# Full biography

Johan Raubal is a British-based writer whose work begins with people rather than plots.

He is interested in the small moments that reveal us: a stranger missing from a train platform, a difficult choice made quietly, a conversation that changes something without announcing itself. His fiction follows ordinary people as their lives move somewhere they had not expected, leaving space for the reader to decide what those moments mean.

His debut novel, Hannah, was published in November 2025. It follows two people who have withdrawn from intimacy for different reasons and the tentative relationship that develops when neither is particularly prepared to risk being known again.

His second novel, The Gentle Orbit, follows Michael and Anna across nearly two decades. Beginning with their meeting on a beach in Ibiza, it traces two lives that repeatedly move towards and away from one another, through friendship, other relationships, family life, abuse, loss and survival.

Raubal's fiction is characterised by emotional restraint and an interest in what remains unsaid. Rather than treating violence, trauma or intimacy as spectacle, his work is often concerned with what follows: the ordinary morning afterwards, the choices that still have to be made, and the ways people accommodate experiences they cannot simply leave behind.

Some of that perspective is informed by personal experience. Raubal has written about growing up around alcoholism, domestic violence and coercive control, experiences that inform his understanding of fear, resilience and the complicated choices people make from inside difficult circumstances.

Alongside his fiction, Raubal draws on three decades spent working in and around large organisations, advising leaders through periods of organisational change and transformation. That experience — of institutions, power, leadership and the people navigating them — provides another lens through which he writes about human behaviour. He is also the author of Stay the Course: Leadership in Transformative Times and continues to write and speak about leadership and change.

Across both fiction and non-fiction, the question underlying much of his work remains remarkably similar: what do people do when life takes them somewhere they never planned to be?

---

© 2026 Johan Raubal. Reproduction permitted for editorial use with attribution.

---