

London Book Fair 2026

Adult Publishing Rights Guide



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Fiction

For rights queries contact

Agence littéraire

Lora Fountain & Associates

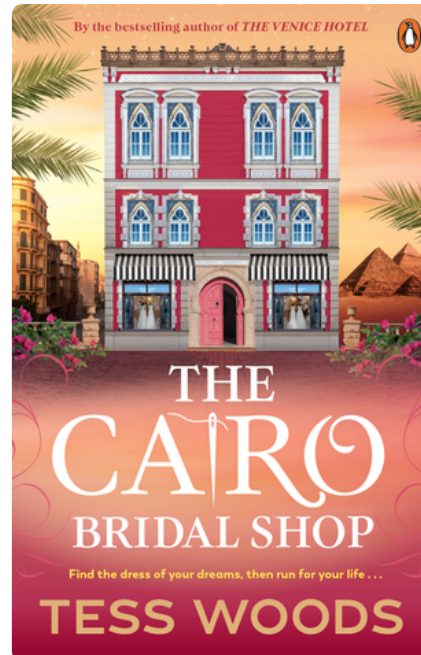
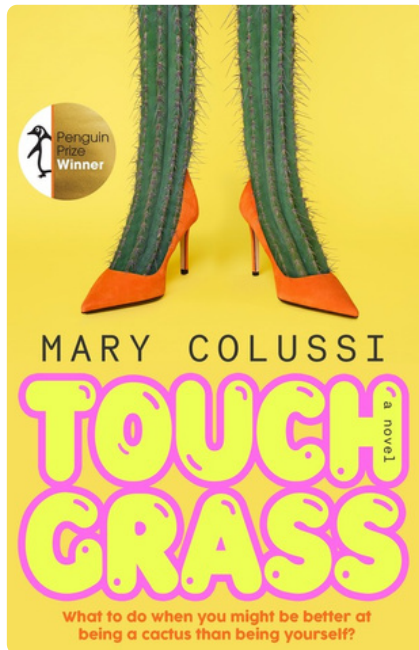
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Fiction

KEY TITLES





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Quite the Pair

Tobias Madden

A hilarious friend-com that asks what if your best friend actually *isn't* your soulmate? Perfect for readers of Steven Rowley, Dolly Alderton and Josh Duboff.

When best friends Austin and Sydney get dumped on the same night, moving back in together seems like the best option. After all, the time 10 years ago when they were housemates was the best time of their lives. Wasn't it?

Austin and Sydney make a pact that neither of them will start dating any new men during their newly signed 12-month lease. Austin is thrilled to be living with his smart and successful best friend again, reliving the days when he was going to auditions and serving pasta to ungrateful New Yorkers – except now he's living out his dreams on Broadway.

But Sydney feels stifled. Her tech job feels meaningless, her mother keeps insisting on reading her tarot instead of actually talking to her, and Austin just seems to have replaced the role her dropkick ex was playing in her life.

Just when Austin is considering the possibility that a platonic soulmate might be the answer, Sydney finally feels ready to start living on her own terms. Can they find themselves without losing each other?

Praise for Tobias Madden

'Anything But Fine is everything wonderful I love in a book: characters so real they breathe, a rollercoaster of a story that made me laugh, cry, and swoon, and vivid, gorgeous writing. Brilliant.' Jennifer Niven

'A tender, funny, genuine, bittersweet and big-hearted book – I wanted to hug it when I was done.' Helena Fox on Tobias Madden's *Wrong Answers Only*

'Take A Bow, Noah Mitchell is a delightful coming-of-age story that filled my stomach with all the butterflies I could ever want from a YA rom-com. It does not shy away from the real stuff, but having the chance to follow Noah through this tricky, awkward, lovely part of his life left me with such an overwhelming sense of joy. It is sharp, tender, witty, surprising – all the things! And a reminder of how good life can be when you push (or are pushed) outside your comfort zone.' Kay Kerr



**Fiction / Contemporary /
Friend-Com / LGBTQI+**

Product Details

Aug 2026 | Trade Paperback | 384pp
World Rights



Tobias Madden's debut novel, *Anything But Fine*, was awarded the Australian Association of Family Therapy's Book Award for Older Readers, was shortlisted for ABIA Book of the Year for Older Readers, was named one of Better Reading's Top 50 Kids Books, and was included on Bank Street College of Education's list of Best Children's Books of the Year (US).

Tobias is a passionate member of both the #LoveOzYA and LGBTQI+ communities, and he currently works full-time in book marketing.

He resides in New York city with his husband, Daniel, and their Cavoodle, Ollie.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

The Cairo Bridal Shop

Tess Woods

Find the dress of your dreams, then run for your life.

Nestled at the bustling foothills of the pyramids lies the iconic Albi Bridal Boutique, where three sisters are about to break the shackles of tradition to fight for their futures.

When Mariam Albi was tragically killed, the responsibility of running the business was thrust upon eldest daughter, Sarah. Bound to the dress shop and to the demands of her husband and his spiteful mother, Sarah finds herself trapped with nowhere to turn.

Political journalist Aya is writing the story of her career while on the cusp of a thrilling new relationship with Australian-raised journalist, Gamal. When Gamal is arrested on suspicion of treason, Aya risks her life to follow her heart.

University student Lola, the youngest of the Albi girls, is finding her place in the world while masking her true identity. But her secret is exposed, putting her life in grave danger as she faces losing everything and everyone she loves.

Inspired by the stories of the ancient pharaoh queens before them, the Albi sisters must harness their inner strength to survive – for in Egypt, history runs deep but blood runs deeper.

'Tess is an artist, she creates pictures with her words.'
Australian Women's Weekly

Praise for *The Venice Hotel*

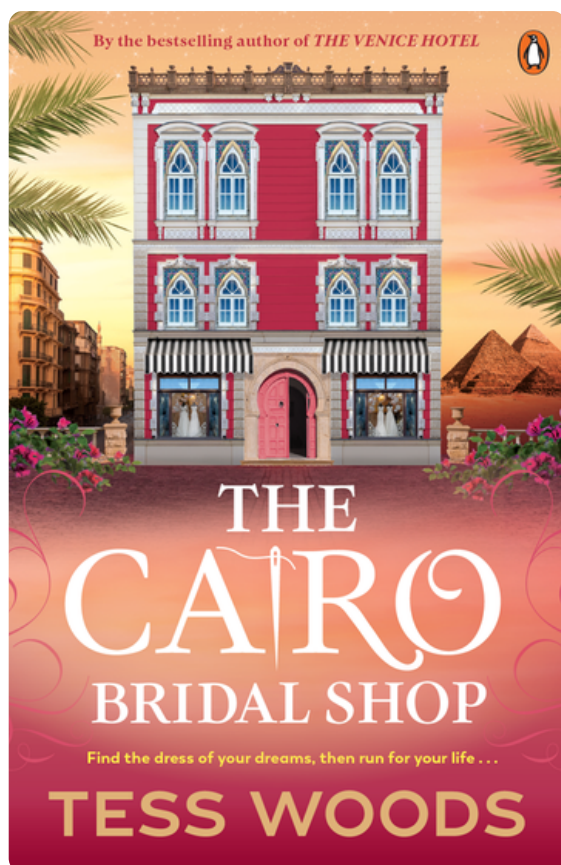


'A love letter to the gorgeous city, crafted with such rich detail, I felt like I knew every character to the core.' Melina Marchetta

'The perfect combination of juicy drama and heartrending emotion.'
Rachael Johns

'I completely fell in love with the women of the Venice Hotel.'
Nicola Moriarty

'The Venice Hotel is a journey of intrigue, romance and, ultimately, hope. Woods delivers a compelling narrative that highlights the strength found in the connections forged between women in times of adversity - for fans of Liane Moriarty and Celeste Ng.' Bookseller+Publishing



**Fiction / Contemporary /
Romance**

Product Details

Sep 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights + Film



Tess Woods is an award-winning and bestselling author of contemporary fiction. Tess is Egyptian-Australian, and a mother of two brilliant grown-up children and one grumpy grown-up cat. She lives in Western Australia with her husband and is obsessed with her little street library and her veggie patch.

In 2024 Tess became the director of Perth's new Festival of Fiction. *The Venice Hotel* was shortlisted for ABIA General Fiction Book of the Year



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Touch Grass

Mary Colussi

Charlie deletes other people's worst moments for a living; ironic, considering she's been trying to forget her own for years.

