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FRANKFURT
BOOK FAIR 2025



Australian Government



This project has been assisted by the
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FICTION – FRONTLIST AND FORTHCOMING

Crime, Mystery, Thriller

Contemporary, Commercial and Romance

Upmarket and Literary

Historical

Short Stories

Graphic Novels

NON-FICTION – FRONTLIST AND FORTHCOMING

Self Help, Health & Wellbeing

Technology, Culture and Society

Memoir

Illustrated and Cooking

RECENT FICTION AND BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

RECENT NON-FICTION AND BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

A large white 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 large, pink, serif font. Below it, the text "Frontlist – Crime, Mystery, Thriller" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Fiction

Frontlist – Crime,
Mystery, Thriller

In Pieces

Dinuka
McKenzie

cover art
to come

Sisters make the best flatmates, right? A dream apartment. The start of a grand adventure. And a deception years in the making that's about to catch up with them.

Devika is living her best life: a flat by the beach, her final year at university, and freedom from her mother's suffocating expectations. Independent and self-sufficient, just like Kal. Except for one awful secret she can never let Kal discover.

Kalyani has it made: a job she loves, a home she can afford, and her little sister as her flatmate. She's finally living the life she always wanted – except for the one big truth she's never confessed to Devi.

When Devi's world shatters and Kal refuses to forgive her, Devi must confront her guilt and everything she thought she knew, to rediscover Kalyani piece by piece: sister, flatmate and best friend.

As betrayal, toxic love, and long-buried histories collide, their carefully constructed lives begin to unravel with devastating consequences.

DINUKA MCKENZIE is the author of the Detective Kate Miles crime series published in Australia and the UK. She is the winner of the 2020 HarperCollins Australia Banjo Prize. Her writing has been shortlisted for the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards, the Bad Sydney Crime Danger Awards and longlisted for the Richell Prize.

Why this book?

- Dark, emotional suspense that pairs page-turning twists with a layered exploration of family, identity, and betrayal.
- With its gut-punch twists, layered exploration of complex female relationships, and an unflinching portrait of grief and atonement, *In Pieces* will grip readers until the final, devastating reveal.
- Delivers the taut pacing and shocking twists of Shari Lapena alongside the layered psychological tension of Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen, creating suspense that is both compulsively readable and emotionally rich.
- A cast of characters who are layered, flawed, and deeply human with complicated, resilient women at the centre.

PUB DATE: February 2027 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Alex Adsett Literary

Bloomfield

Donna M
Cameron

cover art
to come

For fans of *Sofie Laguna*, *Hannah Kent*, and *Shirley Jackson*, a darkly compelling suburban gothic about memory, grief, and the shadows lurking behind neat fences.

At the heart of Bloomfield Estate lies an old house with iron lacework verandahs and ghosts of the past.

Albert Bloomfield, a widower, watches strangers move into the home that once held his marriage and memories.

Next door, Shandell – on leave from her police job – becomes fixated on the children running wild in Bloomfield House. They resemble faces from the missing-persons board at work, and the man leading them seems lifted from a fairy tale or nightmare.

As Shandell peers through her telescope and fills her notebooks, her conviction grows: the long-feared kidnapper has been hiding in plain sight.

Blending menace and magic, *Bloomfield* is a chilling meditation on family, obsession, and the dangerous power of stories.

Why this book?

- A gothic suburbia where quiet streets and tidy homes become unsettling landscapes of secrets, menace, and mystery.
- Literary suspense at its finest, with the emotional pull of *Sofie Laguna*, the atmosphere of *Hannah Kent*, and the unease of *Shirley Jackson*.
- Shandell's obsession leaves readers wondering: is she uncovering the truth, or losing her grip?
- Layered with themes of family, trauma, community, and morality that beg to be unpacked.
- Reality is given a twist with fairy-tale figures, dreamlike scenes, and warped perceptions blur the line between the real and the surreal.

DONNA M CAMERON is an actor, playwright and AWGIE-nominated radio dramatist turned novelist. Her debut *Beneath the Mother Tree* (2018) was widely acclaimed and optioned for adaptation. *The Rewilding* earned fellowships, award recognition, and was shortlisted for the 2025 Davitt Crime Fiction Awards.

PUB DATE: March 2027 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Where Truth Ends

Mark Smith

cover art
to come

What if everything you believed in was a lie? Conspiracy and betrayal abound in the new Mark Smith thriller, perfect for readers of Christian White, Michael Robotham and JP Pomare.

Meg Maher thought she was doing the right thing. Now she's on the run.

When a peaceful protest ends with a bomb going off in the city centre, every anonymous member of the group becomes a suspect. The incident is declared a terrorist attack.

But the authorities aren't the only ones after Meg.

As the terrorist investigation closes in and paranoia deepens, Meg is forced to question everything: her friends, her cause, even herself. Was the non-violent activist group infiltrated from the start? Or has someone twisted their mission for change beyond recognition?

What happens when the truth is the first thing to burn?

MARK SMITH is an award-winning author based on Victoria's Surf Coast, where he surfs, writes novels and stories, and runs outdoor education programs for young adults. He is the author of four young adult novels including the highly acclaimed *Winter Trilogy*. His adult fiction debut, *Three Boys Gone*, was a bestseller.

Why this book?

- Mark's debut title for adult, *Three Boys Gone*, has sold over 15,000 copies in ANZ with rights sold in the Czech Republic.
- Climate activism collides with personal survival in a story ripped from today's headlines.
- A protest gone wrong explodes into a city-wide manhunt, fusing urgency with page-turning suspense.
- Meg is complex, flawed, and unforgettable, in the tradition of J.P. Pomare and Christian White's heroines.
- A fractured father-daughter bond adds emotional depth to the action.
- Tackles climate activism, trust, and betrayal in a way that feels both urgent and universal.

PUB DATE: June 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Inlet Bridge

S.D. Hinton

cover art
to come

Taut, atmospheric, and emotionally charged, *Inlet Bridge* is a gripping noir about family, resilience, and the price of survival.

When Sarah and her husband Ewen are caught on a narrow bridge by an oncoming truck, Ewen saves Sarah's life by pushing her into the rushing inlet – only to vanish himself. The police doubt her story. But Sarah is determined to uncover the truth and hold the driver accountable.

Her only ally is her brother Harry – a former soldier haunted by grief and rage. Together they plunge into the shadowed world of Wilson's Cove, where old families hold dangerous secrets and violence simmers beneath the small-town façade.

As Sarah's compassion clashes with Harry's paranoia, they discover a deadly racket and ignite the wrath of those who would kill to protect it. With fire, bullets, and betrayal closing in, the siblings must survive the hunt, expose the truth, and reckon with their own devastating losses.

Why this book?

- A shocking accident on a coastal bridge sets everything in motion, mixing survival drama with the mystery of a missing husband.
- Sarah and Harry's complicated bond – her compassion against his paranoia, her hope against his despair – brings real heart to the suspense.
- The windswept Victorian coastline isn't just a backdrop – it's part of the tension, giving readers that gritty, atmospheric setting they love.
- Firebombings, gunpoint standoffs, family secrets – it's high-octane suspense grounded in raw themes of grief, guilt, and resilience.
- At its core, this isn't just a crime story. It's about mental health, suicide, loyalty, and finding redemption.

SD HINTON has travelled extensively and unconventionally and spent a year living in a loft apartment in Istanbul writing and learning Turkish. She now lives in Western Victoria and writes full time, having overcome a lifetime struggle with dyslexia. SD's debut novel, *The Brothers*, was published by HarperCollins Australia in August 2022.

PUB DATE: October 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Old Games

Fiona Hardy



Alice and Teddy are back in the follow-up to the bestselling *Unbury the Dead*!

When celebrity tennis champion Ashley “Perry” Perrineau’s urn is stolen from his Mornington Peninsula mansion, small time criminals Alice and Teddy once again play detective on behalf of their crime boss and sent to retrieve the urn.

But the case quickly tangles with Alice’s estranged sister, Pick, Perry’s disgraced nephew Ludo, and a glittering circle of rivals, fans, and family—all with secrets to hide. As assaults, betrayals, and shocking revelations unfold, Teddy and Alice discover Perry’s death was no accident, the urn itself is a priceless antique, and everyone is desperate to keep the truth buried.

With Melbourne’s celebrity world unmasked as conniving and violent, must decide whose lies to expose—and whether Perry’s final note should remain sealed.

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 Richard Osmon.
- Packed with twists and turns that keep you hooked and guessing. Just when you think you’ve got it figured out, bam! Another surprise hits you.
- 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.
- 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.

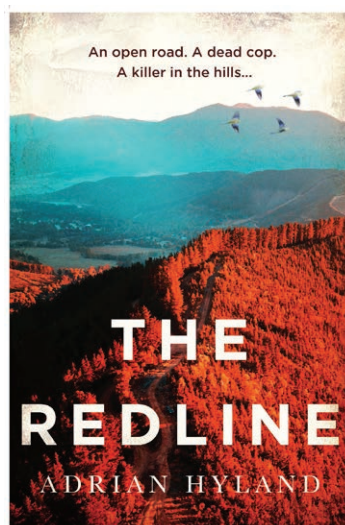
FIONA HARDY is a writer, reviewer and bookseller. Her first book, *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days*, was a CBCA Notable book. Its sequel, *How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life*, won the 2021 Children’s Peace Literature Award. Fiona’s first book for adults, *Unbury the Dead*, has been a bestseller.

PUB DATE: TBC 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Affirm Press

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

The 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)

Dirt Trap

Michael Burge

Some secrets need stirring up...

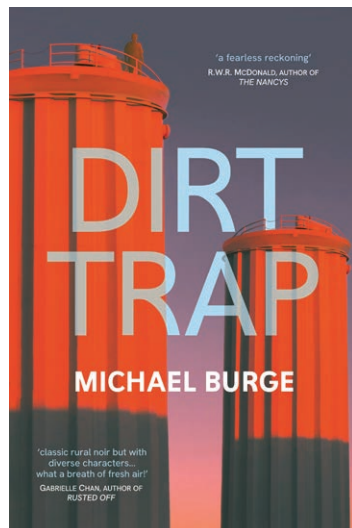
Journalist James Brandt lives in a brittle truce with his partner and family, never talking about the homophobic attacks he exposed in his rural hometown, including the brutal death of a beloved cousin twenty years ago.

But this illusion of peace is ripped apart by the start of the state's historical gay-hate crime inquiry, and the reappearance of the Joneses, who waltz back into Kippen professing to be queer allies.

Yet when one of that notorious dynasty is found dead at a local water tower, it is James who stands accused. With an under-resourced sergeant and a tech-savvy podcaster on his heels, James refuses to trust in a police force that has proven its inadequacy with gay-hate crime.

In order to clear his name and flush out which member of this remote community took justice into their own hands, he will need to expose every secret, including his own.

MICHAEL BURGE is an author and journalist. Michael's reports for Guardian Australia, Fairfax Media, Intermedia and NoFibs led to a nomination at the 2023 Honour Awards for his contribution to writing about rural LGBTIQ+ in Australia.



Why this book?

- 'Clear-eyed and suspenseful, *Tank Water* exposes more than one taboo of Australian life away from the big cities. An unforgettable ride.' – Nigel Featherstone, author of *Bodies of Men*
- A cast of deeply developed characters, including a determined journalist, a savvy podcaster, and a resourceful sergeant, each with their own dark secrets.
- Hard-hitting themes of historical gay-hate crimes
- Emotional depth as the story delves into the lives of families affected by unresolved crimes, adding a powerful layer to the narrative.
- Michael Burge's background as a journalist and his extensive research into LGBTIQ+ hate crimes brings a raw authenticity to the writing

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Hollow Girl

Lyn Yeowart



Set in a once grand gothic mansion steeped in long-buried secrets, *The Hollow Girl* is the stunning new literary suspense novel from the award-winning author of *The Silent Listener*.

