



For Immediate release

## ***Budapest Noir: Ilona Gets A Phone*** **Set for U.S. Release in May 2025**

**October 2024 – London, UK** – Following its successful European release in April 2024, Alison Langley's debut novel, *Budapest Noir: Ilona Gets A Phone*, will be launched in the U.S. on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Published by Dedalus Books UK, the novel offers an insightful look at post-Communist Hungary through the deeply personal struggles of a woman navigating both geopolitical change and family dynamics.

Set in 1991, *Budapest Noir* follows Ilona, a 61-year-old Hungarian woman who receives a telephone after years of being denied due to her family's political history under Soviet rule. For Ilona, the phone represents a personal victory, yet it also highlights the limitations of her life. As Hungary transitions from socialism to democracy, Ilona devises a plan to reclaim her family's estate—confiscated by the communists—by relying on her American son, Emil. However, Emil's return to Hungary reveals unexpected tensions as he pursues an artistic career rather than the business success Ilona hopes for.

Gwen Florio praises the novel, stating, **"The protagonist in Alison Langley's debut novel is by turns annoying, wilful, reality-averse, and heartbreakingly hopeful in her determination to wrest a better future from the ashes of her past. I fell in love with her."**

*Budapest Noir: Ilona Gets A Phone* blends elements of historical fiction with family drama, offering a rich, textured narrative that delves into the legacy of the Soviet era, intergenerational conflict, and the broader social upheavals of the time.

The Hungarian Observer praised the book for its vivid portrayal of post-Soviet Hungary and its complex, fully realized characters. **"Langley's novel is evocative. It captures the rough and ready atmosphere of a modern country being improvised into being."**

### **Publication details**

ISBN: 9781915568427

Format: Paperback

Length: 320 pages

Price: £10.99 / \$15.99

## About the Author



Alison Langley is a former journalist and author whose short fiction has appeared in several literary publications. A collection of her stories will be published in an anthology late 2024 by Insurgent Press UK. Langley currently resides in the Swiss Alps, where she runs a writing retreat and continues her literary work. *Budapest Noir: Ilona Gets A Phone* is her first novel.

## Availability

*Budapest Noir: Ilona Gets A Phone* is available in Europe through bookstores, Amazon UK, and UK.Bookshop.org. The novel will be distributed by SCB Distributors in the U.S. in February 2025 and available through major retailers and the usual online platforms.

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