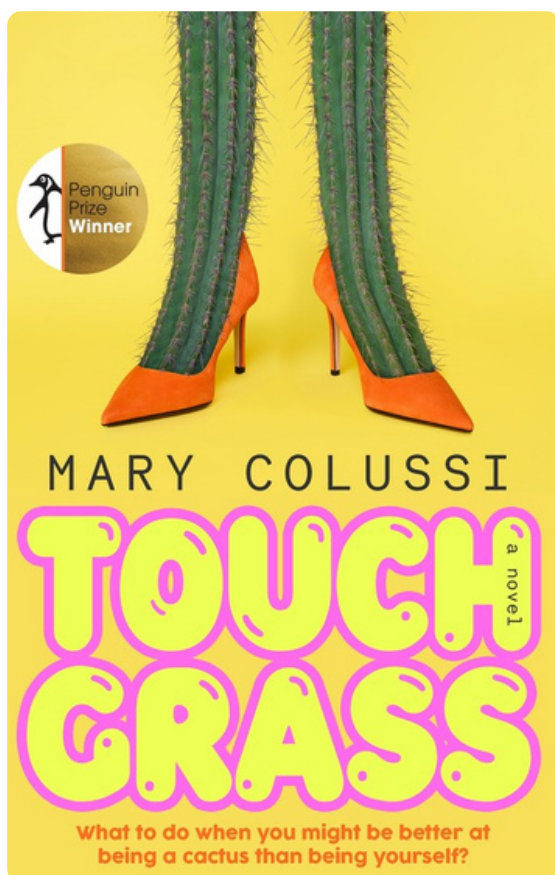
When her consciousness starts spontaneously ejecting from her body, Charlie becomes the first known case of a bizarre new phenomenon – and the unwilling centre of a global crisis.

And an immortal sheep might be the key to everything.

As disembodiment spreads, corporations celebrate it, governments fear it, and Charlie can't decide whether she's losing herself or finally escaping. But the memories she worked so hard to delete won't stay gone, and the only way to survive a world splitting at the seams may be to reclaim the self she tried to erase.

Wry and inventive, *Touch Grass* explores identity, consent and the hilariously messy business of being a friend, sister and person – especially when someone keeps editing the footnotes.

- Winner of the 2025 Penguin Literary Prize, a young writer on the rise!
- Speculative fiction exploring the existential despair that the split between our professional and personal lives can activate, in the realm of *Severance* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.
- Brings the big ideas of our times – climate crisis, over-consumption, the digital life, the difficulties of forming IRL relationships and remaining optimistic – wrapped in pacy near-future fiction.



**Fiction / Contemporary /
Speculative**

Product Details

Jun 2026 | Trade Paperback | 336pp
World Rights + Film

**2025 Winner of the
Penguin Literary Prize**

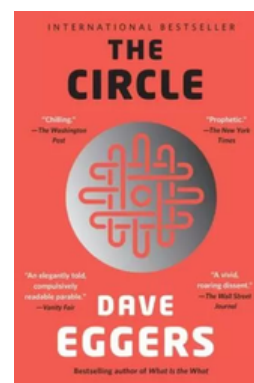
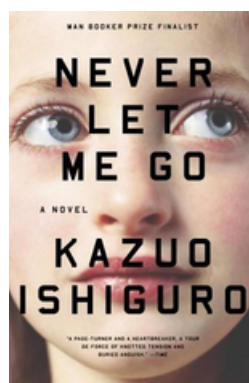


Mary Colussi is an Australian American writer currently based in Sydney. She's a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Mary is currently pursuing her MFA in dramatic writing at the National Institute of Dramatic Art.

Touch Grass is her debut novel.

Comparison Titles





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Seed

Elisabeth Easter

An always hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking new novel from the publishers of Marian Keyes and Dolly Alderton.

Four friends, two pregnancies and the mother of all awkward situations . . .

Hillary and her partner are eager for a baby, their sex life dictated by the automated texts from their fertility agency, MotherWorld.

Her best friend **Maggie** is a single mother living her best life, enjoying a healthy relationship with her ex, and a healthy appetite on the dating apps.

With her youngest now at school, **Shelley** is returning to the office, hoping to prove her value at the gold-star advertising agency she works for.

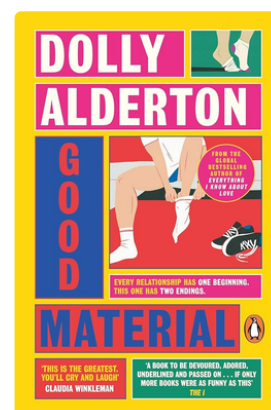
Meanwhile, midwife **Virginia** has made a career of helping other people have babies, but is suddenly yearning for one of her own. With no partner in sight, she cooks up an unhinged plan . . .

A wise and humorous novel that asks the question: how far would you go to get a life?

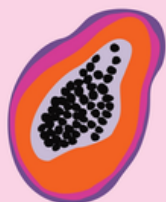
'Raw, hilarious and so lifelike I kept forgetting I wasn't reading about real people. I felt every frustration, every high and every low as if these women were my friends. A heartfelt, funny, unforgettable read. I loved it.' Rachael Johns

'A truly contemporary, hilarious and smart look at modern reproduction and female friendship . . . a drama that'll make you laugh until tears run down your face or it's a comedy that will make you cry.' Stuff.co.nz

Comparison Titles



Elisabeth
Easter



Seed

How far would you go
to get a life?

Fiction / Contemporary

Product Details

Feb 2026 | Trade Paperback
World Rights + Film



Elisabeth Easter is an internationally experienced book critic, journalist and writer based in New Zealand. She began reviewing books on *National Radio* in 1993 with Kim Hill and has since held prominent editorial roles, including Book Editor of *Cleo* magazine, and contributed regularly to *Time Out* in London. She continues to review books across radio and print media.

A prolific journalist, she writes on travel, arts, literature and culture for major publications in New Zealand and internationally. Her fiction includes radio serials and stand-alone stories for *RNZ National*, as well as award-winning stage plays. Her play *Seed* won the Adam New Zealand Play Award in 2014.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



The Breakdown Clause

Emily Broadmore

If you're stupid enough to trust anyone in Parliament with a secret, you deserve the inevitable moment they use it against you . . .

Cleo Turner spent her twenties as a political advisor. She was ambitious, smart and youthfully naive to the reality of political friendships.

Then she ended up married to a government minister. Now she's a political widow, living in a remote electorate with just her baby for company.

When a former colleague visits for the weekend, Cleo enlists him to orchestrate her husband's demotion, hoping to return to a glamorous life in the city.

But secrets go both ways, and Cleo's perception of the power she holds over others is about to crumble.

**Fiction / Satire /
Political Thriller**

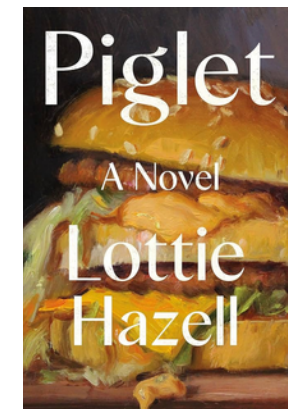
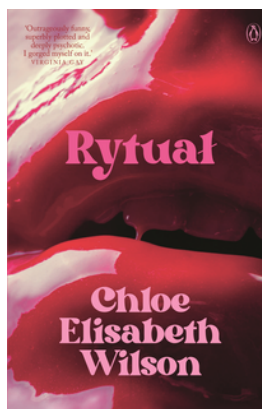
Product Details

Feb 2027 | Trade Paperback | 272pp
World Rights + Film

Emily Broadmore is the director of *Beyond Logic*, a creative-intelligence consultancy in New Zealand that explores the intersection of literature, commerce and cultural disruption.

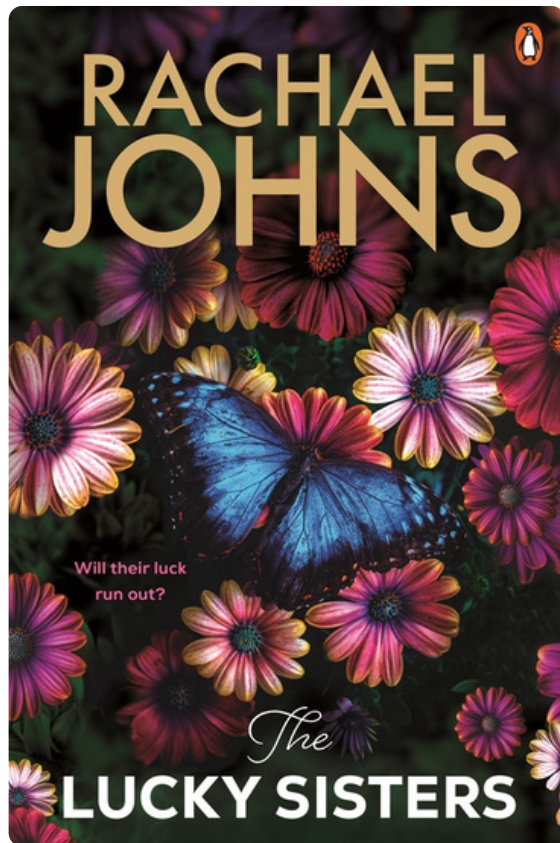
Alongside the agency, Emily publishes *Folly*, a literary magazine answering the question, 'What happens when a literary journal has a torrid love affair with a Victorian gossip rag?' The result is a wordy magazine that causes a stir—the third issue has just been banned by one of New Zealand's major high street shops.