A safe haven for lost girls?
Or a breeding ground for revenge?

In 1972, Detective Sergeant Eleanor Smith lands her first homicide case: the poisoning of a nurse at Harrowford Hall, a remote home for unmarried mothers. But as Smithy arrives, the eerie estate is nearly abandoned, and its overgrown graveyard hints at a dark history.

Harrowford has for decades sold itself as a refuge for 'fallen girls' – like Jane McEvoy, banished there in 1962 with no idea of how she became pregnant. Or Marilyn Pollard, who is desperate for escape until she becomes tangled up in another's heartbreaking tragedy.

But the staff never considered one thing: wronged girls grow into angry women. And some wounds demand justice.

LYN YEOWART is a professional writer and editor with more than 25 years of experience writing and editing everything from captions for artworks to speeches for executives. Her award-winning debut novel, *The Silent Listener*, was loosely based on events from her childhood growing up in rural Victoria. *The Hollow Girl* was inspired by the true story of one of Lyn's friends.

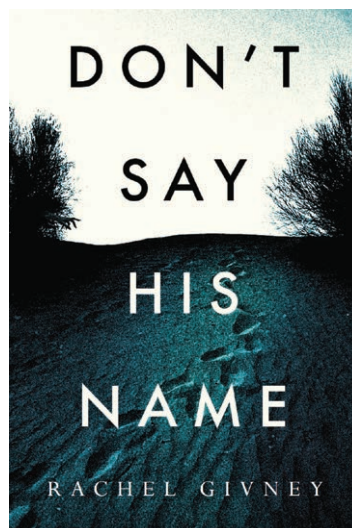
Why this book?

- A chilling literary suspense novel that you can't put down, from an award-winning author
- Has a dark gothic edge mixed with a revenge-fuelled murder mystery.
- Lyn's debut, *The Silent Listener*, won the 2022 Indie Book Award for Debut Fiction, and was shortlisted and longlisted for many others, including the Davitt Award, the BAD Danger Prize and the ARA Historical Novel Prize.
- Inspired by the true story of one of Lyn's friends, who was sent to a home for unmarried mothers in the 1960s – some of what was done to the girls there is so bizarre and cruel it is stranger than fiction.

PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Jacinta di Mase Management

Don't Say His Name

Rachel Givney



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

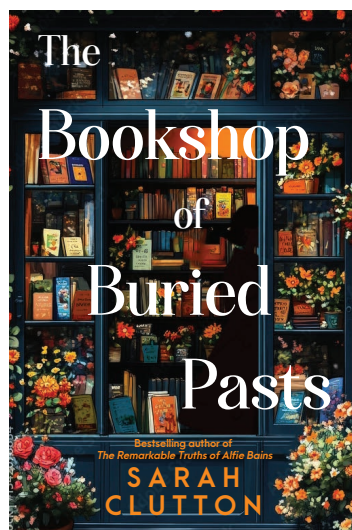
LITERARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Fiction

Frontlist –
Contemporary,
Commercial and
Romance

Bookshop of Buried Pasts

Sarah Clutton



Across continents and decades, two bookshops hold the secrets of an abandoned boy – and the woman who refused to forget him.

When beloved antiquarian bookseller Phyllida Banks vanishes, her granddaughter Lottie is left reeling – with only a letter, a cryptic request to “find Francis,” and the weight of her grief.

But Phyllida has also left her the bookshop, a fortune of uncertain origin, and a mystery that stretches far beyond their quiet village. Following her grandmother’s trail takes Lottie across the world to Suffolk, England, where a centuries-old manor and another bookshop guard secrets buried for fifty years.

With the help of childhood friend Roddy, she begins to piece together a story of hidden fortunes, dangerous deceptions, and the woman she thought she knew best. Past and present collide in a compelling tale of love, legacy, and discovery.

Why this book?

- A must-read for fans of Kate Morton, Rachel Hore, and Pip Williams.
- Past and present collide as Lottie’s struggles intertwine with Phyllida’s hidden past and the elusive Francis.
- The antiquarian bookshop, with its dusty shelves and gilt spines, feels alive on the page, a love letter to booklovers who treasure handwritten notes and slow-unfolding secrets.
- Heartbreaking yet hopeful, Phyllida’s regrets and enduring love linger long after the final page, while DNA tests, hidden letters, and buried histories entwine with the lives of Phyllida, Miriam, and Lottie, the three unforgettable women at the heart of this story.

SARAH CLUTTON is a recipient of the Dymocks/ Fiona McIntosh Commercial Fiction Scholarship. Two earlier novels were published by UK’s Bookouture, and *The Daughter’s Promise* topped Amazon’s Australian and UK charts.

PUB DATE: May 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

RIGHTS HELD: UK, Translation (excl France) • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Melanie Ostell Literary

Dreamwives

Claire Novak

Think the wit of Marian Keyes, the warmth of Beth O'Leary, and the suburban bite of Liane Moriarty!

When Katrina is newly single and flat broke, and Michelle is laid off while caring for her father, the two middle-aged friends hatch an audacious idea: people should pay for the “wife-work” women have always done for free.

Their new business, *Dreamwives*, isn't about cleaning or childcare – it's about creating comfort. They cook dinner, leave bathrooms spotless (but lived-in), and listen as clients unburden themselves. Extreme customer service – no sex included.

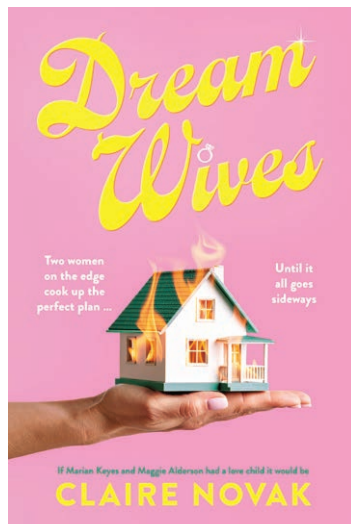
At first it's a hit. But when Michelle falls for a client and Katrina is swept into scandal, the women must ask: can you really turn invisible labour into a thriving business, or are they risking everything on a dream destined to unravel?

Advance Praise for Dreamwives:

'Money-spinning the mental load of wifery into dollars?

Genius! Savvy Kat and Michelle cook up a hilarious scheme and are smart, funny, instantly loveable and totally relatable. Success really is the best revenge' Meredith Jaffé

CLAIRE NOVAK is a pseudonym for internationally bestselling author Catherine Jinks and journalist Alexa Moses.



Why this book?

- Celebrates women's skills, savvy, and solidarity, especially in roles society too often undervalues.
- Sharp banter, witty dialogue, and laugh-out-loud scenes keep the story fun and fast-paced.
- Skewers suburban pretensions, school-gate politics, and corporate absurdities while staying warmly entertaining.
- Katrina and Michelle aren't picture-perfect heroines. They're flawed, funny, and deeply relatable — readers will see themselves in their setbacks and cheer for their comebacks.
- From ageism to gender roles to the invisible labour of homemakers, the book weaves in commentary that feels sharp yet accessible.

PUB DATE: March 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

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

Might Cry Later

Kay Kerr



Nora thought she had her life figured, but now she's back in her childhood home, facing a Christmas that threatens to unravel her family.

Nora's new autism diagnosis forces her to re-examine her past and navigate the complexities of family dynamics, all while dealing with her estranged best friend who wants more from Nora (love, stability, consistency) than Nora can give. With her older siblings Olivia and Luke returning home, emotions run high as the pressure for a perfect holiday mounts.

Cracks begin to show. Olivia battles an alcohol problem, Luke faces the end of his marriage, and their mother Elsie struggles to accept Nora's diagnosis. Their father Chris, avoiding the chaos, ends up in the hospital with a panic attack, adding to the holiday turmoil.

In a story filled with flashbacks, maladaptive daydreams, and the quest for self-understanding, Nora must confront her past and present to find a way forward.

Why this book?

- Debut adult title from an award-winning and critically acclaimed YA author
- The Byrne family's Christmas chaos is both hilarious and heart-wrenching
- Offers an authentic look at life with autism, especially for those newly diagnosed.
- A heartfelt exploration of autistic burnout, family dysfunction, and the quest for authenticity
- Unique perspective on neurodivergence, wrapped in the bittersweet chaos of a family Christmas
- Explore maladaptive daydreaming as a neurodivergent coping mechanism

KAY KERR is an autistic author and journalist. Her debut novel *Please Don't Hug Me* (2020) was shortlisted for Book of the Year for Older Children at the Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA) in 2021, and listed as a 'Notable Book' by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA). Her second novel, *Social Queue* (October 2021) was also a 'Notable Book' by the CBCA.

PUB DATE: February 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

Lying is My Love Language

Olivia Simons

cover art
to come

With laugh-out-loud dialogue and a whip-smart internal monologue, *Lying Is My Love Language* is a perfect fit for fans of Dolly Alderton, Rebecca Serle and Emily Henry.

Set between Sydney and the blistering red dust of the Northern Territory, *Lying Is My Love Language* centres on Jamie – emotionally avoidant and chronically unimpressed with dating apps and men who say ‘sapiosexual’.

When a wedding in the outback reunites her with two lifelong friends – and a brooding, blue-eyed cattleman with a serious attitude problem – Jamie’s weekend of evasion unravels into something far messier, sexier, and more honest than she planned.

What starts as a casual fling becomes a sparring match of wills, wit, and unexpected vulnerability, forcing Jamie to confront what she really wants – and what she’s been hiding from.

Why this book?

- A female lead who’s self-aware, self-sabotaging, and self-medicating (with lychee martinis and sarcasm) – Jamie is your new favourite hot mess with a heart.
- The banter between Jamie and Luke is, sexy, and deeply satisfying for fans of enemies-to-lovers with teeth.
- A fierce female friendship trio that’s both hilarious and tender.
- The romantic lead is a brooding cattleman with a secret soft side, who delivers insults like foreplay and accidentally makes you swoon.
- Perfect for fans of anti-heroes and flawed women who lie on dates, love their nieces, and might fall in love when they least want to.

OLIVIA SIMONS majored in Creative Writing at Macquarie University. She self-published her debut novel, *Among Other Things*, in 2023. By day, she works as a copywriter; by night, she writes fiction. Olivia is already working on her next novel which will be part of the *Lying is my Love Language* ‘universe’.

PUB DATE: June 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia

RIGHTS HELD: UK (excl ANZ), Translation (excl France) • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Melanie Ostell Literary

Driven

Emma
Warrender

cover art
to come

A fast-paced, emotionally charged, and steamy romance that will captivate readers who crave adrenaline-fueled action, complex characters, and sizzling chemistry.

Since losing her dad and brother, racing is all Gianna Brooks has – speed keeps her focused and in control.

But everything changes when Ryker Edwards returns to Booker Bay. Her brother's best friend. Her first heartbreak. The boy who disappeared the night her world shattered.

Now he's back in the underground racing scene, darker, rougher, and more irresistible than ever. But Ryker isn't here to win trophies. He's here for answers. Because Jace's death wasn't an accident – it was murder. And every year, Ryker receives another cryptic message from someone who knows the truth.

As sparks ignite and secrets resurface, Gianna must choose: guard her heart, or risk everything – love, loyalty, even her life – to uncover what really happened.

