

## Welcome to the March Newsletter!

With spring just around the corner, we are more excited than ever for the book launches that the coming months will bring! In this instalment of the newsletter you can read all about some of the upcoming publications, as well as delve into the list of books that topped the Ringwood bestselling list in 2023!

---

### Open Pre-Orders: *Song of the Stag*

by Annika Dahlman



Have you ever found yourself wishing there was a fantasy book about Scottish Independence?

Well, so has Dundonian author, R.M. Brown – and luckily for you, she put pen to paper and did something about it!

As a result, Ringwood is thrilled to announce that this June will see the launch of Brown's debut novel, *Song of the Stag* – an extraordinary tale of struggle for freedom:

*Cait is from Storrán's borders: idyllic, traditional, and completely opposed to separatism.*

*When her childhood sweetheart, Kenzie, is called up to the ranks of the Queen's Watch to hunt down Storrán Separatists, Cait moves to the capital with him.*

*In the city of Thorterknock, she quickly realises that her charming countryside life is not the reality for every citizen of Storrán. Struggle abounds on the cobbled streets, as does the battle for Storrán's liberation from the Five Realms.*

*Drawn to the enigmatic Separatist firebrand, the Fox of Thorterknock, and her tales of a secret heir to Storrán's long-empty throne, Cait finds herself swept into a struggle for freedom. With Kenzie and the Queen's Watch on one side, and the Fox and the Separatists on the other, Cait will learn what it truly means to be a patriot.*

*And amidst this struggle to secure a better future, she will come to know the power of her own autonomy.*

*Song of the Stag* may be a fantasy, but above all it is a love letter to Scotland's historic and folkloric legacy. From ancient kings and black-hearted patriots to bonnie princes and Jacobite songs, this book is a celebration of a complex, beautiful, and all too often tragic, land.

Does this sound like something right up your alley? Like something you'll want to sink your teeth into this summer? Like something you simply won't want to miss? If so, you'll be pleased to know ***Song of the Stag* is available for pre-order on our website**. Order your copy now to receive

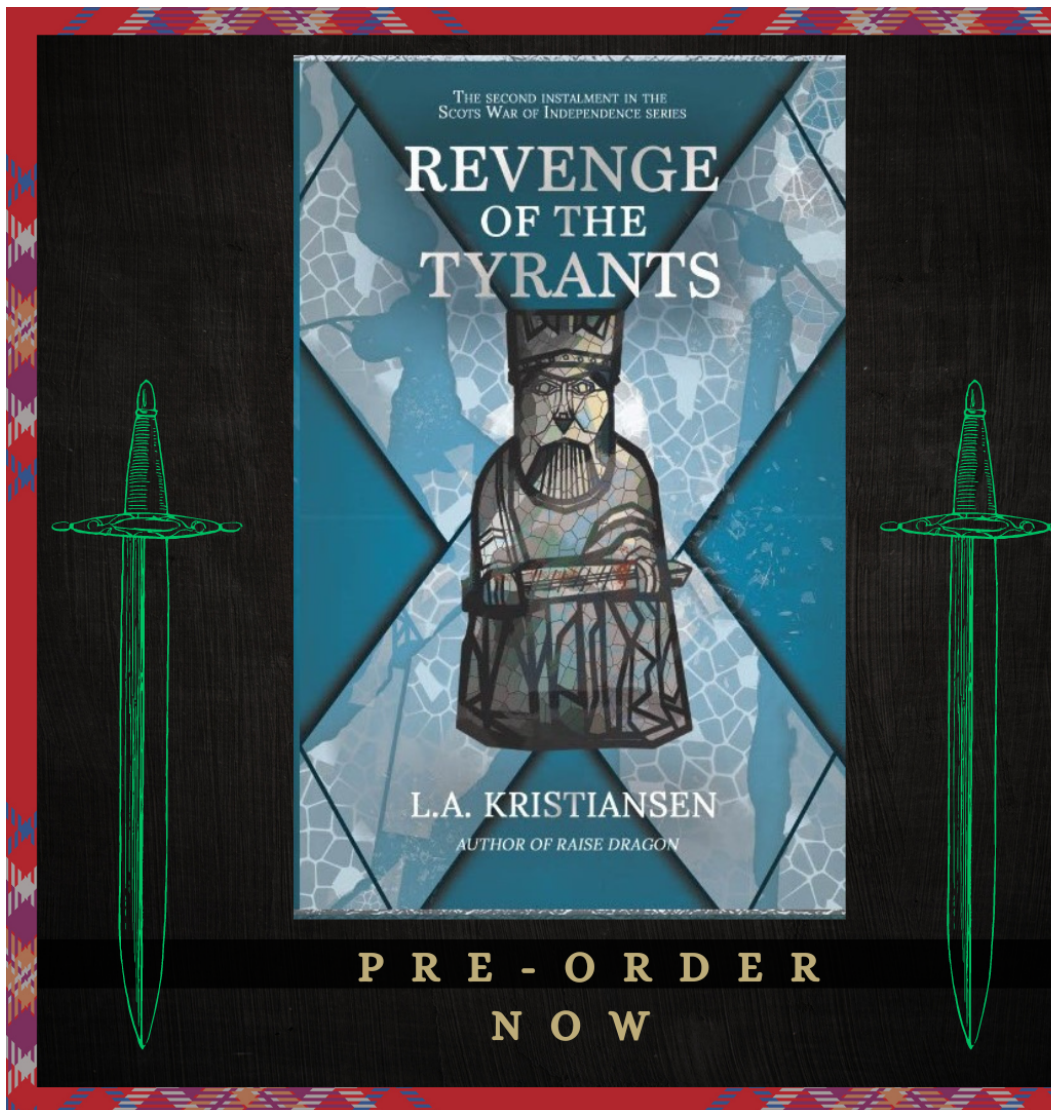
it one week before the official launch — and to have it signed by none other than the author herself!