Comparison Titles





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Fiction / Contemporary

Product Details

Oct 2025 | Trade Paperback | 480pp
World Rights

Rights Sold

World English Language (ex ANZ) for
The Other Bridget & The Bad Bridesmaid
sold to Bloodhound Books (UK)

Ukrainian Translation Rights for *The Other Bridget & The Bad Bridesmaid*
sold to Ranok Publishing House



Rachael Johns is an award-winning author. She won the ABIA Award in 2016 for General Fiction, and she has also won the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award twice. Rachael is the co-host of two podcasts: *Reading Between Deadlines* and *Dear Rach & Soph*, and also runs the vibrant *Rachael Johns' Book Club* on Facebook. You can find her at www.rachaeljohns.com or subscribe to her Substack, *Pink Ink*.

The Lucky Sisters

Rachael Johns

A deeply moving novel about life, death and the miracles in between, by the award-winning author of *The Patterson Girls*.

What would you do if you thought each day on earth might just be your last?

Lucky by name. Not so lucky by nature.

Adopted twins Nora and Stevie Lucky have always been close, despite being total opposites.

When their mother dies, Nora convinces Stevie to search for their biological parents, only to come face-to-face with a life-changing revelation that sends them spiralling in opposite directions.

With their careers, love lives and even their sisterly bond at risk, they're going to need more than luck to survive.

Praise for *The Lucky Sisters*

"Rachael Johns delivers one of her most heartfelt and emotionally layered novels yet"
Bookseller+Publishing

"Time and time again, Rachael Johns proves she is one of [Australia's] most noteworthy authors. She continues to reinvent herself, taking on fresh genres, writing books that land her a whole new audience of readers, while never for a second forgetting her established readership."
Better Reading

Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Someone Else's Fortune

Rachael Johns

***Sliding Doors* meets *Here One Moment* by the bestselling author of *The Lucky Sisters*.**

One snap decision, two very different destinies – will this winning lottery ticket spark luck or trouble?

Serendipity (Sera) Ware finally has everything she ever wanted, a dream job in publishing and a proposal from her long-time boyfriend, Luke. But her perfect life unravels with a phone call from a doctor in Tasmania, informing her that her estranged mother, Alyce – an infamous fortune teller – is in hospital with a broken hip and early-onset Alzheimer's. Sera must drop everything and fly to the island to care for her mother.

On arrival, she finds a winning lotto ticket tucked inside a book from a little street library. Not just any winner, but a multi-million-dollar jackpot. This ticket could be the answer to all her problems – in her family, in her love life and in her heart. Should she hand it in or claim it for herself?

By the bestselling author of *The Lucky Sisters* comes a parallel universe story with a moral dilemma at its heart. Can money really buy happiness, or does karma cost an even higher price?



**Fiction / Contemporary /
Romance**

Product Details

Oct 2026 | Trade Paperback | 400pp
World Rights + Film



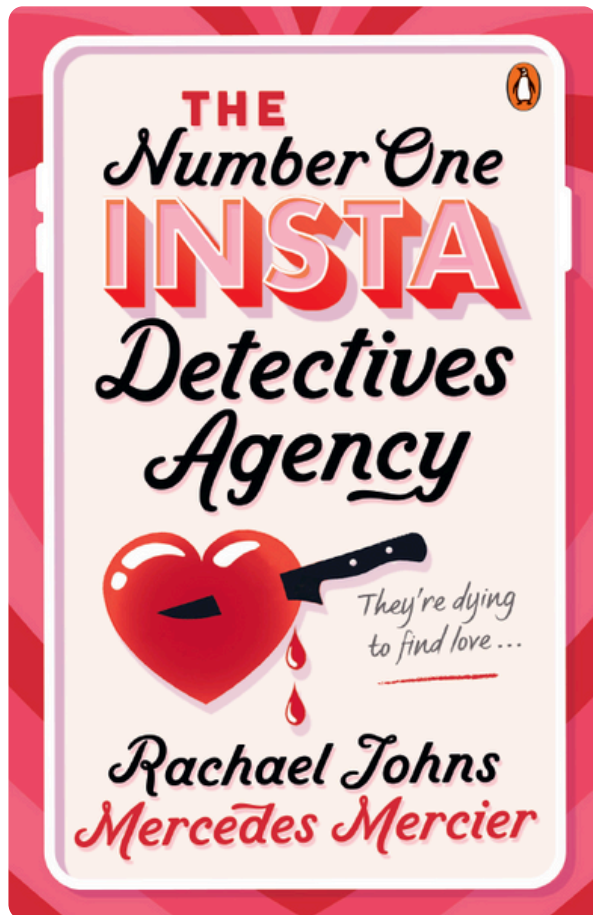
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Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



**Fiction / Contemporary /
Romance / Detective**

Product Details

Jan 2027 | Trade Paperback | 336pp
World Rights

The Number One Insta Detectives Agency

Rachael Johns and
Mercedes Mercier

A new romantic crime series from Rachael Johns and Mercedes Mercier.

Are you suspicious that the guy you're chatting to online is seeing other women? Wondering why that popular girl from high school's profile picture changed from her wedding photo to a vague motivational quote? Or maybe there's a very-hunky-and-way-too-friendly man in all of your new girlfriend's photos?

It's time to reach out to The #1 Insta Detective Agency!

This quirky, talented team of four - Olivia, a charming mortician with a dark sense of humour; Sheridan, an animator with tech skills to rival Zuckerberg's; Juniper, a librarian and true crime junkie; and Emery, a savvy social media guru who reluctantly works in the family funeral parlour - have earned an impeccable reputation for cracking online mysteries.

Whether it's uncovering cheating boyfriends, exposing catfishers, or investigating the gorgeous woman liking every photo of your crush, Olivia, Emery, Sherry and Juni are your go-to team. But when they stumble upon something truly sinister, they face an impossible decision: do they risk their business and personal safety to uncover the truth, or turn a blind eye to the dark secrets they've uncovered?



Rachael Johns is an award-winning author. She won the ABIA Award in 2016 for General Fiction, and she has also won the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award twice. Rachael is the co-host of two podcasts: *Reading Between Deadlines* and *Dear Rach & Soph*, and also runs the vibrant *Rachael Johns' Book Club* on Facebook. You can find her at www.rachaeljohns.com or subscribe to her Substack, *Pink Ink*.



Mercedes Mercier is a crime writer known for her gripping plots and relatable characters. As well as writing books, she works in the criminal justice system, providing her unique insights into prisons and crime. After a near-death experience, she embraced life fully, living overseas, earning a black belt in Karate, skydiving, and volunteering with animals.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Everyone In This Bank Is A Thief

Benjamin Stevenson

Ten suspects. Ten heists. A puzzle only Ernest Cunningham can solve.

I've spent the last few years solving murders. But a bank heist is a new one, even for me. I've never been a hostage before.

The doors are chained shut. No one in or out. Which means that when someone in the bank is murdered, hostages become suspects.

THE BANK ROBBER
THE MANAGER
THE SECURITY GUARD
THE KID
THE FILM PRODUCER
THE PRIEST
THE RECEPTIONIST
THE PATIENT
THE CARER
ME

Turns out, more than one person planned to rob the bank today. You can steal more from a bank than just money.

Who is stealing what? And are they willing to kill for it?

Praise for Benjamin Stevenson

'I absolutely loved it. Utterly original, hugely entertaining, and a must-read for every fan of the mystery genre. What an exceptionally fresh, smart, funny book – I've never read anything like this before.' Jane Harper

'Stevenson's brilliant and creative second closed-circle mystery toys with golden age mystery tropes while delivering its own hugely satisfying whodunit... This is another triumph from a gifted genre specialist...deliciously clever.' Publishers Weekly US

'It's fun and diverting, with a plethora of red herrings.' New York Times.

Backlist



Fiction / Crime & Mystery

Product Details

Sep 2025 | Trade Paperback | 368pp
Translation Rights

Rights Sold

UK (PRH), North America (HarperCollins), Italy (Feltrinelli), Germany (Ullstein), Spain (Editoria Planeta), Brazil (Editoria Intrínseca), France (Sonatine), Romania (Editura Trei), Hungary (Agave Könyvek Kiadó Kft), Ukraine (VIVAT), Latvia (Liegra), Bulgaria (Ciela Norma), Czech Republic (Euromedia), Poland (Foskal), Türkiye (Altın Kitaplar), Lithuania (Baltos Lankos), Portugal (LeYa), Japan (K.K. HarperCollins Japan), Korea (Book 21), China (New Star Press), Taiwan (Spring International), Thailand (Biblio Co.), Egypt (Aseer Al-Kotob), Israel (Keter Books), Estonia (Rahva Raamat)



Benjamin Stevenson is an award-winning stand-up comedian and USA Today best-selling author. His novel, *Everyone In My Family Has Killed Someone*, is currently being adapted into a major HBO TV. His books have sold over 1 million copies in twenty-nine territories and have been nominated for eight 'Book of the Year' awards.