Why this book?

- Taps directly into reader demand for angst, edgy, and spicy romance.
- Set against the adrenaline-fueled world of underground street racing, the romance blends danger, desire, and rivalry.
- Gianna Brooks is fierce, wounded, and loyal, a spray-painter and street racer whose voice is bold and memorable, making her a standout lead.
- The sizzling chemistry between Gianna and Ryker collides with a murder mystery, raising the emotional and physical risks far beyond the track.
- Breathless pacing, vivid settings and irresistible tension.

EMMA WARRENDER is a former journalist – print, radio and TV (Channel 7 News) – YouTube creator and yoga instructor. *Driven* is her debut novel.

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

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

The Bell and the Blade

Paullina Simons



A tale of resistance, camaraderie, and the unbreakable bonds forged in war. But in a world where every heartbeat could be the last, love may be the greatest risk of all.

As Nazi forces tighten their grip on Belgium, Charlotte Fontaine bears witness to a massacre that sets in motion a desperate mission – one that could alter the course of history. Charlotte and her band of untrained yet fearless female freedom fighters are the Allies' last hope.

Leading an elite Allied team, Fletcher Gray is a soldier weighed down by his past but bound by duty. But Fletcher and his men cannot succeed alone. They must rely on the band of fighters led by Charlotte, a woman who's known nothing but war – with no time for love – until now.

As love and loyalty are tested on every front, a relentless German officer hunts them at every turn. In the face of impossible odds, courage will be their only weapon, and sacrifice the price of survival.

Why this book?

- Simons' devoted readers worldwide eagerly anticipate each new release, ready to be swept away once again
- Simons is renowned for crafting passionate, deeply moving romances set against the backdrop of war, revolution, and history's most defining moments.
- Fans know they'll be taken on an emotional rollercoaster, experiencing joy, heartbreak, and triumph in equal measure
- Simons writes protagonists who are strong, flawed, and deeply human, making their journeys through history all the more compelling
- Whether in war, exile, or personal turmoil, Simons' characters endure and fight for love, family, and freedom

PAULLINA SIMONS is the author of fifteen internationally bestselling novels, including her much beloved debut, *Tully*, and *The Bronze Horseman* series. Her books have sold millions of copies around the world.

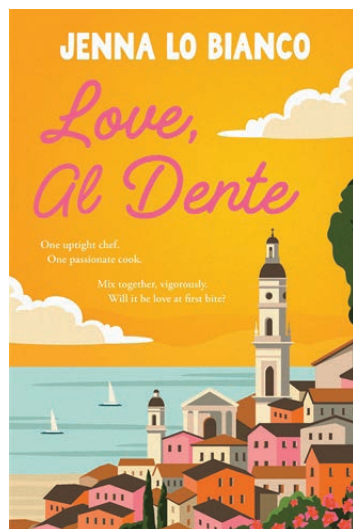
PUB DATE: November 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Poland (Świat Książki); Israel (Modan)

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

Love, al Dente

Jenna Lo Bianco



A deliciously tantalising, will-they-won't-they culinary affair by bestselling Italian-Australian author Jenna Lo Bianco.

Alessio's a pedantic, uptight former chef of a renowned Australian restaurant who has vowed to never set foot in a commercial kitchen again.

Francesca's a passionate free-spirited Italian cook who lives and breathes pasta, and happens to be in desperate need of a knight in shining chef whites.

A centuries old pasta battle.

A little white lie.

And a whole lot of chemistry.

Will they be able to handle the heat in the kitchen?

Or will it be a recipe for disaster?

Why this book?

- A sensory-rich romance that intertwines food, tradition, and emotional healing.
- Low-stakes and cozy, a niche in romance that is enjoyed on sunny afternoons and holidays
- Themes of family and a yearning to know those who shaped us better. Alessio is searching for a piece of himself in this place that shaped his grandmother
- Offers a deep dive into Italian culinary traditions, especially pasta-making, making it ideal for readers who love food-themed fiction such as *Chocolat* and *Eat, Pray, Love*
- Alessio's journey from burnout to rediscovery through food and love speaks to a post-pandemic audience seeking stories of finding your purpose after hardship

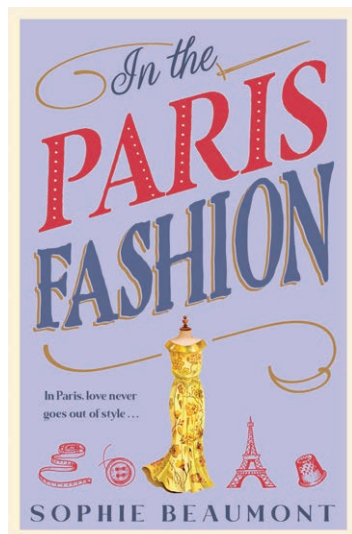
JENNA LO BIANCO is an Italian-Australian writer, educator, PhD candidate, passionate 'Italianist' and advocate for Italian language education. She is a Fellow of the International Specialised Skills Institute and Italian Australian Foundation, and is the author of *The Italian Marriage*, *Love and Rome* and *Venetian Lessons in Love*.

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

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

In The Paris Fashion

Sophie Beaumont



A lost evening gown, a legendary designer, a tragic death in 1930—Elisabeth Fontaine's final creation vanished, its secret design whispered through fashion history.

When vintage fashion dealer Isabelle Bernard comes across an enigmatic letter from Fontaine mentioning the 'evening sketches', she's very excited and heads to Paris to investigate,

Romy Valence has left a high-powered career to follow her dream of fashion design and is struggling with her course and her family's disapproval.

Celebrated fashion writer Audrey is in Paris to research a book about the fashion designers of the 1920s. It's inspired by her great-grandmother's stories of her time as a fashion illustrator in Elisabeth Fontaine's heyday.

Audrey knows it's going to be a compelling book. But Audrey, Isabelle and Romy, are about to uncover a secret far more extraordinary than imagined.

Why this book?

- The city shines as a symbol of romance, art, food, fashion, and reinvention—irresistible to anyone who dreams of or remembers Paris.
- Readers will see themselves in the characters as they navigate love, loss, and turning points in both personal and professional life.
- A story of women rediscovering joy, purpose, and how to live life to the fullest.
- This is warm, feel-good fiction at its best with comfort, charm and a touch of glamour.
- Author's previous titles published in North America, Germany, Italy, Russia and Ukraine.

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.

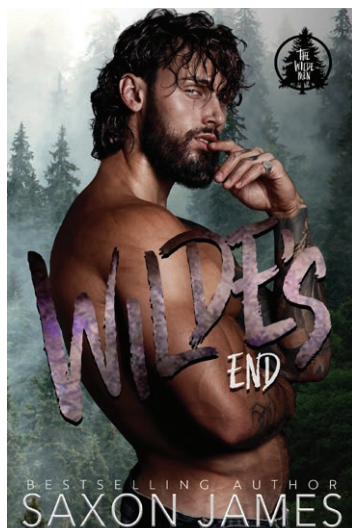
PUB DATE: November 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Ultimo Press

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Margaret Connolly & Associates

Wilde's End

Book 1

Saxon James



From international bestseller Saxon James comes a sizzling new series where small-town secrets spark big-time passion!

Hudson

Give me the smallest reason to make a bad decision, and I'm in. Case in point: drunkenly buying an abandoned town with my brothers. We're builders, planning to renovate and flip it – but the longer we're here, the more things feel off. Especially when a bearded mountain man breaks into my room and demands we leave. Trouble is, I've got nothing waiting in my old life, and Wilde's challenge sparks my competitive streak.

Wilde

I came to Wilde's End twenty years ago to protect this town and the people in it. The Bellamy brothers are nothing but chaos, and Hudson refuses to back down. His stubbornness matches mine, his attitude worms under my skin, and soon we're in a battle neither of us can walk away from.

Why this book?

- This is classic Saxon James, humour, heat, and heart all wrapped in a high-stakes M/M romance.
- Fan-favourite tropes of enemies-to-lovers, small-town secrets, and found family.
- Chemistry overload when Hudson's reckless charm crashes headlong into Wilde's brooding protectiveness. Sparks fly. Oh, do they fly!
- Saxon James is an internationally bestselling force in queer romance with a fiercely loyal global fanbase.
- Rights in Saxon's previous series have been licensed in the UK, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands.

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.

PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Stubborn Puckboy

(Puckboys #9)

Eden Finley &
Saxon James

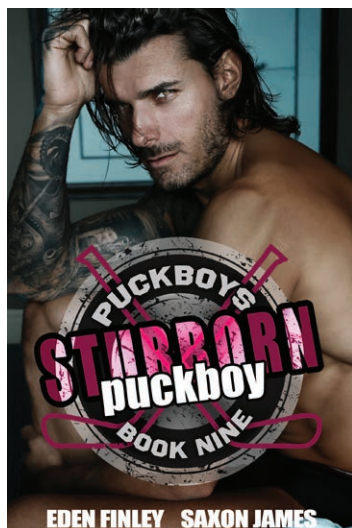
Colby

Once, the NHL was my dream – until Radimir Novicov skated circles around me and made it clear I'd never measure up. He was smart, talented, and, worst of all, impossible to ignore. One drunken almost-kiss later, our friendship imploded, he got called up, and I was sent packing. Now, seventeen years on, coaching is my dream – and I've finally made it to the pro leagues. The only catch? It's for Novi's team.

Novi

Radimir Novicov fears nothing. I'm one of the best, a future Hall of Famer, with two years left to end my career in glory. Then I'll disappear – because I can't come out while my family's still in Russia. It should be simple to keep my head down. Until Colby Kessinger, my old teammate with the cocky grin and reckless charm, walks back into my life. Suddenly, two years feels like forever.

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?

- Rights in the Puckboy series now sold in a World English ten-book deal
- Translation Rights sold (in various series) in Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands
- Sitting firmly alongside internationally bestselling authors such as Sarina Bowen, Riley Hart and Lucy Lennox, Saxon and Eden are much-loved international bestselling authors
- 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 for the Puckboys series alone!

PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

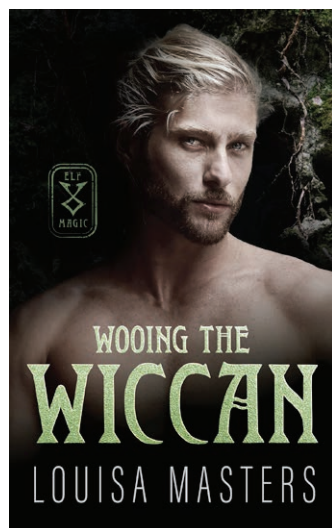
RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** WEL, Germany and France

BOOK 2
Enticing the Elf,
 coming in
 November
 2025

Wooing the Wiccan

(Elf Magic #1)

Louisa Masters



Immortal dilemmas, forbidden love, and characters who spark like wildfire

I'm surrounded by two hundred thousand elves, and still I'm lonely. After millennia of war, the last decade's peace has finally justified my choices as leader – but calm brings the hollow hours I never had before.

Then I meet Jared: a teacher, gardener, cat dad who loves books and laughter. He's everything – sweet, funny, warm – and between us the passion is scorchingly real. The problem? He's human, and he doesn't know other species exist.

We haven't been legally together long enough for me to tell him the truth, and every day the secret feels heavier. Can I risk losing the only man who makes me feel whole by revealing who I am? Or will my silence doom what we've just begun?

Why this book?

