LONDON BOOK FAIR 2026

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Australian Government

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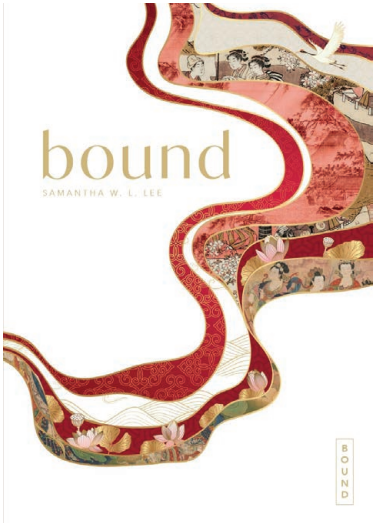
Fiction

Frontlist – Literary and Upmarket Fiction

Bound

Samantha W. L. Lee



Lyrical and deeply moving, *Bound* is a powerful novel about women's bodies, migration, and what it takes to finally loosen the ties that bind us.

Spanning a century and four countries, Bound traces the lives of three generations of women bound by history, tradition, and the unspoken legacies they inherit — and resist.

China, 1923: Four-year-old Huan-Ju becomes the first woman in her family to have her feet unbound, escaping an ancient practice but not the limits placed on her life. She dreams of movement, choice, and a world beyond her village.

Malaysia, 1968: Her daughter Shui-Tu, raised in poverty and constraint, believes education will be her escape – a passport to a different future.

Australia, 1980: Lauren, born into suburban comfort, feels unmoored from both her family's past and her own sense of self, forced to reckon with the inheritance she cannot name.

Why this book?

- Readers who loved *Pachinko, The Joy Luck Club* or *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* will immediately recognise the emotional territory.
- The women at the centre of the novel are complicated, and sometimes contradictory people, whose choices make sense once you understand the lives they've lived.
- Explores issues around women's bodies, tradition and freedom through everyday moments – food, clothing, family dynamics – rather than overt political commentary.
- Very strong book-club appeal that will spark conversation about family, inheritance and what gets passed down while still being completely story-driven.

SAMANTHA W.L. LEE is a Chinese-Australian writer of literary fiction, essays and poetry. She was shortlisted for the WestWords/Ultimo Prize for her manuscript and completed the WestWords Fellowship in 2023. Samantha has been shortlisted for multiple *Needle in the Hay* flash fiction competitions and has been published in *SBS Voices* and *FemAsia Magazine*.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation, Film/TV

People Will Get Hurt By This

Katie Newton

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.

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.

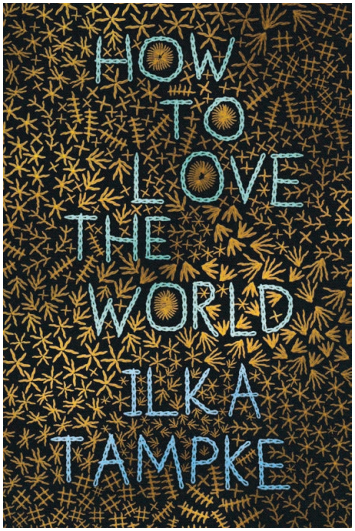
KATIE NEWTON built her career as a journalist and editor for top New Zealand outlets before turning to fiction. She holds a Master of Creative Writing (First Class Honours) from Auckland University and received the Copyright Licensing scholarship. *People Will Get Hurt By This* is her debut novel.

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

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

How to Love the World

Ilka Tampke



A meditation on nature and intergenerational trauma, *How to Love the World* 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.

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

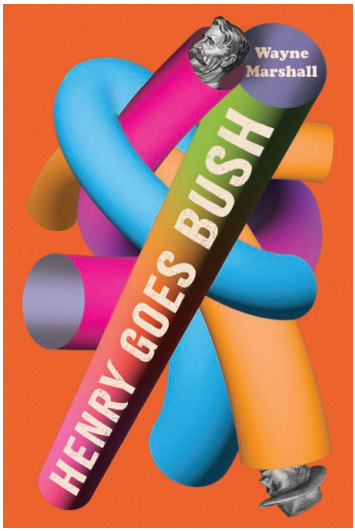
ILKA TAMPKE is an award-winning author, academic and teacher. Her first novel, *Skin*, was published in eight countries and was nominated for the Voss Literary Prize and the Aurealis Awards. Her second novel, *Songwoman*, was published in five countries and won the Small Press Network Book of the Year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

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

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

Henry Goes Bush

Wayne Marshall



Peter Carey meets David Mitchell, with the psychological intensity of Colm Tóibín.

In 1892, rising literary star Henry Lawson is sent out of Sydney to 'find the real bush' – a thinly veiled attempt to sober him up, straighten him out, and turn him into a national symbol.

Stranded in Bourke on the edge of the Darling River, Lawson instead finds a town gripped by political unrest, public spectacle and competing versions of the truth.

As myth, history and hallucination begin to blur, Lawson becomes haunted by his own legend and uncertain of which version of himself will survive. The bush offers no redemption – only rupture.

Henry Goes Bush is a darkly comic, formally inventive work of biographical fiction about creativity, colonial myth-making and masculinity, asking what it costs when a nation turns a living writer into a legend.

Why this book?

