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FRANFURT
BOOK FAIR 2024

A large, white, stylized speech bubble is centered on a solid pink background. The bubble has a rounded top and a pointed tail at the bottom left. Inside the bubble, the word "Fiction" is written in a pink, serif typeface.

Fiction

One Hundred Years of Betty

Debra Oswald



One ordinary extraordinary woman living through a century of massive change

On the eve of her 100th birthday party, Betty tells us her story. Born into poverty in pre-war London, and growing up fast during the Blitz, Betty grabs the chance at a bigger life by migrating to Australia.

On board the SS *Asturias* she meets three people who will influence the course of her life – Pearl, a good-hearted party girl, Athena, a Greek woman on her way to marry a man she has never met, and Leo, a German Jew who lost his family in the war.

But life has other plans for Betty, and soon she must find a way to do more than survive.

Why this book?

- Commercial, engaging, gripping, funny and moving, with a brilliantly strong central voice
- A sweeping saga of one hundred years of a woman's life with the range of Ann Patchett and the epic sweep of Colleen McCullough
- A strong, intelligent woman born too early in time to make the most of her talents without having to fight for everything
- Set against a century of world events and social upheavals, Betty's story takes us to the frontlines of the anti-war protests, the women's liberation movement, to living in Mexico with a love before eventually becoming a tv screenwriter

DEBRA OSWALD is a two-time winner of the NSW Premier's Literary Award and creator/head writer of the hit TV series *Offspring*. She has written three adult novels as well as six children's novels. Debra's stage plays (for both adults and children) have been performed around the world, including *Gary's House* and *Mr Bailey's Minder*.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Cameron's Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Serial Heartbreaker

Amy Lovat

cover art
to come

Sadie Thomas is obsessed with love stories, and whether or not hers is good enough

Sadie Thomas is obsessed with love stories; specifically, whether or not hers is good enough. She's also obsessed with the fact that her girlfriend, Chase, might not be 'the one', but they're trying for a baby anyway.

When a series of tragedies upend life as she knows it, Sadie is forced to dissect the past in order to confront the future, discovering family secrets and hard truths along the way.

This is not a rom-com, but more of a mystery novel with a break-up instead of a dead body, with a lovably neurotic protagonist who 'breaks the fourth wall' to explain to the reader what the fuck has happened to her life and how she ended up where she is.

Why this book?

- An anti-romantic comedy for fans of *Fleabag* and *High Fidelity*.
- A cocktail of Monica Heisey, Natalie Sue, Nick Hornby and a lot of Phoebe Waller-Bridge
- 'Amy Lovat's writing is unflinching, vivid and pulsing with energy and desire. Reading her is like settling in for a juicy chat with your funniest, raunchiest, messiest friend.' Emily Maguire

AMY LOVAT is a writer, editor and the founder of Secret Book Stuff. She has a PhD in English and Writing from the University of Newcastle and lives with her partner Laura, two dogs, a bird and thousands of books in Gadigal Country, Sydney.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

What Did I Miss?

Holly Brunnbauer

cover art
to come

Can Makayla stop herself from falling in love with one man, in order to get revenge on her ex?

Sports teacher Makayla, newly single and disillusioned by her ex-husband Warren, is determined to complete her bucket list of experiences she missed during her marriage.

Her plan takes an unexpected turn when a one-night stand, Beau, becomes her new colleague. Beau, an ex-Army Major, is eager to settle down and can't forget Makayla. As Makayla works through her list, she discovers her aunt is gifting Warren a 1967 Ford Mustang, a car she wants to use for revenge. To get the car, she must stay single until her 30th birthday. However, as her relationship with Beau deepens, Makayla struggles to balance her past grievances with her budding feelings.

Ultimately, she must confront her past to embrace a future with Beau.

Why this book?

- A dynamic mix of romance, personal growth, and emotional depth
- The evolving romance with Beau introduces a compelling dynamic, while the subplot of revenge against her ex-husband adds tension and stakes
- Combination of heartfelt drama and romantic comedy
- A blend of humour, heartbreak, and redemption

HOLLY BRUNNBAUER lives in a small town in regional Victoria, with her husband, two young boys and a curvaceous pug named Mr Giuseppe.

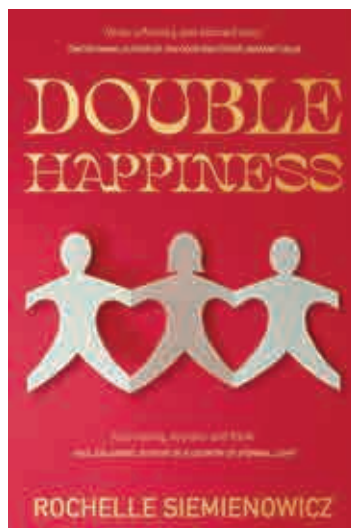
PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Double Happiness

Rochelle Siemienowicz



'This authentic, questing, sometimes savagely reflective midlife crisis novel is Helen Garner meets Miranda July.' Jo Case, author and critic

Overcome with guilt about a love affair she can't give up, Anna confesses to her husband, Brendan. He is shocked and devastated but makes the unusual decision to try to accept the lover, Jeremy, as part of their family.

Told from three perspectives, *Double Happiness* is a story about sex, honesty and jealousy – and the challenges of forging a new kind of romance.

Set in Melbourne over seven years, this lyrical contemporary love story explores the complexities of non-monogamy with humour and heart, asking what it's like to love two, or more, people equally but differently.

What is the effect of time on erotic love? And what happens when your new lover wants someone else too?

Why this book?

- Siemienowicz's writing is lyrical and evocative, tackling emotionally charged topics with wisdom, humour, and grace
- Exploring the intricacies of non-monogamy, honesty, and jealousy, offering a deep dive into the complexities of modern relationships.
- Told from three different viewpoints, providing a nuanced understanding of emotions and motivations.
- Receiving rave critical acclaim ahead of publications

ROCHELLE SIEMIENOWICZ is a writer, editor and arts journalist. Rochelle's work has been published widely, including in *The Age*, *SBS*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *The Big Issue*, *Metro*, *ArtsHub* and *Kalliope X*. She has a PhD in Australian cinema and was for many years a film and TV critic and columnist. She lives in Melbourne with her two partners.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

A Secret Garden in Paris

Sophie Beaumont



A secret garden in Paris unlocks the hearts of three women to find love and happiness again

A mother's secret, a quest to find a new life and a path to healing bring three women together to carve out their own green sanctuary in the heart of Paris.

For Emma, who is trying to understand the past and find her own path, working on the garden is the beginning of something entirely new that will change the course of her life.

For Charlotte, facing an uncertain future and a hard decision, it is a welcome breathing space.

And for Arielle, whose love of giving flowers helps to heal the pain of loss in her life, it opens a path to a new happiness.

A heartwarming story of romantic discovery and new hope in the city of light.

Why this book?

- Italian language rights sold in pre-empt
- Rights in Beaumont's previous title, *The Paris Cooking School*, sold in North America, Germany, Portugal and Ukraine
- Inspiring and life-affirming: three women discover how to live life to the full again
- Heartwarming commercial fiction with instant appeal to female readers – and passionate gardeners

SOPHIE MASSON (writing as Sophie Beaumont) is the award-winning author of more than 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many published internationally, and recipient of an Order of Australia.

Born in Indonesia of French parents and brought up in France and Australia, Sophie is bilingual and has a master's degree in French and English literature.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

PRIMARY AGENT: Margaret Connolly & Associates • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: Italy (Salani Editore)

New to
Rights
Guide

Mistakes and Other Lovers

Amy Lovat



Mistakes and Other Lovers explores the pressure, pain and freedom of being on the cusp of adulthood and realising things aren't what you thought they'd be. That disappointing the people you love (and yourself) is inevitable. That making mistakes might be the best thing you've ever done.

El O'Reilly is exceptionally good at making mistakes.

Mistakes like:

falling in love with the charismatic youth pastor, Mace,
while engaged to her high school boyfriend
breaking up with her fiancé the night before
Valentine's Day

walking out on her family

dropping out of university with no plan B

ghosting her old friends

kissing her new friends

sleepless nights with beers and bongos and
boys and girls.

But when Mace proposes to someone else, El's world finally breaks. Will she go back to the safe love she's always known, will Mace realise that she's the one, or will

El forge her own path into the unknown?

Why this book?

- Praised for its vivid and unflinching writing, capturing the messiness of youth and the search for identity
- For fans of anyone interested in contemporary fiction that delves into the pressures and freedoms of early adulthood
- 'Heralds a bold new voice in Australian fiction. With a sharply-observed exploration of the anxieties and freedoms that come when seeking both selfhood and adulthood, Amy Lovat is one to watch.' Hannah Kent
- 'Lovat is a captivating, evocative and stunning writer. *Mistakes and Other Lovers* is a spectacular debut with richly painted characters who delight and debauch in the messiness of love and youth.' Sally Hepworth

AMY LOVAT is a writer, editor and the founder of Secret Book Stuff. She has a PhD in English and Writing from the University of Newcastle and lives with her partner Laura, two dogs, a bird and thousands of books in Gadigal Country, Sydney.

PUB DATE: July 2023 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Catching the Light

Joanna Horton



A mystery, wrapped in a family drama, wrapped in a story of yearning and love – add in a dose of ambition and you have the most incredible alchemical delight

When Sylvie, a single mum yearning for a creative spark, meets Michael, a renowned painter, she feels something she hasn't felt in years. Impulsively she decides to uproot her life and move to Isaiah, an artist colony, with her teenage daughter Alice.

Sylvie begins to rekindle her passion for art, but her relationship with Michael begins to affect the close relationship she once had with her daughter. Without her mother's knowledge, Alice poses for Michael in an act of teenage defiance.

Years later, Alice, a PhD student, encounters Caroline, an art historian researching Michael for a retrospective of his work. As she participates in interviews to accompany the research, Alice grapples with her past, the controversial portrait, and Caroline's hidden agenda.

Why this book?

- Beautiful and ambitious – think Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* meets Diana Reid's *Seeing Other People*
- Examines unconventional relationships, friendships between woman and the complexities of loyalty and desire
- 'The characters felt both deeply familiar and also intriguingly complex and unknowable. An engaging and evocative read that I can't stop thinking about.' Eliza Henry-Jones
- 'A novel that deftly explores the uncomfortable grey areas of power, privilege and control. Between You and Me is a compulsive read about how the choices we make (and those made for us) ripple into the future. At once unsettling and totally captivating.' Natasha Sholl

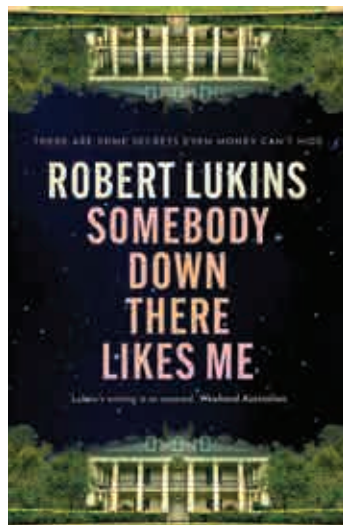
JOANNA HORTON is a writer living in Brisbane. She has an MA in anthropology from the University of Chicago, and is currently a doctoral candidate in sociology. Her work has appeared in *Overland*, *Jacobin*, *StylusLit*, and *The Millions*.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Somebody Down There Likes Me

Robert Lukins



A brilliant, slyly humorous dissection of wealth, power and the tragedies even money can't fix for fans of *The Secret History*, *The Corrections* and *Succession*.

The Gulch family have led a charmed existence in the ultra-wealthy enclave of Belle Haven, Connecticut. Now, the empire they have built is on the edge of collapse, and as the decades of fraud and criminality that lies beneath the family's incredible wealth is exposed, the Gulch children are summoned.