- Rights in author's previous series sold in France, Italy and Japan.
- Combines modern romance with immortal elves and Wiccan magic.
- Jared is sweet, funny, and grounded – a human anchor to the elf's centuries of solitude.
- Their chemistry blazes on the page, balanced with emotional connection.
- Quippy dialogue and everyday domestic charm keep the tone light.
- Elf society, magical laws, and politics add unique flavour without overshadowing romance.
- Perfect for fans of paranormal romance and contemporary MM romance
- Masters balances swoony romance with clever worldbuilding – politics, species laws, and immortal dilemmas – while keeping the focus on character growth and chemistry.

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.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Indy

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Couture

Louisa Masters

cover art
to come

Up-and-coming luxury brand Phallacy takes red-carpet fashion by storm!

Building a fashion atelier from the ground up isn't easy, but I love it. I design gorgeous clothes, work with my best friend, and Hollywood A-listers are starting to murmur my name. Things couldn't be better – except anxiety has been my lifelong shadow. When stress spikes, I go nonverbal.

Which makes my first meeting with celebrity stylist Griff Pevensy both thrilling and disastrous. I'm up for designing an awards gown for one of the most iconic women in Hollywood, but silence and a design he doesn't love won't get me past the gatekeeper.

Winning him over is easier than expected – we share more than I imagined. The real challenge? Keeping things professional when our connection feels anything but.

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.

Why this book?

- Louisa is already well-known for imaginative, romantic stories with fantastical or magical touches. Fans can expect emotional intensity in this contemporary mm.
- Slow-burn romance with a twist! Sparks fly between a rising (male) designer and a gruff ex-Marine turned celebrity stylist.
- A hero who lives with anxiety and selective mutism, portrayed with honesty and heart.
- Fashion, fame, and nontraditional communication styles create both conflict and chemistry.
- Sweet but not scorching, the romance builds through emotional connection, playful banter, and slow-burn intimacy rather than page-after-page of steamy times.

PUB DATE: TBC • PUBLISHER: Indy

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

A large white 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 large, pink, serif font. Below it, the text "Frontlist – Upmarket Fiction and Literary" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

Fiction

Frontlist –
Upmarket Fiction
and Literary

We Won't Be Here Long

Ilka Tampke



A meditation on nature and intergenerational trauma, *We Won't Be Here Long* unfolds over a single day – raw, poetic, and as unyielding as the forest itself.

At 9:13 a.m. on a warm morning, textile artist and mother of two Nellika Werner is struck by a falling tree limb while walking her dog in a remote forest.

Pinned and unable to move, Nellika's instinct is to survive: stave off dehydration, signal for help, free herself. But as the hours stretch on, it becomes clear rescue may never come.

As the forest becomes both her captor and confessor, Nellika embarks on an unflinching moral reckoning. Fragmented memories take her back to the scars of her own childhood and forward to the ways she has struggled – and failed – as a mother herself. While her love for her children is fierce, she feels lost in her inability to be the mother she thought she'd be.

ILKA TAMPKE is an award-winning author, academic and teacher. Her first novel, *Skin*, was published in eight countries and was nominated for the Voss Literary Prize and the Aurealis Awards. Her second novel, *Songwoman*, was published in five countries and won the Small Press Network Book of the Year Award. Ilka teaches creative writing at RMIT University.

Why this book?

- *Skin* was published in North America, United Kingdom, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Vietnam
- Dives deep into themes of motherhood, love, and redemption and explores how trauma gets passed down through generations
- The prose is just gorgeous – immersive and evocative and the descriptions of the forest are vivid and meditative
- Nellika struggles with motherhood, guilt, and self-worth are real and relatable and despite some themes, it ultimately leaves you feeling hopeful and uplifted
- 'I loved the depth, sincerity and beauty of *Skin*. It gives a name and a shape to our capacity for yearning.' - Isobelle Carmody

PUB DATE: March 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Simon & Schuster (Summit)

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

People Will Get Hurt By This

Katie Newton

cover art
to come

What if some women just aren't supposed to be mothers? What if it's better if some mothers just walk away?

Ten years ago, Arna walked out on her partner and baby son. She moved countries and built a successful career, convincing herself it was all for the best. Now she's returned home to farewell her dying mother and reconnect with the people she loves. But long-suppressed memories and past mistakes are all still waiting for her there, like live landmines ready to blow up in her face.

People Will Get Hurt By This is a darkly funny, feistily feminist story about bad role models, worse decisions and what happens when women don't do what they're expected to do.

It questions why mothers must sacrifice so much of themselves for their children, when fathers are often allowed to remain precisely who they are.

KATIE NEWTON built her career as a journalist and editor for top New Zealand outlets before turning to fiction. She holds a Master of Creative Writing (First Class Honours) from Auckland University and received the Copyright Licensing scholarship. *People Will Get Hurt By This* is her debut novel.

Why this book?

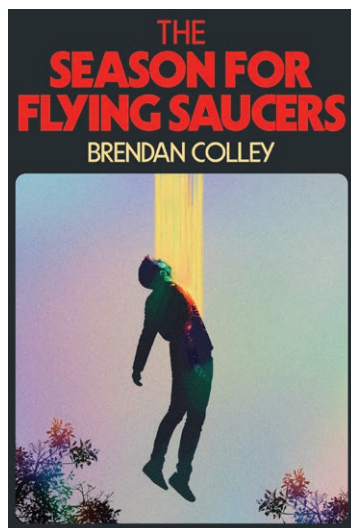
- Perfect for fans of Meg Mason and Catherine Newman, delivering sharp, thoughtful, and deeply engaging women's fiction.
- With spot-on dialogue and insights, it captures the messiness of modern love while diving into family, work, ambition and burnout.
- Relationships in all their forms are explored with honesty and compassion, drawing readers into intimate, character-driven moments stitched into a narrative you can't put down.
- Warm yet incisive, smart enough for literary readers but gripping enough for commercial audiences, this is a book club favourite in the making.
- The humour lands with wry, witty precision, lightening the load while deepening emotional impact.

PUB DATE: March 2027 • **PUBLISHER:** Simon & Schuster (Summit)

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

The Season for Flying Saucers

Brendan Colley



As alien lights return to their town, a fractured family must navigate the unknown to rediscover their connection and uncover hidden truths

A father who has been abducted by aliens; a mother who sees the spirits of dead people; a sister who communicates with angry dogs; and 29-year old Noah Grey, whose life has gone off the rails.

In Tasmania, strange lights appear in the skies every summer, signalling we're part of something bigger than the world of our worries. Bigger even than our hopes. When economic pressures force the Greys to live together for one season – the first time in 12 years since Noah left home after college – tensions are fraught.

Things get weird as locals become increasingly convinced the residents at this address have been targeted for alien abduction. As the summer unfolds Noah accepts things will never be normal again, even though his measure is the simplest of all: Family love.

Brendan Colley's *The Season for Flying Saucers* is strange, alluring and tender, a love letter to hope.

Why this book?

- Tom Perrotta's *The Leftovers* meets *The X-Files*
- Masterfully blends drama, mystery, and speculative fiction, creating a reading experience that's both immersive and utterly unique.
- At its heart, this is a story about family – the love, the fractures, and the impact of a long-lost member's return. How do you rebuild trust when the past still lingers?
- Alien abductions, eerie occurrences, and the supernatural blur the line between reality and the unknown
- Emotionally charged and deeply moving, captures the intensity of relationships, pulling you into vulnerable moments

BRENDAN COLLEY's first novel, *The Signal Line*, won the University of Tasmania Prize for best new unpublished work in the Premier's Literary Prizes and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premiers Literary Awards 2023.

PUB DATE: April 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

High Land

Sarah
Hawthorne

cover art
to come

Balancing finely crafted prose with heart-pounding suspense, *High Land* is at once a page-turner and a moving exploration of identity, love and the lies we inherit.

When Annie survives a tandem skydive that kills her instructor, she wakes from a coma unable to recognise her parents or even herself.

Once a gifted pianist, her injuries shatter her future, while the press crown her the 'Miracle Girl'.

Confined to her parents' fortress-like home in, Annie begins to uncover fragments that suggest her past is not what she's been told.

Determined to learn the truth, she escapes abroad, drawn to the Scottish Highlands and a family still haunted by the loss of their child.

Her near-death fall has set in motion a chain of secrets, betrayals, and deadly consequences stretching back twenty years.

Starkly original, *High Land* is a taut, twisting journey into identity, memory, and the lies we inherit.

Born in the UK, SARAH HAWTHORN lived in Toronto, Dallas, and New York before settling in Australia to pursue writing full-time. A former actor, journalist, and publicist, she is the author of *A Voice in the Night* (optioned for film), *Love Camera Action*, and *The Dilemma*.

Why this book?

- Opens with an electrifying skydive, immediately gripping readers with danger, suspense, and the question of survival against impossible odds.
- Annie's amnesia plunges us into a tense battle between memory and truth, keeping us as disoriented – and enthralled – as she is.
- Plays masterfully with unreliable memory, blurring the line between hallucination and reality in a way that heightens suspense.
- Secrets simmer within the family dynamic, ensuring loyalties are questioned and trust is never certain.
- Romance, betrayal, and obsession collide, ensuring that every relationship brims with tension and emotional complexity.

PUB DATE: October 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Rite of Spring

Kris Kneen

cover art
to come

A wildly erotic novel about a woman on the cusp of menopause that transcends our expectations about who and what we can be.

In the hope of salvaging their relationship, Miranda and Richard become caretakers of a remote island lighthouse off the coast of Tasmania.

Richard wants to shake up the malaise that had him falling into an affair, Miranda wants to understand what has changed and to recover from a diving accident that almost took her life.

Both are excited about the renewal and adventure that the mysterious lighthouse promises.

But what begins as a reuniting, quickly turns for Miranda in to a wildly unexpected journey back to the ocean that feels at the core of her being.

Why this book?

- Few write so vividly about bodily intimacy and spirit as Kneen and their work has been compared to Carmen Maria Machado, Jeanette Winterson, and Miranda July.
- *Rite of Spring* beautifully fuses place, psychological drama, the primordial nature of the ocean and the personal search for a centre.
- Kneen regularly explores themes of desire, identity, ageing, and self-discovery, while engaging with queer perspectives too often absent from mainstream fiction.
- Their work focuses on both the deeply personal and the universal mysteries of intimacy, family, love, and belonging.

KRIS KNEEN is the award-winning author of memoir (*Affection*, *Fat Girl Dancing*) and fiction including *An Uncertain Grace*, *Steeplechase*, *Triptych*, *The Adventures of Holly White* and the *Incredible Sex Machine*, *Wintering*, as well as the Thomas Shapcott Award-winning poetry collection *Eating My Grandmother*. They have written and directed broadcast documentaries for SBS and ABC Television.

PUB DATE: July 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Phantom Surrealists

Geoffrey
Gates

cover art
to come

Part mystery, part love story, part playful art history – an unforgettable journey into the shadows of modernism.

When Sydney researcher Christopher Tiffen stumbles upon a painting by little-known Antipodean surrealist Robert J. Wake, he is captivated by the enigmatic artist, his mysterious past, and by fellow gallery-goer Agnès Alert of Barcelona.

What begins as a spark of fascination becomes a detective-like pursuit across Europe and Australia, as Tiffen uncovers Wake's extraordinary, forgotten career: from surrealist circles in 1930s London and France, to Barcelona on the eve of civil war, to post-war Greece.

Alongside Wake's story, Tiffen navigates his own year of research, obsession, and desire. When he finally discovers Wake – still alive, living under another name – the past and present collide, reuniting a family and reclaiming the legacy of a lost surrealist whose life, once overlooked, proves unforgettable.