- This is not a reverent historical novel. Marshall takes the myth of Henry Lawson and quietly blows it apart – reimagining a formative moment in Lawson's life with wit, invention and real emotional depth.
- Rewrites a familiar story in a way that feels fresh, subversive and surprisingly moving.
- At its heart it's about addiction, authorship, and the pressure of being turned into a public symbol.
- Marshall is a genuinely exciting new voice in Australian fiction. He writes with confidence, intelligence and a wicked sense of humour.

WAYNE MARSHALL is a writer and musician. His short fiction has appeared in *Overland*, *Island* and *Going Down Swinging*, among others. He is the author of the short story collection *Shirl*, shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award, and a co-founder of the Peter Carey Short Story Award. *Henry Goes Bush* is his first novel.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Measure of Earl Grey

Louise Wolhuter

Everyone is watching. No one sees the truth.

To his neighbours, Earl Grayson is simply the man on Flame Street: the Bookshop Guy, misread and renamed.

Ronnie barely notices him – only the lemon trees leaning over her fence. Lara, whose yard borders both, watches from her baby's room. To her, Earl is Badger: solitary, nocturnal, a man of odd habits and unreadable intentions.

But Earl is watching too. He knows Lara's name. And Ronnie's. He knows more than he should.

When unease spreads through the neighbourhood – a murdered girl, a missing boy, someone tapping at doors in the night – suspicion settles where it always does.

Ronnie fears for her family. Earl is making plans. And Lara, the neighbours whisper, may be coming undone.

Because people see what they expect to see – and sometimes that's the most dangerous thing of all.

Why this book?

- Wolhuter masterfully recruits her readers into its misjudgements. We form opinions early – about Earl, about Lara, about where the danger sits – and then realise how much we've relied on shorthand and assumption.
- Earl is lonely, awkward, middle-aged, physically ungainly – and treated with absolute seriousness and dignity.
- This isn't a thriller about a single bad act – it's about tone, whispers, pattern-making, the way a neighbourhood collectively decides what to be afraid of.
- Lara and Ronnie are not softened or excused. Maternal fear, sexual shame, grief and judgement coexist without flattening them into virtue or villainy.

LOUISE WOLHUTER is the author of the acclaimed *An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb*, which was published in Australia and the UK and *Shadows of Winter Robins* which won the Fiction Book of the Year award in the 2025 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards. Louise grew up in northern England and now lives in Perth.

PUB DATE: October 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan (Picador)

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

The Dreampool

Ella Rubeli

A tense literary exploration of complicity and care, friendship and atonement, and the cost of tending to the past rather than leaving it hidden.

When a teenage boy drowns in a small country town, Ruby helps the only witness – her estranged childhood friend Grace – disappear. Believing she understands what really happened, Ruby hides Grace on a vast private property on the edge of town, a place shaped by inheritance, silence, and unspoken histories. Beneath the land lies an ancient cave system, including a rare, naturally occurring camera obscura, where light and memory distort and re-form.

As police scrutiny and media attention intensify, Ruby becomes increasingly entangled in the consequences of her loyalty. Meanwhile, the property's fifth-generation owner begins to confront the buried stories beneath her feet.

Why this book?

- As a reader, we cannot take our eyes off Ruby. She's conflicted, loyal, frightened and quietly complicit.
- Ideas around inherited violence, buried histories, and media exploitation emerge naturally through character and plot, rather than sitting on the surface as commentary.
- The disappearance and investigation drive the plot, but *The Dreampool*'s real focus is atmosphere, interiority, and the social dynamics of a small town under scrutiny, rather than procedural detail.
- Readers will come for the suspense and stay for the voice and moral complexity which make *The Dreampool* a strong candidate for literary prizes, book clubs and festival conversations.

ELLA RUBELI is an award-winning journalist, writer, and documentary filmmaker from regional New South Wales. A five-time Walkley Award winner, her work has been published by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Guardian Australia*, SBS, and ABC, and screened at international festivals including SXSW and IDFA. She now lives on Darkinjung Country with her family.

PUB DATE: March 2027 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

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

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.

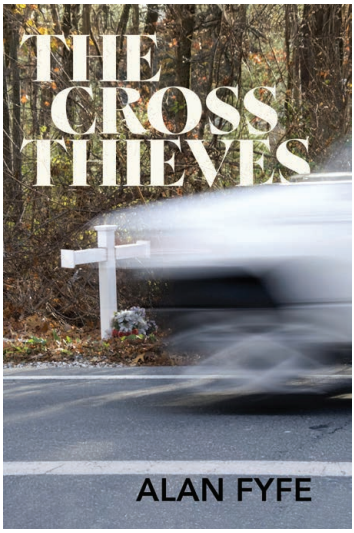
DONNA M CAMERON is an actor, playwright and AWGIE-nominated radio dramatist turned novelist. Her debut *Beneath the Mother Tree* (2018) was widely acclaimed and optioned for adaptation. *The Rewilding* earned fellowships, award recognition, and was shortlisted for the 2025 Davitt Crime Fiction Awards.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

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

High Land

Sarah Hawthorne

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.

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.

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*.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Rite of Spring

Kris Kneen

'Thank the literary Gods for Kris Kneen! For the way they make desire dangerous again, the body luminous, and shame impossible.'
Beejay Silcox

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?