And make sure to keep an eye on our website for updates regarding the date and location of the launch event!

---

**Open Pre-Orders: *Revenge of the Tyrants***

By Eve Clark



Getting to the final product of a book is a long, long, long process. There's editing and proofreading, and emails, and final checks, and final-final checks and – oh no! There's a typo on this page! Just one last final check ...

But at last, the final-final-final checks have been made, and we are decisively pleased to announce that *Revenge of the Tyrants* by L.A. Kristiansen will follow *Raise Dragon* as the second instalment in the Wars of Scottish Independence series, and is now available for pre-order!

As the author of *Cuddies Strip*, Rob McInroy, says, if you like “high politics, low cunning, and international intrigue as French, English, Scots and Byzantine agents fight to the death over a hoard of treasure,” then this is the book for you:

*Scotland, 1306. While the King of Scots wages a desperate, bloody war for Scotland's independence, four intrepid Scottish knights flee from cunning Templar Knight Geoffrey De Charney's labyrinth on a treasure barge. What follows is a journey directly to the heart of the conflict, and a vivid depiction of the scheming, treachery and violence it entailed. Meanwhile, Kings Edward the First of England, Philip the Fourth of France, and Haakon the Fifth of Norway each plot to destabilise each other and become the dominant force in Europe. They each have their own reasons to thwart the Scots, and each will stop at nothing to gain their victory.*

*The fight for the nation's soul has begun, and nothing will ever be the same.*

Picking up from its predecessor, *Revenge of the Tyrants* bursts with a multitude of characters and their conflicting interests. But don't worry if you haven't read *Raise Dragon*, because there's a recap section at the beginning of *Revenge of the Tyrants* that will catch you up. A character list is also included, so if you're looking for an elaborate and detailed historical fiction read, this one's for you.

Although the plot may be thick, L.A. Kristiansen's writing style is crystal clear. You may remember that she travelled to Rouen, France in February to give an interview and a book signing about *Raise Dragon*. Our francophone readers who came to the interview, with *Raise Dragon* already in-hand, told us that they found L.A. Kristiansen's writing style both engaging and easy to read.

The launch for *Revenge of The Tyrants* is scheduled to take place on April 28th at Glasgow's Hillhead Library. It will include an interview with the author where she'll discuss her writing process, as well as explore themes relevant both to her work and to historical fiction in general. There will also be an exclusive opportunity for an audience Q&A, and a chance to get your hands on your very own signed copy. We hope to see you there, but for now, why not have a look at the Forthcoming Titles section on Ringwood's website to pre-order your copy!