Kick Gulch, desperate and broke, is drawn back into the unreal world she thought she'd escaped forever.

Her brother, Lincoln, is revelling in the culture of power and excess, and masterminding his ascendancy.

At the head of the family are Honey and Fax, circling each other as the authorities close in. Fax is drawn out of his dreamlife of drug-fuelled fantasies, while Honey is willing to reshape the world to see what they have built survive.

As tensions rise and conspiracies are forced to the surface, the truth behind the disappearance of Kick's high school friend comes into question, with each of them facing the complicity of their silence.

ROBERT LUKINS is the author of the critically acclaimed novels, *The Everlasting Sunday* and *Loveland*.

Why this book?

- A brilliant, acerbic dissection of wealth, power and the tragedies even money can't fix.
- Against the backdrop of the last decadent gasps of the twentieth century, *Somebody Down There Likes Me* asks what might happen if we finally get what we deserve.
- The eagerly awaited new work from the acclaimed author of *Loveland* and *The Everlasting Sunday*
- His work has been described as 'gripping, insightful and absolutely searing'
- Praise for *Loveland*: 'It takes a masterful writer to tell an ugly story so beautifully' Allee Richards, author of *Small Joys of Real Life*

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Grace Heifetz) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

The Theory of Everything

Yumna Kassab

cover art
to come

Good News: The worst has already happened.

Bad News: Even worse is on the way.

This is a fictional theory, a rant, a manifesto, an engagement or disengagement with the times, a record; it is bearing witness, a dramatisation of actual events, a horror-scape, either a monologue or dialogue, a testament, travel guide, handbook, textbook, potential encyclopaedia.

It is a spectrum, shades of black from the dark to the next shade up from white, a proliferation, a step-back, a righting, a note to oneself, a line in the sand or a gust in the form of a structure-shaking gale; it is a dance (a two-footed, single-person line dance), an experiment, pure science, flicking the finger; it is of course backing away, crossing the street and avoiding eye contact.

You may just have to read *The Theory of Everything* because these are just alluding-to-the-theory words.

YUMNA KASSAB is the author of *The House of Youssef*, *Australiana*, *The Lovers* and *Politica*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. Her fiction has also been listed for the Victorian Premier's Award, Queensland Literary Award, NSW Premier's Literary Awards and The Stella Prize. She studied medical science and neuroscience at university. She is the inaugural Parramatta Laureate in Literature.

Why this book?

- Kassab is one of Australia's most exciting and experimental voices
- Her work is reminiscent of writers like Jhumpa Lahiri, Roberto Bolaño, Nam Le
- *The Lovers*, published in 2022, was listed for five major literary awards
- In 2023 Yumna Kassab was announced as the inaugural Parramatta Laureate
- Kassab's writing is characterised by its extreme economy and sparseness of detail, which heightens the emotional intensity of her stories

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Desolation

Hossein Asgari

cover art
to come

A tale of disillusionment and the human spirit,
Desolation explores the enduring power of
storytelling in the face of tragedy.

'You are a writer, aren't you? I have a story for you to write.'

'I'm working on my own story and—'

*'It's a true story, not one of those made-up, pointless
whatever it is that you people write.'*

'It's called fiction, and though I appreciate that you want to—'

*'You don't have to be polite or anything. I'll tell you my story
and I promise it won't take more than a few hours of your time.'*

'Then it's up to you to write it or not.'

Amin's world shatters when his brother is lost in
the tragic downing of Flight 655.

Amidst the chaos of 1980s Iran, he witnesses the
senselessness of violence and the enduring power of
sorrow. As he grapples with the trauma, Amin discovers a
profound truth: stories can both heal and deceive. Through
the lens of literature and the harsh realities of politics, he
questions the blurred lines between truth and lies.

Why this book?

- Perfect for readers of considered literary fiction like the works of Khaled Hosseini or Elif Shafak
- Author's debut novel, *Only Sound Remains* was shortlisted for Australia's most prestigious literary award, the Miles Franklin (2024)
- '*Only Sound Remains* introduces an accomplished voice in both Australian literature and the diasporic literature of Iran. Yet this is diasporic fiction that does not fall over itself, for it never feels anthropological or packaged for pedagogy. Rather, it is – from its layered and specific cultural context – an exploration of the complexity of relationships, the complications of art and all types of idealism, and the risks of disclosure.' *ArtsHub*
- Author worked as a physicist before finding his true calling as a novelist

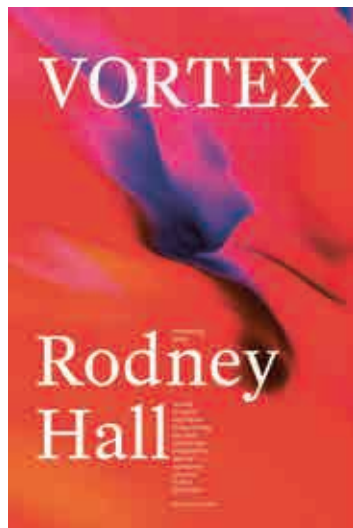
HOSSEIN ASGARI studied physics and creative writing. His debut novel, *Only Sound Remains*, was shortlisted for both the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. His short stories have been published in *Splinter Journal*, *The Suburban Review*, *Overland*, and *The Saltbush Review*.

PUB DATE: November 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Vortex

Rodney Hall



A magisterial novel resonant with contemporary concerns, by one of Australia's foremost authors writing at the height of his ambition.

It is 1954, but not the version we know from the history books. Events and characters swirl in the vortex, out of order and out of place.

In post-war Brisbane, immigrants from old Europe meet at the Colony Club to drink coffee and commiserate, brought together by a countess and her magnificent diamond ring, while the city prepares for Queen Elizabeth II's maiden royal visit.

On their periphery, a young man struggling with the loss of his father makes unlikely friends with a

German ex-soldier. Meanwhile, displaced refugees spill out across the world, drifting and sinking on bewildering seas.

A provocative and moving exploration of the legacy

Why this book?

- Hall's most ambitious novel in decades, *Vortex* is bound to dominate awards lists.
- 'It is Hall's gift for taut rhythms, predicaments, mystery and a sense of danger that make his writing so captivating' *Washington Post*
- For readers of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, *Afterlives*, *Nights of Plague* and *Narrow Road to the Deep North*.
- 'Rodney Hall displays the English language as if he had freshly washed it. It looks new' *The Independent*
- 'Everything about Hall's work is major: the beauty of the writing, the dark and vibrant imagination, and the enormous pleasure it gives the reader' Michael Herr, author of *Dispatches*

RODNEY HALL is one of Australia's foremost literary novelists. He has won the prestigious Miles Franklin Award twice and also been presented with the gold medal of the Australian Literature Society twice. His novels regularly win or are shortlisted for awards, and have been translated into many languages.

PUB DATE: September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Maskeys

Stuart
Everly-Wilson

cover art
to come

**The world of a very outcast family,
in a very outcast town**

George Maskey, a crippled ex-biker, is viewed by many locals as a hollow braggart responsible for much of the town's crime. His wife sees him as foolish and blames him for the death of their teenage twins. To his soon-to-be daughter-in-law, Celeste, he is a cuckold. His gay stepson considers him a racist homophobe.

However, George Maskey is not the hero of this story. That role belongs to his secret first-born son, Rodney, an outcast who has lived in the forest on the Knuckle, tending to Maskey's marijuana plantations since the untimely death of his mother.

Rodney, a love-starved reader of romance novels and a dreamer is George's right-hand man and playing a long game, finding acceptance into the Maskey family on his own terms.

Why this book?

- A novel brimming with wit and pathos, *The Maskeys* confronts the worst excesses of human nature yet is also beautifully tender and incisive in its portrayal of the overlooked. It presents a raw and unromanticised Australia; thrilling, shocking and darkly funny
- Parallels with *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga in that the least powerful character ends up on top
- Stuart's first novel *Low Expectations* which was shortlisted for the 2022 New South Wales Premier's Glenda Adams Prize and longlisted for the Dublin International Literary Prize 2022

STUART EVERLY-WILSON lives in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales with his partner and their dog. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed *Low Expectations*.

PUB DATE: October 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

For One Visitor at a Time

Monica
Raszewski

cover art
to come

A beautiful work about art, gender, disappointment, understanding and ultimately celebration.

Leonora, an English school teacher, has relocated to Melbourne and falls in love with Margaret, a fellow female teacher who three years later dies of cancer.

While still grieving for Margaret, Leonora meets and befriends Anna, the Polish woman who lives next door.

Leonora becomes increasingly involved with Anna and her family and has a strong influence on Anna's daughter Lydia, introducing her to literature and art.

This is a novel about the ways we all long for acceptance and the ways in which those we might feel most in touch with – including parents, siblings and mentors – can often have very different values and views about us.

Why this book?

- Has drawn comparisons to *The Aunt's Story* by Patrick White and the works of Joan London and Charlotte Wood.
- A deeply affecting novel about inheritance and identity, about not being seen, and about mourning.
- Explores various aspects of inheritance, not only of property and possessions, but also of stories and culture, knowledge and pain.
- Themes of identity, the need for recognition and intimacy and interrogates ideas of family and responsibilities beyond blood ties.

MONICA RASZEWSKI is novelist and playwright. Her first novel, *The Archaeology of a Dream City*, was shortlisted in the NSW Premiers' Literary Awards in 2022. Monica has had short stories published in literary journals including *Overland*, *Meanjin* and *Southerly* and several plays produced in Melbourne and in Sydney. Her radio plays, *Forest* and *Ghost Words*, were produced by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and broadcast nationally.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Relic Light

Brennan
Wysong

cover art
to come

What does a woman in her seventies make of her life on the other side of blindness?

Beatrice's reality is upended when she loses her sight. While her mathematician husband is away at work at Columbia or visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she wanders through their empty house north of New York City and allows her mind to drift into unexpected and painful places.

There are solid guideposts for her along the way—remembered paintings and novels to contemplate; memories of her husband, children, and parents; her close friendship with a neighbor—but her fragmented thoughts often rabbit-hole in a dozen directions, offering an intimate and original portrait of a mind in motion.

Blindness has isolated Beatrice, removed her from what she can verify with her own eyes, but it also may offer her a gateway into new possibilities—a “re-visioning” of her world.

BRENNEN WYSONG's short stories have appeared in journals including *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Massachusetts Review*. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Center for Fiction, and the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts. He lives in New York City and works at *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Why this book?

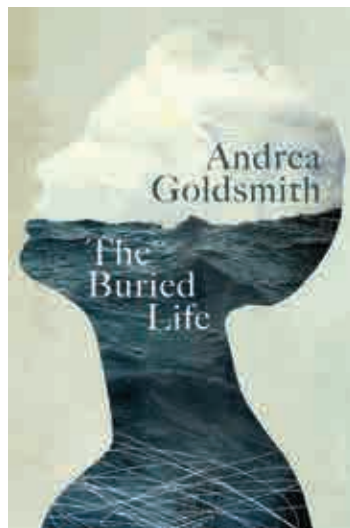
- Comps include Claire-Louis Bennett's *Pond* and *Checkout 19*, Jenny Offill's *Dept. of Speculation* and *Weather*, and David Markson's *Wittgenstein's Mistress* and *Reader's Block*
- The 'story of a woman, who has a husband, three sons, a friend, and her blindness. It's the story of a generation, of a way of life, that of a profoundly cultured woman who survives thanks to what she has read and noticed before her blindness besets her' – Catherine De Saint Phalle

PUB DATE: June 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Buried Life

Andrea
Goldsmith



You can stifle the past but it will breathe again.

Three people form an unlikely but spirited connection.