Why this book?

- This is a fresh spin on the art novel – part mystery, part love story, part playful biography – woven into a dazzling tale of art, identity, and reinvention.
- The story moves between Christopher Tiffen's modern-day investigation and Wake's surrealist adventures, layering past and present in a way that feels both intriguing and dreamlike.
- Christopher's pursuit of the elusive Wake, and his fascination with the mysterious Agnès Alert, drives the novel with equal parts heart and intellect.
- Themes of ambition, desire, creativity, rediscovery, and slippery truths give the novel both depth and relatability for today's readers.
- Fans of Dominic Amerena's *I Want Everything* or Miles Allinson's *Fever of Animals* will love this smart, art-infused story full of ideas and feeling.

GEOFFREY GATES was born in Sydney and has lived in Australia, England and Germany.

The Phantom Surrealist is his third novel.

PUB DATE: September 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Cross Thieves

Alan Fyfe



A searing portrait of life on the margins, *The Cross Thieves* recalls the visceral power of Christos Tsiolkas and the grit of early Tim Winton.

Brothers Pell and Gark are living rough in a squat on the edge of Mandurah, scraping by and mourning their murdered friend Lilly. When they discover who may be responsible, grief curdles into a dangerous hunger for revenge.

Blending tough lyricism with raw realism, *The Cross Thieves* traces how two boys came to the margins, and why their struggle for meaning drives them to steal a wayside cross. Interwoven letters, church scenes, and fragments of Mandurah's history expand the story into a haunting portrait of cycles of violence, faith, and neglect.

Through letters, church scenes, and fragments of Mandurah's history, *The Cross Thieves* pulls readers deep into a community scarred by violence and neglect, where faith and desperation collide.

Tough, poetic, and unflinching, Alan Fyfe's novel builds toward a climax as devastating as it is inevitable.

Why this book?

- Fuses gritty realism with poetic cadences, balancing stark brutality with beauty.
- Fyfe renders his underdog protagonists with compassion, never shying away from their flaws or desperation.
- The brothers' march toward violence reads with the relentless tension of a crime thriller.
- Explores loyalty, revenge, cycles of neglect, and the blurred lines between justice and self-destruction.
- Pell and Gark's devotion to one another drives the plot, even as they disagree on how to honour Lilly.
- Interrogates who deserves justice when formal systems fail, and what it means to act out of duty or rage.

ALAN FYFE is a writer and educator living on Noongar country. His debut novel *T* (Transit Lounge, 2022) was listed for the West Australian Premier's Award. His poetry collection *G-d, Sleep, and Chaos* (2024) won the WA Premier's Award for Poetry and overall Book of the Year in 2025.

PUB DATE: March 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Department of the Vanishing

Johanna Bell

A haunting, inventive novel that blends eco-fiction, archival mystery, and lyrical storytelling to capture a world on the brink of collapse

Ava Wilde has spent two decades working in the Department of the Vanishing, cataloguing the remains of extinct birds while her own life fragments under the weight of family grief, climate despair, and personal secrets.

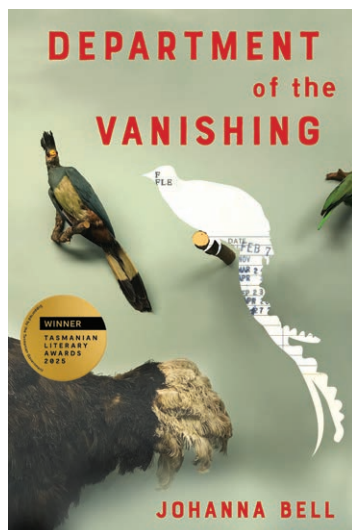
When police interviews, missing-person records, fragments of natural history, and Ava's own obsessive lists begin to converge, the story becomes not just one woman's reckoning but a meditation on memory, loss, and survival in an era of accelerating extinctions.

Told in a collage of voices – poems, transcripts, lists, scientific notes, and Ava's intimate confessions – the novel is as inventive in form as it is urgent in subject.

Bell's writing is tough, tender, and deeply poetic, bringing together personal and planetary grief in ways that resonate long after the final page.

JOHANNA BELL is a writer of fiction, poetry, and children's books whose work has been widely published and awarded. She founded a storytelling studio in Darwin to elevate regional Australian voices and now lives in Hobart.

Her novel *Department of the Vanishing* won a Tasmanian Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript.



Why this book?

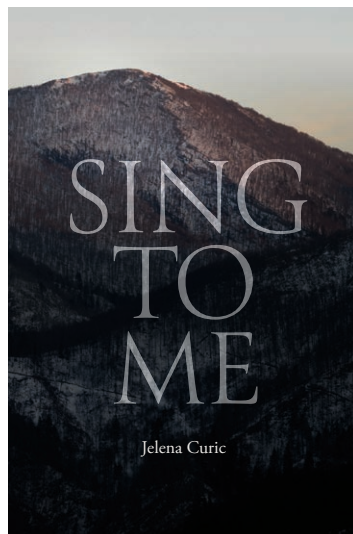
- For readers of Jenny Offill, Ali Smith, and Richard Powers' *The Overstory*, this is a singular, genre-bending novel about the fragility of memory and the stubborn will to keep singing even as the world falls silent.
- A genre-bending mix of eco-fiction and psychological mystery, perfect for literary readers and book clubs alike.
- Winner of the Tasmanian Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript, already recognised for its critical and commercial potential.
- Writing that is raw yet lyrical, balancing emotional punch with striking beauty.
- Layers police interviews, natural history notes, and missing-person records into a mystery that grips both heart and mind.

PUB DATE: March 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Transit Lounge

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Sing to Me

Jelena Ćurić



Set against the backdrop of Yugoslavia's turbulent history and the Croatian diaspora, *Sing to Me* is a poignant tale of love, betrayal, and the enduring power of music to connect us to our roots – and to each other.

On the slopes of Croatia's Velebit mountains, Pero Petrović's life has always been tied to music. A gifted musician, he once believed melody could heal and unite – until betrayal, guilt, and family secrets drove him away.

Summoned home by his mother's illness, Pero must face the fractured ties he left behind: an estranged father whose silence masks deep wounds, a childhood friend lost to darkness, and the haunting legacy of a war-torn country.

As he searches for reconciliation, Pero is drawn back to the songs of his youth, where echoes of love and loss reveal truths about family, identity, and forgiveness. But when the past refuses to stay buried, can music truly mend what has been broken?

JELENA ĆURIĆ is a writer of literary and crime fiction, published in anthologies and journals, and twice shortlisted for the Born Writers Award. A WestWords Accelerator alum, *Sing to Me* is her debut novel. She is also a celebrated singer in Sydney's Croatian community.

Why this book?

- Jelena Ćurić writes with both heart and authenticity, drawing from her own roots to deliver a story that's as moving as it is rich in detail.
- This is Croatian and Bosnian life - traditions, music, food, and history that bring the culture to life on the page.
- Set against Yugoslavia's turbulent past, offering fresh insight into the politics, struggles, and resilience of the region.
- Music pulses through the narrative, not just as a theme but as a force that shapes identity, memory, and healing.
- At the heart of this story is family – messy, loving, sometimes broken, often beautiful

PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** WestWords

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Maskeys

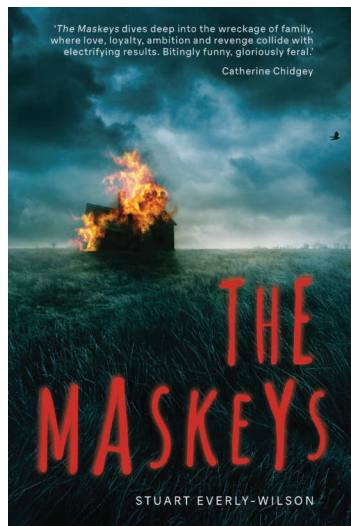
Stuart
Everly-Wilson

**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

Crimson Light Polished Wood

Monica
Raszewski

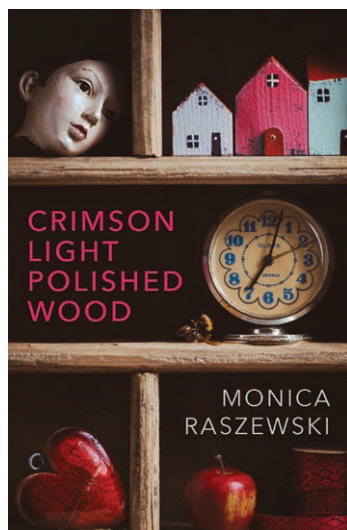
A beautiful work about art, gender, disappointment, understanding and ultimately celebration.

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.

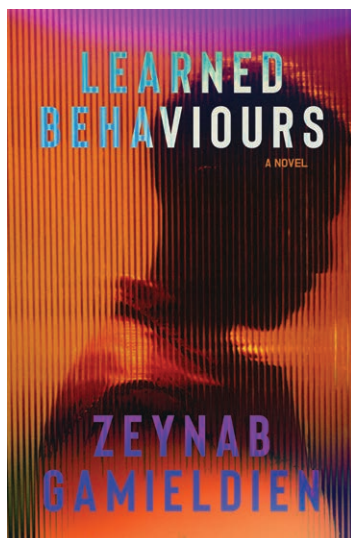
MONICA RASZEWSKI is novelist and playwright. Her first novel, *The Archaeology of a Dream City*, was shortlisted in the NSW Premiers' Literary Awards in 2022. Monica has had short stories published in literary journals including *Overland*, *Meanjin* and *Southerly* and several plays produced in Melbourne 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

Learned Behaviours

Zeynab Gamieldien



Blends the intrigue of a legal thriller with a profound exploration of identity, privilege, and the shadows of the past

Over fifteen years ago, Zaid's closest schoolfriend, Hass, took his life after being arrested for murder. Since then Zaid has since crafted a life for himself as a successful barrister, entering a world far removed from his humble beginnings.

But when Hass's sister finds him and asks him to read her brother's diary, Zaid is pulled back to the very world he had left behind, forcing him to confront the ugliness of the past and what it means for who he is today.

*Praise for **Learned Behaviours***

'Storytelling at its most gripping, a gaze at its most unflinching... A mystery that twists the genre's tropes to excavate injustices and the mythologies of guilt and innocence that fuel them—layer by layer, truth by uncomfortable truth.' – SARA M SALEH, author of *Songs for the Dead and the Living*

ZEYNAB GAMIELDIEN is the inaugural winner of the 2022 Westwords/Ultimo Prize for her debut novel, *The Scope of Permissibility*. Her work has been shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and featured in publications such as the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Daily Life section and the *Australian Muslim Times*.

Why this book?

- Blends the intrigue of a legal thriller with a profound exploration of identity, privilege, and the shadows of the past
- Confronting the past and navigating the divide between privilege and struggle, identity and belonging
- Gamieldien's writing addresses multifaceted themes such as faith, identity, ambition, and societal expectations

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Desolation

Hossein Asgari

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—'

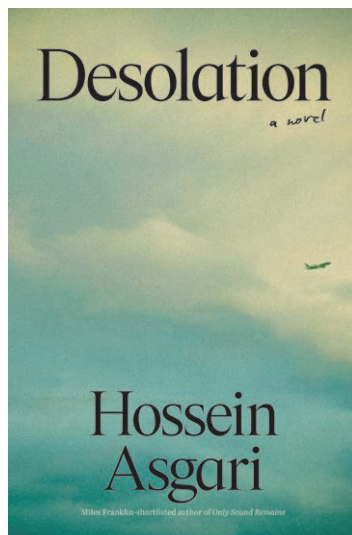
'You don't have to be polite or anything. I'll tell you my story and I promise it won't take more than a few hours of your time. Then it's up to you to write it or not.'