Instagram: @stevensonexperience





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

The Model Murder

Amanda Hampson

The next instalment in the bestselling, award-winning *The Tea Ladies* murder mystery series bubbles over with 60s nostalgia, fabulous fashion and lashings of tea and biscuits.

Never underestimate a tea lady.

Sydney, 1968. When a popular local man is murdered, police are quick to pin the blame on his glamorous model fiancée – who has since disappeared. But Hazel suspects a criminal cover-up and rallies the tea ladies to investigate; a quest that brings danger right to her door.

Meanwhile, Merl's long-buried family secret threatens to unravel her carefully constructed life. When she stumbles on evidence that her detective son-in-law is corrupt, she's forced to swallow her pride and reunite with the other tea ladies, enlisting their help to expose him.

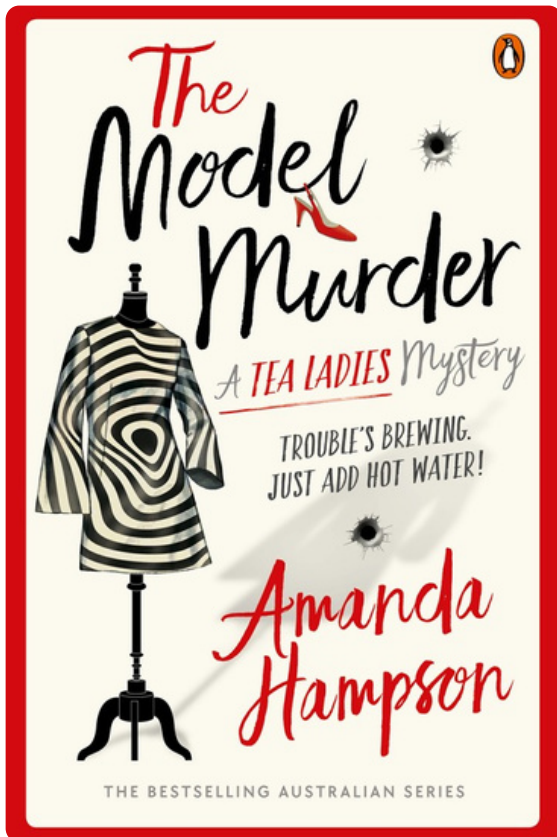
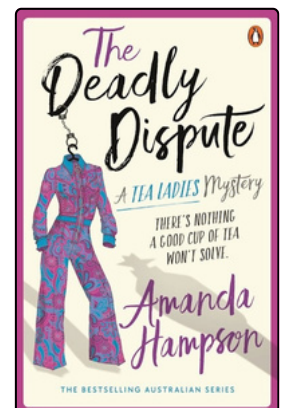
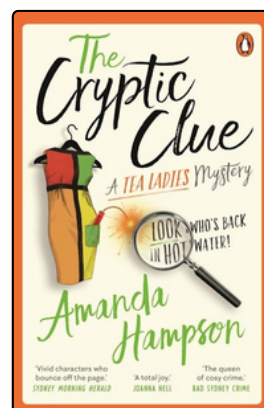
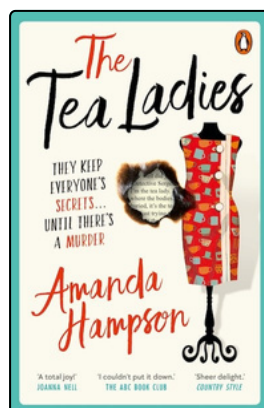
Betty becomes immersed in a local theatre group where there is more drama offstage than on it, further complicated by her infatuation with the enigmatic leading man.

Irene aspires to a new career as a debt collector but her first case has more frustrations and obstacles than she bargained for, even with the help of a new weapon.

Awards

A runaway bestseller, *The Tea Ladies* won the 2024 Danger Awards for Best Crime Fiction and was Shortlisted for the 2024 Davitt Awards - Best Adult Crime and the 2024 Ned Kelly Awards – Best Fiction.

Backlist



**Fiction / Crime & Mystery /
Historical / Cosy Crime**

Product Details

Apr 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights + Film

Rights Sold

German Translation Rights for *The Tea Ladies* sold to Droemer Knaur

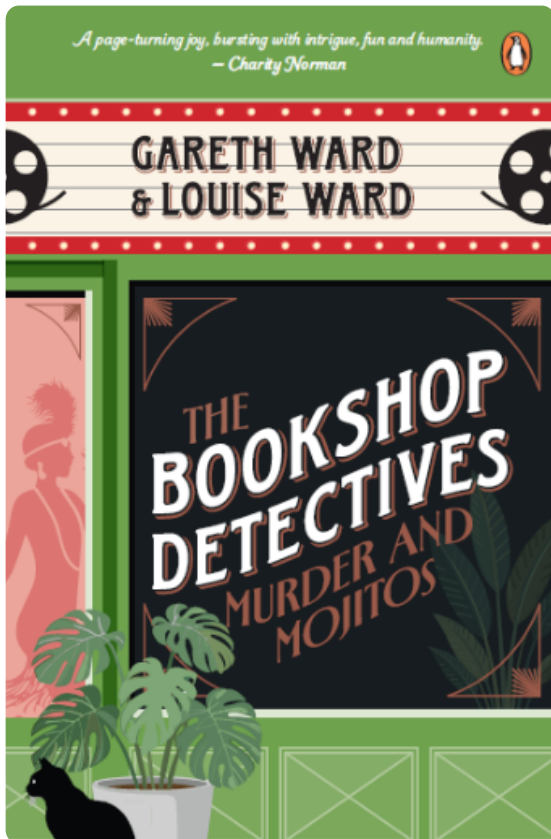
Ukrainian Translation Rights for *The Tea Ladies*, *The Cryptic Clue* and *The Deadly Dispute* sold to Ranok Publishing House



Melbourne-based author Amanda Hampson has been writing professionally for more than thirty years and is the bestselling author of nine novels: *The Olive Sisters*, *Two for the Road*, *The French Perfumer*, *The Yellow Villa*, *Sixty Summers*, *Lovebirds*, *The Tea Ladies*, *The Cryptic Clue* and *The Deadly Dispute*.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



**Fiction / Mystery & Detective /
Cosy Crime**

Product Details

Jul 2026 | Trade Paperback | 288pp
World Rights + Film

Rights Sold

Film Rights for *The Bookshop
Detectives 1* sold to
South Pacific Films



Gareth and Louise Ward are the real-life owners of independent bookshop Wardini Books, with stores in Havelock North and Napier, New Zealand. Gareth and Louise met at police training college in the UK and are both ex-police officers. Gareth is a bestselling kids author and Louise regularly reviews books on RNZ. *The Bookshop Detectives* was Gareth and Louise's first book together.

The Bookshop Detectives 3: Murder and Mojitos

Gareth Ward and Louise Ward

Another case to solve for the number-one bestselling Bookshop Detectives.

Bookshop owner Eloise is instinctive, impulsive and fiercely loyal. Garth, her partner, is methodical, dry-witted and quietly brilliant at spotting what others miss. When they are not busy selling books at their quirky bookshop, Sherlock Tomes, they have a habit of stumbling into murder.

When a dangerous figure from Eloise's past resurfaces, taunting them with cryptic clues, the case becomes deeply personal. As an Art Deco festival and major literary event close in, the pressure tests not just their nerve but their partnership, forcing Eloise and Garth to rely on their opposing instincts to stay alive.

Smart, funny and propulsive, *Murder and Mojitos* balances laugh-out-loud banter with genuine peril. The strength of the Eloise-Garth relationship — equal parts affection, friction and trust — gives the series its emotional pull, while the bookshop setting and twisty plotting make it a favourite.

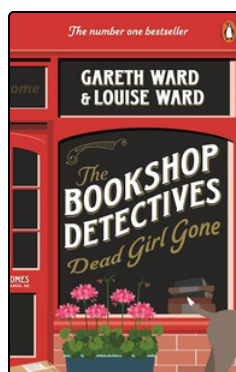
Perfect for readers who love cosy crime with a strong central partnership, sharp dialogue and character-led storytelling.

Praise for *The Bookshop Detectives*

'Eloise and Garth are the book-selling, tea-drinking, crime-fighting duo that I didn't know I needed in my life! The Bookshop Detectives is a real treat for bibliophiles of all stripes.' Jack Heath

'Warm-hearted, filled with wry humour, spiced up with suspense... captivating Kiwi cosy crime!' Nicky Pellegrino

Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



**Fiction / Thriller & Mystery /
Supernatural Romance**

Product Details

Jun 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights



Samantha Ross is an author and scriptwriter, who left the cold climate of Melbourne for the more glamorous yet remote country town of Port Douglas.

Samantha has travelled the globe working in the circus of nightclubs, and recording music with DJs and bands. Although her first love was for all things literary. Throw a medium grandmother in the mix and *Possible Springs*, her first novel, was born.

