local squat is also after a local self-made man he believes to be behind various rackets and who is protected by fellow masons in the senior ranks of the police force. The book involves some very human, intelligent Scottish coppers and ought to bring Bill Kirton the attention he deserves." – *Susanna Yager, Sunday Telegraph.*

# Unsafe Acts

**Bill Kirton**

**A DCI Jack Carston novel**



An offshore platform in the turbulent North Sea is a dangerous place... there's the isolation, the machinery and the constant battle with the whims of nature. For Ally Baxter, a safety officer on Falcon Alpha, those whims take an odd turn. When his workmates decide he is gay, an evening ashore turns ugly as they indulge in queer-bashing, and later his body is found along the route the group followed.

For DCI Jack Carston, the case seems simple enough until a second murder is discovered, this time it is the prostitute Ally always visited – a young mother with a baby son. Complications mount as Carston must deal with an inexperienced officer under his command and a disciplinary charge brought against Carston himself by a vindictive superior officer. The obstacles pile up and combine to get in the way of his investigations, just as he uncovers evidence of a plot to wreck the platform itself.

## **Reviews**

“If you’re looking for the very best in Scottish crime drama, on par with Rankin and Rebus, you’ll find it in Bill Kirton’s Jack Carston Mystery *Unsafe Acts*. Dark, gripping, terrifying – superbly written with not a word wasted and with great attention to technical detail (although not overdone) you are taken on a breathtaking roller coaster. Totally unputdownable, I read the whole book in one session and was left gasping for more. I have NO hesitation in giving this book 5\*, it has earned every one of them and look forward to reading more of Jack Carston. Mr Rankin, you have some serious competition in Bill Kirton.”

– *Jillian Ward*

“Kirton tackles a number of issues in this novel, and they’re layered

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

craftily. His ability to combine ugliness with compassion, and then to top it off with a sense of humor, is only one of the reasons to read this book."

– *Linda Faulkner*

"Bill Kirton has come up with another winner. I loved Jack Carston and although he could be abrasive at times, he's a great detective and knows what it takes to get the job done. He kept me guessing right until the end." – *Melanie King*

"Everything you look for in a police procedural is here - tight prose, a tight plot and a set of characters you take 'home' with you when life intrudes on your reading of the book. I'm amazed that none of the big publishing houses have picked up on this guy. When you buy yourself a Bill Kirton book, quality is assured." – *Michael Malone*

"I always look forward to Mr Kirton's novels in the knowledge that an absorbing story will be filled with his usual excellent characterisation and page-turning mystery. Sometimes dark and disturbing, *Unsafe Acts* also gives us a fine detective in Jack Carston, one who is (refreshingly) happily married." – *Rosemary Gemmell*

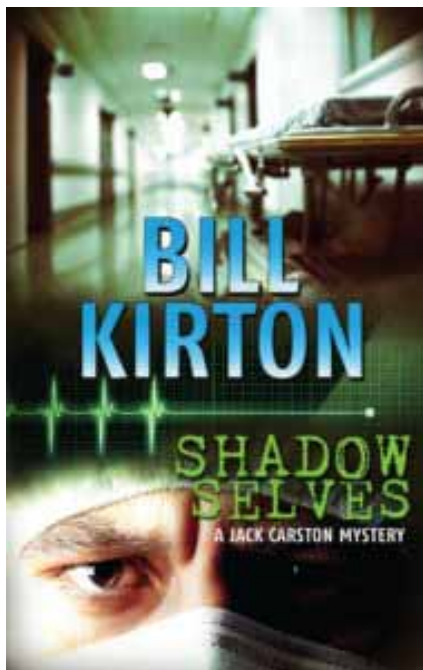
"... a thoroughly enjoyable crime novel. The characters are well drawn, and DCI Carston is someone it's easy to like... He even has that most unusual of things for a fictional detective, a happy marriage. The plot develops nicely, in a way that keeps you enthusiastically turning the page, and there are some neat twists and turns as you approach a conclusion that is both unexpected and, with hindsight, completely logical." –

[www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk)

# Shadow Selves

**Bill Kirton**

**A DCI Jack Carston novel**



Sometimes death is only the beginning of the story... Professor Hayne was a sick man, but his post-operative death seemed far from natural. Mistakes in both surgical and anaesthetic procedures suggest that someone intervened to make sure he did not survive.

DCI Jack Carston faces a united hospital staff insisting that fatal 'errors' could not have happened. But Carston discovers that a student is being sexually harassed by a member of the department and targeted by a stalker. Leaving only shadows to reveal the truth...

Following the convoluted strands takes Carston in unexpected directions as he unravels the

mystery. The twist in the end here surprises even Carston and, once again, is designed to make readers confront accepted notions of right and wrong.