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.

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

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*.



Why this book?

- Asgari's debut novel, *Only Sound Remains* was shortlisted for Australia's most prestigious literary award, the Miles Franklin, and was also shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards
- Perfect for readers of considered literary fiction like the works of Khaled Hosseini or Elif Shafak and, in particular for readers of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid
- Explores how meaningless acts of violence sow seeds of sorrow
- It is about the healing power of stories and storytelling while questioning our common understanding of 'truth' and 'lies'

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Fiction

Frontlist –
Historical

Swallow

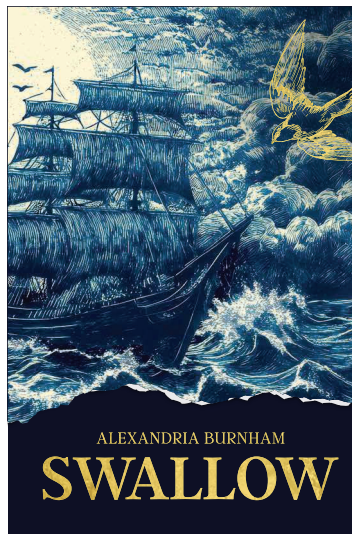
Alexandria
Burnham

William Swallow, the last man arrested for piracy, brought vividly to life in fiction for the first time.

William Swallow was no ordinary convict. Sailor, mutineer, dreamer – he refused to be broken by the Crown or its chains. When he seizes the brig *Cyprus* in a daring mutiny, Swallow sets course for freedom across unforgiving seas.

But freedom carries a heavy price. Haunted by the family he left in England and the betrayal of his closest companion, Swallow must hold together a crew riven by fear and ambition, while the law hunts them across oceans.

Based on the astonishing true story of Australia's last pirate, *Swallow* is a sweeping tale of rebellion, love, and survival where the line between hero and villain blurs – and one man's fight for freedom becomes a battle for his soul.



Why this book?

- William Swallow is flawed, daring, and magnetic; you can't help but cheer for him, even when he makes terrible choices.
- Mutiny, peril, betrayal, and dark humour sit alongside moments of tenderness, queerness, and redemption.
- Ally Burnham is an award-nominated screenwriter (*Unsound*), comics creator, and lead writer on the acclaimed multimedia series *Metropius*.
- *Swallow* launches a trilogy, promising continued commercial appeal for readers of Patrick O'Brian, Bernard Cornwell, and C.S. Forester.
- Both thrilling and moving, this is a book about survival, love, and what it really means to be free.

ALEXANDRIA BURNHAM is an AWGIE award-winning screenwriter, novelist and writer of comics. She is best known for her feature film *Unsound* (Apple, 2020), which was nominated for best original feature at the 2020 AWGIE awards.

PUB DATE: November 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** WestWords

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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Fiction

Frontlist –
Short Stories

The Drone

Pete Shmigel



A powerful and necessary work for readers of contemporary war literature and anyone seeking to understand the lived truth behind the news.

‘Set in Ukraine where worlds are exploding and tragedy abounds, Pete Shmigel’s photographic fiction zeroes in on a neglected truth that, like the devil, dignity is in the details. Shmigel caresses the surface of life’s seemingly insignificant details and penetrates to the source of human dignity – as well as the strength and vulnerability that come with it.’

Stash Luczkiw: Features Editor of Kyiv Post

In this searing collection, Pete Shmigel captures the human heart in the shadow of war.

From a grandmother facing down a hovering drone with her dog, to refugees negotiating border crossings with children and cats in tow, to soldiers and civilians haunted by memory and loss, these stories bring Ukraine’s war into sharp, intimate focus.

PETE SHMIGEL, a Western Sydney-based writer and son of Ukrainian refugees, has worked across politics, business, NGOs, and journalism. A former CEO of Lifeline Australia and founder of Lifeline Ukraine, he also established Revolve ReCYCLING, a social enterprise providing refurbished bicycles to disadvantaged children, including Ukrainian refugees and Indigenous communities.

Why this book?

- With echoes of Svetlana Alexievich and Tim O’Brien, *The Drone* refuses to sensationalise war; instead, it illuminates the fragile rituals and stubborn humanity that survive it.
- Drawing on first-hand experience as a journalist and aid worker, Shmigel’s ‘photographic fiction’ transforms headlines into haunting vignettes of resilience, absurdity, and dignity amid devastation.
- Offers a powerful lens on a contemporary war that continues to shape global politics and public conversation.
- Brings civilians and refugees, often sidelined in war literature, to the centre of the narrative.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** WestWords

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

U Want it Darker

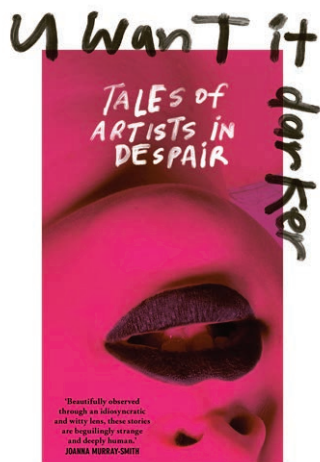
Murray
Middleton

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.

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.



MURRAY MIDDLETON

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

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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Fiction

Frontlist –
Graphic Novels

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

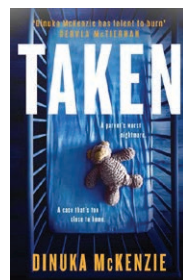
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Fiction

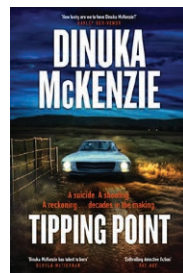
Recently Published +
Bestselling backlist -
Crime

The Detective Kate Mills series

Dinuka
McKenzie



New to
Rights
Guide



Detective Kate Miles is an unforgettable new voice in Australian crime fiction. Across three books, McKenzie crafts a crime trilogy that blends atmospheric rural settings, twisted mysteries, and complicated family life—with enough emotional stakes to carry readers through every page.

In *The Torrent*, Kate is heavily pregnant and moments from maternity leave when two cases land on her desk: a violent restaurant hold-up tied to her past, and a closed drowning case from devastating summer floods. Secrets begin to surface, betrayal looms, and Kate must decide whether to follow orders or pursue the truth.

Taken turns the personal up a notch: Kate returns from maternity leave to face the disappearance of a baby, rising financial stress, and shadowy corruption that hits dangerously close.

In *Tipping Point*, Kate's brother Luke returns home for an old friend's funeral. But when another death follows, Kate is sidelined amidst media scrutiny and family pressures, forced to reconcile loyalty, grief, and justice in her dark hometown Esserton.

Why this book?

- McKenzie's combination of gripping police procedure, richly detailed rural landscapes, and a heroine balancing motherhood and major moral dilemmas makes this perfect for fans of Jane Harper, Chris Hammer, and J.P. Pomare.
- Each book offers twisty plotting, family drama, and characters who feel authentic. *Tipping Point* in particular tackles urgent issues – mental health, social media abuse, past secrets – with an intimate voice and strong moral core.
- Critically acclaimed, with *The Torrent* winning the HarperCollins Banjo Prize and multiple crime award shortlistings, while *Taken* was longlisted for the prestigious Richell Prize.
- Published in the UK by Canelo Books

DINUKA MCKENZIE is the author of the Detective Kate Miles crime series published in Australia and the UK. She is the winner of the 2020 HarperCollins Australia Banjo Prize. Her writing has been shortlisted for the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards, the Bad Sydney Crime Danger Awards and longlisted for the Richell Prize.

PUB DATE: February 2022, February 2023, January 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **PUBLISHER:** Alex Adsett Literary

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.

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.



Why this book?

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

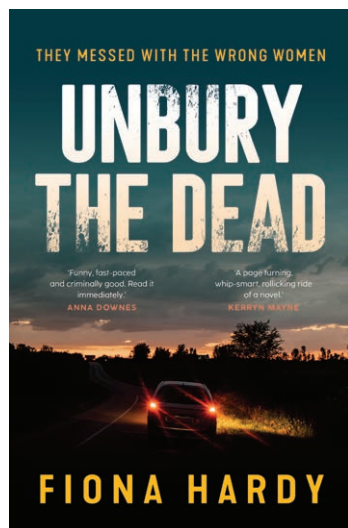
PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

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

RIGHTS OPTIONED: Book to Screen

Unbury the Dead

Fiona Hardy



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: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Affirm Press

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

Three Boys Gone

Mark Smith

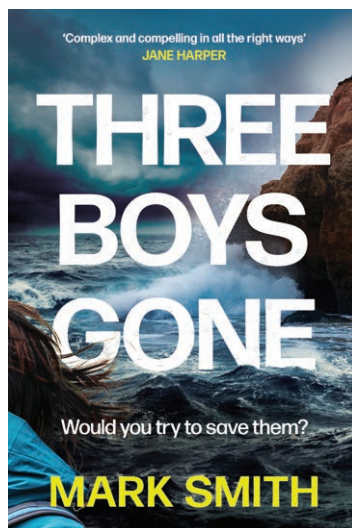
Would you try to save them?

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

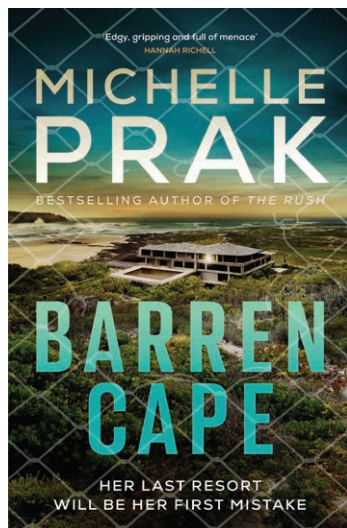
MARK SMITH is the award-winning author of four young adult novels, including the acclaimed Winter Trilogy. The first book in the series, *The Road to Winter*, is a teaching text in schools throughout Australia. The sequel, *Wilder Country*, won the Indie Book Award for Young Adults. His short fiction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

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Czech Republic (Grada)

Barren Cape

Michelle Prak



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)

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?

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.



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

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **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

Fiction

Recently Published +
Bestselling backlist –
Contemporary +
Romance

Big Feelings

Amy Lovat

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.

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.



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
- Lovat writes with such keen observation delves into the intricacies of love, friendship, and personal growth
- Hailed by Hannah Kent and Sally Hepworth as a promising voice in Australian fiction

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany (Luebbe/Pola)

Stinkbug

Sinéad Stubbins



A wildly original and hilariously unhinged novel.
Part anxious millennial fever dream, part searing workplace satire

At Winked advertising agency everyone is family. But Edith has a secret that she's hiding from her family, one that could blow up her chances of promotion.

When Edith is sent to Consequi, a three-day work retreat in the mountains, she sees an opportunity to impress her bosses and prove to herself that she's still worth something. But this is no ordinary corporate retreat.

Trapped together with the threat of mass redundancy, their phones confiscated and the teambuilding activities becoming increasingly extreme, the 'family's' cracks begin to widen.

Rejection might be her worst nightmare, but when she realises there's something suspicious about

Consequi, Edith is faced with a decision: conform and shut up, or accept stinkbug status and find out what's really going on.

Why this book?

