

PENGUIN
BOOKS

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

ADULT PUBLISHING RIGHTS GUIDE
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR
2026



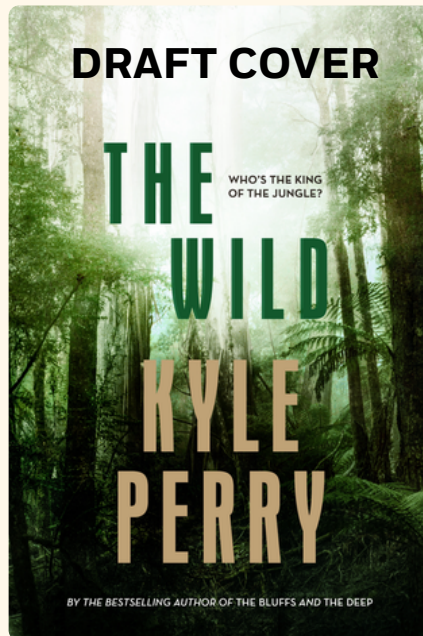
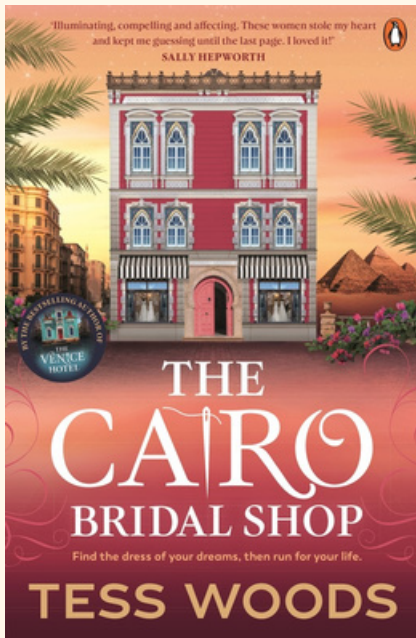
For rights queries please contact
Agence littéraire Lora Fountain & Associates
agence@lorafountain.com +33 1 43.56.21.96

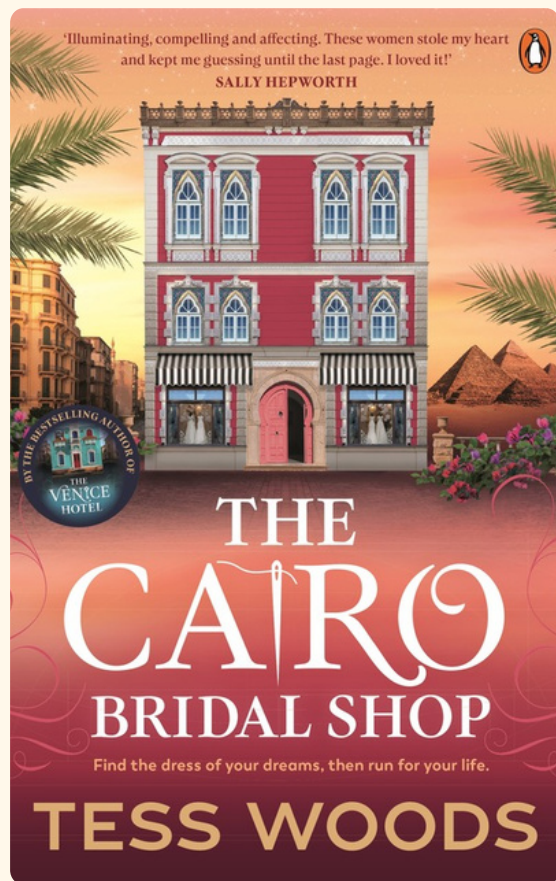
CONTENTS

Fiction Key Titles.....	03
Contemporary Fiction.....	09
Crime.....	13
Romance.....	19
Fantasy.....	22
Literary.....	23
Backlist (Sports Romance).....	26
Backlist (Crime Fiction).....	27

Non-Fiction Key Titles.....	28
Self Help/Health.....	34
Memoir.....	39
History.....	44
Parenting.....	45
Finance.....	49
Novelty & Activity.....	52
Backlist (Self Help).....	56
Meet the Team.....	57

Fiction Key Titles





Fiction / Contemporary

Product Details

Sep 2026 | Trade Paperback | 366pp
World Rights + Film



Tess Woods once had a simple life until her compulsion to write made-up stories complicated everything. She's now an award-winning and Australian Top 10 bestselling author of contemporary fiction.

