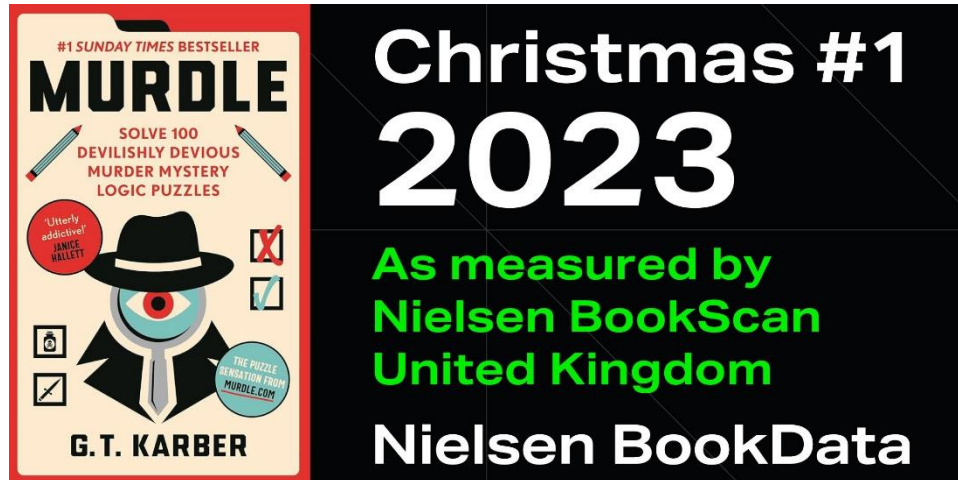


## Press Release

### Murder mystery puzzle collection, *Murdle*, scores the UK Christmas number one, Nielsen BookData reveals



**LONDON, 19 December 2023** – A collection of murder mystery logic puzzles has been crowned the UK Christmas Number One. *Murdle*, which hit shelves in June this year, sold 52,549 copies in the UK in the week ending 16 December 2023, and claims top spot in the last bestseller list to be published before Christmas Day.

Fact compendium *Guinness World Records*, which took the Christmas Number One crown last year, takes second place in the Christmas bestseller list, ahead of the fourth book in TV presenter and comic Richard Osman's Thursday Murder Club series, *The Last Devil to Die*.

#### UK Top 10 bestsellers: week ending 16 December 2023

1. *Murdle* (GT Karber) 52,549 copies sold
2. *Guinness World Records* (Guinness) 40,432
3. *The Last Devil to Die* (Richard Osman) 33,998
4. *Heartstopper Volume 5* (Alice Oseman) 29,069
5. *Pinch of Nom: Express* (Kay and Kate Allinson) 24,560
6. *Private Eye Annual 2023* (Ian Hislop, ed.) 22,937
7. *Politics on the Edge* (Rory Stewart) 22,256
8. *Impossible Creatures* (Katherine Rundell) 21,808
9. *Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing* (Matthew Perry) 21,534
10. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* (Gabrielle Zevin) 19,194

# Nielsen BookData

American whodunnit enthusiast GT Karber's *Murdle* has sold 204,000 copies in the UK since hitting shelves in June. Its sequel, *Murdle: More Killer Puzzles*, was published in October and has sold 21,000 copies to date. A third collection, *Murdle: Even More Killer Puzzles*, is due for publication in May 2024.

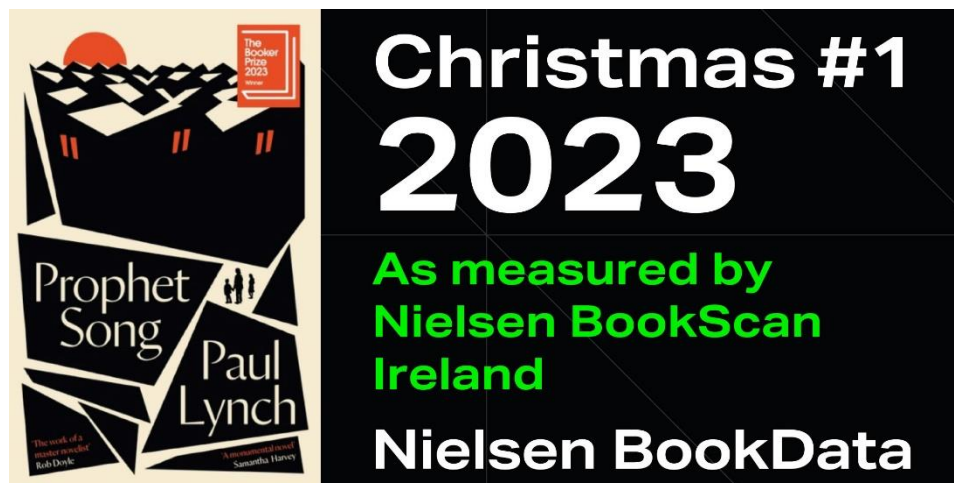
Philip Stone, an analyst at Nielsen BookData said: "*Murdle* has been a consistent top 10 bestseller since it was published this summer. However, its sales have really ramped up in recent weeks. It sold just 5,300 copies sold in the week ending 4 November 2023 but sold almost 10 times that figure in the UK last week."

