**RNA VIRTUAL MINI CONFERENCE 2021**

**Booking one-to-one appointments with industry professionals**

Ten minute appointments are available, conducted via Zoom. You can choose up to three editors or agents that you want to send you work to. We will try to give you two appointments. They will provide feedback during the Zoom appointment.

If you would like a ten-minute appointment with any of the following professionals, please send your preferences and RNA Conference booking number to Kate Baker **(therugroom@mac.com)** by email **from 9.00 am on 7th June 2021.** (Booking requests sent before 7th of June will be ignored).

Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served-but-fair basis. Once your appointment(s) have been confirmed, Kate Baker will send instructions on how to send your documents for forwarding.

For agents and editors you will need to send a synopsis and first chapter for forwarding.

For the indie cover and blurb clinic you will need to send your cover image and the blurb for the book.

These industry appointments are a great way to get relevant feedback on your submission, they are not likely to be the make-or-break point of your writing career, so please don’t stress too much.

Indie Cover and Blurb Clinic:

A fantastic new opportunity for a one-to-one consultation for Indie authors – or anyone thinking of taking the plunge into the indie world. You will need to send your cover image and the blurb for the book for feedback and tips for improvement from Clare Flynn (10-12) or Debbie Young (2-4), both successful indie authors, who between them have sold over 200,000 books independently.

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| **AGENTS** | **One-to-One Author** |
|  | **TEN MINUTE WINDOWS** |
| **Sarah O’Keefe – Aevitas Creative 10.00 -12.00**(Women’s fic, reading group, up-lit) |
| **Rebecca Ritchie – AM Heath 10.00 -12.00**(Commercial, women’s and historical fiction) |
| **Sarah Hornsley – The Bent Agency 14.00 - 16.00**Everything but erotica |
| **Felicity Trew – Caroline Sheldon Literary Agency 10.00 -12.00**Saga, historical, women’s and romantic  |
| **Sheila Crowley – Curtis Brown 10.00 -11.00**Commercial women’s, historical, thriller \*\*ONLY FIVE SESSIONS |
| **Sabhbh Curran – Curtis Brown 14.00 -15.00**Historical, romance, women’s fiction & psychological suspense \*ONLY FIVE SESSIONS |
| **Viola Hayden – Curtis Brown 10.00 -12.00**Commercial and reading group women’s fiction |
| **Tanera Symons – Darley Anderson 14.00 - 16.00**Commercial romance, timeslip, high-concept love stories |
| **Broo Doherty – DHH Literary Agency 10.00 -12.00**Rom Com, women’s commercial, historical, romance NO sci fi, fantasy or Covid stories |
| **Hannah Sheppard – DHH Literary Agency 14.00 - 16.00**Contemporary romance, commercial adult and YA fiction, big concept – no historical fiction |
| **Robbie Guillory – Kate Nash Literary Agency 10.00 -12.00**RomComs, historicals, cosy crime, women-centric folkloric retellings |
| **Julia Silk – CCLA – Charlie Campbell Literary Agents 10.00 -12.00**All fiction, high concept love story, but not a fan of cupcakes or beach huts! |
| **Amanda Preston – LBA Books 10.00 -12.00**No fantasy or Sci fi. YES to speculative fiction, LGBTQ+, writers of colour, disabled/low-income household |
| **Liv Maidment – Madeleine Milburn Agency 10.00 -12.00**Upmarket commercial and book club fiction – no crime, thrillers, commercial women’s fiction or YA |
| **Samar Hammam – Rocking Chair Books Literary Agency 10.00 -12.00** |
| **Susan Yearwood – Susan Yearwood Agency 14.00 - 16.00**Commericial womens, contemp romance domestic noir. No speculative/fantasy |
| **Hattie Grunewald – The Blair Partnership 10.00 -12.00**Historical romance, women’s fiction, high concept contemporary romcom. No speculative, fantasy or erotica |