- It taps into the zeitgeist for readers who love biting humour and insight into the absurd side of office life.
- Edith's perspective is both sympathetic and unsettling as secrets, power dynamics, and suspicion build through the novel. It keeps readers guessing who's friend, foe – or just gaslighting – and delivers suspense alongside sharp psychological insight.
- Tackles themes like toxic work culture, power dynamics, and performative positivity
- From psychological manipulation to physical danger, the story escalates with real momentum – the pacing is taut, the stakes are high, and the mystery is gripping.

SINÉAD STUBBINS is a writer from Melbourne who has written for *The Guardian*, *frankie*, *The Big Issue*, *ELLE*, *The Cut* and *Vulture*, among others, and is a writer for ABC's *The Weekly With Charlie Pickering*.

She mainly writes about pop culture, friendship and the embarrassing moments that you think about in the five minutes before you go to sleep.

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

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

100 Years of Betty

Debra Oswald



'A rich feast of a novel, a perfect balance of sweet and sour. You won't want it to end.'

**Geraldine Brooks, bestselling author of *Horse*,
Year of Wonder, *March***

Meet Betty: storyteller, feminist, eternally curious and phenomenally old. 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.

Set against a century of world events and social upheavals, *One Hundred Years of Betty* is the sweeping saga of one particular ordinary, fabulous woman living through a century of massive change.

Why this book?

- 'Sweeping us across the decades with intellect and wit, Betty is the heroine women have been waiting for.' Gabbie Stroud
- 'The moment you finish this novel you will want to find someone else who has read it and talk all night about the vital questions it raises.' Malcolm Knox
- 'Mesmerising and heart-breaking.' Sarah Bailey
- 'Oswald writes older women with the panache, wit and steeliness that many of us will recognise in our mothers, grandmothers and aunts who traversed a century that was never quite ready for them.' Melanie Joosten

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

RIGHTS SOLD: Czech Republic: (Jota)

What Did I Miss?

Holly Brunnbauer

Can she cram a wild decade into a few months without losing her mind ... or her heart? A witty rom-com for all fans of Sally Thorne and Beth O'Leary.

Right person, worst time ever!

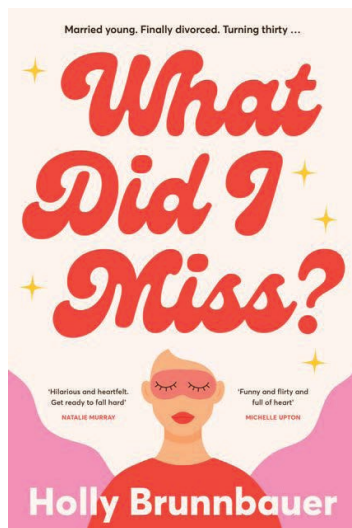
Teacher Makayla has many regrets including marrying her high school boyfriend.

Now, newly divorced, determined to hold on to her independence and facing the big 3-0, Makayla makes a list of all the things she missed out on while her friends were single and running amok in their twenties.

But when her one-night stand turns up again, and a revenge plot on her ex spirals out of control, she has to decide if some things are worth missing. And if Makayla can't sort herself out before her birthday, she might face the biggest regret of her life.

A fresh and feisty romantic comedy about what happens when you meet someone special before truly knowing yourself.

HOLLY BRUNNBAUER lives in regional Victoria with her husband, two young boys, and a curvaceous pug named Mr Giuseppe. She writes heartfelt stories that blend humour, romance, and emotional depth.



Why this book?

- The slow burn between Makayla and Beau brims with awkward charm, witty exchanges, and that classic rom-com push-pull tension.
- Packed with beloved tropes from meet-cutes and second chances to heartfelt confessions, the story delivers all the moments romance readers crave.
- Alongside the romance, the novel balances personal growth and emotional depth, giving the narrative real heart.
- Makayla's mission to reclaim the experiences she missed by marrying young offers both humour and poignant reflection for readers navigating life's turning points.
- The book is fun and sexy, yet isn't afraid to tackle regret, grief, and growth—raising the emotional stakes without losing its charm.

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

PRIMARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Rise and Shine

Kimberley Allsopp

A sweet and funny grown-up love story, from the author of *Love and Other Puzzles*, perfect for fans of *Coco Mellors*, *Dolly Alderton* and *Meg Mason*

Charming, talky, wryly funny, poignant and original, *Rise and Shine* is a love story, yes, but it's a love story that happens ten years into a marriage, when somebody wants out.

This is a story about marriage. It is also a story about life and love and happiness and the absence of happiness and what we need to do to find it again.

It's a story about hope, baking, making music, lemon trees, painting, love, divorce, dogs, the families we create for ourselves, and the heat of the Brisbane sun.

It's a story about August and Noah.

It begins at the end.



Why this book?

- The love story between August and Noah is genuine and relatable, capturing the ups and downs of a long-term relationship and the idea of second chances
- August is a strong, independent woman who goes through significant personal growth, but Noah's not left behind undergoing his own personal reckoning.
- Perfect for Book Clubs
- '*Love and Other Puzzles* has more heart than Harry Burns, more zingers than Daniel Cleaver and is hotter than Fitzwilliam Darcy emerging from a lake, partially clothed. If you love rom coms as I do, you will meet cute with this wonderful twist on the genre.' Lauren Sams

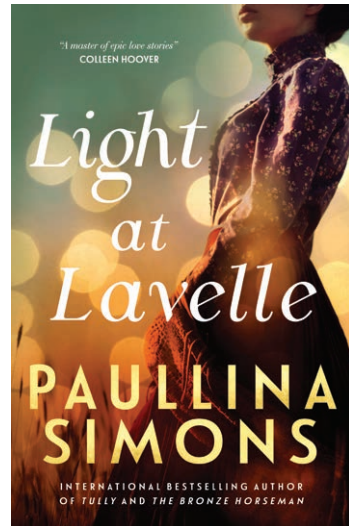
KIMBERLEY ALLSOPP has had her work appear in *Kidspot*, *The Sunday Telegraph* and *WHIMN* (now *Body & Soul*) and she co-hosts the rom-com podcast, *Meet Cute*, which allows her to justify some of her otherwise questionable life choices. Her first novel, *Love & Other Puzzles* was published by HarperCollins in 2022.

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

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

Light at Lavelle

Paullina Simons



A breathtaking new epic historical love story from a master of the genre, the internationally mega-bestselling author of *The Bronze Horseman*

It is 1929. The world is about to change.

Finn Evans is a successful Boston banker harbouring a secret that threatens to unravel his carefully constructed idyllic life. Isabelle Lazar, a young Ukrainian farmer, endures unimaginable hardships fighting to save her family before finding herself alone on America's distant shores.

Fate throws Finn and Isabelle together just as the stock market crash causes a devastating collapse of his world. Amid the Great Depression and the trials of their new lives, an undeniable connection grows between them that they both must hide.

As their intertwined destinies hang in the balance, they discover that even those who have lost everything still have something left to lose.

Why this book?

- Millions of readers worldwide are already devoted fans of the legendary Paullina Simons
- Her books have sold millions of copies worldwide and been translated in 20 territories
- Colleen Hoover, another mega-bestselling author is also a fan: 'Paullina Simons pulls on every heartstring. She's a master of epic love stories'
- This eagerly-awaited new epic is in the spirit of one of her most beloved classics, *The Bronze Horseman*
- Bound to delight her fans and win a whole new generation of readers

PAULLINA SIMONS is the author of fifteen internationally bestselling novels, including her much beloved debut, *Tully*, and *The Bronze Horseman*. Her books have sold millions of copies around the world.

Born and raised in the former Soviet Union, Paullina immigrated to the US in the mid-seventies.

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

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Poland (Dressler Dublin), Italy (Rizzoli), Czech Republic (Euromedia), Israel (Modan) • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Blood Wine
Dynasty Series

Last Breath / Last Shot

Emma
Pignatiello

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

Last Breath

Nella Barbarani returns home to face a lawsuit that could ruin her – and ends up in the middle of a murder investigation. With Jett Randall as her reluctant bodyguard, they uncover secrets that could destroy the family and each other.

Last Shot

Max thinks she's doing the right thing by warning the Barbaranis about a murder plot. Grey thinks she's trouble. Neither of them expects to get pulled into something much bigger – or to rely on each other to survive it.



Why this book?

- Pulse-pounding romance perfect for fans of Lucy Score, Devney Perry and KA Tucker.
- Fiery tension between ex-cop Max Conrad and the enigmatic Greyson – their love-hate dynamic will keep you hooked from start to finish.
- Has All The Tropes: Small Town, Banter, Mystery, Only One Bed, Spicy Love Scenes.
- Like Max in *Last Shot*, Nella is fiercely independent and fights for what she believes in.
- Full of witty banter, simmering tension and a larger-than-life family dynasty – Australia's answer to Yellowstone!
- Each book introduces new leads while maintaining a shared universe allowing for new readers to jump in without prior knowledge.

EMMA PIGNATIELLO is a high-school teacher and author based in Perth, Western Australia. She writes romantic suspense with sharp dialogue, complex characters, and gripping plots. Her Blood Wine Dynasty series explores love, danger, and family secrets set against vivid Australian and Italian backdrops.

PUB DATE: January 2025 / April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation
RIGHTS SOLD: Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)

Himbo Hitman

Saxon James

**What do you do when you're a hitman who's
terrible at his job?**

At first I thought it would be an easy payday. A few pew pews for bad people, a couple of suitcases of cash for me. The problem is that after a couple jobs, I've never actually managed to unalive someone, and not for lack of trying. Apparently a basic requirement of a hitman is being a good shot.

Despite my constant duck-ups I'm given another name, and I very nearly follow through. Instead, I send him into hiding and collected the cash anyway.

But wanted people are hard to hide, and bad guys don't like paying big money for loose ends.



Why this book?

- Follow a hitman who's hilariously bad at his job, turning every mission into a comedy of errors
- Saxon James expertly blends humour and deep emotional connections, making her romances both laugh-out-loud funny and incredibly touching
- From snarky best friends to lovable himbos, every character is unique, flawed, and utterly irresistible
- Expect plenty of flirty comebacks, teasing friendships, and dialogue that will make you grin from ear to ear
- Doesn't shy away from exploring themes of self-acceptance, past trauma, and personal growth in a way that feels real and uplifting

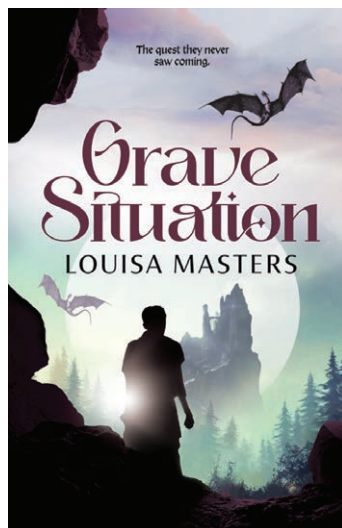
SAXON JAMES is the author of over twenty bestselling contemporary romance titles. Saxon's titles were nominated across categories in the Goodreads MM Romance Member's Choice Awards and won in several categories, including All-Time Favorite MM Series.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Grave Situation

Louisa Masters



Talon Silverbright never imagined he'd be chosen to save the world from a zombie apocalypse.

When a mysterious stone selects Talon Silverbright for a mission of utmost importance, he must leave behind his life as a mage instructor and embark on a perilous journey.

He's joined by his twin sister, a dragon rider; an attractive healer who once saved his life; a sentient, god-like rock; a disdainful dragon; and a matchmaking horse. Together, they navigate a journey filled with magic, humour, and unexpected challenges.

As the fate of the world hangs in the balance, Talon and his companions must navigate treacherous terrain and uncover ancient secrets. Will Talon rise to the challenge and save humanity?