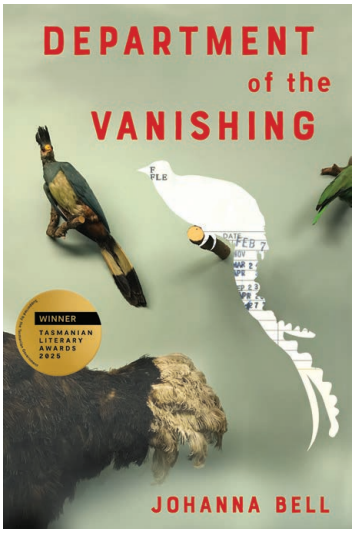
- Few write so vividly about bodily intimacy and spirit as Kneen and their work has been compared to Carmen Maria Machado, Jeanette Winterson, and Miranda July.
- Rite of Spring beautifully fuses place, psychological drama, the primordial nature of the ocean and the personal search for a centre.
- Kneen 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

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.

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.

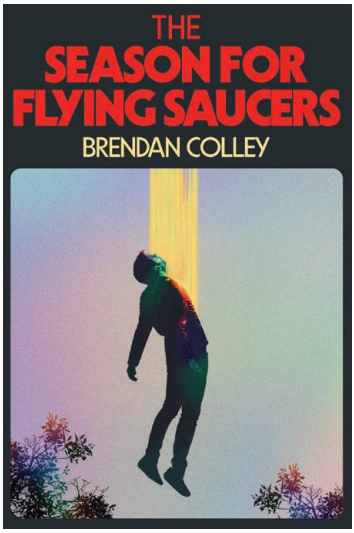
JOHANNA BELL is a writer of fiction, poetry, and children's books whose work has been widely published and awarded. She founded a storytelling studio in Darwin to elevate regional Australian voices and now lives in Hobart. Her novel *Department of the Vanishing* won a Tasmanian Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

Tuesdays with Rothko

Stephen Downes

What if the afterlife were just another institution – and art its most ruthless currency?

When struggling painter Mitch Dunbar runs into his dead father on the street, life – and death – take an unexpected turn.

Frank is visiting from the Domain, a bureaucratic afterlife, and he's determined to make amends by turning Mitch into a great artist. His solution: summon masters from beyond the grave, including Mark Rothko and Caravaggio, to guide Mitch's work.

But rivalry, desire and ambition soon spiral out of control when Mitch's long-dead mother is drawn into the scheme.

As Mitch finds a way into the Domain himself, the novel becomes a darkly comic, philosophically playful exploration of art, power and inheritance. Tuesdays with Rothko is witty, audacious and unexpectedly tender – a comic novel cut through with real pathos, interrogating creativity, masculinity and the dream of success.

Why this book?

- The afterlife isn't a gimmick here, but a fully realised moral bureaucracy that asks uncomfortable questions about power, surveillance, punishment and reward.
- Mitch is deliberately difficult, slippery and self-aware. We're not being asked to like him, it's asking us to sit with complicity, entitlement and male anxiety.
- Sits in a space between comedy and existential unease. It's frequently funny, but the humour keeps curdling into something darker and more unsettling.
- Will appeal to editors who publish ambitious, idea-led fiction.

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

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (Excl ANZ), Translation

Fiction

Frontlist – Crime

She Lied First

Dinuka McKenzie

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.

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.

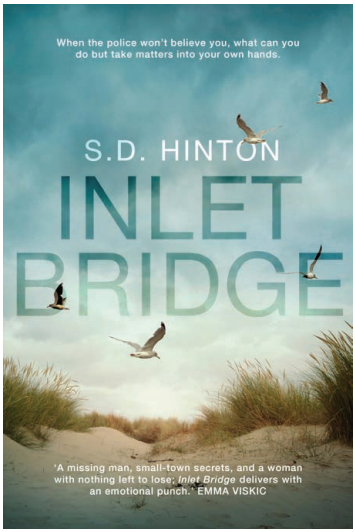
DINUKA McKENZIE is the author of the Detective Kate Miles crime series published in Australia and the UK. She is the winner of the 2020 HarperCollins Australia Banjo Prize. Her writing has been shortlisted for the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards, the Bad Sydney Crime Danger Awards and longlisted for the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

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

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

Inlet Bridge

S.D. Hinton



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.

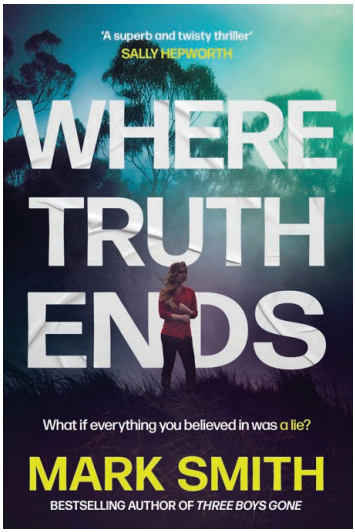
SD HINTON has travelled extensively and unconventionally and spent a year living in a loft apartment in Istanbul writing and learning Turkish. She now lives in Western Victoria and writes full time, having overcome a lifetime struggle with dyslexia. SD's debut novel, *The Brothers*, was published by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

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Where Truth Ends

Mark Smith



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?

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.

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.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Old Games

Fiona Hardy

BOOK 3 in the Teddy and Alice series coming in 2027

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.

Book 1 (*Unbury the Dead*) – Shortlisted for the 2025 Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction

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.