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| **EDITORS** | **TEN MINUTE WINDOWS** |
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| **Emily Ruston – Boldwood Books/Freelance Editor 10.00 -12.00**Commercial fiction – all genres |
| **Radhika Sonagra, Publishing Executive – Bookouture 14.00 - 16.00**Dark women’s fiction, WWII Historicals and diverse romcoms |
| **Emily Bedford, Commissioning Editor – Canelo 10.00 - 12.00**Contemporary and historical romance |
| **Maggie Swinburne, Editor – My Weekly Pocket Novels 10.00 - 12.00**Category romance |
| **Charlotte Brabbin, Senior Commissioning Editor – Harper Fiction 10.00 - 12.00**Domestic thrillers, Sweeping romcoms with unique hook, dark women’s fiction |
| **Jennie Rothwell, Commissioning Editor – Harper Impulse 10.00 - 12.00**Uplifting romcoms, unique perspectives, escapist reads |
| **Molly Walker-Sharp, Editor – Avon 14.00 -16.00**Commercial fiction, romcom, historical and thrillers |
| **Katie Seaman, Senior Commissioning Editor – HQ 10.00 - 12.00**Uplifting reading group, emotional reads, epic love stories, women’s fiction |
| **Abby Parsons, Commissioning Editor – HQ 10.00 - 12.00**Women’s fic, romcom, thrillers, love stories |
| **Belinda Toor, Acting Head of HQ – HQ Digital 10.00 - 12.00**Romcom, historical fiction and saga |
| **Becky Slorach, Senior Editor M&B Single Title 10.00 - 12.00**Trade length romance, contemporary and historical with a trademark HEA |
| **Julia Williams, Editor, Mills & Boon 10.00 - 12.00**All M&B categories – Historical and Medical Romance offer most opportunity |
| **Linda Fildew, Senior Editor, Mills & Boon 14.00 - 16.00**All M&B categories – Historical and Medical Romance offer most opportunities |
| **Keshini Naidoo, Editorial Director – Hera 10.00 - 12.00**Heart warming sagas, underrepresented voices in romance, cosy romance, funny commercial fiction |
| **Charlotte Mursell, Editorial Director – Orion 10.00 - 12.00**Commercial women’s, book club and upmarket fiction |
| **Rhea Khurien, Editorial Director – Dash (Orion’s Digital Imprint) 10.00 - 12.00**Women’s fiction – romance to saga including diverse voices |
| **Clare Hey, Editorial Director – Simon & Schuster 10.00 - 12.00**Love stories, commercial fiction from diverse voices, historical, reading group |
| **Molly Crawford, Commissioning Editor – Simon & Schuster 14.00 - 16.00**Diversity of experience, women’s fiction, saga, love stories, romcom |

**Indie Cover and Blurb Clinic**

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| **TEN MINUTE WINDOWS** |
| **Clare Flynn 10.00 -12.00** |
| **Debbie Young 14.00 - 16.00** |

**Indie cover and blurb clinic bios**

**Clare Flynn**

Clare Flynn is the award-winning author of thirteen historical novels (eleven indie and two published by Canelo) and a collection of short stories. A former International Marketing Director and strategic management consultant, she is now a full-time writer.

Clare is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a member of The Society of Authors, the Alliance of Independent Authors, and is the Member Services Officer for the RNA.

**Debbie Young**

English author of warm, witty novels including the popular Sophie Sayers Village Mysteries and the Staffroom at St Bride's School series, both set in the Cotswolds. Founder and director of the Hawkesbury Upton Literature Festival. UK Ambassador for the Alliance of Independent Authors and for the children's reading charity, Read for Good. Public speaker for the Type 1 Diabetes charity JDRF.

**Agent bios**

**Sarah O’Keefe – Aevitas Creative**

Sara O’ Keefe represents upmarket, reading group and genre fiction authors for Aevitas Creative Management, a US-UK literary agency. She has twenty years’ experience in the world of publishing, having worked with a host of major brand names in fiction, including crime writer Minette Walters, bestselling women’s fiction author Elizabeth Buchan and iconic thriller writer, Robert Ludlum. She is currently looking for upmarket women’s fiction, reading group fiction and up-lit. Find out more at: www.saraokeeffe.co.uk

**Rebecca Ritchie – AM Heath**

Rebecca Ritchie has been an agent at A.M. Heath since 2017, having previously worked at Curtis Brown. She represents a wide range of commercial fiction: from contemporary women’s to reading group fiction, historical fiction, psychological suspense and thriller. Her authors include Red magazine’s literary editor Sarra Manning, Holly Miller, and journalists-turned-novelists Sophia Money-Coutts and Richard and Judy Book Club pick Kate Riordan. Many of her authors are members of the Romantic Novelists’ Association, including Iona Grey and Lorna Cook, who each won the overall Novel of the Year Award at the RNA Awards in 2016 and 2020, respectively.