Possible Springs

Samantha Ross

A mesmerising fiction debut – that's part coming-of-age novel and part mystery – set in a small Australian town.

'Ross's debut blends small-town mystery, romance and magical realism into an intoxicating, spell-binding mix. Jimny is an unforgettable character. I loved it.' Jeff Lindsay, bestselling author of *DEXTER*

'An absorbing and compelling read. Utterly immersive and beautifully written. By the end, I wanted to pack my bags and move to Possible Springs. Thoroughly enjoyable.' Darcy Tindale, author of *THE FALL BETWEEN*

Welcome to Possible Springs, where secrets are a way of life.

Jimny Adams should have died on that hot summer day in 1987 in the remote town of Possible Springs. Only eleven at the time, she was saved from drowning by her school teacher Mr Cross.

Seven years on and she has grown into a watchful, quirky eighteen-year-old – her near-death experience having left her with an unnerving psychic ability.

It's an unwelcome gift that she tries desperately to hide: from her parents, from her best friends, from everyone in town. In such a tight-knit community, being different means becoming a pariah.

However Possible Springs is actually a town teeming with dark secrets. And with her ability to read people's thoughts, Jimny is closer than she would like to be to discovering its truth ...

Praise

'Ross's debut blends small-town mystery, romance and magical realism into an intoxicating, spell-binding mix. Jimny is an unforgettable character. I loved it.' Jeff Lindsay, bestselling author of *DEXTER*



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Cold River

Margaret Hickey

The sensational new novel from the author of the bestselling thriller, *The Creeper*, winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction 2025.

Deep in the mountains, secrets grow deadly . . .

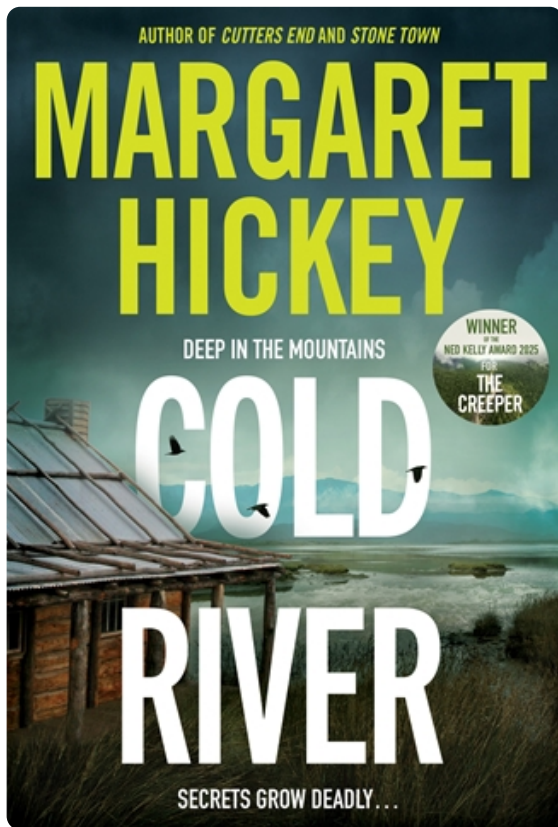
Detective Constable Sally White knows how easily hikers can go missing in Victoria's high country. But there's something about the disappearance of Louis Taylor, a young man lost up Mount Viking, that's not sitting right with her.

Louis was an aspiring journalist, researching the illegal tobacco trade – also known as chop chop – that was once so prevalent in the area. And the last person he interviewed before his hike has just met a gruesome end . . .

But with no other leads, and with the search winding down, Sally is forced to accept the young man died in a tragic accident.

Until she learns of another missing person case that bears striking similarities. Astrid Marlowe, a young lawyer, vanished in the same mountains two years before.

Were Louis and Astrid simply unlucky hikers lost in the treacherous terrain? Or did they both stumble into something – or someone – they shouldn't?



**Fiction / Crime & Mystery /
Contemporary**

Product Details

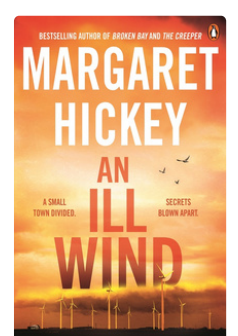
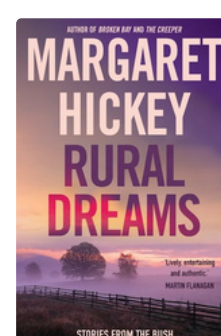
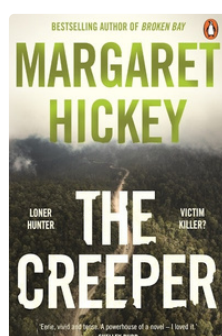
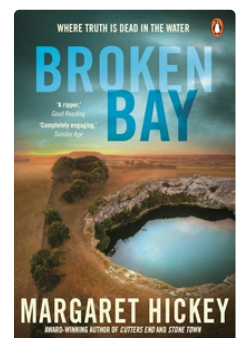
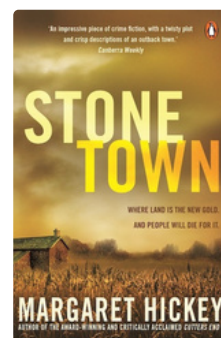
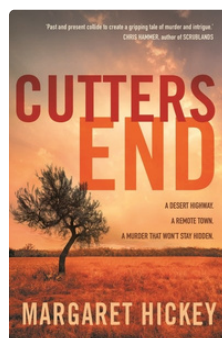
Jul 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights + Film



Margaret Hickey is an award-winning author and playwright. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and is deeply interested in rural lives and communities. She is also the author of *Cutters End*, *Stone Town*, *Broken Bay*, *The Creeper* and *An Ill Wind*, and a collection of short stories, *Rural Dreams*.

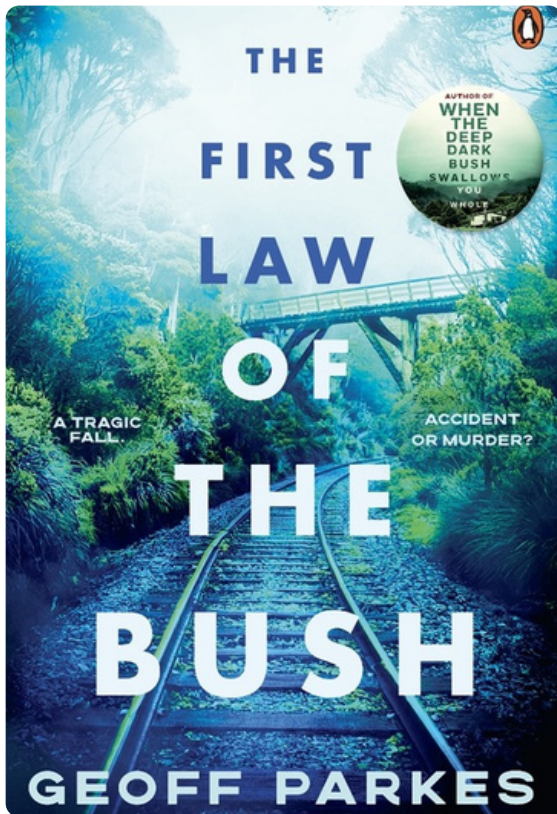
Cutters End was awarded the BAD Crime Sydney Festival's Danger Prize, and was also shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for First Fiction. Margaret won the Ned Kelly Award for Best Fiction in 2025 for *The Creeper*.

Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



**Fiction / Crime & Mystery /
Thriller**

Product Details

Jan 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights



Born and raised in rural New Zealand, Geoff Parkes now lives in Melbourne. For the last twelve years he's written a weekly opinion column for *The Roar*, Australia's leading on-line sports website.

He is the author of *When the Deep Dark Bush Swallows You Whole* and *The First Law of the Bush*, both featuring lawyer Ryan Bradley.

The First Law of the Bush

Geoff Parkes

It's a beautiful day to be alive, Bill Dickerson thought, seconds before he fell from the viaduct onto the jagged rocks below...

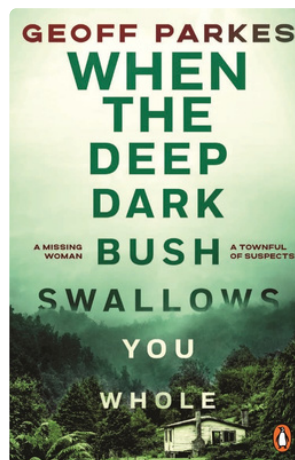
His awful death made national news. But still, one year on, Bill's widow Carol has received no explanation about what happened. Was it suicide? An accident? Maybe murder?

So Carol hires lawyer Ryan Bradley in her fight for justice. Ryan has just returned to the remote town of Nashville after ten years away, so he's in no position to turn down work.