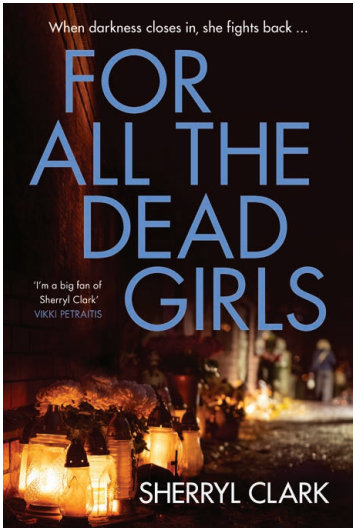
FIONA HARDY is a writer, reviewer and bookseller. Her first book, *How to Make a Movie in 12 Days*, was a CBCA Notable book. Its sequel, *How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life*, won the 2021 Children's Peace Literature Award. Fiona's first book for adults, *Unbury the Dead*, has been a bestseller.

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

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

For all the Dead Girls

Sherryl Clark



Tough and gutsy PI Lou Alcott returns with a terrifyingly gritty new case that takes her deep into the dark web.

While juggling a missing person case with unexpected ties close to home and saving an innocent woman and her child from a dangerous domestic situation, Lou ends up in the line of fire of a mysterious dark-web hate group, known only as SYB.

As Melbourne simmers through a relentless heatwave, the murders of more women are connected to SYB and Lou becomes the number one target of their vicious campaign of incited violence.

Lou lurches between a fire-bombed safe house, car chases and stalkers, as her private investigation firm races against time to uncover the core of the group and work out just how far their tentacles stretch.

Why this book?

- Dark, gritty and utterly compelling, delivers a chilling warning that will stay with you long after you've turned the final page.
- Lou is a 'super recogniser' – that is, the 1% of people who have an outstanding ability to memorise and recall unfamiliar faces.
- For fans of strong female-led thrillers by Candice Fox, Sarah Bailey, Katherine Kovacic and Jane Caro.
- 'The attention to detail is phenomenal, combined with multiple twists elevates this thriller to a new level of suspense.' – *Better Reading*

SHERRYL CLARK earned a shortlisting in the CWA Debut Dagger for *Trust Me, I'm Dead*, and a three-book contract with Verve Books in the UK for the Judi Westerholme series. The first book in the Lou Alcott series, *Woman, Missing*, was shortlisted for the 2025 Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Novel.

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

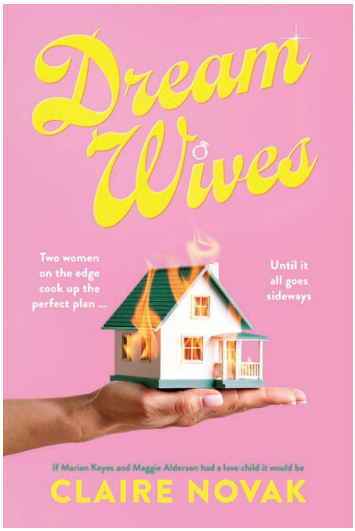
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **PRIMARY AGENT:** Sarah McKenzie Literary Management

Fiction

Commercial

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

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.

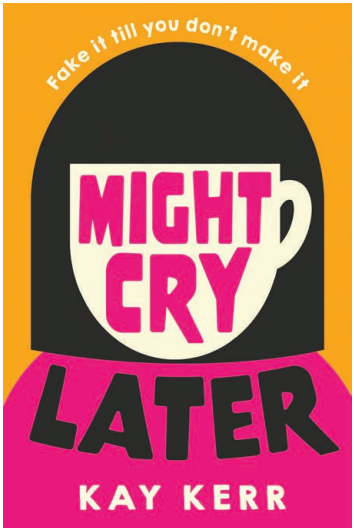
CLAIRE NOVAK is a pseudonym for internationally bestselling author Catherine Jinks and journalist Alexa Moses.

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

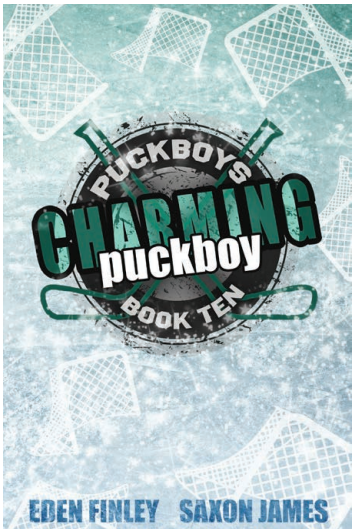
Fiction

Romance

Charming Puckboy

(Puckboys #10)

Eden Finley & Saxon James



The final book in a million-copy bestselling MM sports-romance series.

Lachie Kikishkin lives a charmed life: NHL rookie stardom, never has to look far for a hookup, and even animals flock to him like a Disney princess, which is how he ends up reuniting with his childhood crush.

Working at the animal shelter meant Sam frequently dealt with the strays and injured critters Lachie brought in as a kid. But now Lachie is all grown up and Sam's the one in need of rescuing when Lachie sets his sights on him.

Their chemistry is electric and what started as a summer fling turns into something more. But Lachie is about to sign the deal of a lifetime – a seven-year contract in a different state. Can he score a fairytale ending with his Prince Charming?

Why this book?