**Sarah Hornsley – The Bent Agency**

Sarah Hornsley is a literary agent at the Bent Agency representing a range of commercial to accessible literary adult fiction. She enjoys strong characters, unique commercial hooks and has a weak spot for love stories that also make her cry. Her author Anstey Harris won the RNA’s Sapere Popular Fiction Award in 2020 with her debut The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton. Sarah is not the right agent for you if you are writing erotica.

**Felicity Trew – Caroline Sheldon Literary Agency**

Felicity Trew joined the Caroline Sheldon Literary Agency in 2012 where she began her career in publishing and became an agent in 2015. Since then, Felicity has energetically been building-up a list of highly talented authors for both adult and children’s books as well as representing a stellar roster of award-winning illustrators. Clients she already represents include saga authors Libby Ashworth and Sheila Riley as well as heart-warming, hilarious and historical women’s commercial fiction authors, Kirsten Hesketh, Kerry Barrett, Kristy Eyre and Joan Hessayon Award-winning Brigid Coady. On her children’s list, Felicity represents this year’s World Book Day author and CLPE Award­-winning poet and performer Joseph Coelho, international number one bestseller and illustrator of ‘The Wonky Donkey’ titles Katz Cowley and the Branford Boase Award-winning middle grade author Mitch Johnson, to name but a few. She is an unremittingly passionate advocate of those she represents and loves the challenge of finding the best home for her authors in the market. Felicity was one of The Bookseller's Rising Stars of 2016 and shortlisted for this year’s RNA Agent of the Year award.

**Sheila Crowley – Curtis Brown**

After starting her publishing career in Dublin, Sheila Crowley held several high-profile sales and marketing positions at some of London’s leading publishers, including HarperCollins and Hodder. Working closely with authors and agents was her inspiration to change to ‘the other side’ and in 2003 she became a literary agent.She is joint MD of Curtis Brown’s books department (with Gordon Wise) and on the management board of our parent company, Original Talent. Sheila specializes in fiction with an emotional hook, crime, thrillers, and MBS. Her clients include Louise Candlish, Rosie Goodwin, Rachel Hore, Catherine Isaac, Clare Mackintosh, Santa Montefiore and Jojo Moyes. Her broad knowledge of the book industry in the UK, Ireland and international markets is a wonderful asset in her work with authors and publishers.

**Sabhbh Curran – Curtis Brown**

Sabhbh Curran is drawn to ambitious, unusual stories that lean towards the upmarket book group crossover. Her preference is for contemporary novels with unique, vivid characters and compelling plots that delve into our most intimate experiences and relationships: obsessive friendships and love stories; loss and trauma; dysfunctional families. She's also a sucker for new takes on folklore and myth, particularly of a feminist or regional flavour. She loves confident, accomplished storytelling with characters she can root for. Other areas she's interested in are historical fiction, thriller and psychological suspense. She doesn't work on YA or children’s fiction.

**Viola Hayden – Curtis Brown**

Viola Hayden joined Curtis Brown in January 2020, having spent the previous six years as an editor. She is an associate agent and actively building her own list. She is looking for commercial and reading group fiction, but also narrative non-fiction and some memoir. She’s keen on novels that reflect the complexities of the female experience: Marian Keyes’ warmth, wit and real heroines; Naoise Dolan’s razor-sharp observations and whiplash-inducing dialogue; Kiley Reid’s light treatment of uncomfortable situations, difficult questions and harsh realities. Stories structured differently like One Day, The Heart’s Invisible Furies and The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society are wonderful, but crucially they are substance over style. She loves a good mind-bending crime or suspense novel and is on the hunt for a series character like Jackson Brodie or Jimmy Perez. Lastly, the ultimate escape: historical fiction. Lucinda Riley’s Seven Sisters series is magnificent, as are Kristin Hannah’s The Nightingale and Bridget Collins’ The Binding.