Except the case seems hopeless from the start. Bill's employer is denying responsibility, Carol's friends are shunning her, and the only witnesses – co-workers Gav Coates and Wati Reynolds – can shed no light on the tragic fall. Even Senior Sergeant 'Stinger' Nettle is too busy turning a blind eye to Wati's illegal schemes to dig deeper into the death.

But in small towns, nothing is quite what it seems. And for one Nashville resident the wrong question will come at a deadly price...

Praise for Geoff Parkes



'A deftly wrought novel, compelling and complex. I loved it.'
Margaret Hickey

'A gripping murder mystery set in 1980s small-town New Zealand, capturing the stifling atmosphere of a community steeped in secrets. With relentless suspense and a rich cast of characters, this impressive debut keeps the reader guessing to the very end.' Rose Carlyle

'The stunning King Country landscape and scenery imbue the story with a real atmospheric sense of place. Fans of Chris Hammer, J P Pomare and Alan Carter will enjoy this gripping debut.' Books+Publishing



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Love in the Fast Lane

Laura Greaves

Get trackside for this steamy grumpy-sunshine F1 romance, perfect for readers of Lauren Asher and Simone Soltani.

He's the reigning world champion, but Jack Garrett has a secret: he doesn't love Formula 1.

Known for his cold-as-ice demeanour, behind the scenes he's a man running out of reasons to race.

Enter Kaya Beck: the team's new communications strategist and Jack's last chance to stay on the grid. Sponsors are nervous, headlines are ruthless, and Jack's behaviour is out of control.

It's up to Kaya to keep him on track – literally and figuratively – if she wants to keep her own career intact.

As she gets to know Jack, Kaya discovers there's more to the 'Jack Frost' persona than she originally thought.

But Kaya is hiding a secret of her own, one that could tear their relationship – and the whole team – apart.



**Fiction / Contemporary /
F1 Romance**

Product Details

May 2026 | Trade Paperback | 256pp
World Rights + Film



Laura Greaves is a multi-award-winning author whose work celebrates passion, connection, and finding joy in unexpected places. She has written a dozen books, including the romantic comedies.

Laura fell for Formula 1 as a kid, when her grandparents would let her stay up late to watch races with them. Her devotion runs deep: she even has world champion Lewis Hamilton's race number, 44, tattooed on her. A born-and-bred Adelaidean, Laura has never quite forgiven Melbourne for stealing the Australian Grand Prix.

Comparison Titles





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Cross the Line

Lauren Jackson

Nora Robertson has two rules: remain invisible and don't tell anyone you're the anonymous author of the hottest romance series in the country.

When her family starts grilling her about being perpetually single, she needs a wedding date fast. Cue Zayden Stark – a charming, chaotic bad boy. Her best friend's brother.

Between the mounting pressure of football and grades that could risk him losing his scholarship, the last thing Zayden needs is a distraction.

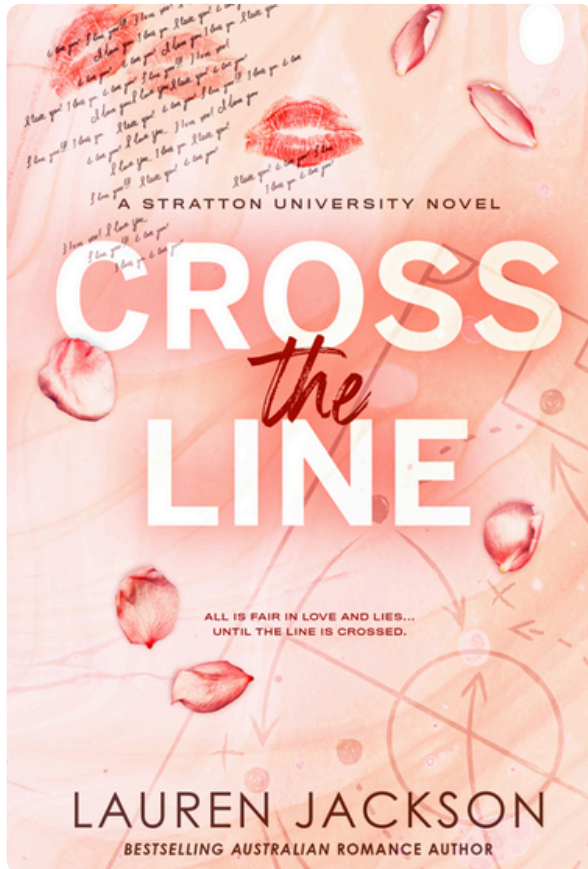
So Nora and Zayden strike a deal: tutoring in exchange for a plus-one. But as steamy nights blur the line between fake and real, Nora begins to realise that she and Zayden might be taking their fake romance way too far.

With their past coming back to haunt them, and a stalker threatening to expose their secrets to the world, Nora and Zayden may have taken on more than they bargained for.

These two may be total opposites, but they might be exactly what the other needs.

Filled with sizzling chemistry and a suspenseful twist, *Cross the Line* is perfect if you're looking for:

Fake dating | College football romance | Best friend's brother | Forced proximity | Dual POV | Spice



**Fiction / Romance / College
Dating / Spicy Romance**

Product Details

Feb 2026 | Paperback | 336pp
World Rights + Film



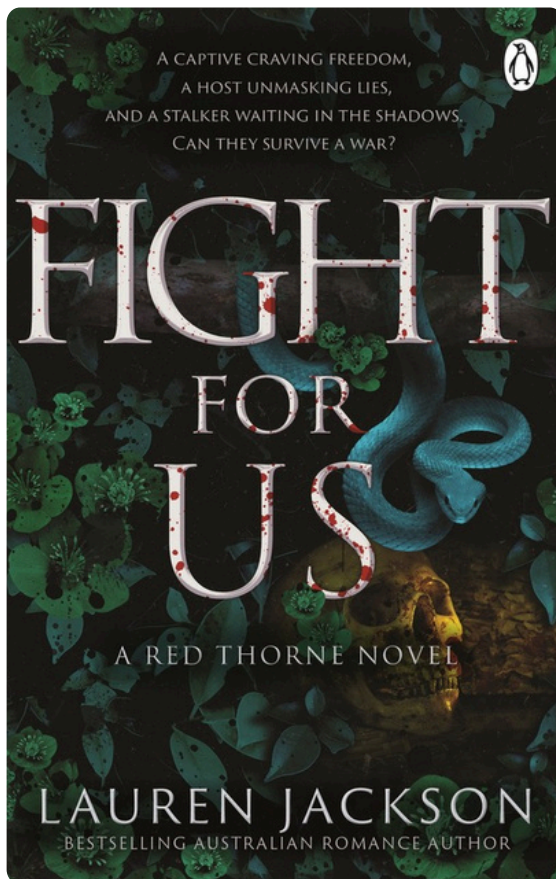
Lauren Jackson is an Australian author and an avid reader. Her hobby of writing stories developed into a passion when she discovered an online writing website at age fourteen. Since 2012, she has garnered thousands of followers and millions of views on her stories, which have helped grow and develop her love of writing. Lauren loves to write steamy romances (with a little mystery) and is always writing a new book.

Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



**Fiction / Fantasy / Romance /
Romantasy**

Product Details

Jul 2026 | Paperback | 432pp
World Rights + Film

Rights Sold

Die For You English Language Rights
(ex ANZ) sold to PRH India



Lauren Jackson is an Australian author and an avid reader. Her hobby of writing stories developed into a passion when she discovered an online writing website at age fourteen. Since 2012, she has garnered thousands of followers and millions of views on her stories, which have helped grow and develop her love of writing. Lauren loves to write steamy romances (with a little mystery) and is always writing a new book.

Fight for Us

Lauren Jackson

A captive craving freedom, a host unmasking a lifetime of lies and a stalker waiting in the shadows. Can they survive a war that started long before their story began?

THE CAPTIVE

My life has been stolen. I've been locked away, hidden from the world that I know. They're attacking my memories and everything is unravelling, but I know enough. I'll fight for my freedom. I'll fight for her. Even if it destroys us both.

THE HOST

I thought my life was ordinary, until I found him. Now I'm questioning where the lies end and the truth begins. My fate is no longer my own. I've become bound to the very thing I was raised to fear, and forced to pick a side in a war I don't understand. Protecting him will cost me everything . . . but walking away isn't an option.

THE STALKER

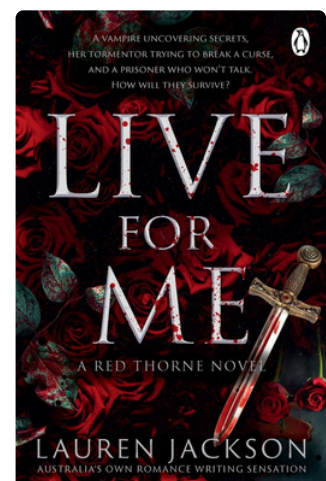
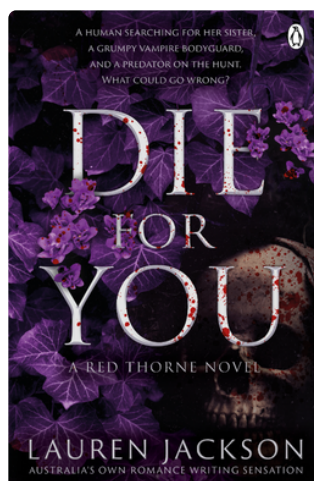
They're mine. All of them. I've waited, I've watched, and soon the war will come to an end. Together, we'll bring the world to its knees.