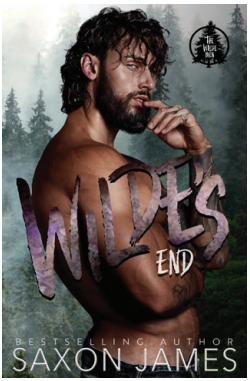
- The tenth and final book in a globally bestselling MM sports-romance series, designed to deliver emotional payoff, closure and a lasting sense of satisfaction for long-time readers.
- The Puckboys series has sold millions of copies and downloads worldwide.
- Witty dialogue, high-heat romance and deeply likeable characters balanced with emotional maturity and heart – Saxon and Eden bring all the feels.
- Readers don't just turn up for the romance – they come back for the growing cast of characters. The ensemble and found-family dynamics are a huge part of the appeal, and the final book really gives that world a proper, satisfying send-off.

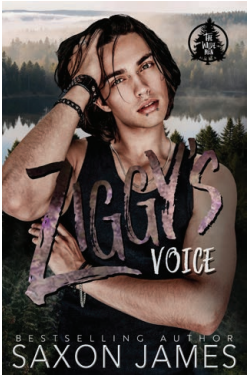
SAXON JAMES is the author of over twenty bestselling contemporary romance titles. Saxon's titles were nominated across categories in the Goodreads MM Romance Member's Choice Awards and won in several categories, including All-Time Favorite MM Series. EDEN FINLEY is an Amazon bestselling author who writes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

PUB DATE: April 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

RIGHTS HELD: Translation, Film/TV • **RIGHTS SOLD:** WEL (Canelo, UK), Germany (Second Chances Verlag), Spain (PRH Grupo Editorial) and France (MM Bookmark)

Ziggy's Voice
(The Wilde Men #2)
Saxon James





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

Kennedy

I've always been the relationship guy – all in, too fast, too much. Which is usually how things fall apart.

Wilde's End is meant to be my reset: a half-forgotten town, long days of work, and no romantic distractions. Perfect. Until I meet Ziggy.

He's the local electrician with a sharp tongue, soft eyes, and piercings that absolutely ruin my resolve. Being around him feels like standing too close to live wires – impossible to ignore, and probably not smart.

The problem? I don't trust myself not to make the same mistakes again.

Ziggy

I'm used to being invisible. The quiet one. The weird loner no one quite knows how to read.

Then Kennedy arrives like sunlight through a cracked door. He sees me without expecting anything I can't give.

He says he's sworn off dating. I've never even been kissed.

But for the first time, I don't feel like a shadow – and I'm determined to change his mind.

Why this book?

- This is classic Saxon James, humour, heat, and heart all wrapped in a high-stakes MM romance.
- Fan-favourite tropes of enemies-to-lovers, small-town secrets, and found family.
- A story about being seen, heard and accepted exactly as you are – with strong crossover appeal to readers seeking inclusive, feel-good romance.
- 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, Spain, 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: January 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** May Books (Indie Publishing)

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany (Second Chances Verlag)

Money Shot

Eden Finley & Saxon James

When my sister went to Canada to get married, I followed her hoping a fresh start will pull me out of a life that's become all work and no play. The closest thing I have to a relationship is a one-sided affair with Gunner – the hottest cam boy on the app Money Shot.

The problem is that the only person to catch my eye is the commitment-phobe best man. There's something familiar in the way Curtis moves. In his smile. Every interaction we have convinces me I know him from somewhere. When it clicks, it takes way too long to admit that Curtis and Gunner might be the same person. What are the actual chances my dream man is about to be my sister's new brother-in-law?

The last thing I want is for Curtis to think I'm a creep, so I decide to unsubscribe, only it's harder than I thought it would be. Getting to know Curtis in real life, and Gunner online, has made things murky, and the smart choice is to cut things off and pretend like it never happened.

But I never said I was smart.

Why this book?

- While Eden and Saxon are best known for long-running series, Money Shot is a tightly focused, self-contained romance with a clear hook and a lot of emotional momentum
- (and it's hot, hot, hot!)
- Playing in the space of online intimacy and cam culture, but really about loneliness, connection and the risks we take when we let someone see us – on or off screen.
- Balances humour and tenderness. Even at its most hot, this is warm, funny and self-aware.

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

RIGHTS HELD: Translation; Film/TV

The Italian Match

Jenna Lo Bianco

In the city of love and perfume, can the perfect match be found – or made?

Jamie Rossi has built a glittering career as Europe's most sought-after matchmaker. Charming, disciplined, and utterly focused on success, he's made an art of pairing others with their ideal partners – under one unbreakable rule: never catch feelings.

Charlotte West, a celebrated perfumer and single mother, has moved her fragrance empire to Rome in search of inspiration, balance and a little Italian magic. Between raising her son, expanding her brand, and creating a scent worthy of her next global launch, romance is the one thing she hasn't had time for.

When Charlotte hires Jamie to help her find love, neither expects their professional arrangement to blur into something far more intoxicating. As they navigate a series of glittering dates across Milan, Tuscany, and Turin, the chemistry between them becomes impossible to ignore – until ambition, jealousy, and one reckless decision threaten to destroy everything.

From candlelit piazzas to moonlit rooftops, *The Italian Match* is a tender, sensual story of second chances, emotional honesty, and the undeniable pull of two people who just might be each other's perfect match.

Why this book?