## **Reviews**

"Bill Kirton has done it again... a thoroughly engrossing medical mystery with a surprise ending that was totally unexpected." – *Chris Longmuir*

"Like all the best mysteries, the author created a multitude of plausible suspects that kept me guessing throughout, but then pulled off an uncontrived resolution to the 'whodunnit' that managed to surprise me." – *Melissa Conway*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# Children's Books by **Billy Bob Buttons**

Represented for translation rights by Sparkling Books



**Billy Bob Buttons**, the pen name of Edward Hugh Trayer, is a children's and young adult novelist. His first career before turning to writing was as a teacher, and he still visits some 200 UK primary schools annually, delivering literacy workshops. Over 100,000 of his books are sold every year by his publisher, The Wishing Shelf Press.

We are offering the **Felicity Brady** series of five books and six other titles.

**BISAC** for Felicity Brady series: JUV010000, JUV012030, JUV037000

	<b>Ages</b>
Felicity Brady series	9 to 11
TOR series	10 to 13
Tiffany Sparrow, Spook Slayer	8 to 12
The Gullfoss Legends	8 to 11
Muffin Monster	7 to 10
I Think I Murdered Miss	8 to 12

**Website:** [www.bbbbuttons.co.uk](http://www.bbbbuttons.co.uk)

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# Galibrath's Will

**Billy Bob Buttons**

**Book 1 of the Felicity Brady series**



The day Felicity Brady discovers **The Wishing Shelf**, a magic bookshop in the small town of Twice Brewed, is the day her life is altered forever. A helpful clock and a mulish door allow her to travel to different lands where she plays Vipers and Stepladders, pilots flying carpets and visits creepy Cauldron City. There's a krakor thunder serpent, waltzing books, even a copy of 'Be Warty, Be Proud' sitting on the cistern in the loo.

Armed with an inquisitive mind and the magical skills of a wet doyley, Felicity must face monster dorfmorons, woolly glumsnappers and powerful wizards. But lurking in the shadows, watching her, is the most evil monster of them all, the terrible shubablybub. And she keeps reminding everybody, 'In school, they only teach us netball.' Life is very complicated for Felicity Brady.

## Reviews

"Full of magic and adventure. Harry Potter fans will love it." – *Rubery Book Award*

"Charming! Made me wish I was young so I could find a magic bookshop of my own." – *Kids Bookshelf*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# Articulus Quest

**Billy Bob Buttons**

**Book 2 of the Felicity Brady series**



**FINALIST IN THE RUBERY  
BOOK AWARDS 2011**

'If you don't go, Felicity; if you don't get Articulus back, there will be a terrible war in this land.' The gargoyle rested his claw on her shoulder. 'Galibrath left the book to you and now it is up to you to find it and to return it to The Wishing Shelf.

Remember, in the wrong hands it could destroy – everything.'

## **Reviews**

"Spellbinding!" – *Kicks 4 kids*

"The story telling skills of J K Rowling and the wit of Roald Dahl." – *Bookbuzz*

"A fantastic adventure." – *Teenreads*

"Brilliant!" – *SciFi Books*

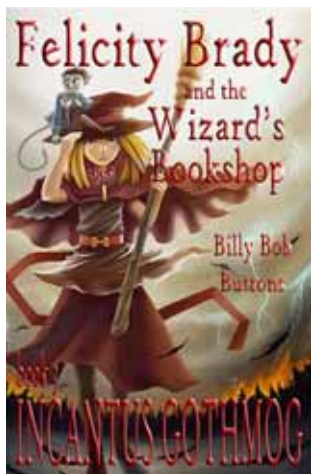


*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

## **Incantus Gothmog**

**Billy Bob Buttons**

**Book 3 of the Felicity Brady series**



'Gothmog is a fool, but fools can be dangerous. He knows you can destroy Artculus, Felicity. So you must crush him.

'Crush him or he will crush you.'

### **Review**

"Felicity Brady keeps getting better!" – *Book a day*

## **Glumweedy's Devil**

**Billy Bob Buttons**

**Book 4 of the Felicity Brady series**

Felicity dropped to a whisper. 'The thing is, I plan to go monster hunting in the morning so I need a bit of a 'pick me up'. I may even have to run.'

'So you can catch it?' 'God, no!' Felicity looked shocked. 'So I can leg it.'



# Crowl's Creepers

**Billy Bob Buttons**

**Book 5 of the Felicity Brady series**



It was night, the bats in the rafters awake and watchful. But all seemed still, most of the monsters asleep or on sentry duty by the bookshop door.

But not everything slept. Hidden in the deepest corner of The Wishing Shelf, over a hundred books had gathered, answering the call to arms.

The 'Witch Spotter's' book, perched on a top shelf, hushed them. "Brothers and sisters," she whispered, "wickedness has invaded our home. Queen Blasthoof is slowly destroying our papery world, but not for much longer for soon we will stop her."