Tess was born in Alexandria to an Egyptian family and has drawn from her heritage to write *The Cairo Bridal Shop*, the book of her heart. You can contact Tess on Instagram, Facebook or at tess@tesswoods.com.au.

The Cairo Bridal Shop

Tess Woods

The highly anticipated new novel by the bestselling author of *The Venice Hotel*.

Nestled at the bustling foot of the pyramids lies the iconic Albi Bridal Shop, 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.

Praise for Tess Woods

'Illuminating, compelling and affecting. These women stole my heart and kept me guessing until the last page. I loved it.' Sally Hepworth

'Tess Woods just keeps getting better—sharper, braver, and more deliciously unputdownable with every novel. In her hands, the ties that bind us become a tangle of culture, politics, longing, and the eternal question of where we truly belong.' Melina Marchetta

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

The Venice Hotel

*Set over the twelve days of Christmas at a boutique Venice hotel, this deliciously twisty novel by acclaimed Australian author is ideal for fans of **Nine Perfect Strangers** and **The White Lotus**.*

When the lives of four very different women become entangled in a boutique Venice hotel, dark secrets unravel and not everyone who checked into the hotel will check out again.

Signora Loretta Bianchi, the world famous cook at Venice's Hotel Il Cuore, is forced to choose between once-in-a-lifetime passion and her devoted husband.

Sophie, on assignment in Venice as a food writer, finds a lot more than Signora Bianchi's secret recipes to love, but what is the charming Rocco hiding?

Law graduate Elena is sinking just like the endangered city she's returned home to, and she'll stop at nothing to be free from her marriage.

Grandmother Gayle's dream Venetian holiday turns sinister as she finds herself embroiled in a life or death escape.

Set against a backdrop of the romance and tragedy of magical Venice, *The Venice Hotel* explores the powerful bonds that develop between women in times of crisis, and the healing power of female connection.

Product Details

Sep 2024 | Trade Paperback | 480pp
World Rights + Film

Rights sold

- **German Translation** Rights sold to PRH Germany (Goldmann)
- **Polish Translation** Rights sold to Dressler Dublin

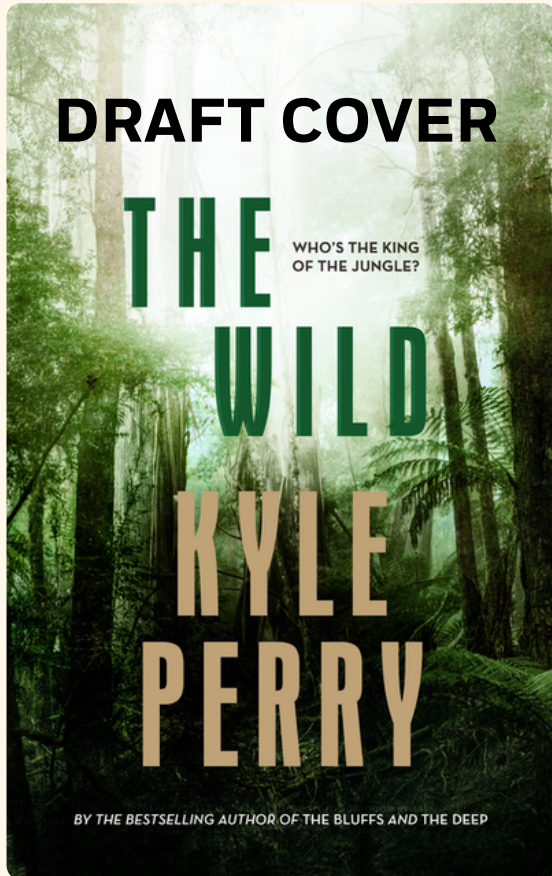
AWARD-
WINNING
AUSTRALIAN
TOP 10
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR



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

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

'With its atmospheric setting, 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+Publisher



Fiction / Psychological Thriller / Crime

Product Details

Aug 2027 | Trade Paperback | 400pp
World Rights

Edited manuscript due end Sep 2026



Kyle Perry is a drug and alcohol counsellor based in Hobart, Tasmania. He has grown up around the Tasmanian bush and seas, with the landscape a key feature of his writing and his spare time. He loves the sea, and his entire leg is covered in ocean tattoos.

His debut novel, *The Bluffs*, has been translated into six languages. It was shortlisted for the Dymocks Book of the Year and the Indie's Debut Fiction Book of the Year, and was longlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards' General Fiction Book of the Year.