**Tanera Symons – Darley Anderson**

Tanera Symons joined the Darley Anderson Agency in early 2017 and is building the women’s fiction and book club lists. She gained a BA in English Literature at Exeter University before going on to intern at LoveReading and then working at Little Tiger Press for several years. Tanera represents authors such as Beth O’Leary, Sandie Jones, Lauren North, Mandy Baggot, Sophie White, Mary Hargreaves, and Nicola Gill, to name a few. She is a huge fan of commercial romances, timeslip novels, high-concept love stories, and looks for a strong sense of character and clear hook in every submission.

**Broo Doherty – DHH Literary Agency**

Broo Doherty graduated from Downing College Cambridge and then started working in publishing, where she has worked for the last twenty years. She has worked right across the board in publishing houses and as an agent. She handles all genres, excluding children’s books, screenplays and sci-fi, but particularly enjoys crime, women's commercial fiction, literary fiction and quirky non-fiction. In 2017 she was voted Literary Agent of the Year at the Romantic Novelist's Association. Broo would love to see a new rom com along the lines of The Flatshare, a novel or a saga that transports me beyond my four walls, and any novel set in World War Two. I am not looking for anything sci fi, fantasy or COVID related. And if the novel is able to make me laugh out loud so much the better.

**Hannah Sheppard – DHH Literary Agency**

Hannah Sheppard is literary agent at the D H H Literary Agency. She represents authors across children’s fiction (MG, Teen, YA) as well as commercial adult fiction. She’d love to find some hooky contemporary romance as well as something with a bit of a magical twist (think Netflix’s THE GOOD WITCH). She's also desperate to find something that has a big concept at its heart (like V. E. Schwab’s THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE and Audrey Niffenegger's THE TIME TRAVELER’S WIFE). She’s less likely to go for historical fiction.

**Robbie Guillory – Kate Nash Literary Agency**

Robbie Guillory is an agent at the Kate Nash Literary Agency. Originally from north Norfolk, he currently lives in Glasgow, so is perfectly placed to jump into a loch when he's not reading. His reading tastes are eclectic and he enjoys sweeping fantasies just as much as tight-knit police procedurals. What is important to him are believable, compelling characters that live and breathe, and narratives to fit. He's currently on the lookout for excellent rom-coms, historicals with a bit of mystery about them, cosy crime with a protagonist you can't help but adore, and folkloric retellings with women front and center.

**Julia Silk – CCLA – Charlie Campbell Literary Agents**

Julia Silk has been an agent since 2016, before which she was an editor for nearly 20 years. She has wide-ranging tastes and represents authors writing literary and commercial fiction and non-fiction. She is still building her list at CCLA and would particularly love to find a great high-concept contemporary love story like Rebecca Serle's In Five Years; she enjoys her romance with a bit of grit and a lot of heart and humour (favourites include Marian Keyes and Mhairi Mcfarlane), and is not averse to having her heartstrings tugged (see Eithne Shortall's Grace After Henry). Not a fan of beach huts and cupcakes!

**Amanda Preston – LBA Books**

Amanda Preston founded LBA Ltd in 2005 and has been an agent for over 20 years. She represents a wide range of Sunday Times best-selling and award-winning authors across fiction and non-fiction. She loves working with authors and their publishing teams to build them into brand names. She works closely with authors on their manuscripts, developing and championing their work, with a view to carving out a long-term writing career for them in the UK and internationally. In 2018, she won the RNA Literary Agent of the Year award. She is looking for commercial and book-club fiction with great concepts, strong hooks, and characters that she can’t stop thinking about. She is always on the search for a gorgeously romantic or epic love story that completely captivates me, or an uplifting read that has a brilliant concept or a fresh and relatable romcom with a fantastic hook. While she also loves speculative fiction, she’s not looking for anything that is straight fantasy or science fiction. She is particularly interested in female voices and showcasing underrepresented talent: writers of colour, writers who identify as LGBTQ+, disabled, and/or from a low-income household.

**Liv Maidment – Madeleine Milburn Agency**

Olivia Maidment is an Associate Agent at the Madeleine Milburn Agency. She works closely with Madeleine to support her roster of clients, as well as building her own list in upmarket commercial and literary fiction. She has previously held roles at United Agents and The Blair Partnership. Liv is looking for engrossing, human stories that transport the reader to different times, cultures, moments, and places, with a strong voice and an original insight and perspective. She is not looking for crime, thrillers, commercial women’s fiction, or YA

**Samar Hammam – Rocking Chair Books Literary Agency**

Samar Hammam founded Rocking Chair Books Literary Agency six years ago. We focus on adult commercial fiction, literary fiction, graphic novels, and general non-fiction for publication around the world. We represent select writers with total dedication and love.