## **Review**

"A thrilling end to the Felicity Brady books." – *Story Box*

# Tor Assassin Hunter

**Billy Bob Buttons**



The year is 1870. Major Tor, a mercenary and deadly sniper, is called from battle to stop Locust, a SWARM assassin who is plotting to murder the King of Sweden. From the rubble and watery craters of France to the shadowy corridors of Stockholm's old castle, Tor must discover who the assassin is and put a stop to his, or her plan to throw a country into a barbaric and bloody war.

Accompany him if you dare into a world of bayonets and bullets, where the enemy's sword is forever chasing your shadow. But remember this, when you hunt assassins...  
...trust nobody.

**BISAC:** JUV001000, JUV022030

## **Reviews**

"So many twists, I felt dizzy." – *Bookworm*

"TOR Assassin Hunter is up there with Harry Potter. A wonderful book." – *Simon, 14*

"Try to work out who the assassin is. It will drive you nuts. The best book on my shelf." – *Peter, 13*

"A book for anybody who enjoys a riddle." – *Stephen, 11*

"Hidden under my bedsheets, I did not shut Tor Assassin Hunter till 11 o'clock. Superb! I even turned off my computer to finish it." – *Abhirupa, 13*

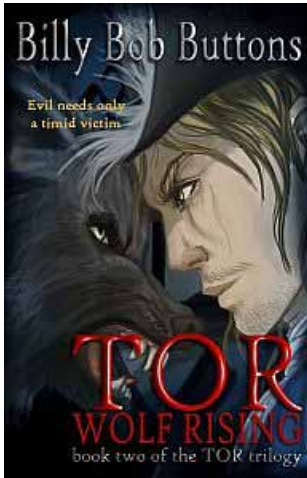
"So much fun. The only problem with Tor Assassin Hunter is it ended." – *Cindy, 13*

"Starts with a BANG! Ends with a BANG! A fantastic story full of swords and pistols." – *Moorti, 12*

*Represented titles, for publishers and agents to translate*

# Tor Wolf Rising

## Billy Bob Buttons



'My body is not the body I had before I travelled to China. Teeth now crowd my jaw, I can spot deer from half a mile away, and to me, the tiny feet of mice no longer patter, they boom like trampling elephants. I am changing.

'A volcano of fury is stirring, trapped only by the thinnest crust of skin and willpower. The spirit of the hamrammr is in my blood... EVIL BECKONS.'

**BISAC:** JUV010000, JUV022030

### Reviews

"A jaw-dropping, cracker of a book." – *Eclipse*

"Dan Brown for kids!" – *Book Blast Magazine*

"*TOR Wolf Rising* is on my Christmas wish list." – *Steven, 10*

# **Tiffany Sparrow, Spook Slayer**

## **Billy Bob Buttons**



'My name is Tiffany Sparrow and my job is to slay ghosts. It's messy work but I enjoy it. I do a lot of travelling which is fun, but often just to crumbling tombs and spooky cellars. My mum was a slayer too and so was my Grandma. I miss them terribly. They were killed, you see, by Grimdorf, the warlock, so now there's only me and my old Grandad left. But the word on Voodoo Street is ... GRIMDORF'S BACK! And he's brought a few of his pals with him.'

**BISAC:** JUV018000, JUV037000

### **Reviews**

"Wonderful penmanship" – *Tons of Fun*

"Tiffany is the sort of girl every girl wants to be. Cool, funny and a scythe-wielding, kong fu-kicking spook slayer." – *School News*

### Amazon reviews:

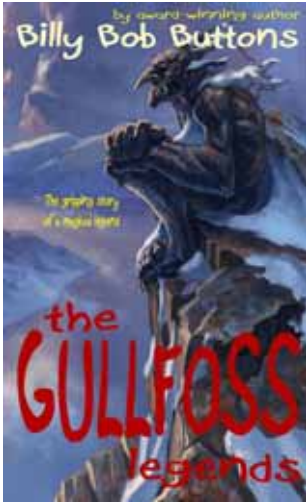
"A fun and engaging story, that will keep even the most reluctant reader on the edge of their seat. I am fast becoming a firm fan of Billy Bob Buttons."

"Lots of spooky fun and action, reminiscent at times of Harry Potter and Buffy the Vampire Slayer thrown in. Really well paced story that grips you from the start. Had a great time reading this."

"Lots of fun to read to my class. They enjoyed it very much."

# The Gullfoss Legends

## Billy Bob Buttons



Over a century ago, a twelve year old girl walked 120 km to Reykjavik to persuade the King to help her. Her journey lasted two weeks; two weeks of wild snow storms, skin-blistering winds and deadly clouds of volcanic ash. This is her story.

