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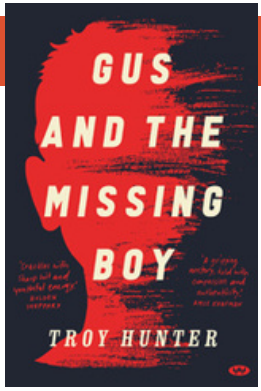
We acknowledge the Wangal peoples of the Eora nation and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation as the custodians of Country on which we work.

YOUNG ADULT

Gus and the Missing Boy

Troy Hunter



FICTION | YOUNG ADULT

March 2024
242 pages
Final PDF available
Rights held: World
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Wakefield Press)

True crime buff Gus Green has always felt out of place in the world. He's overweight, gay, his injured mum's primary carer, and he only has two real friends: sporty Kane and feisty Shell, who are both dealing with their own problems.

Gus's life is flipped on its head one day when he finds a missing persons website with a digitally aged picture of a missing boy who looks eerily like him. Could he be a kidnapping victim? It would explain a lot about his patchy background, but what would that make his mum - his kidnapper?

As Gus and his friends dive into the mystery, their investigation reveals more questions than answers. Can they unravel the case before his world falls apart? And what will they do if the truth is too much to handle?

SHORTLISTED: 2024 Ned Kelly Awards – Best Debut

'Brilliantly combines a twisty detective mystery with a moving coming-of-age message about found family and finding yourself' **- Holden Sheppard**

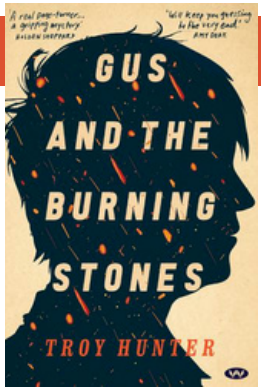
'Takes whodunnit stories up a notch' **- Michael Earp**

Troy Hunter is an adult and YA fiction writer whose short stories have appeared in a variety of publications and journals. He lives in Melbourne and works as a marketing and communications consultant.

His debut novel *Gus and the Missing Boy* was shortlisted for Best Debut in the 2024 Ned Kelly Awards, Australia's oldest and most prestigious recognition honouring published crime fiction and true crime writing.

Gus and the Burning Stones

Troy Hunter



FICTION | YOUNG ADULT

September 2025
242 pages
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A year on from solving a cold case kidnapping, amateur sleuth Gus Green has some closure about his roots, but he's still no closer to reconnecting with his birth mother Jane. That is until he receives a cryptic message telling him that the answers he seeks can be found at a mysterious off-grid community based around an ancient stone circle.

But when they arrive at The Circle, none of the strange people living there know Jane ... or so they say.
A brutal storm traps the friends at The Circle and a burnt body is discovered. Gus and his friends quickly realise that the firebug - and murderer - walks among them, and everyone has a motive.

Gus, Kane and Shell find themselves in a race against time to solve the biggest case of their short careers. Can they get to the bottom of the mystery before they become targets themselves? What is the secret of the stone circle? And how on earth does this all connect to Gus's mother?

'A real page-turner...a gripping mystery' **- Holden Sheppard**

'Will keep you guessing to the very end' **- Amy Doak**

Troy Hunter is an adult and YA fiction writer whose short stories have appeared in a variety of publications and journals. He lives in Melbourne and works as a marketing and communications consultant.

His debut novel *Gus and the Missing Boy* was shortlisted for Best Debut in the 2024 Ned Kelly Awards, Australia's oldest and most prestigious recognition honouring published crime fiction and true crime writing.

Gus and the Climate Killer

Troy Hunter

FICTION | YOUNG ADULT

March 2027
Manuscript available mid-2026
Rights held: World
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Wakefield Press)

It's been a whirlwind couple of years for our amateur sleuthing trio. In their short careers, Gus, Shell and Kane have solved a decade-old kidnap case and a murder by fire, along with tracking down Gus's long-missing birth mother, Jane.

But the puzzle of Gus Green is still missing a piece: his father. With an uneasy blessing from Jane and his adoptive mother Meg, Gus turns to DNA testing to see if he can find his dad. The results come back with a match for Dr Harry Marter, a climate scientist.

Gus and Shell devise a plan to meet Harry before they reveal the news. Posing as student journalists, they head to his office to interview Harry about the innovative carbon capturing pods his company is developing. Harry gives them a tour of the lab, but he cuts the interview short after arguing with his boss, Dr Marisa Hart, over the phone. On their way out of the building, there's a huge explosion on the roof, drawing Gus and Shell back upstairs to the lab to find the burnt-out husk of one of the pods, and Harry standing over Marisa's dead body.

Harry is swiftly arrested, but Gus can't accept that the man who could be his father might also be a murderer. It soon becomes clear that all of the company's employees benefit from Marisa's death, not just Harry.

Kane goes undercover, getting a job as a security guard in the building to help Gus and Shell wade through corporate secrets, embezzlement, grudges and blackmail. With the evidence against Harry piling up, the race is on to get answers. But the identity of the murderer will shock them to their core and change their lives forever.

'It's such a joy to be back in the world of Gus, Shell and Kane as they navigate yet another twisty case. I'm delighted that Troy has brought this beloved trio back for one more case, and I can't wait to work with him again' **– Maddy Sexton, Head of YA at Wakefield Press**

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