**Susan Yearwood – Susan Yearwood Agency**

Susan Yearwood is looking for book club and commercial women’s fiction, including contemporary romance and women’s fiction, psychological suspense and domestic noir. Currently, she would love to find a gangland novel with a female protagonist and escapist women’s fiction. She represents debut and published novelists and is growing her list, however would prefer not to read speculative/fantasy fiction.

**Hattie Grunewald – The Blair Partnership**

Hattie Grünewald is an Agent. She represents commercial and upmarket fiction – including women’s fiction, crime and thriller, historical and book club fiction – as well as some non-fiction in the areas of lifestyle and personal development. Before joining the Blair Partnership she was a literary agent at Blake Friedmann Agency, where she worked for six years. Hattie has a degree in English and Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia and she is also a poet. In 2020, Hattie was a Bookseller Rising Star and the Romantic Novelists’ Association’s Agent of the Year. At the moment she is really keen to find historical romance in glamorous/remote settings, high-concept contemporary romantic comedies and dark and gritty women’s fiction. She does not represent speculative, fantasy or erotica.

**Editor bios**

**Emily Ruston – Boldwood Books/Freelance Editor**

Most recently working as a freelance editor, Emily Ruston began her career at Harlequin Mills & Boon and has continued to edit for nearly all the major publishing houses, digital start-ups and self-published authors. She has edited numerous Amazon and Sunday Times bestsellers. She is looking for brilliant commercial fiction in any genre.

**Radhika Sonagra, Publishing Executive – Bookouture**

After a variety of jobs (including one very short stint as the world’s worst barista), Radhika got her start in publishing by editing material for an educational publisher. She was thrilled to move to Bookouture in Sept 2019, both because of her love of fiction and because she gets to work with some of the brightest and most dynamic publishing talent. While she does have varied taste in genres, the two key things she is looking for are a standout pitch and strong writing to support that. Genres she's looking for are: Crime, psychological thrillers, dark women's fiction, WWII historical and diverse romcoms.

**Emily Bedford, Commissioning Editor – Canelo**

Emily Bedford is Commissioning Editor at Canelo. She is looking to publish contemporary fiction, with an eye on romance and historical fiction in particular. She has previously worked at Bloomsbury as well as Taylor & Francis in editorial roles.

**Maggie Swinburne, Editor – My Weekly Pocket Novels**

Maggie is Editor of My Weekly Pocket Novels and is always on the lookout for fast, fun, thrilling, exciting, adventurous and romantic novels, of 50,000 words in length. The Pocket Novels are published at a rate of two a month, so she is always aiming to fill up her publishing schedule. If you have a romantic heroine in mind, and a thrilling dilemma to set her in, with an equally dreamy hero to spark off, with a series of cliff-hanging chapter endings to compel our readers to keep turning the pages to the thrilling denouement, then do send it to her, she will abandon all her other work to read it.

**Charlotte Brabbin, Senior Commissioning Editor – Harper Fiction**

Charlotte Brabbin is a fiction editor at HarperFiction, one of the commercial publishing divisions of HarperCollins UK. She began her career at Michael Joseph, Penguin, as an editorial assistant before moving to HarperFiction where she now commissions for the General Fiction list. Charlotte loves hooky, page-turning reads as well as thought-provoking reading group fiction. She has worked with authors including No.1 bestselling crime/thriller author Lucy Foley, Dawn O’Porter and Emma Gannon, whose fiction debut, Olive, released last year. Her upcoming projects include Songs in Ursa Major by Emma Brodie, a rock and roll love story for fans of Daisy Jones and the Six, and The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams, an uplifting love letter to stories and the communities they create. Charlotte’s on the look-out for unputdownable commercial reads; those domestic chillers that get under the skin of everyday life, darker women’s fiction exploring toxic friendships and family conflict, and completely satisfying, sweeping rom coms with a unique hook.