## Glasgow's Burning Launch

by Júlia Pujals Antolin



On March 10th, Ringwood celebrated the launch of *Glasgow's Burning* by Vince McGlennan at the Merchant in Glasgow. The event was a huge success, with the invitees equipped with a glass of wine in one hand and a book in the other. The best of both worlds!

The highlight of the launch was, without a doubt, the interesting readings from the book and the insightful Q&A with Vince.

*Glasgow's Burning* is a fascinating and knowledgeable recollection of Glasgow's history— perfect to have at hand and open from time to time with a cup of coffee and an eagerness to learn more about the city. Vince's passion and dedication to Glasgow can be felt on every page, in the hard-to-find details and entertaining anecdotes about the city's past.

Have you ever thought there could be patterns to the fires? Did you know about the story of a dog from the fire service who is still praised as a hero? Or how come it took Vince 13 years to write *Glasgow's Burning*, from research to manuscript?

If you want these questions answered, head to [our website](#) and order a copy of *Glasgow's Burning*. Or come and get one in person at an upcoming event on all things Glasgow, history, and fires, taking place on April 21st. Further details of the event will be published soon, so keep an eye on our website and social media platforms!

## Ringwood's 2023 Bestsellers: Commentary by Sandy Jamieson

*Executive Director Sandy Jamieson lists and discusses the 12 Ringwood books that sold best in 2023. All of these books are available to buy from our website.*

### 1) ***Ruxton: The First Modern Murder*** by Tom Wood

For the third consecutive year, Ruxton has been Ringwood's top selling book, its strong overall lead boosted in 2023 by becoming Ringwood's first Audiobook. Buy it now and see what all the fuss is about for this groundbreaking tale of the first murder solved by forensic science in what Val McDermid called, "A revelatory account...grips like a thriller. And a damn good read."

### 2) ***The First of May*** by Brendan McLaughlin

This mesmerising autobiography from one of Glasgow's favourite sons, Brendan McLaughlin, a man of many parts: publican (owner of two of the city's oldest and most famous bars, the Scotia and the Clutha);

singer/songwriter who performed all over the world; a renowned local political activist; and with his book's posthumous publication on 1st May 2023, a professional writer. His book, a riveting reflection on Glasgow's political, social, and cultural issues, is an entertaining read and a first Scottish contribution to the growing European genre of, "Angry polemical autobiography as a political weapon", pioneered by Édouard Louis and Annie Ernaux.

3) ***Bodysnatcher*** by Carol Margaret Davison

Majestically bestriding several genres, including gothic literature, true crime, historical fiction, women's issues, and domestic violence, this unique examination of the Burke and Hare murders from a feminist perspective is a powerful and riveting read, with a long overdue and extremely moving telling of the victims' stories and the link to the seventeen miniature coffins found on Arthur's Seat.

4) ***The Lanarkshire Police Chronicles*** by George Barnsley

A fascinating collection of true crime stories, committed in and around Lanarkshire over the last 150 years of the Lanarkshire police service to the community - from the thrilling to the mundane, from the murderous to the minor, always absorbing. The book argues effectively for greater recognition of the ultimate sacrifices made by Lanarkshire policemen in their service to the community. This book's main sales straddled the second half of 2022 and the first half of 2023, so a different starting point for the annual sales calculation would have seen this book in second place.

5) ***The Bone on the Beach*** by Fiona Gillan Kerr

This book is a brilliant reworking of the ancient Celtic legend, "Deirdre of the Sorrows". Set in the mystical otherworldly landscape of the Scottish Highlands, it explores the murder of a hauntingly beautiful young woman Deirdre in a tight-knit local community. It takes the arrival of another young woman into the community fifteen years later to uncover and resolve the dark and twisted mysteries of Deirdre's death. Denied a major launch, sales have subsequently flourished as word of mouth has spread about the wondrous modern reworking of this mythical legend.

6) ***Those Tyrannising Landlords*** by Seán Damer

This gripping saga has been certified by Glasgow's leading bibliographer as the first Scottish novel to seriously explore the range of experiences faced by first generation Irish immigrants in early 20th century Scotland, including sectarianism, violence, and a range of other discriminations. The O'Donnell family's struggle to integrate raises much exploration of issues like socialism, feminism, and trade unionism in a time of tumultuous change in Glasgow. Damer's novel is a major examination of the struggle immigrants face when integrating into a hostile environment. The plot and its themes will be of great interest to all Scots with Irish roots of whatever generation who have eventually achieved full integration and acceptance, and it raises many political and social issues about immigrant integration that still have contemporary relevance.