Adrian is a renowned scholar, an expert on death in the modern age whose life has stalled.

Kezi, a young and passionate artist, has been rejected by her family. She hurtles through her days with defiance and regret.

Laura is a successful town planner submerged in a seemingly perfect marriage.

In *The Buried Life* Andrea Goldsmith brilliantly dissects the conflicts and complexities of contemporary life in a story of love and friendship, faith and fundamentalism, subtly underscored by the power of poetry and music.

Why this book?

- Publisher Barry Scott said the book 'subtly portrays the dangers of coercive control and fundamentalism in both religion and relationships, and our awkwardness when it comes to talking about mortality. It does so through narrative surprise and the fully realised lives of characters that we come to understand, and to love and care about.'
- Explores the dilemmas of personal and family relationships that are often marred by differing beliefs
- This is the author's ninth novel and arguably her best
- 'A rumination on death and the complexity of love from one of our nation's most brilliant minds.' Marieke Hardy

ANDREA GOLDSMITH's first novel, *Gracious Living*, was published in 1989. This was followed by *Modern Interiors*, *Facing the Music*, *Under the Knife*, and *The Prosperous Thief*, which was shortlisted for the 2003 Miles Franklin Literary Award. *Reunion* was published in 2009, and *The Memory Trap* was awarded the 2015 Melbourne Prize. Her literary essays have appeared in *Meanjin*, *Australian Book Review*, *Best Australian Essays*, and numerous anthologies.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Shift

Irma Gold

cover art
to come

Amidst turmoil, one man's journey reveals the messy yet beautiful tapestry of life and love

Arlie is a moderately successful thirty-something photographer who can't seem to get his shit together. He can't hold onto a girlfriend, or much else, and his relationship with his parents is complicated.

After another break-up, Arlie needs to get away, and there's only one place he's drawn to. In Kliptown he meets choirmaster Rufaro, singer Glory and her younger brother Samson. Amidst the poverty, violence and beauty of this neglected South African township,

Arlie begins exploring ideas for an exhibition, and courting the possibility of happiness.

But when his father unexpectedly turns up holding a secret, Arlie is forced to re-examine the very foundations of his family, and his own inner world. And then a catastrophic event changes everything.

Why this book?

- Gusty and gripping, tender and deeply compassionate
- Compulsively readable story about the messy process of art-making, and the mess of love and family.
- An unflinching, insightful and immersive novel that takes the reader inside the inner life of one township, beyond the hyperbole of newspaper headlines, to offer bold, big-hearted hope.
- Irma's debut short fiction collection, *Two Steps Forward*, was critically acclaimed and shortlisted for several awards.
- 'Bold, passionate and fierce. A plea against powerlessness and indifference. I loved every minute.' Karen Viggers on *The Breaking*

IRMA GOLD is an award-winning author and editor of works for adults and children. Her debut novel, *The Breaking*, won the NSW Writers Centre Varuna Fellowship and was published to wide critical acclaim. It won a Canberra Critics Circle Award and was shortlisted for the ACT Notable Award for Fiction.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** MidnightSun Publishing

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

My Name is Gucci

Sun Jung



Gucci may not be a designer dog but this little rescue mutt is a star. After all, he's telling this story.

'Two Dalmatian male puppies for adoption!'

Inquiries flooded into the Singapore animal shelter until 'Dalmatian' was amended to 'mongrel'. Gucci and his dumb little brother, Prada, had black spots but no pedigree. Finally, Gucci is adopted by her, a writer, and moves to Sydney.

On arrival, however, a fierce anti-dog war breaks out in their apartment block. As war rages between pro- and anti-dog factions, her receives a letter threatening the possibility of 'euthanising' her dog. One day, the duo engages in a brawl with the anti-dog faction leader.

The incident triggers nightmares in her and distressing childhood memories. Gucci helps her overcome her fears. A heartwarming story about the bond between dogs and humans and how the past shapes the present.

SUN JUNG is the author of *Bukit Brown*, a time travelling thriller, and *Korean Masculinities and Transcultural Consumption*. She has worked as research fellow at the National University of Singapore, as a writer for media production companies and magazines in Los Angeles and Seoul and has collaborated with Korean film producers on script development.

Why this book?

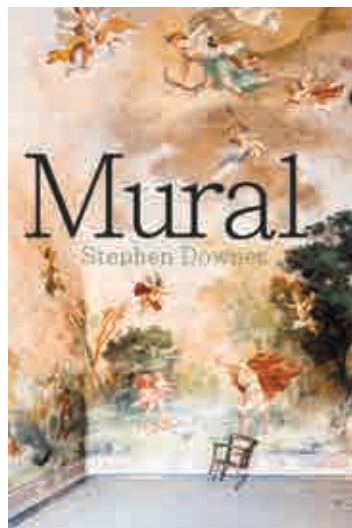
- *A Dog's Purpose* seen through the lens of Korean shamanism and supernatural traditions
- Anyone who loves dogs will find Gucci's story and voice irresistible
- Dog lovers know their pets are smarter than us – and see everything. This proves it
- The special bond between Gucci and her and how they help each other through trauma
- Inspired by a true story – the author and her dog were at the centre of an anti-dog campaign

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Mural

Stephen
Downes



'Stephen Downes has written a captivating novel, if not to say a one-person drama. *Mural* traverses mental and psychological landscapes, interspersed with haunting illustrations that recall the melancholic doom of W. G. Sebald.' **Uwe Schütte, academic, author, and leading Sebald scholar**

Mural is a haunting 'confession' by a psychopath held in a secure facility. When a doctor asks his patient to write down his thoughts, admissions and anxieties, these are revealed through the unique stories of other's lives and revelations.

Most specifically, the pioneering author of *Sexual Inversion* and an early writer on transgenderism, Havelock Ellis, and a prolific public artist and muralist, Napier Waller.

Like W.G. Sebald, Downes navigates the real and the imagined, traversing fact, fiction and weaving in images, but *Mural* charts its own bold new territory.

STEPHEN DOWNES is the author of *The Hands of Pianists*, which was shortlisted for the 2023 Prime Minister's Literary Awards. His non-fiction books include *A Lasting Record*, *Blackie* and *Paris on a Plate*. As a journalist he has worked for *Agence-France Presse*, *The Age* and *The Herald Sun*. He was also once renowned as Australia's toughest restaurant critic.

Why this book?

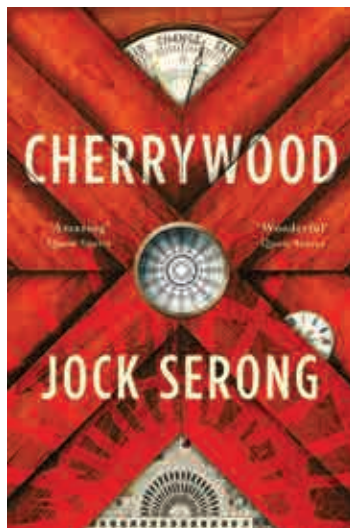
- Told in the form of a 'confession' by a psychopath, a provocative and explosive novel about sexuality, religion, art and obsession
- 'Takes us inside the mind of a deranged and violent criminal. We don't know – or need to know or perhaps even want to know – what 'D' has done. But the insight into his thinking and psychopathy, thanks to Downes's elegant, taut and compelling storytelling – ensures that this short, powerful novel will shadow its readers long after the final page.' **Paul Daley, author of *Jesustown* and writer for *The Guardian***

PUB DATE: September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Cherrywood

Jock Serong



From multi-award-winning author Jock Serong comes a darkly delicious, playful and rich novel about legacy, community, wonder, love and reinvention – *Cherrywood* is haunting, magical and a true original.

Edinburgh, 1916: A rich Scottish industrialist, Thomas Wrenfether, impulsively embarks on a mad scheme to build a paddlesteamer out of dubiously sourced European cherrywood on the other side of the world, in booming Melbourne, Australia. But nothing goes according to plan.

Melbourne, 1993: Martha is a clever, lonely and frustrated lawyer. One night, on impulse, she stops at a strange pub in Fitzroy, The Cherrywood, for a bottle of wine. The mysterious building and its inhabitants make an indelible impression, and she slowly begins to deduce odd truths about the pub.

Why this book?

- 'It is one of those novels that changes the game for Australian fiction' Fourth Estate Publisher Catherine Milne
- 'It's a little bit *Cloud Atlas*, it's a little bit *Shadow of the Wind*, it's a little bit *Cloudstreet* – but it is, mostly, itself. It is extraordinary'
- 'Sublime and haunting. A truly gorgeous novel.' Toni Jordan, internationally bestselling author of *Addition*
- 'What an adventure. What a read. This beautiful novel of ambition and grief reminds me of *The Shadow of the Wind*.' Tim Rogers

JOCK SERONG is the award-winning author of *Quota*, *The Rules of Backyard Cricket*, *On the Java Ridge*, *Preservation*, *The Burning Island* and *Settlement*. His novels have won the ARA Historical Novel Prize, Colin Roderick Award, Ned Kelly Award and internationally the inaugural Staunch Prize in the UK and Historia Award for Historical Crime Fiction in France.

PUB DATE: September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia (Fourth Estate)

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation (excl Germany and France) • **RIGHTS OPTIONED:** Book to Screen (Good Thing Productions)

Safe Haven

Shankari
Chandran



A powerful and timely story about displacement and seeking refuge – and the lengths we will go to find safety and love

After arriving in Australia from Sri Lanka seeking asylum, Fina dedicates herself to aiding the refugees held in a detention centre on a remote island outpost.

Appalled by the mistreatment of those in custody, when Fina speaks out to the media she is arrested, taken from her home in a small country town and threatened with deportation.

When a security officer dies under suspicious circumstances, Lucky, a special investigator, arrives to uncover the truth. Her mystery is tied to Fina's fate – and the secrets of the detention centre will divide the town and the nation.

Safe Haven is about displacement but ultimately it is a story about finding home – and the lengths we will go to find safety and love.

SHANKARI CHANDRAN is the Australian Tamil award-winning author of *Song of the Sun God*, *The Barrier* and *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won Australia's most coveted literary prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award, in 2023. Born and raised in Canberra, she is a lawyer who spent a decade in London working in the social justice field.

Why this book?

- Winner of Australia's most coveted literary award, the Miles Franklin, for her previous novel, *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*
- 'Safe Haven offers readers a novel that does exactly that – exploring, through a fictional lens, the ways in which these intertwined histories come to deliver powerful personal, emotional and political legacies.' *ArtsHub*
- 'A fearless novel that reaches into your heart with evocative prose and beautifully drawn characters. It's also a page turner. *Australian Women's Weekly*
- *Chai Time* has sold more than **200,000** copies in ANZ alone and *Safe Haven* has sold over **40,000** copies

PUB DATE: May 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

U Want it Darker

Murray Middleton

cover art
to come

Middleton's writing has Raymond Carver's minimalist style, Zadie Smith's hysterical realism and George Saunders' off-the-wall contemporary panache

U Want It Darker is a collection of stories about art and anguish. Pulls no punches as it plunges into the mania of the arts scene, wading through inner-city painters' studios, dingy comedy clubs and the depraved sets of method actors, exploring what it is to surrender one's life to art, and whether the sacrifice can ever be worth it.

A reformed drummer plays the same set at a Bavarian-themed restaurant for eleven years, until he receives a surprise visit from his old partner in crime. A puppeteer plots a public attack on a conservative politician. A photographer wins a \$50,000 prize from his prison cell. A user review website chronicles the descent into madness of a polygamous pizza artist.

Why this book?

