TOR PUBLISHING GROUP



Subject line: Tordotcom Acquires Ursula Wills' Wicker and Short Story Collection

September 14, 2026 – Totdotcom Publishing is thrilled to announce the acquisition of *Wicker* and an upcoming short story collection by Ursula Wills to Erika Tsang, Executive Editor, from Julian Friedmann of Blake Friedmann Literary Agency for North American rights. Gillian Green, Tor UK Publisher, has acquired UK rights.

A darkly humorous and haunting folk fable exploring love, envy, and revenge, *Wicker* is soon to be a major motion picture from Black Bear Productions starring Olivia Colman, Peter Dinklage, Elizabeth Debicki and Alexander Skarsgård, releasing October 23rd. Tordotcom and Tor UK will publish the ebook and audio edition of the story in October alongside the film release with the full collection of short stories to come in print, audio and eBook in April 2027.

Wicker is the story of a lonely fish seller who trades her life savings - three gold coins - to a local basket-maker with a single request: make me a husband. Woven from willow, her wicker husband is broad-shouldered, gentle-spoken, and utterly devoted. As he mends her leaky roof, shares her bed, and restores her happiness, the woman blossoms, wearing flowers in her hair and singing as she works. However, her transformation sparks deep jealousy among the villagers, whose own marriages begin to curdle with envy. Driven by malice, the townspeople hatch a wicked scheme…

Ursula Wills says, "I'm very happy that people are going to be able to read the story which inspired this amazing film. Tor Books is a great home for my stories, and I know that anyone who's excited to see the film will be just as excited to find there's a dozen more crazy folklorish stories to read too!"

Tsang added, "I'm thrilled to be working with Ursula to bring her unique stories to readers. They are indeed crazy folklorish, in the best possible way!"

About the Author

Ursula Wills is a writer of short stories who lives in Gloucestershire, England. *Wicker* was originally released on an online platform as *The Wicker Husband*.

About Tordotcom Publishing:

Tordotcom Publishing is an imprint of the Tor Publishing Group committed to publishing cutting-edge and experimental speculative short fiction, collections, novellas, and anthologies. Our mission is to launch new and diverse voices writing in SFF, and to be the destination for established authors to tell stories from the edges of the genre.