**Jennie Rothwell, Commissioning Editor – Harper Impulse**

Jennie has recently joined One More Chapter as a Commissioning Editor where she will be looking to acquire contemporary romance and stories about friendship. She's looking for uplifting romcoms, stories with unique perspectives, escapist reads that whisk her away to another country and stories with zeitgeisty characters. She has previously worked at Arrow, Bonnier Zaffre and Sphere with authors including Katie Flynn, EL James, Nicholas Sparks and Stacey Halls.

**Molly Walker-Sharp, Editor – Avon**

As an editor on the Avon team, Molly is looking for proposition-led commercial fiction: whether that be a laugh-out-loud rom-com, a sweeping historical, a twisty thriller, or anything in between, she wants to be hit over the head with a good hook. In short, if it can make her snort laugh, ugly cry or audibly gasp on the tube (or, these days, at my kitchen table), then it’s got her name all over it. One of her first acquisitions was Mandy Robotham, who has gone on to become a three-time global bestseller, and her interest is always piqued by reads with an international edge or universal appeal. She is also enthusiastic about working with authors and agents directly to develop IP ideas, and she particularly wants to work with authors from underrepresented backgrounds.

**Katie Seaman, Senior Commissioning Editor – HQ**

Commissioning across both HQ Fiction and HQ Digital, I’m looking for big stories, beautifully told with an emotive hook that draws readers in. Recent books I’m proud to have published include Jessica Ryn’s uplifting reading group novel about homelessness, The Extraordinary Hope of Dawn Brightside; comedian Andi Osho’s debut novel about dating and female friendships, Asking For A Friend; and The Last Goodbye – an epic love story about love, loss and grief from Fiona Lucas. Top of my wishlist is funny, fresh women’s fiction for fans of Holly Bourne and an epic love story that leaves a tear in my eye and a big smile on my face – perhaps even with a unique structure like One Day or a high-concept like This Time Next Year.

**Abby Parsons, Commissioning Editor – HQ**

Abby Parsons has been editing unputdownable books for major UK publishing houses since 2014, and joined HQ, HarperCollins at the end of 2020. Whether it’s women’s fiction with an emotional dilemma at its heart, a thriller with a fascinating character who has a dark story to tell, or a love story told in a new and exciting way, she loves books that spark conversation. She's looking for emotionally rewarding commercial fiction and would particularly love to find a new women’s fiction voice that speaks to millennial women or a rom com to get obsessed by. She will always dive head first into a story about women’s friendships, or one that spans multiple generations. In 2021, she's looking forward to publishing thought-provoking new suspense from Mel McGrath and the latest spell-binding timeslip novel from Nicola Cornick, and working on exciting new books from Helen Monks Takhar (author of Precious You), Roz Watkins (author of the DI Meg Dalton series) and Phaedra Patrick (author of The Library of Lost and Found).

**Belinda Toor, Acting Head of HQ – HQ Digital**

Belinda Toor is acting Head of HQ Digital. Commissioning for the HQ Digital list, she particularly love books that are bold, brave and inclusive – essentially, if you have a compelling story to tell, she wants to read it! She enjoys nothing better than a witty, laugh-out-loud rom-com, and is on the hunt for all things funny from The Old Girls Network by Judy Leigh to Sorry Not Sorry by Sophie Ranald. She is especially keen to add more historical fiction to her list, particularly books set in WWII, or a saga with strong women and a romance at the heart.

**Becky Slorach, Senior Editor M&B Single Title**

Becky Slorach is Senior Editor for Mills & Boon and responsible for the Mills & Boon trade programme publishing authors such as Georgia Toffolo, the Duchess of York, Susan Mallery, Eva Leigh and Julia London. She has worked in publishing for over 20 years. Becky loves all romance and is looking for trade length romances, contemporary or historical. They must have strong voices, unforgettable characters, an irresistible hook and, of course, the trademark Mills & Boon HEA!

**Julia Williams, Editor, Mills & Boon**

Julia Williams has been an editor at Mills & Boon for seven years and has over thirty years’ experience in publishing in both children’s and adult fiction. Julia discovered romantic fiction through the works of Jean Plaidy, and still has a special love of historical romance. As well as being an editor she has also written ten novels of her own and has been a member of the RNA for 20 years. She lives in Surrey with her family. She is acquiring for Mills & Boon Historical, Medical, Modern and Romance (short contemporary romance that is published within True Love). There is most opportunity within the Historical and Medical series at the moment (Modern and Romance are well inventoried.)