- Diverse, sometimes comedic, stories range they bleed with compassion for characters that are inspired, deprived, depressed, bitter, tender and alone in their crafts
 - Like Trent Dalton, Middleton's narratives are character-driven and deeply emotional; and like Anne Tyler, Middleton has a focus on the intricacies of everyday life
 - 'I don't know if Murray Middleton is the bravest writer in Australia or the stupidest. What I do know is that *No Church in the Wild* is amazing; a novel of wisdom and assurance and audacity. The fact that this book exists is a triumph.'
- MILES ALLINSON

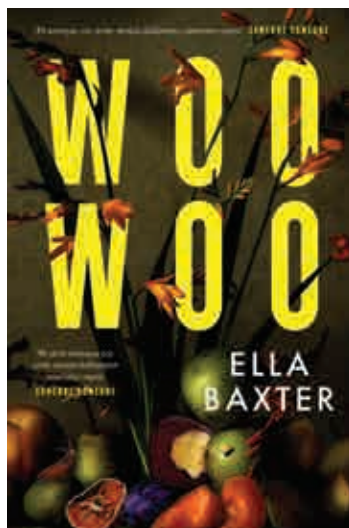
MURRAY MIDDLETON's first short story collection, *When There's Nowhere Else to Run* won *The Australian/Vogel Literary Award* and was shortlisted for the New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards. Murray was also a winner of *The Age* Short Story Award, named *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Australian Novelist, and his most recent novel, *No Church in the Wild*, has been shortlisted for the Readings New Australian Fiction Prize, 2024.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia (Picador)

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Woo Woo

Ella Baxter



'A spooky, darkly combustible feast for anyone who's ever wanted to run naked into a forest, screaming.' *Books+Publishing*

Sabine is having a moment. Her new exhibition, *Fuck You, Help Me*, is opening soon and, as her dealer (gallerist?) says, 'Hell is an artist three days before their exhibition opens'. But it's not only this coming milestone that is causing Sabine to melt down.

She is being stalked. As exhibition day draws closer, so too does the man who has been watching her. As his approaches become more overt and threatening,

Sabine's fear amplifies and transforms into something feral and primal. And then things start to get really strange.

A darkly funny and unflinching dissection of creativity and obsession, love and passion, vengeance and rage from the award-winning author of *New Animal*.

ELLA BAXTER is an award-winning writer, poet and artist. She won the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelist Award for her debut novel, *New Animal*, which was published in the US and UK. Her poetry has been published in *Spineless Wonders*, *Gargouille Literary Journal* and *Bowen St Press*. She also runs a business making bespoke death shrouds.

Why this book?

- Eagerly awaited new book from internationally acclaimed author of *New Animal*
- *New Animal* has been published in North America, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Catalonia and is under option for a tv series
- Baxter won *Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelist Award for her debut, *New Animal*, which was also shortlisted for numerous other awards
- 'What a delight. Richly dark and funny, this exploration of art and meaning, of the feminine experience, of modern madness had me stopping to catch my breath. Brilliant, original and loaded with the unexpected.' Sofie Laguna

PUB DATE: August 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Grace Heifetz) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Catapult)

The Honey Eater

Jessie Tu

A provocative tale about female ambition, love, betrayal, cultural dissonance – and how words and stories shape our lives

Supposedly on holiday in France, emerging translator June C is working on *Beef on Naan*, a startlingly sexual novel, when she hears that her former lover has died, apparently by suicide.

June returns home shell-shocked to continue her studies under the watchful eye of Professor Samantha Egan-Smith, who is both June's mentor and her lover's widow.

The power balance between the two begins to change in subtle and increasingly dangerous ways.

When June is invited to speak at a conference in Taiwan about her work, she must meet with a renowned Taiwanese author to secure rights for his next English translation.

But as Ghost Month descends and her life unravels, she discovers that abandoning everything may be the only way forward.

JESSIE TU is a Taiwanese-Australian writer and journalist. Her debut novel, *A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing*, was a bestseller and won the *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Australian Young Novelist award and Literary Fiction Book of the Year at the ABIA Awards in 2021. *The Honey Eater* is her second novel.



Why this book?

- Compelling new work from multi-award-winning author of *A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing*
- Fascinating insights into the life of a translator, choosing words in another language to capture a writer's meaning
- In the same way, June C struggles to capture the meaning of the actions and words of people around her
- Author draws on own experience of the cultural dissonance her characters must grapple with

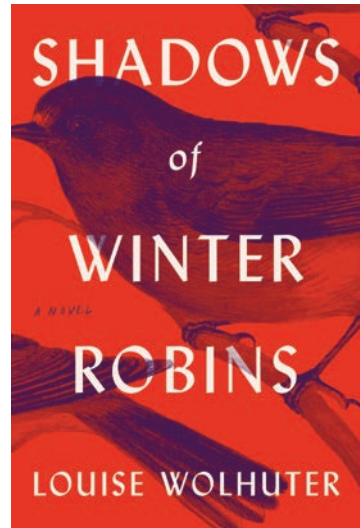
PUB DATE: July 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation (excl Germany and France)

Shadows of Winter Robins

Louise
Wolhuter



Sometimes you have to shine a light on the dark places to see what was always there

Winter Robins is a happy enough child, growing up in the north of England, with loving parents and a twin brother, but a cold wind blows through when her mother dies. Her father turns to the bottle, and Winter and her brother are sent to live in remote Western Australia with family their mother had never mentioned.

Although Winter comes to love her life, she notices strange happenings in the shadows of her new home. When a news story prompts her to look back at her past, she begins to wonder whether things were as idyllic as she had thought.

As Winter uncovers secret after secret, she realises a much darker narrative may have been – and perhaps still is – playing out...

Why this book?

- Told from a child's point of view, a masterful building of creeping dread as she senses all is not well
- Explores the ways we might reimagine or block out dark memories to survive
- The consequences of unearthing dark memories of the past
- Praise for *An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb*: 'Wolhuter's distinctive voice and her beautiful prose had me immersed and lingering on every page.'

LOUISE WOLHUTER is the author of the acclaimed *An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb*, which was published in Australia and the UK. Louise grew up in northern England and now lives in Perth.

PUB DATE: June 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Lyrebird

Jane Caro



A lyrebird mimics a woman screaming in terror and begging for her life. It keeps sounding a warning but only one person hears it.

In 2003, ornithology student Jessica Weston records a superb lyrebird mimicking a woman's terrified screams at Burruga Swamp. When she reports this to the police, her evidence is received with thinly disguised scepticism, especially when, despite the efforts of a new female detective, Megan Blaxland, no body is found and no missing person reported.

Twenty years later, a body is discovered in the same location, and forensic analysis confirms the remains belonged to Gloria Ramos, a Filipino nanny who was illegally smuggled and exploited by a wealthy family.

Detective Megan Blaxland, revisiting the cold case, uncovers a grim reality of abuse and exploitation faced by marginalized migrant workers. The case highlights the dark underbelly of domestic labour exploitation and the severe risks faced by illegal immigrants.

Why this book?

- Screen rights optioned pre-publication
- Jane Caro's previous title, *The Mother*, has sold over 35,000 copies in ANZ
- *Lyrebird* examines the exploitation, violence, and the dark underbelly of our society and leaves no woman behind
- A distinctive, justice-(and revenge)-seeking take

JANE CARO AM is a Walkley Award-winning Australian columnist, author, novelist, broadcaster, advertising writer, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. In 2018, she won the 'Women's Leadership in Media' Walkley Award for her bestselling book, *Unbreakable: Women Share Stories of Resilience and Hope*. The author of many books, Jane's debut novel, *The Mother*, was an Australian bestseller.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RIGHTS OPTIONED: Book to Screen

Springheeled Jack

Rachel Givney

cover art
to come

In the picturesque Australian town of Thoorgala, Detective Matt Stayer faces a chilling mystery when a series of murders echo a decades-old legend of Springheeled Jack.

Forty years ago, five women were murdered in the Thoorgala sandhills. Springheeled Jack – a ghoulish, long-limbed figure from children’s nightmares – was blamed back then, and locals believe he is also responsible now. And if the pattern Jack used then was to be believed, four more victims will soon turn up dead as well.

Detective Matt Stayer is skeptical, but when his wife is discovered missing, he is forced to put aside his doubt and enlist the help of Sister Catherine Kelley, an expert in local folklore. Sister Catherine explains that Springheeled Jack does not kill randomly – instead he is inflicting justice on those he believes have done wrong.

With a town on edge and a killer on the loose, Stayer must navigate a web of suspicion and deceit to uncover the truth before it’s too late.

RACHEL GIVNEY is a writer and filmmaker. Givney has worked on many of Australia’s most beloved and critically acclaimed shows including *McLeod’s Daughters* and *Offspring*. Her debut novel *Jane in Love* is an international bestseller and was optioned by Amazon Studios and DiNovi Pictures. Her second novel, *Secrets My Father Kept*, was released in June 2021 to critical acclaim.

Why this book?

- From the author of the bestselling titles *Jane in Love* and *Secrets My Father Kept* A visually stunning backdrop that can be brought to life on screen, capturing the contrast between its apparent paradise and the dark undercurrents lurking beneath the surface
- A complex web of suspense, folklore, and personal secrets
- The complex and fascinating dynamic between Detective Stayer, his wife Ruby, and Sister Catherine Kelley is a rich tapestry for nuanced character development and emotional depth
- Author’s debut novel optioned by Amazon Studios and DiNovi Pictures, the producers of *Little Women*

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

LITERARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Unbury the Dead

Fiona Hardy

cover art
to come

**A witty, fast-paced thriller with the high-stakes
drama of small-time crooks trying to make
the big time**

Chauffeur Alice Chan's holiday with her young family is interrupted when her boss calls her with a gig too lucrative to refuse: driving a dead body to its final resting place on Victoria's eastern coast.

Meanwhile, her colleague and closest friend, detective and standover woman Teddy Golding, along with hired muscle Art Roubicek, have their own job scouring the streets to find missing teenager, Cole.

When a surprise revelation sees their cases collide, bullets start to fly and it's up to Teddy and Alice to find out what happened – and test the limits of their already flexible moral boundaries.

Why this book?

- A cracking combination of the irreverent comic criminality of Elmore Leonard, the surprise turnabouts of Christian White and the close-to-cosy danger levels of *The Thursday Murder Club*
- Kick-ass female characters in Alice and Teddy, who love their shoes and don't mind getting a little bit of blood and dirt on them
- As close as sisters, Alice and Teddy have each other's backs no matter what they're involved in. And while they're a little on the wrong side of the law they have their own moral code
- Their boss, Chocker, is a bit like a reverse Charlie from *Charlie's Angels*

FIONA HARDY is a writer, reviewer and bookseller. Her first book, *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days*, was a CBCA Notable book and shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award. Its sequel, *How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life*, won the 2021 Children's Peace Literature Award.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Affirm Press

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

We're Not Us Without You

Christine Keighery

**Four friends. One secret.
And the cult that could burn them all.**

High school friends Lani, Tim, Maya and Stig were inseparable until an unthinkable act shook the group.

Now in their thirties, three of the friends are still close while Stig has disappeared completely, unable to face what happened in high school.

With Lani's wedding fast approaching, she is determined to bring the group back together. This leads them to a spiritual retreat where Stig has been living off-the-grid, and Stig's enigmatic partner – or leader – Acharya.

Is it too late to save Stig from himself? And will bringing him back into the fold threaten the silence that has been keeping them safe all these years?



Why this book?