Why this book?

- A high-stakes journey filled with magic, danger, and heart-stopping romance as he fights to save the world from a zombie apocalypse
- Slow-burn, emotionally charged relationship between Talon and Jaimin will have you swooning as they navigate love, duty, and the perils of war
- Talon evolves from a reluctant hero into a powerful force, overcoming adversity and finding his true purpose
- Sharp, witty dialogue and humour

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.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Indie

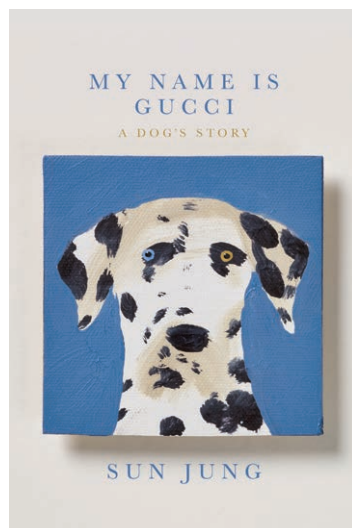
RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Fiction

Recently Published +
Bestselling backlist –
Upmarket and
Literary

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.

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

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.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: Hungary (Partvonal Kiadó), Korea (Hummingbooks)

The Haunting of Mr and Mrs Stevenson

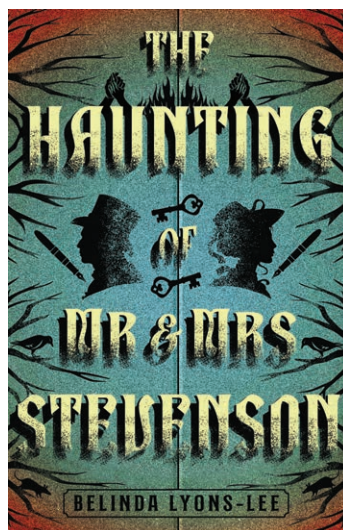
Belinda
Lyons-Lee

**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 health and creativity.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Italy: (GeMS/TRE60)

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 Australian gothic at its macabre best.' Sarah Schmidt

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

Relic Light

Brennan
Wysong



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.

BRENNAN 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?

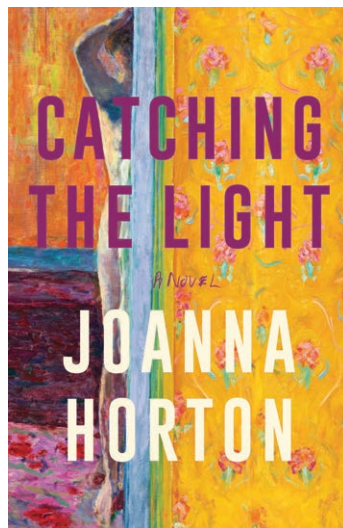
- Comps include Claire-Louis Bennett's *Pond* and *Checkout 19*, Jenny Offill's *Dept. of Speculation* and *Weather*, and David Markson's *Wittgenstein's Mistress* and *Reader's Block*
- The 'story of a woman, who has a husband, three sons, a friend, and her blindness. It's the story of a generation, 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

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

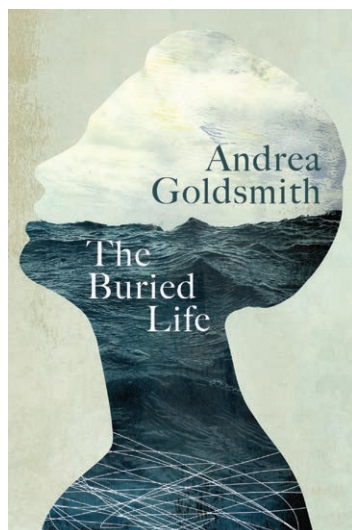
JOANNA HORTON is a writer living in Brisbane. She has an MA in anthropology from the University of Chicago, and is currently a doctoral candidate in sociology. Her work has appeared in *Overland*, *Jacobin*, *StylusLit*, and *The Millions*.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

The Theory of Everything

Yumna Kassab



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?

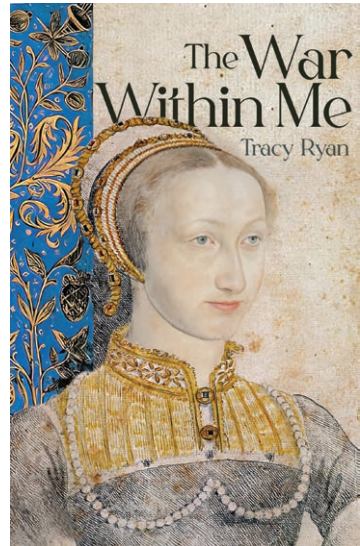
- Kassab is one of Australia's most exciting and experimental voices
- Her work is reminiscent of writers like Jhumpa Lahiri, Roberto Bolaño, Nam Le
- *The Lovers*, published in 2022, was listed for five major literary awards
- In 2023 Yumna Kassab was announced as the inaugural Parramatta Laureate
- 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

The War Within Me

Tracy Ryan



Perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory, Alison Weir, and Elizabeth Chadwick, this gripping tale of love, power, and sacrifice brings to life one of history's most formidable queens.

Sixteenth-century Princess Jeanne d'Albret is a pawn in France's ruthless political game. But Jeanne and her mother have their own plans, ones that defy the will of men.

When an arranged marriage binds her to Antoine de Bourbon, Jeanne is stunned by an unexpected passion. But Jeanne is more than just a wife and princess. With reform sweeping across Europe and her mother's legacy weighing on her, she makes a bold choice: she will embrace the Huguenot cause, no matter the cost.

As civil war erupts, Jeanne navigates the political waters, facing down the Pope, the formidable Guise family, and the ever-calculating Catherine de Médicis. But as France divides along religious lines, one question haunts her – will her beloved husband stand beside her, or become her greatest adversary?

Why this book?

- Blends historical facts with imaginative flair, bringing Jeanne's experiences to life
- Highlights the contributions and sacrifices of women in history, especially someone as significant yet overlooked as Jeanne d'Albret
- Dives into the intricate political landscape of 16th-century France, filled with alliances, betrayals, and power struggles
- Vividly depicts the religious tensions and conflicts of the time, showing how they impacted both individuals and society
- Brings other historical figures to life, giving a broader context of the era Jeanne lived in
- Emphasises themes of empowerment and resilience, especially for women, making it a powerful read for today's audience

TRACY RYAN is an award-winning writer and poet. Two of her poetry collections have won the Western Australian Premier's Prize, and she has written five acclaimed novels. She has taught literature, creative writing and film and worked as bookseller, editor and translator. She teaches fiction writing at the University of Tübingen, Germany.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Fiction

Recently Published +
Bestselling backlist –
Graphic Novels

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.

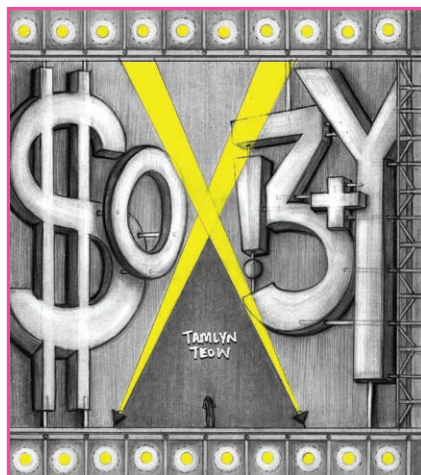
PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Scribe Publications

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

RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Drawn & Quarterly)

SoXiety

Tamlyn Teow



Drawing inspirations from films such as *Her*, *Idiocracy* and *Blade Runner*, Tam Teow creates a mood and atmosphere oscillating between despair and fragile hope

In a melancholic present-day concrete jungle resides tech addicts of all different kinds, surrounded by never-ending skyscrapers and the incessant flashing of neon signs and lit up screens.

At night they return to lonely isolation, in soulless, utilitarian apartments, where all they have to turn to is more of the same. Spiralling further into depression and anxiety, consuming more but never being nourished, one man is so diminished that he shrinks, becoming less and less until he eventually falls through the grate on a roadside drain.

In that mysterious underworld – a dark land filled with strange plants and unusual creatures – a metamorphosis begins. And when the man eventually returns to the world above, a seed travels with him.

A seed of community.

A seed of hope.

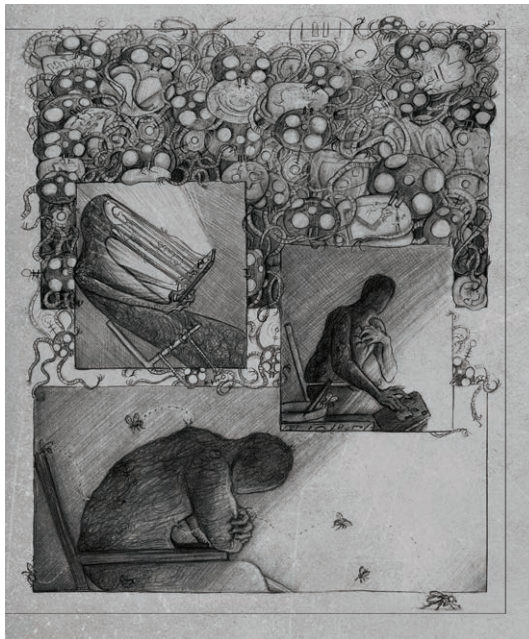
Why this book?

- An incredibly profound, multi-layered and subversive almost-wordless graphic novel
- Explores the destructive impact that dopamine addiction, fuelled by technology, has on our mental health
- Evocative art reminiscent of Shaun Tan and Armin Greder and while dark, it is ultimately hopeful and encouraging that a return to human connection really is possible
- This is the type of unusual work that stops people in their tracks
- *SoXiety* would make a thought-provoking and unique animated short about a topic that is very much in the headlines – the impact of social media and technology on our wellbeing and mental health

TAM TEOW is an artist based in Australia with interests in narrative and emotionally themed work. Her aim is to create art that inspires the imagination. Tamlyn has worked in design, as a scenic and concept artist and props painter on various film/TV productions (the most recent being *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*) and art installations.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation





Fiction

Recently Published +
Bestselling backlist –
Spec Fic

Saturation

William Lane

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

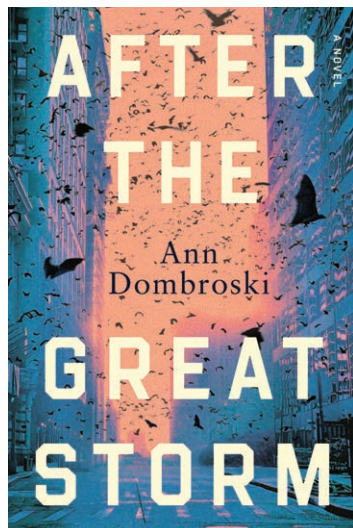
WILLIAM LANE is the author of *The Salamanders*, *The Horses* and *Over the Water*. He has an Honours degree in Australian literature and a PhD on the Australian writer Christina Stead.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

Salvage

Jennifer Mills



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.

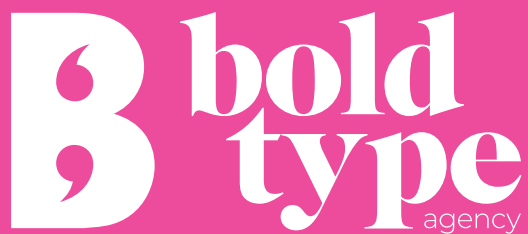
Why this book?

- 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



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