- With four novels published to date, and two more scheduled for 2026 – Jenna's readership and sales are climbing, establishing her as a rising go-to voice in contemporary romance.
- Whether brooding intellectuals, charming artists, or soulful dreamers, Jenna's male leads are complex and emotionally literate – designed to make readers swoon.
- Jenna is not just writing 'Italy as a romantic backdrop': she's a teacher of Italian and an advocate for Italian-language education.
- From Rome's passion to Venice's mystery, Jenna delivers the thrill of travel and the intimacy of love – perfect for readers craving escape and emotional connection.

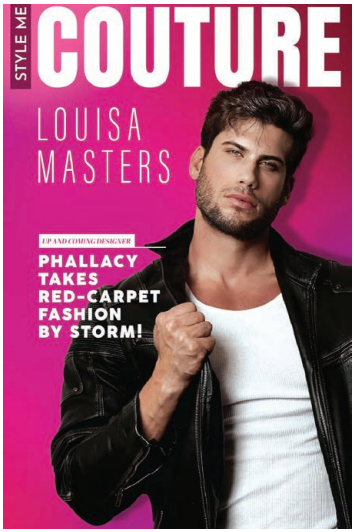
JENNA LO BIANCO is an Italian-Australian writer, educator, PhD candidate, passionate 'Italianist' and advocate for Italian language education, and is the author of *The Italian Marriage, Love and Rome, Venetian Lessons in Love* and *Love, al Dente.*

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

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

RIGHTS SOLD (previous titles): Sweden (Louise Bäckelin Förlag)n

Couture
(Style Me #1)
Louisa Masters



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.

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.

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.

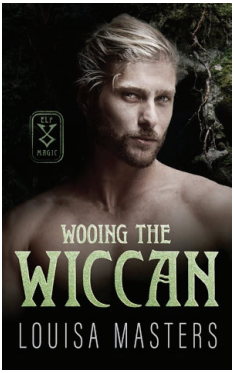
PUB DATE: February 2026 • **PUBLISHER:** Indy

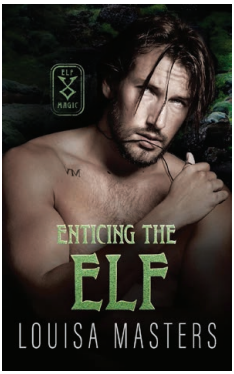
RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Wooing the Wiccan

(Elf Magic #2)

Louisa Masters





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

For most of my life, I expected to die along with the rest of my species. No one thought we'd survive, so I lived hard, in the moment, and without regrets.

Now that's coming back to bite me.

The impossible happened. We were given a second chance – a safe home, a future worth planning for, and a life I want to share with Dáithí.

He's sharp, sassy, clever, and far too good at cutting me down with a single look. Convincing him to date me was a victory. Convincing him I'm serious? That's harder.

Because the reputation I earned back when tomorrow didn't matter still follows me. Dáithí's determined to keep things casual, even when they're clearly not.

So how do I prove I want him – not just for now, but forever?

Why this book?

- Blends contemporary romance feels with immortal elves and Wiccan magic, creating a world that feels playful, modern and accessible (and not heavy or high fantasy).
- The worldbuilding here (elf society, magical laws, inter-species politics) never overwhelms the romance. The love story stays front and centre.
- Masters excels at writing immortal characters with very human problems! Longevity, power imbalance and responsibility are part of the emotional arc, adding depth without dampening the fun.
- Like the strongest MM paranormal romance, this is swoony, witty and escapist.

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: November 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Indy

RIGHTS HELD: Translation

Fiction

Sci-Fi

The Titans

(Alex Hunter #12)

Greig Beck

The Arcadian returns. Greig Beck unleashes a relentless, blood-soaked epic tale in the twelfth Alex Hunter thriller, in a battle of gods, men and monsters.

In a forgotten age, the old gods fell.

Zeus crushed the ancient Titans and hurled the vanquished into an abyss of ice and torment buried far beneath the underworld itself, sealed forever. Or so Zeus believed.

Now archaeologists have unearthed a manuscript that promises whoever opens the gates to Tartarus will command the Titans: unstoppable beings capable of bringing the modern world to its knees.

Linguist Matt Kearns discovers evidence that a billionaire believes the myth is real and plans to free the Titans.

Only one man can stop him: Alex Hunter, the legendary Arcadian, leading the elite HAWC commandos into the depths of the Earth to confront horrors never faced before. But victory demands the impossible – Alex must find and recruit Zeus himself.

In this thunderous collision of ancient myth and cutting-edge military fury, Greig Beck unleashes a relentless, blood-soaked epic tale that races from buried Tartarean ruins to the marble arenas of Olympus itself, leaving you breathless until the final, cataclysmic page is turned.

Why this book?

- Techno-thriller meets pulp adventure territory. Think military hardware, ancient secrets, extreme environments, and monsters-with-a-scientific-twist.
- Think Dan Brown–style conspiracy, but stripped of academia and turned up to eleven – more guns, more monsters, higher body count.
- Relentless pacing with short chapters, constant cliffhangers, and an escalation curve that never lets up.
- Speculative science that's just plausible enough to hook readers before pulling them into full-throttle adventure.
- Proven crossover appeal for fans of James Rollins, Matthew Reilly and Clive Cussler.

GREIG BECK writes fast-paced action-adventure thrillers blending military action, speculative science and ancient mystery.