- An upcoming wedding motivates three friends to re-connect with their high school friend who went off-grid after a tragic incident in their teens
- Bestselling and critically acclaimed children's author had a sensational debut in Australian crime writing with *The Half Brother*
- Christine's children's titles have been published in 10 countries, including the US, UK, Spain, Brazil, Slovenia, and Korea
- *The Half Brother* was praised for its intricate plot and exploration of the darker side of family dynamics

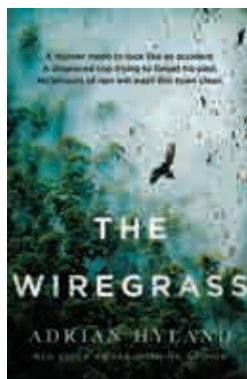
CHRISTINE KEIGHERY is the author of more than 35 novels for children and Young Adults. Christine wrote 13 books in the hugely successful *Go Girl!* Series. Her YA title, *Whisper*, won a White Raven and IBBY award and was shortlisted for the CBCA and the WA Premier's Awards.. Her first novel for adults, *The Half Brother* was shortlisted for the 2023 Davitt Awards. *We're Not Us Without You* is her second novel.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Redline

Adrian Hyland



The third Jesse Redpath novel from a Ned Kelly award-winning author

Jesse Redpath is troubled by the roaring engines on a notorious stretch of road known as The Redline, where drivers push powerful cars to dangerous speeds. Despite her and Constable Lance Cunningham's efforts to patrol the area, they can't catch the offenders.

One evening, a fatal crash occurs and one of the victims is Lance. Jesse soon suspects that Lance was murdered to hide a larger crime.

The suspects range from a corrupt contractor to a local hunter involved in wildlife trafficking. Jesse then hears about a mysterious and allegedly violent young man called Anarchy. When an elderly woman is killed and Anarchy is seen fleeing the scene, he becomes Jesse's prime suspect.

However, the situation escalates when the influential Pregel family steps in. Known for fiercely protecting their interests, they only know one way to defend: attack.

Why this book?

- Author previously published in the UK and the US, Germany, France, Sweden and the Czech Republic
- Third title in the bestselling Jesse Redpath series
- Killer rural noir crime novel from an award-winning master of the genre
- A brilliant female investigator in the inimitable Jesse Redpath
- 'Hyland has mastered the architecture of noir – his sinister tale seethes with small-town atmosphere and satisfying twists' *Sydney Morning Herald*
- 'An irresistible fusion of an untamed and unforgiving Australian landscape, with a police procedural that will have you galloping through the pages.' *The Australian*

Adrian Hyland is an award-winning author whose books have been published internationally, including the UK and US, and translated into several languages. He is a volunteer firefighter and lives on the outskirts of Melbourne.

PUB DATE: December 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation (excl Germany and France)

Barren Cape

Michelle Prak

cover art
to come

There's no place like home

Mac and Erika, both in their early 20s, have been sharing a flat until the owner decides to sell. Erika moves back home but things are more challenging for Mackenzie, as she and her mum constantly clash.

After weeks of couch surfing while juggling two jobs, Mac stumbles upon an abandoned resort an hour from Adelaide and decides to make it her temporary home, thinking it will solve all her problems.

Instead, her troubles are just beginning. Unwelcome visitors include an escaped prisoner in the area, a mouthy, troubled teenager who takes too much interest in Mac, and then Erika and her party friends show up.

Why this book?

- Prak's debut title *The Rush* published in North America and France
- Another compulsive read for 20- to 30-somethings who recognise the future is uncertain and are often unsure just who to trust.
- Prak writes riveting psychological thrillers, perfect for fans of high-stakes, suspenseful narratives
- 'Prepare to be terrified! A real rollercoaster of a debut.' Nicci French, author of *The Favour*
- '*The Rush* by Michelle Prak gives new meaning to the words gripping and horrifying ... It is anything but your typical outback thriller.' *Books+Publishing*

MICHELLE PRAK is a professional communicator with a thirty-year career in corporate communication, social media, politics and journalism. She lives in Adelaide and lectures in public relations and social media at the University of South Australia. *The Rush* was her debut thriller, and Michelle is currently working on her third.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Simon & Schuster Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation (excl Germany and France)

Three Boys Gone

Mark Smith



Would you try to save them?

Grace Disher is an ambitious young teacher eager to introduce her young students to the great outdoors. But on her first excursion tragedy strikes and three teenage boys drown.

The only witness to the unfolding tragedy, Grace makes the split-second decision to not attempt to rescue the boys.

From that moment, Grace's life starts to unravel as she struggles to justify her decision to her principal, the families, the police - and to herself. Grace's version of events, her qualifications and even her past will be questioned as the school, the community and media look for someone to blame. The ramifications of her decision are tearing Grace's life apart.

And now someone is out for retribution ...

Why this book?

- Like *The Slap*, the multi-narrative structure offers interconnected stories and different perspectives.
- The opening scene is visceral and tense, immediately drawing readers in with its emotional intensity and tragedy
- Poses a gripping moral dilemma – would you try to rescue someone from drowning if you feared you would die with them? – that would play out brilliantly on screen
- Powerful and confronting, combining 'all the talent and skill that has set Smith apart as a much-loved and acclaimed YA author' Jane Harper

MARK SMITH is the award-winning author of four young adult novels, including the acclaimed Winter Trilogy. The first book in the series, *The Road to Winter*, is a teaching text in schools throughout Australia. The sequel, *Wilder Country*, won the Indie Book Award for Young Adults. His short fiction has featured in *Best Australian Stories* and *The Australian*.

PUB DATE: December 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Stillwater

Tanya Scott

cover art
to come

For fans of Jack Reacher, a former underworld fixer is forced back into his old life and a deadly battle to survive

Orphaned at eight, Jack finds refuge with Gus, a ruthless crime boss who recognises a hidden darkness within him he can exploit.

With his imposing stature and lightning-fast reflexes, Jack becomes a formidable figure in the treacherous Melbourne underworld and a prized asset in Gus's criminal empire. But Jack's also smart enough to know where life under Gus's rules is going to lead him, and that he needs to get out.

Seven years later, Jack has reinvented himself as Luke Harris, a university student aiming for a legitimate career and future. When Luke's newfound life collides with Gus's underworld, survival becomes a deadly game. Luke must resurrect his dormant skills and confront the demons that threaten to consume him.

Why this book?

- Introduces a uniquely flawed and fascinating hero, described as 'Jack Reacher with a soul'
- Sparked a fierce four-publisher auction that ended in a two-book deal
- North American rights pre-empted by Grove Atlantic
- Will be published simultaneously in the US and ANZ
- Book to Screen rights under option
- For fans of the Jack Reacher books and the hugely successful series

TANYA SCOTT is a writer, doctor and medical educator. She used narrative therapy as a tool to make sense of the world, both personally and with her patients. Many of the ideas for *Stillwater* stem from her work helping patients with childhood trauma, and the discovery that in reality, recovery is a long and incomplete path.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Tom Gilliat)

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Grove Atlantic)

The Wolf Tree

Laura McCluskey



The gripping unputdownable debut crime thriller of the year, perfect for fans of Dervla McTiernan, Ann Cleeves and Hayley Scrivenor

Far off the west coast of Scotland lies Eilean Eadar, a barren, windswept island inhabited by a few hundred humans and sheep. Until now, best known for the mysterious disappearance of three lighthouse keepers in 1919.

But when a young man is found dead beneath the lighthouse, with injuries inconsistent with suicide, two detectives from Glasgow are called in. Detective Inspectors Georgina 'George' Lennox and Richie Stewart find an island lost in time where Christianity is mixed with a pagan Celtic past.

George knows the townsfolk are hiding something but is wary of trusting her instincts when she needs pain-killers to get through the day. Her investigation will uncover a terrible truth that will threaten both her sanity and her life.

Why this book?

- Sparked auctions in Australia and UK, with six-figure advances; German rights also sold at auction
- Book to screen rights optioned
- Gripping and atmospheric debut crime thriller set on an isolated Scottish island ... where outsiders are not welcome.
- In a crowded market, a strikingly original tale with a unique 'locked room' setting
- A fabulously flawed female lead to begin a series

LAURA MCCLUSKEY is a writer, editor and actor. Her work has been shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and she was a finalist in the international Screencraft Cinematic Book Competition for an unpublished psychological thriller. She is the co-founder of Sibylline Films and a co-founder of the critically-acclaimed Three Fates Theatre Company.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Tom Gilliat) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Putnam), United Kingdom (HarperCollins), Germany (Bastei Lübbe), France (Michel Lafon), Estonia (Hea Lugu) • **RIGHTS OPTIONED:** Book to Screen

Everywhere We Look

Martine
Kropkowski



A year after a tragic incident splintered their friendship, three women attempt to reconnect.

Cassandra, Bridie and Melissa come together one year after their friend, Sarah, was brutally murdered in an attempt to bridge the chasm of grief and trauma that's kept them apart.

Their weekend away in a remote cabin starts out well enough until they witness 15-year-old Maggie being coerced into a car by a father she is terrified of. The three friends must ultimately confront both Maggie's subsequent disappearance as well as the brutal murders of Sarah and her two children at the hands of Sarah's husband.

Ultimately inspired by the townspeople's collective action to protect Maggie from her abusive father, the three women are forced to reckon with the past and find a way back to themselves and to each other.

Why this book?

- 'Tense, atmospheric, you won't know who to trust ... An Aussie crime fiction star in the making.' Candice Fox
- Smart, compelling crime with a sharp and dark feminist edge
- Explores domestic abuse, the dynamics of female friendship, and the danger that can hide in plain sight.
- Strong hook: three women in a remote cabin witness an abduction that compels them to act
- Explores the powerful dynamics of women's friendship, and the ever-present threat of violence too many face alone

MARTINE KROPKOWSKI has worked as a soldier, journalist and academic. Her short fiction and essays on literature and culture have appeared in *Griffith Review*, *Overland* and *The Conversation*. She is a sessional academic at The University of Queensland where she is completing a PhD. *Everywhere We Look* is Martine's first novel.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Pool

Hannah
Tunncliffe



If you witness the worst thing imaginable, how does it change you? How does it shape the rest of your life? Could it make you a murderer?

Prince of spin and life of the party, Baz King, is dead. Ten years ago, at an innocent summer barbecue in Melbourne, everything imploded. For the Kings and the four other young families there that fateful day marriages fractured, friendships crumbled and lives were upended.

Nothing would ever be the same. Now in their forties and their children teenagers, Baz King cannot be found. Has his charm finally run out? With a history of dodgy dealings and no shortage of motives anyone could be a suspect – his ex-wife Birdie, his work colleague Alex Turner, his lover Jess and lover's husband Richard, his friend's nanny and new wife, Madison – who wants him out of the picture?

Why this book?

- Compelling domestic noir with a heart and will appeal to readers of *The Slap*, *Big Little Lies* and *Little Fires Everywhere*
- Character-driven storytelling with secrets and motives behind Baz King's disappearance that are slowly revealed
- Domestic noir with emotional resonance
- 'The Pool is a compelling and thought-provoking read that will leave you questioning every character and their motives,' said publisher Brigid Mullane. 'This gripping novel explores how grief can leave lasting scars, transform lives, and perhaps even drive someone to murder.'

HANNAH TUNNICLIFFE is the author of several acclaimed novels for adults and children, including the Canadian bestseller, *The Colour of Tea*. Her work has featured in the *New York Times* Book Review and she is the founder and host of the podcast, *Bod Almighty*. She lives in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, in New Zealand.

PUB DATE: January 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Girl Falling

Hayley
Scrivenor



Why would my best friend want to destroy my life?

Finn and her best friend, Daphne, have grown up together. Bonded by both having lost a younger sister to suicide, they've always had a close – sometimes too close – friendship. Now in their twenties, their lives have finally started to diverge: Daphne is at university and Finn is working in the Mountains, as well as falling in love with a beautiful newcomer called Magdu.

Unused to sharing Finn, Daphne starts to act up in ways that will allow her to maintain the control over her best friend she's always relished.