Stone added: "Crime pays in the UK book market. £125m has been spent on crime novels in the UK in 2023, and another £5m has been spent on true crime non-fiction books. Brits also love a good puzzle book and, helped by the success of *Murdle*, sales of puzzle books in the UK this year are the highest since 2005 when Sudoku books were all the rage."

Nielsen BookScan Total Consumer Market data reveals that £80.0m was spent on printed books in the UK last week – up 1.7% versus the comparative week last year. Sales of printed books in the year to date total £ 1.71bn in value terms (up 1% year-on-year) and 186.2m in volume terms (down 5% year-on-year).

## Recent UK Christmas number ones

2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)  
2014: *Guinness World Records*  
2015: *How it Works: The Husband* (Jason Hazeley and Joel Morris)  
2016: *The Midnight Gang* (David Walliams)  
2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)  
2018: *Becoming* (Michelle Obama)  
2019: *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* (David Walliams)  
2020: *The Thursday Murder Club* (Richard Osman)  
2021: *Pinch of Nom: Comfort Food* (Kate and Kay Allinson)  
2022: *Guinness World Records*  
2023: *Murdle* (GT Karber)



In Ireland, Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch's *Prophet Song* takes the Christmas Number One crown, ahead of Suzy Byrne's compilation of letters to "The Gay Byrne Show", *Dear Gay*, and Paul Murray's Booker-shortlisted *The Bee Sting*.

### **Ireland Top 10 bestsellers: week ending 16 December 2023**

1. *Prophet Song* (Paul Lynch) 8,509 copies sold
2. *Dear Gay* (Suzy Byrne, ed.) 6,251
3. *The Bee Sting* (Paul Murray) 5,793
4. *The Hike Life* (Rozanna Purcell) 4,620
5. *Guinness World Records 2024* (Guinness) 4,376
6. *Body of Truth* (Marie Cassidy) 3,978
7. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer* (Jeff Kinney) 3,334
8. *Born to be a Footballer* (Liam Brady) 3,188
9. *Poor* (Katriona O'Sullivan) 2,387
10. *In the Blood* (Pat Spillane and Michael Moynihan) 2,254

Sales of *Prophet Song* in Ireland have rocketed following its Booker Prize win on 26 November. The £14.99 paperback edition of the novel sold 502 copies in the week ending 25 November, increasing to 4,634 copies sold in the week of its Booker Prize win, to 5,152 copies sold the following week, and to 8,509 copies sold last week.

### **Recent Ireland Christmas Number Ones:**

- 2013: *My Autobiography* (Alex Ferguson)
- 2014: *The Test* (Brian O'Driscoll)
- 2015: *Grandma's Great Escape* (David Walliams)
- 2016: *The Battle* (Paul O'Connell)
- 2017: *Bad Dad* (David Walliams)
- 2018: *The Ice Monster* (David Walliams)
- 2019: *Ordinary Joe* (Joe Schmidt)
- 2020: *Old Ireland in Colour* (John Breslin & Sarah-Anne Buckley)

# Nielsen BookData

2021: *Guinness World Records*  
2022: *Guinness World Records*  
2023: *Prophet Song* (Paul Lynch)

## Notes for editors

Data should be sourced to Nielsen BookData. Printed book sales data comes from the Nielsen BookScan UK Total Consumer Market panel of more than 7,000 bricks and mortar and internet book retailers in the UK, and the equivalent Irish Consumer Market panel.

Please contact [mediabookresearch@nielseniq.com](mailto:mediabookresearch@nielseniq.com) before 12:00pm on Wednesday 20 December with any queries.

## About GT Karber

[From gtkarber.com] GT Karber grew up in a small town in Arkansas, the son of a judge and a civil rights attorney. He has a degree in mathematics and English literature from the University of Arkansas and an MFA from the University of Southern California. He is a member of the Mystery Writers of America and the creator of *Murdle*, the *USA Today* and #1 *Sunday Times* bestselling murder-mystery puzzle book series that has been translated into several languages and sold all over the world. The first volume has been shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of the Year.

## About Nielsen BookData

Nielsen BookData provides a range of services to the book industry internationally, aiding the discovery and purchase, distribution and sales measurement of books. Nielsen BookData is responsible for the ISBN and SAN Agencies for UK & Ireland as well as providing search and discovery services for booksellers and libraries. Its electronic trading solutions, including Nielsen Pubeasy, help everyone involved in the book supply chain trade more easily and its Research services provide retail sales analysis for both print and e-books alongside research from the Books and Consumers Survey. For publishers Nielsen BookData offers a range of services from assigning an ISBN to a book to adding metadata to its database and providing promotional tools to help market books. The company is wholly owned by NielsenIQ. For more information, visit: [nielsenbook.co.uk](http://nielsenbook.co.uk)

## About NielsenIQ

NIQ is the world's leading consumer intelligence company, delivering the most complete understanding of consumer buying behavior and revealing new pathways to growth. In 2023, NIQ combined with GfK, bringing together the two industry leaders with unparalleled global reach. With a holistic retail read and the most comprehensive consumer insights—delivered with advanced analytics through state-of-the-art platforms—NIQ delivers the Full View™.

NIQ is an Advent International portfolio company with operations in 100+ markets, covering more than 90% of the world's population. For more information, visit [NIQ.com](http://NIQ.com).