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

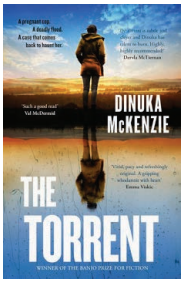
RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD (BOOK 1):** (Alex-Soft Ltd), Germany (Rowholt), Japan (Takeshobo Co. Ltd), Bangladesh (Bhumiprokash)

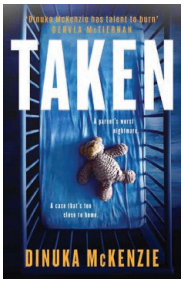
Fiction

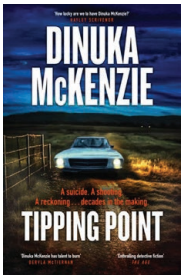
Recent Fiction and Backlist Highlights

The Detective Kate Miles series

Dinuka McKenzie







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.

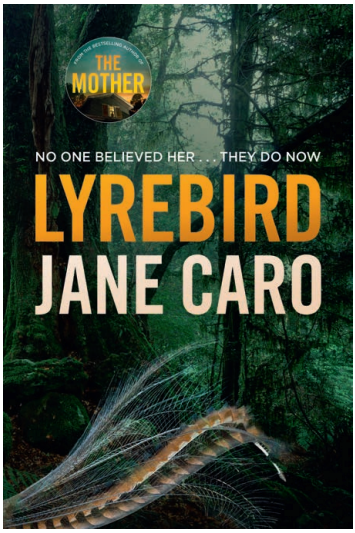
PUB DATE: February 2022, February 2023, January 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** HarperCollins Australia

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

Lyrebird

Jane Caro

over 35,000 copies sold



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 Burraga Swamp. When she reports this to the police, her evidence is received with thinly disguised scepticism, especially when, despite the efforts of a new female detective, Megan Blaxland, no body is found and no missing person reported.

Twenty years later, a body is discovered in the same location, and forensic analysis confirms the remains belonged to Gloria Ramos, a Filipino nanny who was illegally smuggled and exploited by a wealthy family. Detective Megan Blaxland, revisiting the cold case, uncovers a grim reality of abuse and exploitation faced by marginalized migrant workers. The case highlights the dark underbelly of domestic labour exploitation and the severe risks faced by illegal immigrants.

Why this book?

- Screen rights optioned pre-publication.
- From the author of *The Mother*, which has sold 35,000+ copies in ANZ.
- A gripping cold-case mystery anchored in a uniquely Australian hook: a lyrebird that mimics a woman's scream.
- Explores exploitation, violence and the hidden underbelly of society through a sharply feminist lens.
- A propulsive, justice-driven narrative with a satisfying edge of revenge.
- Dual timeline investigation that sustains tension and reveals the mystery in layers.
- Combines atmospheric bush setting, procedural intrigue and strong female leads.

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

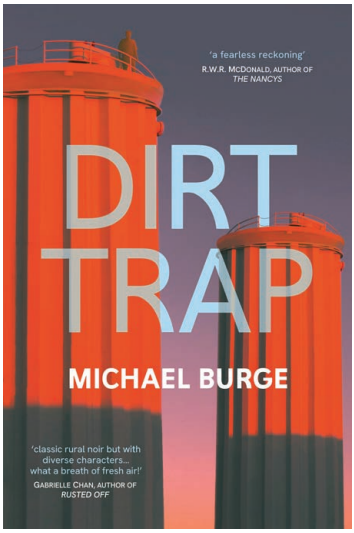
PUB DATE: April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

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

RIGHTS OPTIONED: Book to Screen

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.

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

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 LGBTIQA+ in Australia.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

Stinkbug

Sinead 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.

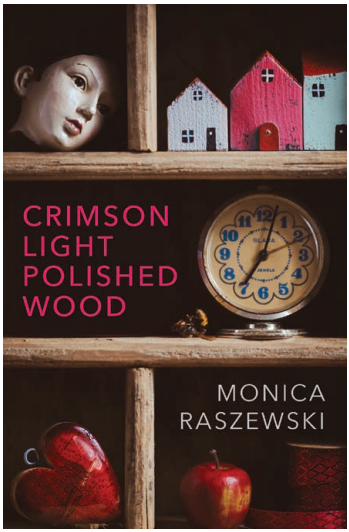
SINÉAD STUBBINS is a writer from Melbourne who has written for *The Guardian*, *frankie*, *The Big Issue*, *ELLE*, *The Cut and Vulture*, among others, and is a writer for ABC's *The Weekly With Charlie Pickering*. She mainly writes about pop culture, friendship and the embarrassing moments that you 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

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.