7) ***What You Call Free*** by Flora Johnston

Set in Scotland in 1687, an unforgiving place for women who don't want to conform; This extraordinary tale of love and loss, struggle and sacrifice, autonomy, and entrapment, follows two very different but very brave women as they struggle to survive in a hostile community. The book makes us consider what it means to be free and *who* can be free, if freedom can be said to exist at all.

8) ***Murder at The Mela*** by Leela Soma

First released in 2020 to great press and public interest to become a good seller, this book was relaunched by Ringwood in 2023 with two events celebrating the life of author Leela Soma, creator of the Kavya Prize, who so sadly died in 2022. Leela created Tartan Noir's first Asian senior detective Alok Patel, causing the Sunday Mail to warn "Look out Rebus, DI Patel is coming for you". As well as being a gripping murder mystery, the book skilfully peels away the layers of Glasgow's Asian communities while exploring the complicated relationships between Glasgow's Asian people and their adopted city.

9) ***Cuddies Strip*** by Rob McInroy

Published in 2020, this fictionalised true crime story of a famous Perth murder in 1935 has become an established steady seller. *Cuddies Strip* is the first book in the Bob Kelty series, with the second book *Barossa Street* published by Ringwood in 2021 and the third one, *Moot*, about to be published in Spring 2024 and four more to follow. *Cuddies*



*Strip* exposes the stresses and strains in the Scottish Criminal Justice system and local police forces, especially in their treatment of women victims, that are still of strong contemporary significance, while being a wonderful, beautifully written novel.

10) ***There's a Problem with Dad*** by Carlos Alba

This paced yet thoughtful novel is the first Scottish exploration of how high functioning autism affects people of all ages and it serves as a reminder that neurodiversity always demands empathy and consideration for voices often left on the margins. George Lovelace is a widower in his seventies and stands alone against a world that feels as alien and incomprehensible as ever. The reader is given a privileged view of his thoughts and reasoning, and the devastating impact they have on his loved ones.

11) ***Raise Dragon*** by Lynda Kristiansen

In the first of a series of eight novels covering the original Scottish Wars of Independence in the 14th Century, four brave Scottish knights are sent by Bishop Wishart on a dangerous mission in search of ancient treasure, as part of his plan to place Robert the Bruce on the Scottish throne. They find themselves in the hectic centre of an international plot that will change both the kingdoms of Europe, and the course of history once and for all. The second book in the series, *Revenge of the Tyrants* is being published by Ringwood in April 2024, so grab a copy of *Raise Dragon* now and be ready for the next rollicking instalment.

12) ***In the Shadow of the Crane*** by John Keeman

This captivating autobiography is NOT yet another warm and couthy Glasgow memoir nostalgically recalling a past that was often, in reality, bleak, desolate and desperate. Rather it is a multi-faceted literary treat that offers a detailed snapshot of old Glasgow, a grounded and realistic memoir, and a discerning and committed stand against injustice and the demolition of the Welfare State. A genuine and articulate story from a genuine and articulate Glaswegian. In that regard, John Keeman stands in no shadow.

*Sandy also sat down for a chat with the newsletter team to discuss the 2023 figures, to share his hopes and predictions for 2024.*

**Help us make sense of these 2023 sales figures and put them in a National and Ringwood context. For example, how did they compare with 2022 and previous years; and with the hopes you had at the start of the year?**

2023 proved to be a difficult year for almost all small publishers and many bigger ones, due mainly to two linked factors: the continuing Cost of Living crisis that affected more and more families, and in particular the dramatic 40% rise in the cost of printing paper which almost eliminated the profit margin on most paperback books. The context of a drastic Cost of Living crisis led most publishers including Ringwood to realise that since books in most cases are more luxury than necessity, it was not possible to pass this specific cost increase onto the customer through increased book prices. In simple economic law terms, any increase in revenue from the increased sale price would be more than negatively compensated for by the inevitable reduction in demand. Even without putting prices up almost all publishers reported a reduction in the overall level of sales compared with 2022.

In Ringwood's case this trend was compounded by a year of structural difficulties and changes which meant amongst other things that two planned launches in 2023 had to be deferred to 2024 with a related total loss of the income anticipated from these new books.