The Wild

Kyle Perry

The heart stopping new thriller from the author of *The Bluffs* and *The Deep*.

Sixteen-year-old Buddy Woods has been dragged along on a camping trip in the wilderness of Tasmania's remote southwest to celebrate his brother's bachelor party.

He learns all too late that the party has been planned to collide with the best man's own outdoor adventure, his addiction rehabilitation group's graduation hike.

What begins as a hostile meeting of two diverse groups soon becomes a desperate fight for survival, as past secrets come to life, personal tensions boil over, and an unseen killer turns the mountain into a trap.

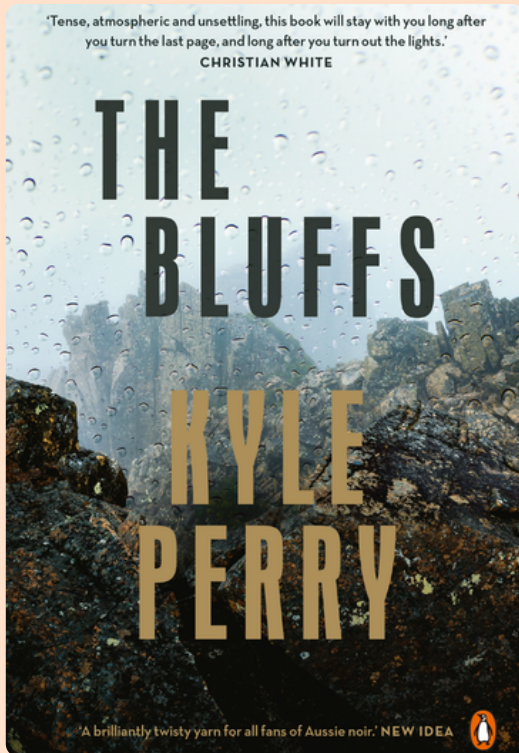
When a cryptic message leads investigative journalist Coco Jones to believe her fiancé Heath's life is in danger, she races to the tiny alpine town where he was last seen. But as violent storms seal off the mountains and the locals grow increasingly evasive, Coco begins to suspect the wilderness isn't the only thing hiding the truth, and the legends of the mountain cult may be just as real as the Woods boys always claimed.

As the weather closes in and the body count rises, a desperate search to find the missing hikers uncovers a shocking history the mountain has buried for generations. For Buddy and the survivors of the fractured group, uncovering those secrets may mean never leaving the wilderness alive.

Praise for Kyle Perry

'[The Deep] is a fast-paced thriller that twists and twists again. Kyle Perry can sure spin a mighty tale.'
Chris Hammer

'This atmospheric, scenery-rich crime tale embodies both the beauty and brutality of nature – especially human nature... The Bluffs establishes Perry as a fierce new talent.' Apple Books



Product Details

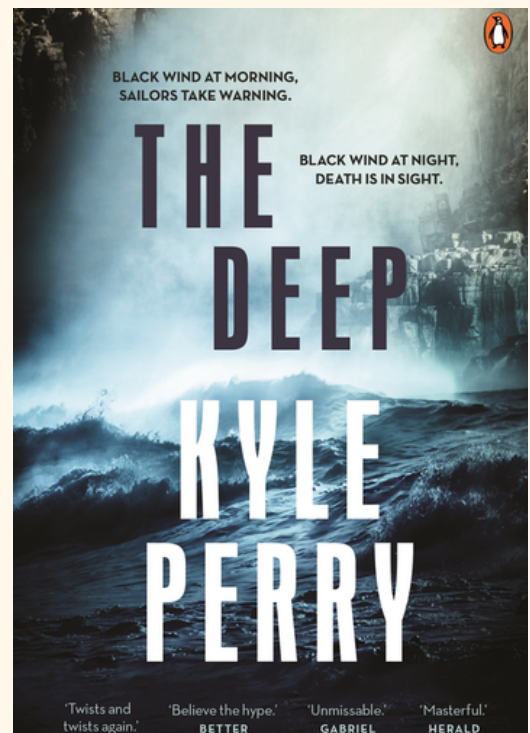
Jul 2020 | Trade Paperback | 432pp
World Rights

RIGHTS
SOLD

- **Czech Translation** Rights sold to Host
- **Estonian Translation** Rights sold to Uhinenud
- **German Translation** Rights sold to Atrium
- **Italian Translation** Rights sold to Fanucci
- **Romanian Translation** Rights sold to Editura Leada Neagra
- **Dutch Translation** Rights sold to HarperCollins Holland
- **Film Rights** sold to First Option Pictures (Australia)

