



# JANE NOVAK LITERARY AGENCY

Translation Rights Catalogue  
London Book Fair 2026

# About

Jane Novak is a literary professional with thirty years' experience in bookselling and publishing. She is passionate about Australia's local industry and the creation and promotion of Australian books and writers. She worked for both Pan Macmillan Australia and Text Publishing before taking over the Barbara Mobbs Agency in 2016. She has owned the renamed Jane Novak Literary Agency for 10 years.

The Jane Novak Literary Agency (JNLA) represents writers of literary and commercial fiction and non-fiction, children's and young adult. Her clients include Behrouz Boochani, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Helen Garner, Kate Grenville, David Malouf, Gerald Murnane, Suzie Miller, and Jennifer Robinson. The agency also represents a number of literary estates, including Nobel Prize winner Patrick White, Norman Lindsay (*The Magic Pudding*), Charmian Clift and Joan Lindsay (*Picnic at Hanging Rock*).

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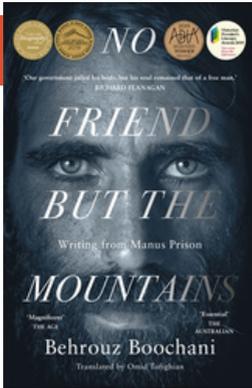
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We acknowledge the Wangal peoples of the Eora nation and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation as the custodians of Country on which we work.

**NON-FICTION**

# No Friend but the Mountains

Behrouz Boochani



NON-FICTION | MEMOIR

November 2019

416 pages

Rights held: World

**Rights sold:** Australia & New Zealand (Picador), Arabic (Al-Arabi), Complex Chinese (Homeward), Danish (Gyldendal), Dutch (Uitgeverij Jurgen Maas), French (Hugo Document), German (btb), Italian (ADD Editore), Japanese (Akashi Shoten), North America (House of Anansi Press), Polish (Książkowe Klimaty), Portuguese (Casa das Letras), Romanian (Pandora M), Slovenian (Založba Sanje), Spanish and Catalan (Raig Verd), Film (MOFA)



**Behrouz Boochani** is a Kurdish-Iranian writer, journalist, scholar, cultural advocate and filmmaker. Boochani was a writer and editor for the Kurdish language magazine Werya in Iran.

**In 2013, Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani was illegally and indefinitely detained on Australia's notorious Manus Island prison.**

Composed entirely by text message, written on a smuggled mobile phone and translated from Farsi, this work represents the harrowing experience of stateless and imprisoned refugees and migrants around the world.

It is a voice of witness, an act of survival. A lyric first-hand account. A cry of resistance. A vivid portrait of five years of incarceration and exile. *No Friend but the Mountains* is an extraordinary account that - against all the odds - became an award-winning national bestseller.

**WINNER: Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Literature 2019**

**WINNER: Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction 2019**

**WINNER: NSW Premier's Award 2019**

**WINNER: ABIA General Non-Fiction Book of the Year 2019**

**WINNER: National Biography Award 2019**

**FINALIST: Terzani Prize 2020**

**LOONGLISTED: Colin Roderick Literary Award 2019**

**'No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison is an extraordinary insight into the life of several hundred men held in offshore prisons under the Australian policy of immigration detention.'** — Los Angeles Review of Books

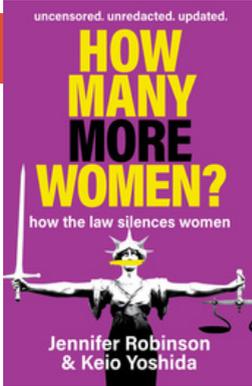
His book, *No Friend But The Mountains: Writing From Manus Prison* has been translated into more than 15 languages. Boochani won the 2019 Victorian Prize for Literature in addition to the Nonfiction category, the Special Award at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, the Australian Book Industry Award for Nonfiction Book of the Year, and the National Biography Prize.

He publishes regularly with *The Guardian*, and his writing also features in *The Saturday Paper*, *Huffington Post*, *New Matilda*, *The Financial Times* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

He is an Honorary Member of PEN International; and winner of an Amnesty International Australia 2017 Media Award.

# How Many More Women?

Jennifer Robinson, Keina Yoshida



NON-FICTION | FEMINISM

**September 2024**  
**448 pages**  
**Final PDF available now**  
**Rights held:** World  
**Rights sold:** Australia & New Zealand (Allen & Unwin), UK & Commonwealth (Octopus Books, Hachette)

**In a new, uncensored edition, two human rights lawyers break open the ways that our legal system continues to silence and disadvantage women.**

**Uncensored. Unredacted. Updated.**

From the international spectacle of Johnny Depp v Amber Heard and the furore that followed that unwanted kiss at the Women's World Cup final, women are breaking through the historic expectation that they will not speak out. But as they grow more empowered, a new form of systematic silencing is becoming more evident: the spike in survivors speaking out is often followed by a spike in legal actions against them and the media. The law is being wielded to reinforce the status quo that existed before MeToo.

Internationally acclaimed lawyers Jennifer Robinson and Keio Yoshida examine the laws around the world that silence women, and ask how we can ensure that their freedoms are no longer threatened by the legal system that is supposed to protect them.

Because we cannot act if we do not know. If women cannot talk about their abuse—and journalists are fearful of telling their stories—then how can we understand the problem of gender-based violence in our societies? And how can we even begin to end it?