Then, one fateful day, Finn, Daphne and Magdu all go rock-climbing and Magdu falls to her death. Is it suicide, or a terrible accident – or something more sinister?

Why this book?

- Bold, dramatic and utterly compelling, *Girl Falling* forces us to confront the stories we tell ourselves about the people we love.
- Displaying all of Hayley Scrivenor's razor-sharp skills for character, landscape and narrative, this is a breathtaking read.
- Author's previous title, *Dirt Town*, was an international bestseller, optioned for screen and published in nine territories
- 'Girl Falling plunges the reader into the depths of grief and pulls back the security blanket of lies some people hide under in order to keep living beyond the consequences of their actions.' *Books + Publishing*

HAYLEY SCRIVENOR is a former Director of Wollongong Writers Festival. Originally from a small country town, Hayley now lives and writes on Dharawal country and has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Wollongong on the south coast of New South Wales. *Dirt Town* is her first novel. Her debut novel, *Dirt Town*, was a number-one bestseller and won multiple awards, including the ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year 2023.

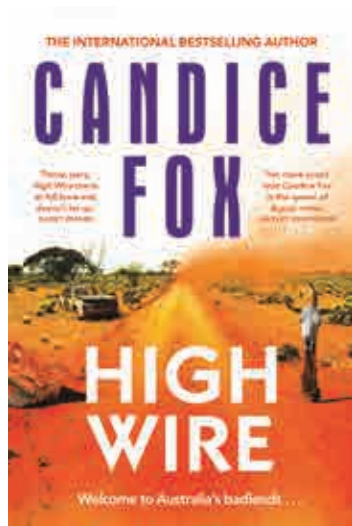
PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Grace Heifetz) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Flatiron), United Kingdom (Pan Macmillan)

High Wire

Candice Fox



Candice Fox's breathtaking new thriller is quite literally the bomb! A high-octane race through outback Australia.

A notorious unmarked track through outback Australia, the 'Wire' crosses slabs of lawless land, body-dumping grounds and mobile-phone blackspots.

Harvey Buck is desperate. Racing to be with his dying girlfriend, he encounters Clare Holland, whose car has broken down. He offers the hapless traveller a ride . . . and then their nightmare begins.

The pair are ambushed by a vengeful crew – and strapped into bomb vests. Harvey and Clare are forced to commit a series of increasingly murderous missions, or else be blown to smithereens.

Senior Sergeant Edna Norris is dealing with a runaway teenager but an unfolding crime spree turns this cop's night into a fight for survival. Hot on Harvey and Clare's trail, Edna finds a burnt-out car, a missing woman, a bank robbery and a bullet-riddled body.

And this road trip from hell has only just begun.

CANDICE FOX is the bestselling and award-winning author of 10 solo novels. Candice has been collaborating with James Patterson since 2015. Their novels include *Never Never*, a bestseller in Australia that went straight to No.1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Their subsequent novels have been bestsellers around the world.

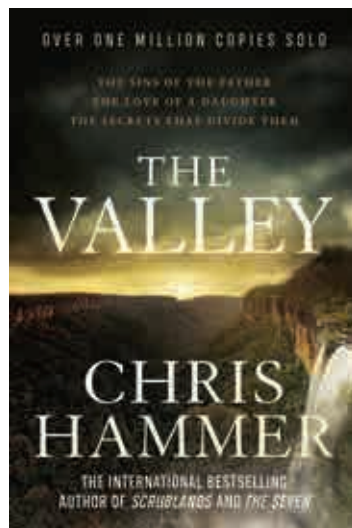
Why this book?

- Candice Fox really is 'the bomb' and if you haven't read her, what are you waiting for?
- The Crimson Lake trilogy has been adapted and broadcast on tv as *Troppe*. Season two of this brilliant series is airing now
- Candice's titles have been published in North America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Spain, Turkey, France, Japan, Taiwan, Poland, Sweden, Russia and Bulgaria
- Her novels are celebrated for her complex characters, gripping plots, high-stakes tension and vivid sense of place
- Total sales in Australia and New Zealand alone are over 600,000 copies

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Gaby Naher) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation
RIGHTS SOLD: Germany (Surhkamp)

The Valley

Chris Hammer



The latest stunning thriller from the bestselling author of *Scrublands* and *The Seven*.

Nell Buchanan and Ivan Lucic are back – and Nell is thrown into her most emotionally fraught investigation yet.

A controversial entrepreneur is murdered in a remote mountain valley, but this is no ordinary case. Ivan and Nell are soon contending with cowboy lawyers, conmen, bullion thieves and grave robbers.

But it's when Nell discovers the victim is a close blood relative that the past begins to take on a looming significance.

What did take place in *The Valley* all those years ago? What was Nell's mother doing there, and what was her connection to troubled young police officer Simmons Burnside? And why do the police hierarchy insist Ivan and Nell stay with the case despite an obvious conflict of interest?

Why this book?

- A page-turning plot, intriguing characters and an evocative sense of place—where nothing is ever quite what it seems
- Another immersive and emotionally rewarding thriller from a master
- *Scrublands* has been published in 12 countries to date
- Total sales of 500,000 in Australia and New Zealand alone
- A television series based on *Scrublands* was broadcast in 2023 with season two announced earlier this year
- Recognised as one of the world's finest crime writers

CHRIS HAMMER is a bestselling crime author. His first book, *Scrublands*, was an instant bestseller that sold around the world and has been adapted into a television series acquired by the BBC. *Silver, Trust, Treasure & Dirt* were also bestsellers and shortlisted for major literary prizes. Before turning to fiction, Chris was a journalist for more than thirty years.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Grace Heifetz) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: United Kingdom

Last Shot

Emma
Pignatiello



A romantic suspense series packed full of small-town charm, simmering tension and steamy scenes

Solving a murder that hasn't happened yet should be easy. But when Maxella Conrad barges her way onto the illustrious Barbarani family property to warn of a murder plot, her life becomes anything but easy.

For one thing, there's Greyson Hawke, the Barbarani family's "fixer" who's lived and worked with the wine dynasty his whole life. He refuses to believe Max, especially when he realises who she is: a disgraced ex-cop who's just spent the last six months behind bars.

But when it seems that Max might be telling the truth, Greyson is forced to team up with her to save the Barbaranis. Can Max and Grey confront their own demons before the last shot fires and they both lose everything?

Why this book?

- Pulse-pounding romance perfect for fans of Lucy Score, Devney Perry, Lucy Score and KA Tucker
- A gripping enemies-to-lovers romantic suspense that is guaranteed to get your heart racing
- Has All The Tropes: Small Town, Banter, Mystery, Only One Bed, Spicy Love Scenes
- First in a series – the second title, *Last Breath*, will be published in August 2025 featuring Nella Barbarani in a romantic adventure of her own
- Did we mention that this is funny?

EMMA PIGNATIELLO is a high-school teacher living on the land of the Wadjuk Noongar people in Perth, Western Australia. Emma can usually be found at the beach or in a café writing about murder and the extraordinarily horrible things ordinary humans are capable of when they are pushed to their limits.

PUB DATE: January 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

Venetian Lessons in Love



A kiss from a masked stranger at midnight in Venice changes the course of one woman's destiny

After losing her parents in a tragic water accident on Valentine's Day, Venetian native Lucia Trevisan will forever be known as l'Orfana.

Now, in order to save her family's Italian language school, Lucia must face the demons of her past and challenge the ones in her present: lying investors, sabotage, unscrupulous paparazzi, a viral social media post and a terrifying break-in.

Just when Lucia begins to lose hope of saving her little corner of Venice, her luck changes after a kiss from a masked stranger at a masquerade ball on Valentine's Day eve.

But in her quest to find the mysterious man, Lucia is plunged back into the spotlight as Italy's attention returns devastatingly to l'Orfana.

Why this book?

- Set in Venice, glorious armchair travel and romantic comedy with a twist
- A masquerade ball setpiece and a kiss from a masked stranger at midnight – what's not to love?
- An Italian-Australian romantic at heart, Lo Bianco draws on her passion for Italy for her love stories
- This is the one of three Italian-based love stories by the same author
- Rights in Lo Bianco's first title, *The Italian Marriage*, have been sold in Sweden.

JENNA LO BIANCO is an Italian-Australian writer, educator, PhD candidate, passionate 'Italianist' and advocate for Italian language education. She is a Fellow of the International Specialised Skills Institute and Italian Australian Foundation, a regular contributor to *Segmento* magazine and @the.italian.teacher on Instagram.

She is the author of *The Italian Marriage* and *Love and Rome*.

PUB DATE: January 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

That Island Feeling

Karina May



A whirlwind island romance becomes something more, in a heart-warming romantic comedy about finding yourself after disappointment.

A week on Pearl Island is exactly the holiday that perpetual planner Andie Alcott needs. Except instead of sipping pina coladas by the beach, she's busy dealing with a double-booking fiasco and worrying about her ailing father on the mainland. But it's cool, she has it covered. After all, everyone would be lost without her, right?

The last thing Jack Cooper wants is the headache of managing tourist bookings. But since he's to blame for the island's dwindling supply of holidaymakers, he'll do whatever it takes to keep them happy – in particular, a beautiful visitor named Andie.

Pearl Island promises the perfect getaway – and maybe even a hot holiday fling. But what happens when the emotional baggage comes in excess, and island life suddenly feels all too real?

Why this book?

- Perfect summer reading as Karina takes readers on an idyllic island holiday with lush descriptions of wildlife, beaches, food and wine.
- Features all the charm, comedy and sexual tension that make Karina's writing so fun to read, but it's also her most heartfelt and realistic book yet.
- Grapples with relatable, real-life issues such as unsatisfying careers, ageing parents and difficult friendships – all with a feel-good lens of healing, romance and humour.
- 'Everything I want in a romance novel' Rachael Johns
- 'Sweet, sexy and slyly funny ... Karina May's writing is a delicious escape' Clare Fletcher

Sydney-based KARINA MAY is a former magazine journalist turned digital marketer, avid reader and writer of lively love stories that span the globe. When she's not dreaming up her next meet-cute, you'll likely find her rescuing her paperback from the bath, or out guzzling espresso martinis in the name of research.

PUB DATE: January 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Forbidden Puckboy (Puckboys #7)

Eden Finley &
Saxon James



Easton You know what's the worst feeling in the world? Being in love with someone since you were twelve years old, knowing they only see you as a little brother type. Not even becoming an NHL star has made him realize I'm all grown up now. All of that changes when I ask my brother's best friend to ref a charity match and we spend an entire week in each other's pocket.

Being close to him is torture, but I swear Knox looks at me the same way I look at him. When I throw myself at him and get utterly rejected, I never want to see him again.

Knox For the last ten years, I've successfully hidden my feelings for Easton. He's snarky, determined, and the prettiest guy I've met. Ever since we stumbled across each other on a gay dating app and shared our secrets, I've felt a connection to him that I haven't had with anything else.

But Connor is my best friend and when it comes to his little brothers, 'protective' doesn't cover it. And unless I want to lose Connor, Easton will never be mine.

SAXON JAMES is the author of over twenty bestselling contemporary romance titles. Saxon's titles were nominated across categories in the Goodreads MM Romance Member's Choice Awards and won in several categories, including All-Time Favorite MM Series. **EDEN FINLEY** is an Amazon bestselling author who writes steamy contemporary romances that are mostly full of snark and light-hearted fluff.

Why this book?

- Sitting firmly alongside internationally bestselling authors such as Sarina Bowen, Riley Hart and Lucy Lennox, Saxon and Eden are much-loved bestselling authors
- Rights sold (in various series) in Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands
- Swoonworthy gay sports romance! Need we say more?
- Saxon and Eden are known for their witty dialogue and playful banter (and writing hot steamy times)
- Authors are absolute bestsellers in this genre with over 1,000,000 copies sold and/or downloaded

PUB DATE: 2022-2024 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany and France

Zachary

(Demons-in-Law #3)

Louisa Masters



A dragon with endless secrets meets a demon with nothing to hide...