RIGHTS
SOLD

- **Estonian Translation** Rights sold to Uhinenud
- **German Translation** Rights sold to Atrium
- **Dutch Translation** Rights sold to HarperCollins Holland
- **Film Rights** sold to Shape Shifter Pictures (USA)



Product Details

Jul 2021 | Trade Paperback | 464pp
World Rights



**Fiction / Contemporary / Mystery
and Detective / Romance**

Product Details

Jan 2027 | Trade Paperback | 336pp
World Rights

Final draft due end Sep 2026

The Number One Insta Detectives Agency

Rachael Johns and
Mercedes Mercier

The heart-stopping new crime-romance series by bestselling Australian authors Rachael Johns and Mercedes Mercier.

Do you suspect your online date is seeing other people? Or catfishing? Or that you're just a number in your situationship's roster? It's time to call in The Number One Insta Detectives Agency.

Olivia, Sheridan, Juniper and Emery – an unlikely team of friends bonded over their love/hate relationship with the online dating world – have gone viral for cracking the toughest digital dating crimes. If only their own romance dramas were as easy to solve. Juni has decided to go boy sober after leaving behind a string of heartbroken exes . . . that is, until a 'hot cop' moves in next door. Their instant connection is threatened when the Insta Detectives stumble on something far more criminal than a red flag – the photo of a dead woman with a knife in her heart.

This chilling case leads them from dodgy dive bars to a maximum-security prison and then deeper into the world of online sex work. Suddenly, the Insta Detectives have more than just their hearts on the line – it's their very lives in danger.

Two bestselling Australian authors join forces in this genre-bending crime-romance series that will steal your heart – and your breath – and prove that while dating can be difficult, making it out alive can be deadly.



Rachael Johns was once (briefly) an English teacher, before turning her attention to writing – and never looking back. She now writes award-winning romance, women's fiction, and the occasional awkward text. Her novel *The Patterson Girls* won the 2016 ABIA for General Fiction, and she's a two-time winner of the Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award.

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*, where she shares behind-the-scenes bookish thoughts and writer life.



Mercedes Mercier writes 'just-one-more-page' crime with twisting plots and relatable characters. As well as writing books, Mercedes has worked in the criminal justice system for over a decade, giving her unique insight into the world of crime and offenders.

After a brush with death, Mercedes threw herself into life. She lived overseas, became a black belt in Karate, skydived, and volunteered with animals.

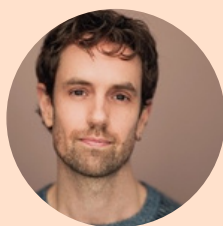
Mercedes lives in Adelaide, in a tree-top home surrounded by kangaroos, koalas, kookaburras and the occasional echidna.



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

Product Details

Aug 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights



Originally from Australia, Tobias now lives in New York City with his husband and their Cavoodle. Tobias spent most of his life on stage, touring Australia and New Zealand with musicals such as *Mary Poppins*, *CATS*, and *Guys and Dolls*. These days, he works full-time in publishing, tends to his daily dog-dad duties, and runs laps around Central Park. In his spare time, he can often be found writing on the Metro North train to Beacon.

Tobias's award-winning debut young adult fiction novel, *Anything But Fine*, was published in 2021, followed by *Take a Bow*, *Noah Mitchell* and the CBCA Notable Book *Wrong Answers Only*. *Quite the Pair* is his first book for adults.

Quite the Pair

Tobias Madden

The debut adult novel from the award-winning author of *Anything But Fine*. A laugh-out-loud tale of friendship and finding yourself, set against the lively backdrop of New York City - perfect for fans of Dolly Alderton, Madeleine Gray and *New Girl*.

Two best friends. One apartment. Zero chance of this going to plan.

Austin and Sydney have been best friends since he moved into her shoebox apartment in New York City over a decade ago. Now in their early thirties and living with their long-term partners, their lives are finally on track: Austin is performing on Broadway and Sydney is the VP comma Marketing at a lucrative tech startup. Everything is perfect. They're so happy. (Right?)

But when both of their relationships implode on the same night, Austin and Sydney realise that things weren't quite as perfect as they seemed, and that their only option is to move back in together.

The pair make a pact to use their new twelve-month lease to break the cycle of their toxic habits. For Austin, this means not falling in love with every man who so much as looks at him; for Sydney, it means prioritising herself, for possibly the first time in history.

