**Design Brief**

I want a clear and strong cover that will look good as a thumbnail as well as scaled up. It has to reflect the fact that the book is historical (also crime / thriller). The main character is a former soldier who has lost a leg so has a crutch made out of a damaged musket (standard issue British Army Brown Bess circa 1809) the stock was padded with horsehair and covered in leather scraps secured with dome-headed upholstery pins. It would be nice to see that in the design but I don't have any art work for it and so I am open to other ideas. I have attached some book covers from the same genre that I like and below is the book blurb and outline.

Sizes would be standard paperback dimensions.

I don't want anything generic or anachronistic. The book is set in 1809 so there can't be any type writers, modern weapons etc. If stock images are used there needs to be a price provided so I can understand that before making a decision.

The book title is - Keeper

The author name is - B. D. Stocker

A typical reader is interested in history, more likely to be male than female, middle aged and located in the UK.

**Blurb**

**LONDON, 1809.** James Keeper thought he didn’t have much further to fall. He’s already gone from respected army sergeant to lamed and solitary night watchman struggling to subsist in London’s worst slum – the St. Giles rookery. Then, on Keeper’s watch, his boss is murdered and he makes a dangerous enemy who sets the runners on his tail.

Seeking sanctuary with the beggars, thieves, and cutthroats that run the rookery, he witnesses an act that could spark a gang war. With waking dreams of his past bleeding into his present, Keeper has to stay alive long enough to catch a killer.

**Synopsis**

1809, the Parish of St. Giles, London. Abroad, Britain is at war with France, but at home, a dirtier battle is being fought for control of London’s largest criminal gang. The manager of the Horsenail Brewery, MAJOR JACKTON, drowned in a vat of porter, is just the latest casualty in a struggle carried out in secret until a wounded soldier steps into the frame.

SERGEANT JAMES KEEPER wants a fresh start and a chance to make amends with his sister. After sixteen years in the army, he’s unrecognisable as the boy who ran from a violent step-father, but his past keeps bleeding into his present. Keeper, who is night-watchman at the brewery, is distracted by SPIDER (also known as SAMMY), a young pickpocket while Jackton is killed. When Keeper goes looking for help, he finds no-one believes him. Worse, if he goes to the magistrate, he risks hanging for killing his stepfather QUIN in self-defence when he was only fifteen.

Keeper sees himself in Spider, by stepping in to save the boy from a bully, he makes a deadly enemy. EEL, one of four lieutenants who run the St. Giles gang for the notorious COPENHAGEN JACK, doesn’t forgive, or forget, and puts the runners on Keeper’s tail.

Back in St. Giles, there is discontent; Jack is granting safe passage for gentlemen such as CARMICHAEL, and the street sellers are losing trade to Oxford Street shops. The net is closing in, and Keeper’s best friend, DICKON, advises making a deal with Jack, as the rookery is the only place safe from the runners. MURPHY, one of Jack’s lieutenants, is poisoned and the trust between the thieves, pimps, and beggars breaks down.

To avoid a civil war, the killer needs to be discovered, and Jack offers Keeper the job. With the help of Spider and his ‘sister,’ JEWEL, Keeper has a week to find proof that one of the remaining lieutenants - Eel, WHYTE, or BUFF - murdered Murphy.