Taking both National and specific factors together, total Ringwood sales across the board were down around 9% in 2023 compared with 2022. Nationally most publishers reported an increase in ebook sales as a percentage of the total, a bonus as the profit margin on ebooks is now far greater than on paperback sales since the dramatic rise in printing paper costs. Unfortunately partly due to the structural issues, the planned Ringwood drive on ebook promotion never happened and Ringwood percentage of ebooks sales actually fell in 2023 rather than moved towards the original 40% target.

**Tell us a little about the sales in terms of genres as well as individual books, both the good ones and any disappointments**

The continued dominance of *Ruxton* was no surprise particularly with its new role as Ringwood's first audiobook. Indeed with a series coming in autumn 2024 for the million-listener podcast *Small Town Dicks*, and discussions underway for a Netflix miniseries it will take a powerful challenger to knock *Ruxton* off the top spot for the next two years.

It is no coincidence that the three new paperbacks published in 2023 came 2nd, 3rd and 5th, emphasising the importance of producing quality new titles. It was gratifying that some slow starting sellers like *Those Tyrannising Landlords*(6th) and *There's a problem with Dad* (10th) and *Raise Dragon* (11) responded well to renewed efforts to sell them, highlighting the potential to still sell other slow starters.

In genre terms (many Ringwood books cross more than one genre but for this purpose they have been included in their main category) it was no surprise that once again True Crime was the leading category (1st, 4th, 9th with *Bodysnatcher* also an honorary member) Contemporary Fiction came second (5th, 6th, 10th) Historical Fiction third (3, 7, 11).

It was gratifying that two of our autobiographies finished in the top 12, (2nd and 12th) but the main disappointment was that Crime had only one entry, the relaunched *Murder At the Mela* in 8th, despite the ongoing Scottish obsession with Crime fiction

Amongst the disappointing single book sales were that Ringwood took its eye off the *Sheila Garvie* ball in 2023 failing to build on the excellent 2022 numbers. Likewise we failed to sell more of two excellent crime books *Clutching at Straws* and *The Carnelian Tree*, and the gripping Irish spy novel *The Practice Field*, in all cases due to poor marketing effort related to the organisational problems.

### **What are the sales targets and plans set for 2024 and what levels of sales can realistically be expected?**

Now that the revised structure that emerged from the 2023 difficulties has bedded in, Ringwood is anticipating higher sales in 2024 across all areas.

The paperback sales numbers should be significantly higher with no less

than seven new paperbacks to be launched, all of an exceptionally high quality. T.Y. Garner's *The Hotel Hokusai* has already been launched to excellent initial sales. In the period April to June, *Moot* and *Revenge of the Tyrants*, both new books in series by established authors Rob McInroy and Lynda Kristiansen will be launched, along with two very exciting debut novels *Kitten Heels* by Maureen Cullen and *Song of the Stag* by R.M. Brown. All four are expected to sell well. After the summer two further books by very talented new novelists, *Remember the Rowan* by Kirsten MacQuarrie in September and *The Unmaking of Eddie Muir* by Angus Roxburgh in October will be launched with very high expectations of good sales given their excellent quality. Compared to the 2023 total of only two new novels, paperback sales should increase significantly in 2024.

On the Non-Fiction side the exciting news is that in June, Ringwood will be publishing a new Tom Wood true crime book *The World's End Murders – The Inside Story*, a fascinating and very important updating of the full story of these iconic Scottish murders, which will be of great contemporary resonance given the insider insights and updates Tom has brought to this current retelling. Given the reputation Tom Wood has developed as the author of *Ruxton* it is expected this new book will be equally successful.

On the ebook side, Ringwood are about to relaunch all its books as ebooks for sale on the Ringwood website, backed up this time by an ongoing campaign of intensive promotion and marketing. This will not only increase overall sales but also bring Ringwood closer to the 40% of all sales target.

Finally, after a 2023 naive and doomed attempt to develop international rights sales and an international distribution system, harsh realism and rising international postal charges have caused Ringwood to move to a more realistic model system of having all Ringwood paperbacks made available outside the UK utilising Print-on-Demand technology.

This should lead to significantly increased international sales compared to the previous system of having to ask overseas buyers to pay up to £16 postage on a £9.99 book which could take up to 6 weeks to arrive. PoD will allow them to pay about £10-11 for a book that will be printed locally and delivered within days.