The conclusion to the bestselling *Red Thorne* series, this dark, steamy and compelling romantasy is perfect for readers looking for:

- ♥Mystery to solve
- ♥Vampires and witches
- ♥Forced proximity
- ♥Fated mates
- ♥Touch her and die
- ♥Nicknames
- ♥Only one bed
- ♥Australian setting
- ♥Multiple POVs

**A dark, spicy vampire
romantasy for lovers of
Navessa Allen, Alex Aster and
*The Vampire Diaries***

Backlist





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Fiction / Fantasy / LGBTQI+

Product Details

Mar 2026 | Trade Paperback | 416pp
World Rights



Bronte-Marie Wesson is a fantasy author from Sydney, Australia. A book lover by trade and a content creator for a giggle, she's a never-ending storyteller with a highly visual brain . . . so she writes. From love letters to fun fantasy epics, Bronte-Marie credits her wife with giving her the push she needed to improve her craft and start writing fully formed books, breathing life into stories she could only dream of creating alone. When she's not lost in her own imagination, Bronte-Marie escapes into her latest gaming obsession, or exercises her creativity through drawing and painting if she can find the time in her busy schedule.

Ascension of Souls

Bronte-Marie Wesson

'Bronte-Marie Wesson weaves identity, magic, and politics together into a beautiful tapestry of story . . . an exploration of destiny and reincarnation, which formed an addictively intricate and immersive web of colliding characters and motives. I loved it.' SenLinYu, author of *Alchemised*

The first book in an epic new fantasy series for fans of *The Jasmine Throne*, *She Who Became the Sun* and *Game of Thrones*.

A broken prophecy

In a land where an ancient prophecy is renewed every generation, two countries are trapped in a repeating cycle of war. But the cycle is broken, and destiny is beginning to unravel.

Two people bound by fate

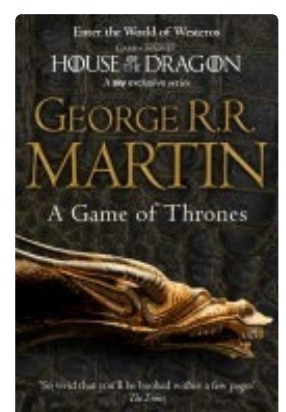
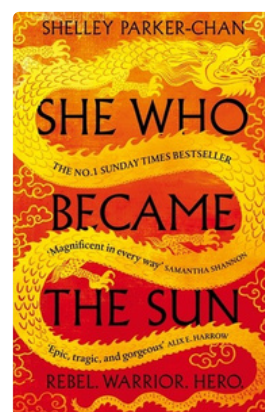
Luminara, a palace servant, sneaks into the birthday party of the newly anointed ruler, Rianthran, where the two form a forbidden bond.

As Rianthran prepares for the sacred ritual of Ascension, Luminara's secret powers start to make themselves known. Haunted by visions of the past and terrified of what it means for her country's future, Luminara must choose a side.

One chance to right the world

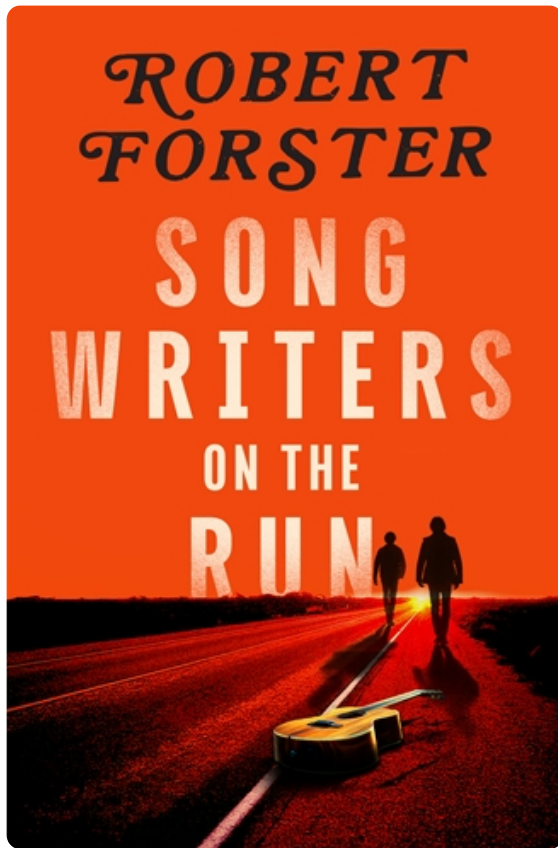
As war looms, the Empire teeters on the edge of upheaval. Can the cycle be mended, the shared destiny of its people restored? Or will they forge a new future, free from the chains of prophecy?

Comparison Titles





Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Songwriters on the Run

Robert Forster

Robert Forster, singer-songwriter and co-founder of the iconic indie band the Go-Betweens, takes readers on a rock-and-roll road trip in his scintillating fiction debut.

It's 1991, and Australian singer-songwriters Mick Woods and Drew Lovelock – 'tall and skinny, rock-star-wrecked handsome' – haven't yet managed to crack the big-time. But that's soon to be the least of their problems.

On tour in Central Queensland, what seems like a minor marijuana bust turns ugly, and they're incarcerated in a low-security institution in the middle of nowhere. With help from a couple of prisoners, they escape – but now what? They're songwriters on the run, desperately evading the long arm of the law and trying to clear their names. On the upside, they might get a good song out of all the drama. Meanwhile, in Hollywood, a major film star takes a liking to their music...

Fiction / Contemporary

Product Details

May 2026 | Trade Paperback | 272pp
World Rights

Songwriters on the Run, is a joyride. Burrowing into the netherworld of Australian independent music just as Nirvana's grunge is about to swamp the planet, the former *Go-Betweens* vocalist and accomplished solo performer has crafted a hectic, sometimes hilarious tale that is as silly, profound and grand as the music it celebrates.



Robert Forster is a Brisbane-born and based musician and writer. In 1978 he co-founded with friend and fellow singer-songwriter Grant McLennan the internationally acclaimed rock band the *Go-Betweens*. Their sixth album, *16 Lovers Lane*, was placed at number 12 on The 100 Best Australian Albums list, and their ninth and last, *Oceans Apart*, won the 2005 ARIA award for Best Adult Contemporary Album. In 2010, Brisbane honoured their cultural influence by naming a new river bridge the Go Between Bridge.

Robert's parallel career as a writer began in 2005 when he was appointed music critic for *The Monthly*, and a year later he won the Geraldine Pascall Prize. A collection of his journalism, *The 10 Rules of Rock and Roll*, was published in 2009. In 2015, his alma mater, the University of Queensland, awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters. Robert's memoir, *Grant & I*, was published in 2016.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Fiction / Speculative / First Nations / LGBTQI+

Product Details

Jun 2027 | Trade Paperback | 320pp
World Rights + Film

Claire G. Coleman is a Wirloomin Noongar woman from the south coast of Western Australia, born in Perth and residing in Naarm. She is a versatile writer of fiction, non-fiction, and verse.

Her debut novel, *Terra Nullius*, was published by Hachette in Australia and Small Beer in the US. Her first nonfiction book, *Lies Damned Lies: A Personal Exploration of the Impact of Colonisation*, won the 2022 Queensland Literary Award Non Fiction Prize. Her third novel, *Enclave*, was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Redemption Songs

Claire G. Coleman

***Redemption Songs* fuses Indigenous realism, speculative fiction and thriller with fierce originality and an electrifying impact.**

Bird doesn't want to do what the voices in her head tell her to do. A part of her believes the voices are just in her head but she is also tempted to think they are the voices of the ancestors.

The voices lead her on a wild chase across the continent to sacred sites. There she ritually spills her own blood onto the land, whether she wants to or not. She is estranged from everyone who matters to her, particularly the love of her life, Cat, who is convinced Bird is completely insane and dangerous.

Meanwhile serial-killer Hand is killing his way towards Bird. Following mysterious directives even he can't understand that seem to be delivered to his brain directly without words.

A cult follows Hand believing him to be the 'Hand of God' a messiah and his actions to be a message from god.

The world is falling apart. Runaway climate change and sociopolitical upheaval has made the earth unlivable. The cities are slums filled with people barely clinging to life who nevertheless have time for political fighting. Bird, Cat and Hand move across an apocalyptic landscape. Humanity is shrivelling.

In the end it is the dreaming ancestors who are needed to make the changes needed, so that people can live in harmony with nature.

Can Bird save the world and is it worth saving?