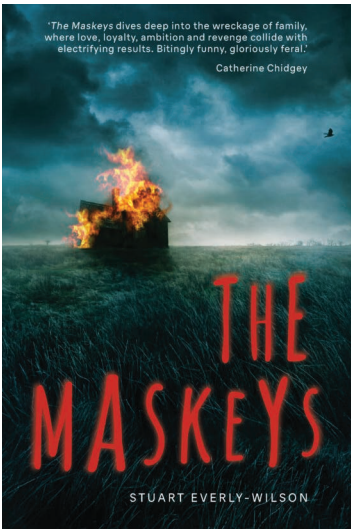
MONICA RASZEWSKI is novelist and playwright. Her first novel, *The Archaeology of a Dream City*, was shortlisted in the NSW Premiers' Literary Awards in 2022. Monica has had short stories published in literary journals including *Overland, Meanjin* and *Southerly* and several plays produced in Melbourne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

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

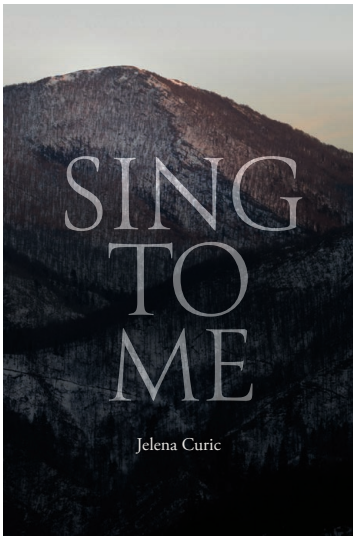
STUART EVERLY-WILSON lives in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales with his partner and their dog. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed *Low Expectations*.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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?

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

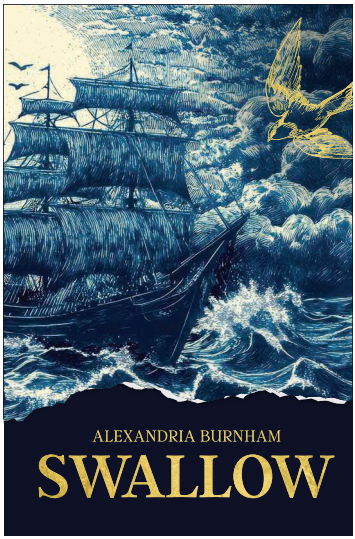
JELENA ĆURIĆ is a writer of literary and crime fiction, published in anthologies and journals, and twice shortlisted for the Born Writers Award. A WestWords Accelerator alum, *Sing to Me* is her debut novel. She is also a celebrated singer in Sydney's Croatian community.

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

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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

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 Ukarine 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.

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.

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.

PUB DATE: August 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** WestWords
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

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?

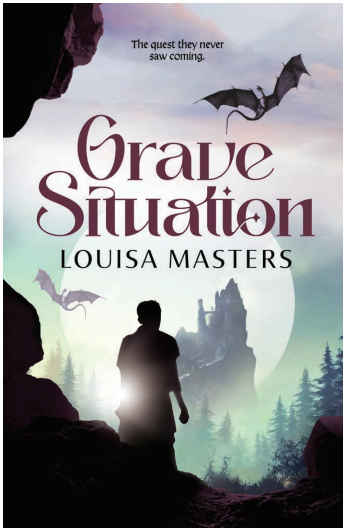
- Simons' devoted readers worldwide eagerly anticipate each new release, ready to be swept away once again
- Simons is renowned for crafting passionate, deeply moving romances set against the backdrop of war, revolution, and history's most defining moments.
- Fans know they'll be taken on an emotional 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: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Poland (Świat Książki); Israel (Modan), Italy (Rizzoli)
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management

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

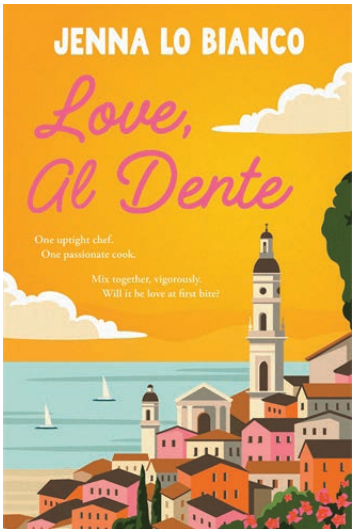
LOUISA MASTERS started reading romance much earlier than her mother thought she should. Louisa has a long list of places first discovered in books that she wants to visit, and every so often she overcomes her loathing of jet lag and takes a trip that charges her imagination.

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

RIGHTS HELD: Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** France (Éditions Élysande)

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

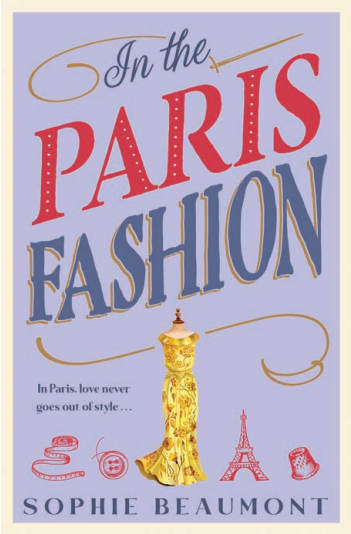
JENNA LO BIANCO is an Italian-Australian writer, educator, PhD candidate, passionate 'Italianist' and advocate for Italian language education. She is a Fellow of the International Specialised Skills Institute and Italian Australian Foundation, and is the author of *The Italian Marriage*, *Love and Rome* 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. Born in Indonesia of French parents and brought up in France and Australia, Sophie is bilingual and has a master's degree in French and English literature.

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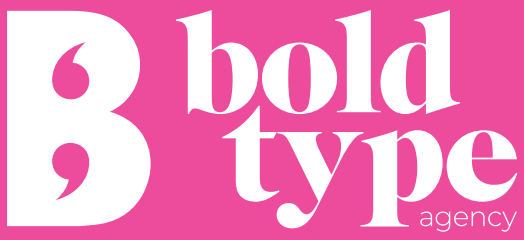

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