So with all these factors taken together, along with the continued maintenance of a committed team of 20 plus Interns should mean that the 2024 overall sales figures will be considerably higher than the 2023 ones.

*Thank you for your time, Sandy!*

## International Women's Day & Mother's Day Celebration at Ringwood

By Jiyuan Li



This March, Ringwood invites everyone to join us in celebration of International Women's Day (8th) and UK Mother's Day (10th) by reading some of our amazing books written by or centred around women:

***What You Call Free:*** A moving tale of non-conformity and female friendship by Flora Johnston. Set in 17th century Edinburgh, the novel

unfolds the journey of two strong female protagonists in quest of freedom in the face of religious persecution. Get your paperback copy of *What You Call Free* for £9.99 (plus P&P) [here](#) or as an ebook [here](#).

***Memoirs of a Feminist Mother***: Carol Fox is a lawyer, best known in Scotland for successfully fighting mass equal pay cases for low-paid women and for playing an active part in the Referendum Campaign. *Memoirs of a Feminist Mother* is a witty, feminist account of Carol's personal battle as a single mother in the UK. Get your ebook copy of *Memoirs of a Feminist Mother* now [here](#).

***Bodysnatcher***: In *Bodysnatcher*, Carol Margaret Davidson retells the horror of the famous Burke and Hare murders through a feminist lens, by placing one of the women close to the events, Nelly McDougal, at the centre of the story. Is she a witness, a victim, or an accomplice? Grab your copy [here](#) now and find out!

***Raise Dragon***: Read this historical fiction on the Wars of Scottish Independence by L.A. Kristiansen, a female author who portrays and re-imagines the struggles and battles of her ancestors - the likes of Bishop Wishart, Robert the Bruce, and the fearsome William Wallace. Get your copy of *Raise Dragon* now, available in ebook format [here](#)!

## **Writing from the Witness Box: Scotland's True Crime Renaissance**

By Rebecca McGuire

Quaint. Quiet. Unassuming.

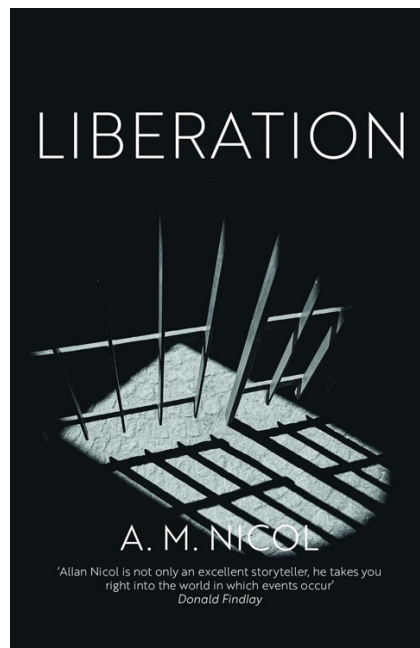
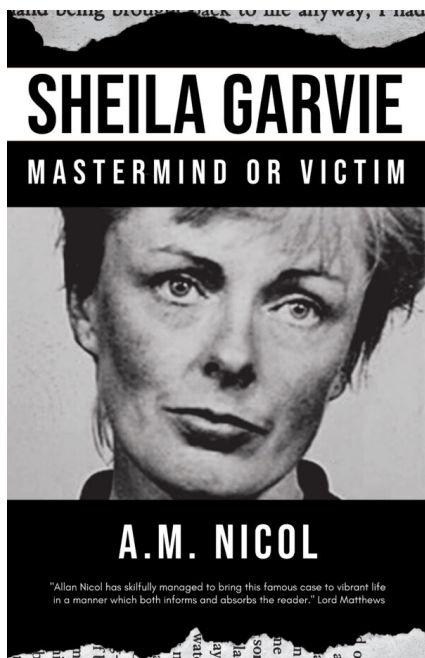
One can be forgiven for thinking that Scotland is a place only of fairytales and folklore; and yet what was once a hidden underbelly of crimes left unspoken, can now be unearthed in the engaging writing of Scotland's many true crime authors. As much a part of our history as the great stories of heroes, are the complex and ever-evolving stories of the true villains of society.