*'Witty, gritty, insightful and true, this book is essential reading for all women. Robinson and Yoshida lay down the law, on law, in an accessible way, giving us the ammunition we need, not just to protect ourselves, but to go out there and win.'* - Kathy Lette

**Silenced, a feature documentary adaptation of the book, premiered at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival.**

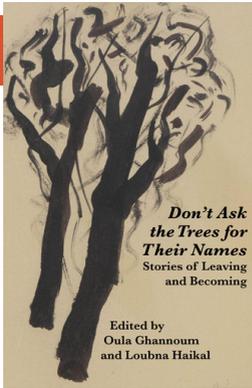


**Jennifer Robinson** is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers in London. She has acted in key human rights and media freedom cases in domestic and international courts. Jen sits on the boards of the Grata Fund, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University.

**Dr Keio Yoshida** is a barrister in England, Wales and Ireland. Keio is currently a senior legal adviser at the Center for Reproductive Rights, and an associate tenant at Doughty Street Chambers. Keio is co-editor of Feminist Conversations on Peace.

# Don't Ask the Trees for Their Names

## Arab Women Collective



NON-FICTION | ESSAYS

October 2025  
400 pages  
Final PDF available  
Rights held: World  
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Gazebo Books), Arabic (Al-Arabi)

In this richly woven tapestry of stories, nine Arab women share their deeply personal journeys of migration, each reflecting on the legacies of their homelands and the complexities of forging new lives.

In their own voices, they explore the challenges of adaptation, the resilience born from adversity, moments of joy, and the enduring ties to their heritage. With unique perspectives, they examine Australian culture while confronting some of the world's most pressing political injustices through the lens of lived experience.

A powerful testament to individuality and community, *Don't Ask the Trees for Their Names* seeks to dismantle stereotypes in a world that too often simplifies identity. This compelling collection inspires us all to rise above the barriers of sexism and racism, offering an urgent and unapologetic chorus of truth.

*'An exquisite tapestry of migration stories ... blends the sorrows of war and exile with the delights of discovery and self-reinvention; the raw immediacy of lived experience with the wisdom of hindsight.'* - Abbas El-Zein

*'They say "it takes a village" to raise a child, to have a life. To be in the diaspora is to have the village ruptured. With these stories, these incredible women have created their own village, one we can all visit as needed to learn what we must.'* - Omar Sakr

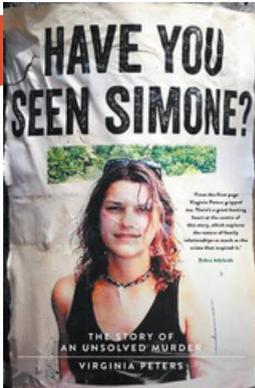
*'A book that will open minds and break hearts ... Deeply wise, profoundly human, Don't Ask the Trees for Their Names bears witness to the histories and diasporas that contribute to Australia as a place of complex cruelties, grief, trauma, resilience, creativity, intelligence and love: a place the brave and beautiful writers of this superb anthology call home.'* - Professor Clare Wright



**The Don't Ask the Trees Collective** is a group of nine Arab Australian women writers — Mariam Maatooq, Loubna Haikal, Mary Hanoun Khilla, Sivine Tabbouch, Hend Saab, Kilda Eid, Camilia Naim, Oula Ghannoum, and Nouha El-Khoury Francis — who came together to share their stories of migration, identity, and resilience in the landmark anthology *Don't Ask the Trees for Their Names: Stories of Leaving and Becoming*.

# Have You Seen Simone?

Virginia Peters



NON-FICTION | TRUE CRIME

**Publication date**  
**320pp**  
**Final PDF available now**  
**Rights held:** World  
**Rights sold:** Australia & New Zealand (Schwartz Publishing), Film (Avenue Road Productions)



**Virginia Peters** grew up on the Kapiti Coast, New Zealand. Drawn to a career in publishing, she began working in newspapers and magazines—but found herself on the wrong side of the office in advertising, using her writing skills to target companies with lengthy marketing proposals. After travelling, marrying an Australian, and having three children in quick succession, she finally decided to pursue creative writing and enrolled in an undergraduate degree at UTS in 2000, majoring in Professional Writing. She then went on to do her Masters, producing a suite of fiction short stories that have appeared individually in Australian literary journals.

*'Intriguing and elegant.'* – Sydney Morning Herald

*Beneath the palm tree she'd perished like a stone fruit amongst the leaves and insects— her flesh bruised a variety of shades, from black through to yellow; her facial features, for all their lovely detail, completely indistinguishable. Look what happened to me, I could hear her say. This is what they did to me.*

In February 2005, German backpacker Simone Strobel went missing in Lismore, New South Wales. Six days later her naked body was discovered, crudely hidden beneath a palm tree. At the inquest into her death the police stated their belief that her boyfriend, Tobias Suckfuell, had killed her, although he has never been charged with any offence concerning Simone.

Writer Virginia Peters was captivated by the case, and committed herself to uncovering the truth. With the agreement of the police, she analysed the evidence, uncovered new lines of investigation and travelled to Germany to interview the couple's families and friends. Ultimately, she tracked down and questioned Suckfuell himself, who remained the prime suspect. Having become intimately involved in the case, Peters came to understand that the story of Simone Strobel's murder was about much more than the crime itself or the investigation that followed.

With echoes of Helen Garner, *Have You Seen Simone?* explores grief and loss, truth and accountability, and asks whether justice in this case can ever be done.