



[Download high resolution image](#)

Pub. Date:	19 March 2026	Price:	£10.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-938-9	Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)	Extent:	272
Weight:		Rpt. Code:	IP
Publishing Rights:	Exclusive: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada. Open Market: RoW. excl. North America		
Sales Rights:	World English Language		
Market:	Commercial Literary Fiction, Crime Thriller, Satire, Suspense		
BISAC Code:	FIC000000: Fiction : General FIC031010: Fiction : Thrillers : Crime FIC052000: Fiction : Satire		
THEMA Code:	FUP: Satirical fiction & parodies FBA: Modern & contemporary fiction FH: Thriller / suspense fiction FHP: Political / legal thriller		
Country of Manufacture:	UK		

vervebooks.co.uk/under-the-hammer

UNDER THE HAMMER

by SAMANTHA DOOLEY-MILES

THE BOOK

Jemma would kill to end the housing crisis – one landlord at a time...

Jemma has lost everything... Well, the very little she had. Her toxic boyfriend has run off with her best friend, leaving Jemma alone in their flat, and she can't afford the extortionate rent on her own. She's aimless, depressed and, above all, furious. Slowly but surely, her fury finds its focus: landlords. If only something could be done about them...

When Jemma's landlord has a fatal accident while carrying out a property repair, she stumbles across her life's mission: to punish as many landlords as possible. She begins targeting landlords who have appeared on her favourite binge-watch, a home-improvement TV show where their greed is laid bare. It's a messy job, but someone's got to do it.

Governed by her own rules, Jemma is convinced her actions are just – but how long before this vigilante turns villain?

SAMANTHA DOOLEY-MILES (Location: Hamilton, Scotland)

Samantha Dooley-Miles writes fiction that explores the significance seemingly small moments can hold and how characters react in times of high emotion. She is particularly interested in shame, embarrassment and female rage. Her stories have been published in *Gutter*, *Postbox*, *Severine* and *Razor Cuts* amongst others and her monologues have been performed by Slackline Productions and Coronavirus Theatre Club. In 2021 she won a Scottish Book Trust New Writer Award. *Under The Hammer* is her first novel.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A hilarious, timely and all too relatable debut novel about the housing crisis. Dooley-Miles tackles topical issues with dark humour and a page-turning plot that will be cathartic to every disillusioned tenant

A joyfully irreverent crime satire, perfect for fans of *How to Kill Your Family* by Bella Mackie, *Sweetpea* by C. J. Skuse and *I Want To Go Home But I'm Already There* by Roisin Lanigan - it's as if Muriel Spark had written the TV series *Dexter*

Comical yet scathing look at class, privilege and the housing crisis from the perspective of the renter - in this case, thirty-something Jemma, whose powerful voice and unpredictable nature hooks you from the start, commanding you to ignore her red flags and get behind her violent resistance... until it's clear that Jemma might be more passionate about murder than the rights of renters

Dooley-Miles is a Scottish author whose debut unfolds in her hometown of Hamilton. VERVE's launch campaign for this key title will span traditional and social media, with a particular focus on the Scottish press and reaching Millennial and Gen Z content creators (who are most impacted by the housing crisis), with UK proof drops and bookshop events planned

PRAISE FOR UNDER THE HAMMER

'An outrageously funny book, perfect for anyone who's ever looked at the mould creeping down the walls of their rental property and wondered if there just might be a better way' - **Laura Elliott, author of *Awakened***

'Pitch-black perfection - Dooley-Miles is an evil genius' - **Kirstin Innes, author of *Scabby Queen***

'An original debut with a very strong voice that offers a fresh and funny take on the housing crisis, class and female rage' - **Elsbeth Wilson, author of *These Mortal Bodies***

'A fast-paced, gripping thriller that pulls you in and does not let go...

Captivating and twisty' - **5-Star Reader Review**

'Sharp, funny and utterly compelling... The twist on the revenge trope felt fresh and relevant, with just the right balance of social commentary and humour' - **5-Star Reader Review**

'From the start, this book had me genuinely laughing out loud... Highly recommend for a fun, unhinged, hilarious murder read' - **5-Star Reader Review**



VERVE Books
Harpenden
Herts AL5 1EQ
Tel: +44 (0)1582 766348

UK Distribution: Turnaround
Second Floor, Crown House
47 Chase Side, Southgate
London N14 5BP
Tel: +44 (0)208 829 3000
www.turnaround-uk.com