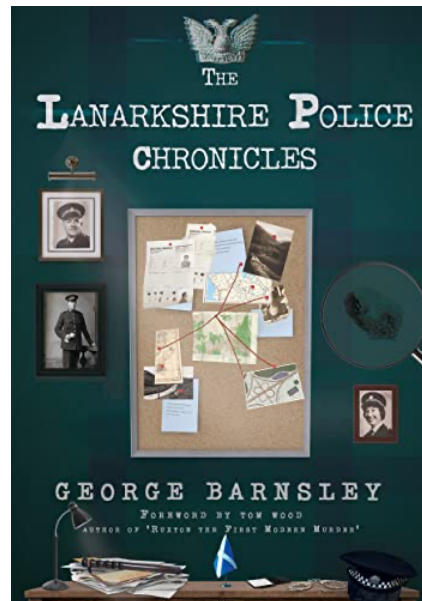
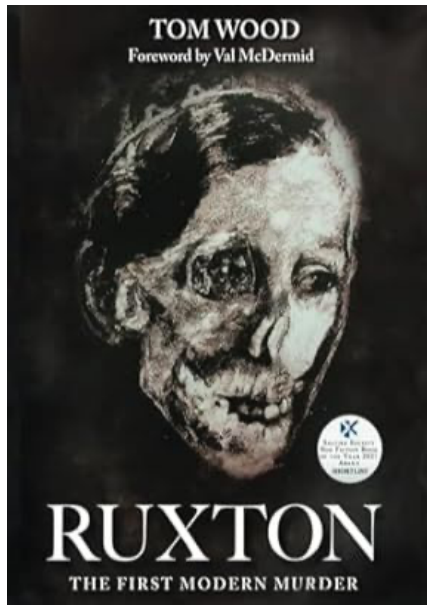
These stimulating and horrifying accounts of crimes are so often incongruous with their setting, showing a different face of Scotland.

Beyond the backdrop of rain-soaked cobbled streets or sun-blushed mountainous countryside, they take place instead in draughty courtroom docks or opulent country estates that play host to secret parties and depraved relationships.

In addition to the often vividly chilling descriptions of scenery, true crime is, at its core, about people – complicated and imperceptible. It is a genre that invites us to take part in the intricacies of crimes that we might otherwise only encounter on the pages of a newspaper.

Through some of Ringwood’s very own books, readers can dive into the grim but gripping world of Scotland’s criminal history. From the misunderstood to the callous and cold, from everyday heroes to heroes turned villains: it is a history that is complex, intriguing, and often shocking.





Ringwood author Allan Nicol, both in *Sheila Garvie* and *Liberation*, showcases a career of experience, as a solicitor and later as advocate depute and procurator fiscal, in his works on these cases. Incisive and perceptive in his thinking, and respectful in his handling of the details, both works are critical explorations; focusing on genuine facts whilst delving into the many conflicting ideals that exist within the minds of those who commit the most heinous crimes.

In *Sheila Garvie*, we are taken back to the late 60's, to the salacious and tumultuous lives of the aristocracy in Kincardineshire. Whilst the sensational lives of those involved draws in the reader, the real gem within this book is Allan's deep and complex exploration of motivations, and the human element that is so often forgotten when discussing murder. In the rise of true crime, books like *Sheila Garvie* are paramount in exploring the emotional and sociological issues that exist within the complexities of serious crime.

In *Liberation*, readers have a front row seat to the gallery where PC James Robertson stands accused of murder in 1950. A devoutly religious man, a father and husband, and a man of the law, Robertson's involvement shocked the nation. Perhaps even more complex than the murder itself was the spectacle of Robertson's appearance during the trial at Glasgow's




High Court, leading readers to a genuinely gripping exploration of the lack of remorse that can be shown to victims and their families. Robertson was the only serving police officer to be executed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Britain, and it is still discussed whether the motivation for his behaviour in the witness box was a desire for the gallows.

Tom Wood's *Ruxton* takes us back to the 1930's and to one of the primary criminal cases in UK history. A captivating exploration of a murder that pushed forward the use of forensic evidence. Casting a critical eye over cases such as this brings discussions to the forefront regarding a number of issues from the sociological to the psychological, through to the details of forensic developments in the last century. Wood's research and intricate presenting of the case are key in unearthing the very darkest parts of the human condition. Works such as this allow us to consider the prominent developments in scientific methods which have changed the face of investigations over the past century.