The British plan to put a dam on Gullfoss, a magnificent waterfall in Iceland, but Sigríður plans to stop them. Setting off to see the King, she must face scalding pools of hot mud, a scary wolf-man and the most evil of assassins, the ruthless Scarecrow, who must stop her at all costs.

Based on the Gullfoss Legends, this is a story for anybody who has battled but refused to give up.

**BISAC:** JUV001000, JUV022030

### **Reviews**

*"Dazzling!" – Kidz Book Club*

#### Amazon review:

"This was a lovely book with an inspiring heroine – a young girl who does everything in her power to save a majestic natural resource from evil-doers. The story weaves between reality and fantasy, as it is based on true events, but told with the mystery of the supernatural. Buttons does not shield his readers from frightening scenes, but his tone is consistent and he presents his heroine with honest challenges. The backdrop of Icelandic history and mythology makes it all the more interesting and unusual. A gem."

## Muffin Monster

**Billy Bob Buttons**



When Albert's grandad asks Albert to help him in his muffin shop, he's over the moon. But there's a problem. A big, slimy problem. There's a MONSTER in the cellar; a very hungry monster and he's a BIG fan of all things sweet!

**BISAC:** JUV019000, JUV037000

### Reviews

"Funny bits, thrills and a hefty dash of the absurd. Wonderful stuff!" – *Eclipse magazine*

"If you enjoy Roald Dahl's books, you'll enjoy this" – *Books4Kids*

"Rhubarb muffins, strawberry, even banana and plum. A cherry-topped delight." – *Parents Weekly*

## I Think I Murdered Miss

**Billy Bob Buttons**



2014 **People's Book Prize** winner – children's books

My name is Simon Spittle and I think – no, I know, I murdered Miss Belcher. I don't carry a gun. Or a knife. Or even a toothpick, but yesterday, in French, I wished for her to be run over by a bus and, later that very day, she was. A big, red double-decker with yellow wheels and a picture of a clown on the bonnet. A Billy Smart's Circus bus.

**BISAC:** JUV035000, FAM000000, JUV039060

### Reviews

"Your child will love this book. And, to be honest, so will you." – *HI5 Magazine*

"This is a very funny book. Billy Bob Buttons is a top-notch children's writer." – *Eclipse Magazine*

"Superb! A laugh-out-loud gem." – *Bookworm*

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*# English rights available in some countries for these three titles only, please contact Sparkling Books*

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## Summary of trade information

For more information please see Books in Print, Nielsen or our website

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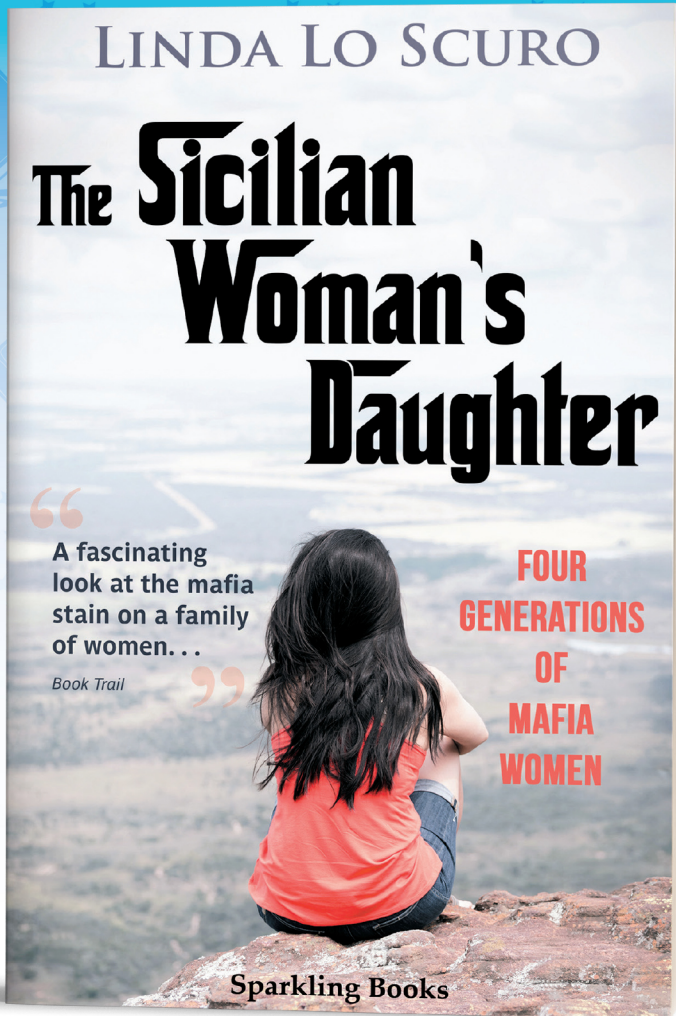
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# Catalogue



## Sparkling Books

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