Praise for Claire G. Coleman

'Coleman stuns with this imaginative, astounding debut about colonisation.' Publishers Weekly

'A powerful, sobering piece of writing that makes us face an Australia we try to forget, but should always remember.' Adelaide Review

'Coleman is unflinching.' Sydney Review of Books

'An arresting and original novel.' Stella Prize Judges

'An urgent examination of oneself and one's country. Written with a booming cadence that demands to be read aloud, again and again.' Tara June Winch



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Dedication

Laurence Fearnley

Set between early-twentieth-century New Zealand and the art world of the 1990s, this luminous novel explores creativity, inheritance, and the quiet violences that shape women's lives.

When a contemporary Christchurch artist is drawn into a film project about Morag Dart, a little-known colonial watercolourist, she begins to retrace Dart's footsteps—through harbours and gullies, studios and exhibitions, motherhood and loss. As she copies Dart's paintings stroke by stroke, the past refuses to remain distant. Dart's story unfolds in parallel: a fiercely independent woman devoted to painting, navigating love, financial precarity and the unspoken costs of artistic freedom in a world that offers women few safe choices.

As the two lives echo and intersect, questions of authorship, feminism and artistic legacy come sharply into focus. Is reclaiming a forgotten woman artist an act of justice—or another form of appropriation? And how much of ourselves do we sacrifice in order to keep making work?

Richly observed and sensuous in its attention to landscape, art-making and emotional interiority, this is a novel about what endures on paper and canvas, and what is lost between generations.

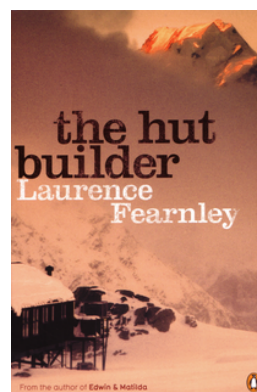


Fiction / Historical

Product Details

Mar 2027 | Trade Paperback | 272pp
World Rights + Film

Backlist Titles

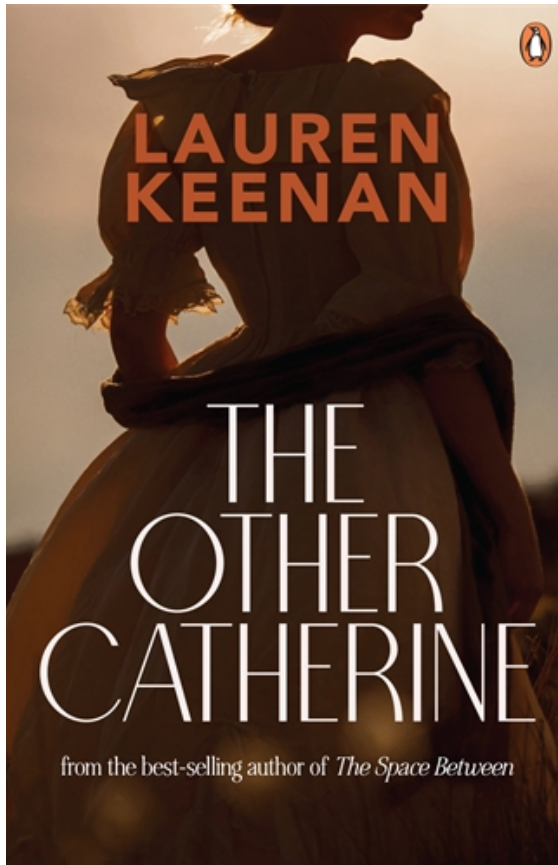


Laurence Fearnley is an award-winning novelist. Her novel *The Hut Builder* won the fiction category of the 2011 NZ Post Book Awards. In 2014 her novel *Reach* was longlisted for the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, and, in 2008, *Edwin and Matilda* was runner-up in the fiction category of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Her second novel, *Room*, was shortlisted for the 2001 Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

In 2004 Fearnley was awarded the Artists to Antarctica Fellowship and in 2007 the Robert Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago. In 2016 she won the NZSA/Janet Frame Memorial Award and in 2017 she was the joint winner of the Landfall essay competition. She was named a New Zealand Arts Foundation Laureate in 2019.



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand



Fiction / Historical

Product Details

Apr 2026 | Trade Paperback | 304pp
World Rights + Film



Lauren Keenan (Te Āti Awa ki Taranaki) is a writer of creative non-fiction, novels, short stories and popular psychology. Lauren was a winner at the 2017 Pikihiua Awards for Māori writers and a finalist in the 2019 awards. She was also a participant in Te Papa Tupu mentoring programme. Her debut historical fiction novel *The Space Between*, set against the backdrop of the New Zealand Wars, is a national bestseller.

Lauren has a Master of Arts in Taranaki Māori History.

The Other Catherine

Lauren Keenan

A new novel from the bestselling author of *The Space Between*.

Two worlds, two women, one story . . .

In 1793, eighteen-year-old Catherine is sentenced to transportation on the *Tempest*, a convict ship bound for New South Wales. Trapped below deck with scores of women, she endures storms, brutality and loss, while dreaming of freedom on the shores of a country far from home.

A century later in Aotearoa, Māori matriarch Keita stands amid the ruins of her whānau and the encroaching world of settlers, whalers and empire. Disturbed by the long reach of colonial change, Keita begins to unravel her own story.

Spanning seas and generations, *The Other Catherine* is a luminous tale of survival, whakapapa and female friendship, for readers of Jenny Patrick and Tina Makereti.

Praise for *The Space Between*



'This is a story of the New Zealand Wars, of two characters so well rendered as to bring the women of the time, Māori and Pākehā, to the fore. It's an historical novel, and a social, feminist history, as well as a drama in the vein of Jenny Patrick and Fiona Kidman. The Space Between does something new, something pertinent to right now, and it does it very well indeed.' Louise Ward, Napier Courier

'[Telling] the story of two women, settler Frances and local Matāria, whose lives become intertwined in surprising ways at the brink of the First Taranaki War in 1860. The excellence of Keenan's writing is such, the judges agreed, that it is hard to believe this is her first novel, and she skilfully explores themes of love, resilience, and the search for belonging as she depicts people learning to straddle two cultures and shake off the classism – and worse – of Victorian England.' NZ Booklovers



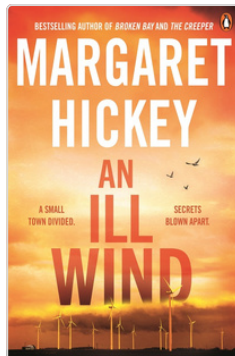
Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Fiction

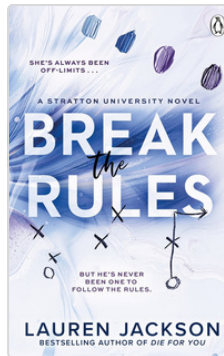
BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



[Product Details](#)



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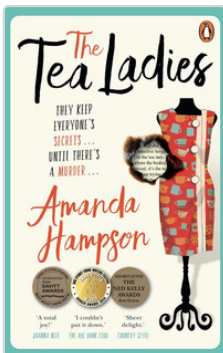
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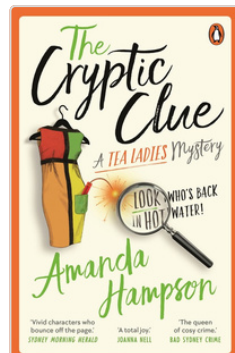
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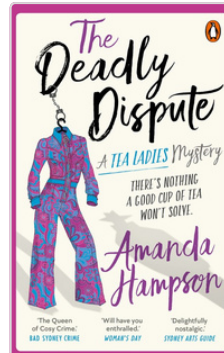
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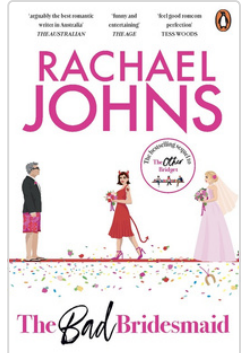
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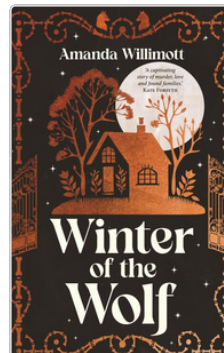
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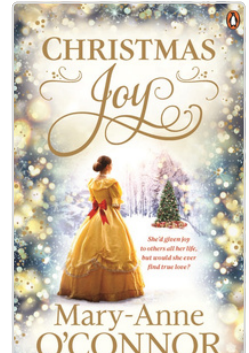
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Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Fiction

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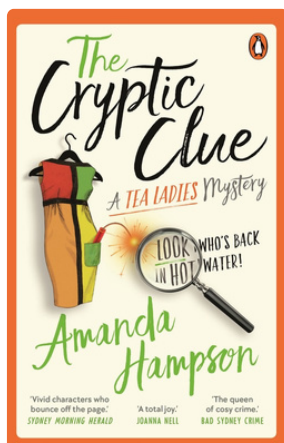
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