In George Barnsley's *Lanarkshire Police Chronicles*, written through the lens of his own experience within the organisation, readers are taken on a 150-year journey through the policing of Lanarkshire, and the careers that have played out over generations of officers within the community. The exploration of real and emotive stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect their communities brings a new facet to true crime that highlights the genuine and often life-long contribution of emergency service workers to the people they serve. Whilst conversations continue surrounding the relationship between police and the public they serve; this account highlights the importance of that relationship in shaping communities.

True crime is an ever-changing and evolving area of writing. An often difficult and emotive task to unearth and dissect the motives and complexities of some of the worst crimes, our writers do so with care, respect, and a genuine knowledge of the realities. Whether through books, film, or social media, interest in true crime has never been stronger, and with Scotland's literary export being dominated by crime fiction, it seems only logical that the true stories of crime in Scotland are becoming more and more prominent.



## **Meet the Intern: Eve Clark**

By Matilda Eker



### **Please tell us about your background**

I've been working with Ringwood since August 2023, so for around 7 months now. I grew up in a wee seaside town called Dunoon, on the west coast of Scotland, then studied French and English Literature at the University of Edinburgh, before coming to France in August 2022 to work in my current role as an English tutor at the University of Rouen.

### **What have been your roles at Ringwood?**

They are numerous (as I'm sure all Ringwood interns can attest to!). I started off writing Report 1s and Report 2s which are the initial stages of rejecting or accepting the manuscripts, before moving onto the Editorial

Committee, which I am now a member of. I also dabble in the social media side, creating graphics and captions to promote the upcoming release of *Revenge of the Tyrants* by L.A. Kristiansen and her previous book *Raise Dragon*.

My work with Ringwood has mainly stayed on the historical fiction team. For example, I am currently working as Assistant Editor for an upcoming wartime novel, and have proofread for books within the historical fiction genre. The time working with the historical fiction team is very rewarding, and I'm learning a lot, but I was excited to recently be asked to be on the proofreading team for *Song of the Stag* by R.M Brown. The proofreading task has rekindled my love for fantasy books, which I thought had faded, as I believed myself to be more into contemporary fiction. That's the great part of being able to take on a variety of tasks at Ringwood: you're constantly learning.

### **What parts of your internship have you enjoyed the most?**

I surprised myself when I realised I enjoyed the marketing side of publishing. I like finding links between people and working out how they can be developed. After reading *Raise Dragon*, I saw that parts of the book were set in mediaeval Rouen, where I currently live and work. I had a contact with a local bookshop in Rouen and so thought 'let's do the maths'... The result was the author of *Raise Dragon*, L.A. Kristiansen, agreeing to come over to France in February for an interview and book signing event, co-organised by myself and the local bookshop. I really enjoyed the whole interview process – creating the questions, liaising with the author, conducting the interview – and got a lot out of it personally and professionally.

### **What are your favourite books and genres?**

Contemporary fiction that focuses on the relationships between people (authors like Sally Rooney and Zadie Smith) but in terms of Scottish writing, I'm a fan of Jenni Fagan's books.

I also really enjoy books that have been turned into films. Usually, I'll watch the film, realise it's based off a book, and be keen to read the book to continue the universe, or so see what changed when they transferred the story to a different medium. Recently I discovered *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín through this process – the sequel to *Brooklyn*, entitled *Long Island*, with the characters 20 years on, will be published in May by Picador!

### **What would you like to see more of in Scottish Publishing?**

I'd like to see more easily accessible information about Scottish Publishing and sustainability. In the Society of Young Publishers' 'Inside Publishing' podcast episode about sustainability in the industry, the guest points out that sustainability isn't necessarily associated with reducing our negative physical impact on nature. Although we can all agree that the 'green' consideration should still remain at the forefront, sustainability can also mean making sure that people feel valued in their work, or publishing material that educates people about sustainability.

### **Thank you for your time, Eve!**

Until next time,

Matilda Eker & Megan Gibson (Editors), Jiyuan Li & Rebecca McGuire (Assistant Editors), and the entire Ringwood team!

*Want to share this with your friends and family? The Ringwood Newsletter is also available from our website [www.ringwoodpublishing.com](http://www.ringwoodpublishing.com).*