I'm the easygoing one. The fun one. The rare member of my family who gets along with anyone.

Except there's a chance I may have got off on the wrong foot with our new dragon liaison, Ronan. But he seems to be trying harder to connect, and I guess I should do the same.

When I cross a line and guilt compels me to apologise, I get my first glimpse of a different Ronan. Someone who enjoys baking, thinks glitter is amazing, and wants people to like him. Someone I could be friends with. And when that frown disappears? I want more than just friendship.

But there's something going on with him, something he's been carrying for a long time. He's been hurt before, and the secrets he's keeping are the kind that eat you inside.

How can we take things to the next step if he can't be open with me?

Why this book?

- Three books in the Demons-in-law series to date with more to come
- Published in French, Germany and Italian
- Louisa's other series include Here be Dragons and Ghostly Guardians series
- Set in an alpine village inhabited exclusively by demons, and their families
- Blends humour with romance with sexy, nerdy hellhounds, creating light hearted and emotionally engaging romances
- Moderate to high 'steam' level
- Exciting plots including kidnappings, evil megalomaniacs, and rediscovering mythical creatures, and did I mention demons?!

LOUISA MASTERS started reading romance much earlier than her mother thought she should. Louisa has a long list of places first discovered in books that she wants to visit, and every so often she overcomes her loathing of jet lag and takes a trip that charges her imagination.

The View from the Balcony

Janette Paul

cover art
to come

An uplifting novel of three women and the healing power of friendship, for readers of Rachael Johns and Amanda Hampson.

Coral is an expert at getting things done. She's about to cap off her stellar career by delivering a paper at a conference in New York. Except that her elderly mum has a serious fall.

Andie has no memory of the man who pushed her out of the way of a speeding car and who is now in a coma.

The last thing Mara wants is to be assigned to work at the bedside of the much-despised senior

partner of her law firm while she recovers from an accident and resents having to do it again for this embittered old woman.

Coral, Andie and Mara become the daily visitors to the three patients at a hospital where their lives will interconnect and never be quite the same again.

Why this book?

- A warm hug of a novel about love, friendship and family, with the three characters at different life stages (late 50s, early 30s, and early 20s) facing different challenges, united by place and the help they give each other along the way.
- Perfect for readers of Joanna Nell, Rachael Johns, Liz Byrski and Amanda Hampson.
- 'Clever, quirky and satisfying. Janette Paul takes women's fiction and squeezes your heart.' Fiona McArthur

JANETTE PAUL is an internationally published author of contemporary women's fiction and romantic comedy, and is the alter ego of award-winning suspense author Jaye Ford. Her first novel won two Davitt Awards for Australian women crime writers and her books have been translated into nine languages.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: British Commonwealth (excl ANZ)

The Haunting of Mr and Mrs Stevenson

Belinda
Lyons Lee

Gothic fiction in the vein of H. G. Parry
and Sarah Perry.

The novel involves a poisoning murder mystery, seances with the Shelleys, a haunted wardrobe made by a criminal, the genesis of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and much more.

Fanny and Robert were married in 1880, when she was forty and he twenty-nine. An American who divorced her philandering husband to marry Robert, she was already the mother of children, a successful and self-supporting writer in her own right and with charm, sass and wit very much the rock in their relationship.

Belinda Lyons-Lee said that 'while writing this novel inspired by real events, I became captivated with the unconventional character of Fanny Stevenson who was caught up in the murder case that inspires Robert Louis Stevenson to write *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and Fanny to write *The Warlock's Shadow*.'



Why this book?

- A page-turning mystery novel that also explores the ways in which the more famous and often sickly writer was very much supported by a strong and intelligent woman.
- This thrilling novel will have the reader immersed in the mysterious world of the late 1800s
- Intriguing story inspired by strange real events in the lives of Robert Louis Stevenson and Fanny Stevenson
- A gothic delight
- The author's debut novel, *Tussaud*, was also Gothic fiction with a mix of historical and fantastical elements

BELINDA LYONS-LEE has degrees in youth work, education, writing and literature. She has been teaching English and creative writing in high schools for nearly twenty years and the nineteenth century has been an obsession of hers for even longer. Belinda has had various articles published that explore writing, vocation, mental

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Foreign Country

Marija Peričić



A beautifully crafted work that delves into the fallibility of memory, questioning whether we can ever truly know the ones we love or ourselves

Sisters Eva and Elizabeta Novak have not spoken since Eva's young daughter, Gracie was killed in a road accident.

More than a decade after the accident, Eva returns to Australia at her sister Elizabeta's insistence. Upon arriving, she discovers that Elizabeta has died. As the appointed executor of her sister's estate, Eva tackles the monumental task of clearing out Elizabeta's house.

Through the objects and documents she encounters, Eva reconnects with her sister and confronts their shared past, marked by trauma and migration.

Why this book?

- For readers of Charlotte Wood, Helen Garner, Michelle de Kretser and Gail Jones.
- At the heart is the mystery of what really happened the day that Eva's daughter died and what has Eva lost by distancing herself from her sister
- Engages with themes of grief and loss and the instability of memory and explores the difficulty of coming to terms with conflicting accounts of the past
- 'A brilliant hammer-swing at the notion that a woman is her most beautiful in death, Peričić's darkly visceral account of entitlement and deluded obsession is jaw-dropping. *Exquisite Corpse* is ingenious

MARIJA PERIČIĆ's first novel, *The Lost Pages*, won *The Australian/Vogel's* Literary Award 2017 and was shortlisted for the 2017 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction. She was named as a 2018 Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist. Her short fiction, essays, and poetry have appeared in *Meanjin*, *The Big Issue Fiction Edition*, and *Southerly*. Her second novel *Exquisite Corpse* was published in 2023, by Ultimo Press.

PUB DATE: June 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

By Her Hand

Marion Taffe



Determined to ensure her destiny is written by her hand, a young woman pens a poem that will change the course of history.

Freda lives in the English kingdom of Mercia in the tenth century. She thinks in poetry and is fascinated by the written word. But her world is at war. When Freda is taken to an abbey, she is hungry to learn but doesn't know who she can trust.

Bishop Aelle takes special interest in Freda's education. As she chafes against his hold, she is drawn into the orbit of Mercia's ruler Lady Æthelflæd, and she sees what it is to be a woman with power.

Freda is inspired to write her rage into a poem about Judith who beheads the enemy Holofernes. In Æthelflæd's hands, the poem inspires a great battle for Derby and the future of a kingdom. Meanwhile, Freda faces her own battle to accept who she is and decide where she belongs.

Why this book?

- A feminist take on the stories of warriors and Vikings for fans of Maggie O'Farrell and Geraldine Brooks.
- A fresh perspective on the beginnings of England and a love letter to the earliest forms of English literature.
- Imagines the provenance of the Old English Judith, found in the same manuscript as Beowulf.
- Freda's poem inspires, and is inspired by, Æthelflæd, the warrior queen whose success in war and diplomacy helped forge the kingdom of England.
- A passionate and lyrical ode to the wonder and chaos of girlhood and the creative force of a woman's rage.

MARION TAFFE worked as a print journalist and editor in the UK and Australia for twenty years before turning to fiction. Marion was awarded a Varuna Residential Literary Fellowship in 2023 to write her debut novel, *By Her Hand*.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia (Fourth Estate)

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

In the Margins

Gail Holmes



In this tender and powerful work of imagination, the life of a remarkable woman who wrote and lived in the margins in a time where women's voices went unheard is restored to history.

In 1647, caring rector's wife Frances is charged with enforcing religious compliance by informing on her parishioners. This terrible duty triggers memories of her tolerant mother, Alice, who inspired her passionate love of books. Conflicted, Frances secretly doesn't report a reclusive woman to delay her going to jail. As Frances takes increasingly bold steps to help the impoverished women and girls of the parish, it becomes apparent that Frances' memories of her mother are not always reliable. When Alice is jailed for religious crimes, the secrets Frances hides begin to surface.

Inspired by the real life of Frances Wolfreton, who preserved hundreds of rare books, including the only surviving copy of Shakespeare's first published work.

Why this book?

- Beautifully written and deeply moving, *In the Margins* is a testament to the way literature can illuminate our inner lives and set us free when the world around us is covered in darkness.
- A triumphant herstory, inspired by a real life 17th century book lover
- Frances Wolfreton's life and work makes her a feminist and literary icon
- She not only rescued Shakespeare's first work but hundreds of precious literary masterpieces
- Her collection is the most significant surviving book collection of the period
- 'will appeal to fans of Pip Williams' *The Bookbinder of Jericho* and Kayte Nunn's *The Silk House*.' *Books+Publishing*

GAIL HOLMES is a former engineer who has always been fascinated by what women have 'quietly' achieved in history. Her first novel, *In the Margins* grew from her creative writing master's thesis, inspired by Frances Wolfreton, who preserved hundreds of rare books, including the only surviving copy of Shakespeare's first published work, *Venus and Adonis*.

PUB DATE: September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

PRIMARY AGENT: Margaret Connolly & Associates • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

A Cold Season

Matthew Hooper



A Cold Season is unforgettable – a novel that captures rural poverty and human capacity with true soul.

A Cold Season follows the story of fourteen-year-old Beth, who is also the narrator. Beth's brother Sam and her father Owens have gone missing in a freak winter storm.

In a small house in the foothills of Mount Kosciuszko, Beth is stuck with her mother and her other brother, Little Sasha. They are waiting and longing for Sam and Owens to return.

In what threatens to become an emotional and physical pressure cooker tensions flare, and to make matters worse Mama is seeing the local bad man, Wallace.

'This is dramatic, lyrical writing at its best; deeply felt and deeply moving. A work of art that is also a page-turner. An instant classic.' **Antoni Jach**, author of *Travelling Companions*

MATTHEW HOOPER is a writer and teacher of creative writing. He worked as a mentor and novel assessor at Writers Victoria for ten years. His manuscript for his Master of Arts, *My Father's Notebook*, was shortlisted for the Overland Novel Prize. *A Cold Season* is his debut novel.

Why this book?

- A powerful and intense drama that unfolds through the all-seeing eyes of a 14-year-old
- A story of finding agency in a world where people, and particularly the young, are often powerless.
- In the spirit of novels like *Salvage the Bones* and *True Grit*, Beth's story captures the devastating reality of rural poverty but also how a young woman finds agency in a world where she is relatively powerless.
- Set between the wars, rich in voice, character and landscape
- 'A powerful new voice in Australian literature.' Antoni Jach

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Salvage

Jennifer Mills

cover art
to come

Literary speculative fiction exploring what happens after our world ends.

Two sisters face a near future of global ecological calamity and societal collapse in different ways.

Celeste leaves the planet for a space station designed for the ultra-rich to hibernate through the convulsions of a dying world at a secure remove. Jude stays and cares for others when things fall apart.

Having survived the cataclysm, Jude joins a group attempting to rebuild society. When Celeste makes an emergency ejection from the now-failing station and crashes back to Earth, Jude is forced into action and unravel the reasons for 'The Stations' failure – an unearthly malfunction with grievous implications for them all.

Why this book?