**Linda Fildew, Senior Editor, Mills & Boon**

Linda Fildew is a senior editor for Mills & Boon series acquisition team, working with authors who write for Mills & Boon Historical while also having a good knowledge of what other lines are currently acquiring. Over her forty + years with the company, she has held a variety of editorial roles. She puts her longevity down to an abiding love of the books and the authors with whom she works. Linda encourages many different historical time periods, from ancient civilizations up to and including the Second World War, and welcomes submissions from aspiring writers from all backgrounds, cultures and communities. Linda has a background in art history. She is acquiring for Mills & Boon Historical, Medical, Modern and Romance (short contemporary romance that is published within True Love). There is most opportunity within the Historical and Medical series at the moment (Modern and Romance are well inventoried.)

**Keshini Naidoo, Editorial Director – Hera**

Keshini Naidoo has extensive experience of breaking books into bestseller status, with her biggest authors selling millions of copies in digital sales alone. Having started her editorial career at Avon (HarperCollins UK), she then moved to being Associate Publisher at Bookouture. Since launching Hera in August 2018 with Lindsey Mooney, she has published romantic fiction from RNA members including Kiley Dunbar, Jeevani Charika (also known as Rhoda Baxter) and Lisa Swift, as well as sagas from Francesca Capaldi and Lynn Johnson. Hera have been shortlisted for the Inclusivity Award at the RoNas twice as well as Publisher of the Year in 2020 and 2019. Keshini loves all genres of commercial fiction – from cosy romance that comforts like a mug of steaming hot chocolate, to whip-smart, funny commercial fiction that represents modern women today. She is particularly interested in finding a heart warming saga for the list and also publishing underrepresented voices in the romance genre.

**Charlotte Mursell, Editorial Director – Orion**

Charlotte Mursell joined Orion Fiction as Editorial Director in January 2020. She is looking for page-turning commercial women’s, book club and upmarket fiction with a cracking hook and an unforgettable voice. Previously, she published the feminist dystopia and Richard & Judy pick VOX by Christina Dalcher and Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick The Light We Lost by Jill Santopolo. In May this year, she will publish the searing and hotly-anticipated debut, Careless by Kirsty Capes. She’s looking for stories that spark conversation and remain with the reader long after they turn the last page.

**Rhea Khurien, Editorial Director – Dash (Orion’s Digital Imprint)**

After working for imprints such as HQ, Headline and Aria, Rhea Kurien is now Editorial Director at Orion Dash, the new digital-first imprint at Orion. She is passionate about women's fiction in all its forms, from romance to saga, and is keen to publish more diverse voices in this area.

**Clare Hey, Editorial Director – Simon & Schuster**

Clare Hey is Publishing Director at Simon & Schuster UK and heads up the adult fiction team, overseeing the strategy of the list as a whole. Her career has taken her from HarperCollins, to S&S, to Orion and back to S&S, and her passion is finding brilliant authors and bringing their books to as wide an audience as possible. She is drawn to strong storytelling, fresh voices and interesting hooks, and publishes primarily across women’s fiction, reading group fiction and historical fiction. She is currently looking for strong hook-led reading group/general fiction that bucks the trend, a big love story, commercial fiction from diverse voices, and a big-ideas novel that will change the way we think. She likes to be surprised, but will respond best to plot-driven novels with great writing. She is always looking for new voices and great storytellers and wants the S&S Fiction list to be the home of a story for everyone, representing the lives and stories of all people in the pages of the books and the writers we publish.

**Molly Crawford, Commissioning Editor – Simon & Schuster**

Molly Crawford is a Commissioning Editor on the adult fiction team. She started her career with jobs at Penguin Random House and digital publisher Bookouture, before moving to Transworld. She’s looking for vibrant and voice-driven book club fiction, pitch-led and relatable women’s fiction, and standout novels for the saga market. She loves stories that transport her, with memorable characters who go on big journeys – whether those be emotional or physical. She’d love to acquire a sweeping love story told in a unique way, like The Versions of Us, or a pitchable rom-com that would sit as naturally on Netflix as it does on her bookshelf, like The Flat Share. She’s particularly keen to acquire books that reflect a diversity of experience – be that class, race or ability – and is actively looking for novels that explore the full complexity of human experience.