- Huge excitement about this forthcoming book from a major literary talent
- Immerses readers in a dystopian, post-climate-crisis world, blending science fiction with human drama
- Author's previous novel, *The Airways*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and the Aurealis Award in 2022; *Dyschronia* was shortlisted for the 2019 Miles Franklin, and 2020 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature and the 2019 Aurealis Awards
- 'The Airways is a literary puzzle intent on solving itself. If you feel disoriented reading this book, don't fight your confusion. Surrender to the journey, like a passenger on a train. Revel in the thinning of reality's membrane.' *ArtsHub*

JENNIFER MILLS is the author of *The Airways*, *Dyschronia*, *Gone* and *The Diamond Anchor*. Mills' fiction, non-fiction and poetry have been widely published, as well as being broadcast, recorded and performed from Adelaide to Berlin. She is a regular writer for *Overland* literary journal and has contributed criticism to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the Wheeler Centre, and the *Sydney Review of Books*.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia (Picador)

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Ghosts of August

Peter Watt



A sprawling intergenerational saga, the 'Colonial' series follows the Steeles through family conflict and war from the 1840s to the First World War.

It is 1914, and the storm clouds of war are building on the horizon.

Josiah Steele is head of the family after the death of his father, the infamous 'Colonial', Ian Steele.

Josiah is grappling with the demands of his two very different sons: David, upstanding, decent and heir to the family enterprises; and Benjamin, wayward, restless and a magnet for trouble.

To give Ben some responsibility, Josiah sends him with Sam on a trade mission to Rabaul in New Guinea – straight into the territory of their soon-to-be enemy.

As war erupts across Europe, its repercussions are felt in the Pacific. Ben and David find themselves caught up in the first Australian action of World War I – the fight to take possession of German New Guinea.

Why this book?

- For fans of Wilbur Smith and Bryce Courtenay, immersive historical fiction from a bestselling author
- The eagerly awaited new book in a series began with *The Queen's Colonial*
- The five titles in the Colonial series have sold more than 80,000 copies.
- Total sales across all of Watts' titles are 600,000
- His best known book, *The Cry of the Curlew*, was published in multiple languages.

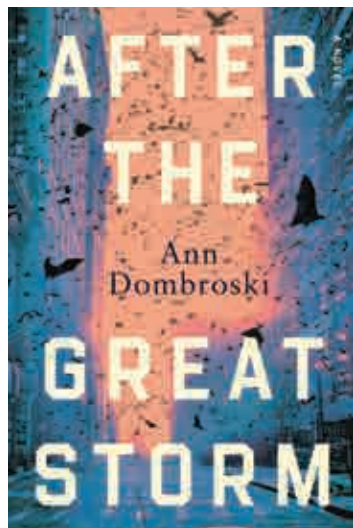
PETER WATT is a bestselling author renowned for his historical novels. He is the author of multiple series, including the 'Frontier' series (12 titles), the Papua trilogy and the Colonial series. He is also the author of a number of standalone titles and short stories.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

After the Great Storm

Ann Dombroski



'Grips you from the first page and leaves you questioning where we are heading. A must-read for anyone who dares to imagine the consequences of our current actions.' **Donna Cameron, *The Rewilding***

Forty-year-old Alice Kaczmarek has lost so much. She wants a baby, but her husband Daniel is serving a life sentence, accused of orchestrating an accident on Sydney's new transport system.

When T, the subject of medical experimentation, crawls up the front steps of her house, Alice learns of a strange connection between T and Daniel.

In this psychological novel of threat and intrigue, it seems everyone is involved in a scam, even a respected surgeon colleague.

After she is followed, and her home invaded, Alice no longer knows who to rely on and must navigate this corrupt, murky world alone. In the process, she draws ever closer to Daniel's friend, Lowell.

Why this book?

- With echoes of *Blade Runner*, a world in which humans are struggling to find their place as science takes over
- A powerful and wildly imaginative view of how corruption breeds a system that dehumanises people without power – literally
- A compelling exploration of how the apparent miracles of scientific experimentation can be exploited and perverted
- Struggling to survive in a human world that is falling apart, a woman still dreams of having a child to love
- Imbued with both darkness and light, sadness and joy; its characters refuse to give up on love regardless of the cost

ANN DOMBROSKI is a prize-winning author of short fiction, which has appeared in leading literary journals and anthologies, and broadcast on ABC radio. She was the recipient of a Varuna Literary Fellowship. She has an MA in Writing and teaches English as a foreign language.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • PUBLISHER: Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Saturation

William Lane

cover art
to come

In a world where information has literally reached saturation point, two librarians risk their lives to save books from destruction

In a future world, individuals are literally at saturation point, unable to absorb any more thoughts or feelings, make decisions or process what is happening or might have happened. Too much history has occurred to be contained, and the past overflows. Historical events overrun the present; a football game morphs into a gladiatorial contest, a plane flying overhead is joined by another until a mass bombing raid appears underway.

As librarians, Ambrose and Ursula are under attack from a government determined to master the past, viewing it as a source of corruption, by culling book collections. When

Ambrose disappears, presumably killed, and Ursula is consumed by grief, their son, Van, takes up their cause to preserve the past in order to understand it.

Why this book?

- A startlingly original and timely tale as we witness a tide of book banning around the world
- The heroes of this story are unsung librarians fighting to save books and knowledge
- Obvious parallels with *1984*, *Brave New World*, *Fahrenheit 451* and *Question 7*
- Inspired by the move to censor books, stands alone as a unique new voice

WILLIAM LANE is the author of *The Salamanders*, *The Horses* and *Over the Water*.

He has an Honours degree in Australian literature and a PhD on the Australian writer Christina Stead.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Endling

Kelly Jobe

cover art
to come

A genre-bending wild ride that interrogates feminism, the environment and what is lost when a group is forced to adapt to change.

In a feminist separatist community, Mila struggles to maintain unity in the dwindling women's group. As tensions rise and feminist politics become more complicated, the camp faces the challenges of extreme isolation and a declining population.

Mila's aunt, Frankie, lives alone in the bush relishing solitude and secretly rebelling against the community's rules. Nearby, an orchid endling nears death and the subsequent extinction of its species.

One spring, the women experience a peculiar desire, finding themselves sexually attracted to the natural environment. By the following spring, the women prepare themselves for motherhood after discovering they are all simultaneously pregnant through parthenogenesis.

When Mila gives birth to the only boy, the hardline separatist politics of the community are put to the test.

Why this book?

- A provocative and wildly imaginative exploration of feminism, motherhood and the environment
- Told through the eyes of both the women and the children born from communing with nature
- A genre-bending and timely interrogation of how we interact with the environment around us
- Inspired by the author's experiences living in a similar community, which is now a women's refuge

KEELY JOBE is a writer of fiction and non fiction. Her work has been published in *Island*, *The Monthly* and *Australian Geographic*. Keely is the non fiction editor for *Island Magazine* and a tutor and lecturer in English and Gender Studies at the University of Tasmania. *The Endling* is her debut novel.

PUB DATE: March 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Scribe

PRIMARY AGENT: Left Bank Literary (Grace Heifetz) • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: United Kingdom (Scribe)

Midnights

Greig Beck

cover art
to come

A glimpse into the mad, macabre and mysterious mind of bestselling author Greig Beck, in a showcase of horrors, monsters and bone-chilling tales.

This short story collection will take you to the depths of Beck's dark imagination: from what happens when the deepest bore hole on Earth has just passed nine miles and hit a strange open space, and it's hellishly hot down there; or to the research team in Antarctica examining fragments from a deep ice glacier that found a tiny seed that, once thawed out, grew into something horrifyingly unexpected.

Then there's the real story of the *Titanic*, where something horrifying got on board the grand ship, and it was sunk on purpose. To protect us all. And Beck's renowned Valkeryn series will finally be concluded in the featured tale *Revenge of the Wolfen*.

Why this book?

- From the bloody to the bizarre, *Midnights* will push you to the edge, with Greig Beck at his horrifying best
- Author has a dark (really dark) imagination
- Beck's renowned Valkeryn series will finally be concluded in the featured tale *Revenge of the Wolfen*.
- Greig is a consistently top-performing author in the digital realm, and this short story collection is reminiscent of Stephen King's style

GREIG BECK is the author of the bestselling Alex Hunter series and renowned for his action-packed science fiction, horror and adventure novels. His career took off with his debut novel, *Beneath the Dark Ice*, which introduced readers to Alex Hunter.

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Get Your Story Straight

Briar Rolfe



In a twist on the fake wedding romance trope, the adventures of Henry, a young trans man out to everyone except his conservative Christian parents

When Henry realises his best shot at accessing top surgery is faking an engagement to his friend Cooper, he learns it isn't easy to plan a wedding - even a fake one. His mum wants to control everything, his dad is convinced that nonbinary Cooper is a closeted gay man, Henry might be developing feelings for his fake fiancé

Is the cost of staying closeted worth the pain of coming out? What does a fake wedding mean if you're not allowed to have a real one? And is a person really torn to pieces by a crocodile in North Queensland every three months?

Why this book?

- Truly unique – a transgender love letter to the romcom genre
- Readymade storyboard: a graphic novel but the bones of the story all there
- Inspired by the classic fake romances from *As You Like It* to *She's The Man* and *The Proposal*
- Underlines the irony that false identities and fake relationships part of everyday life if you grow up in the closet
- Book rights sold to US publisher before its Australian debut

BRIAR ROLFE is a non-binary illustrator, comic artist and graphic designer who was shortlisted for a Ledger Award in 2017, and highly commended by the Kat Muscat Fellowship in 2020. Briar has spent the last five years of their practice involved in the Melbourne indie comics scene, where they have built a large body of work focusing on genrebending and format-pushing comedy stories.

PUB DATE: September 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Hachette Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** WEL (excl ANZ) – Levine Querido

I Ate The Whole World To Find You

Rachel Ang



Set against an exquisitely lush Australian backdrop and sprinkled with speculative fiction and fantasy, Ang's radiant debut collection introduces a dynamic voice and an exciting short-story writer.

I Ate the Whole World to Find You maps the topography of trauma, treasures, and loss imposed onto the body of Jenny, a twenty-something-going-on-thirty-something partial hot mess who's routing her way more firmly into adulthood. As she navigates friendship, family, and romantic relationships, will her inability to communicate destroy her, or ultimately be her rebirth?

A coworker-turned-prospective-lover confesses a hard-to-swallow fetish.

A train ride fantastically goes off the rails as old habits get dragged across the tracks.

Cousins revisit summer holiday bliss —
or was it really horror?

Exes fumble an attempt to reconnect over a dip in the pool on a squelching summer day.

Why this book?

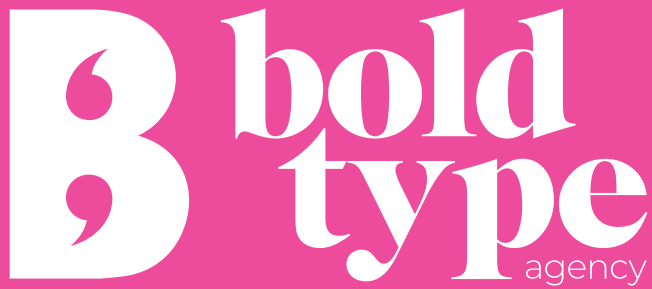
- A blend of realism with speculative fiction and fantasy
- Jenny's journey through trauma, treasures, and loss resonates with readers, especially those navigating the complexities of adulthood
- Infused with raw emotion, exploring themes of friendship, family, and romantic relationships
- Ang's fluid and evocative artwork complements the narrative, creating a visually stunning and emotionally impactful reading experience.
- From a coworker's unusual confession to a fantastical train ride, the varied and imaginative scenarios keep readers hooked and eager for more.
- North American rights with Drawn & Quarterly

RACHEL ANG is an artist and writer working on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation (Melbourne, Australia). Rachel's first book *Swimsuit* was published by Glom Press in 2018, and they were a contributor to the Eisner Award-winning anthology *Drawing Power: women's stories of sexual violence, harassment, and survival* in 2019.

PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Scribe Publications

PUBLISHER: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Drawn & Quarterly)



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