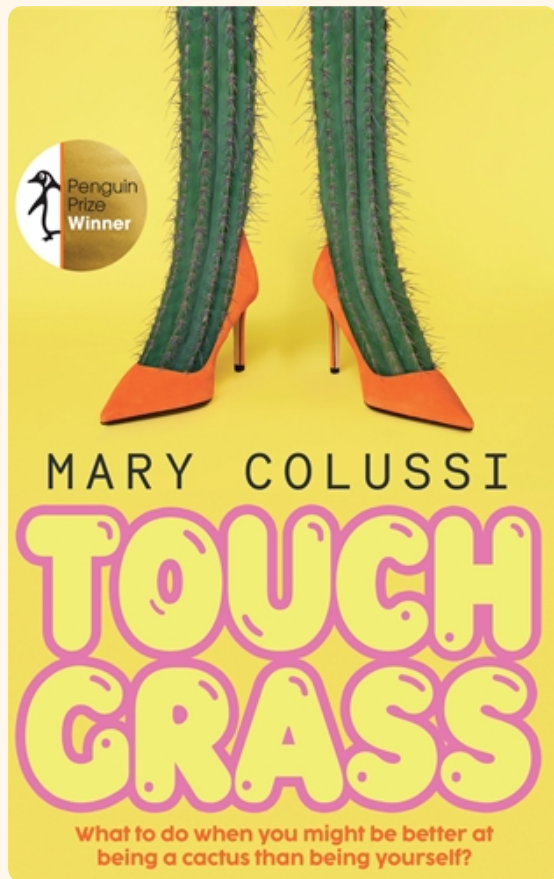
It's not long, though, before Austin's resolve starts to crack - a gorgeous children's book editor has absolutely nothing to do with that - and Sydney slips back into old patterns, letting the shadow of Austin's presence eclipse her own needs.

The question is: can people truly change? Or are these self-proclaimed soulmates doomed to repeat the same mistakes over and over . . . and risk losing each other in the process?

Praise for *Quite the Pair*

'Quite the Pair sparkles like the New York City skyline it's set against. A giant-hearted story of two best friends, one shoebox apartment, and the chaotic beauty of figuring it out together. It's a gorgeously written, achingly tender (and hilarious!) ode to chosen family and choosing yourself. I loved every word.' Jennifer Niven, #1 NY TIMES bestselling author

'From the first page, I was invested in Austin and Sydney and their charmingly messy and frequently funny New York lives. This is a total delight of a book about friendship and finding yourself.' Nina Kenwood, author of *The Wedding Forecast*



**Fiction / Contemporary / Literary
Fiction / Speculative Fiction**

Product Details

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

**Winner of the
2025 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 and the National Institute of Dramatic Art.

Touch Grass is her debut novel.

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.

Astute 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.

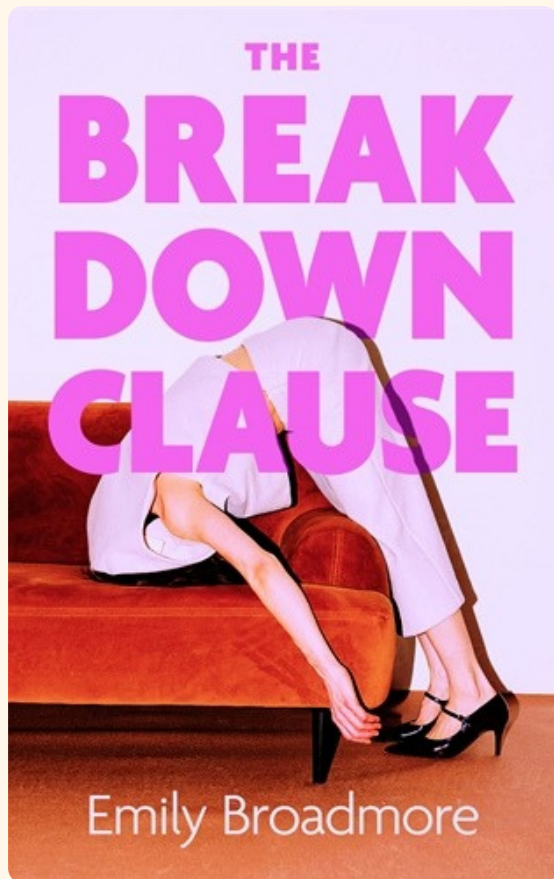
Praise for *Touch Grass*

'Charmingly wry and original.' Georgia Harper

'Sharp and inventive.' Books+Publishing

Comparison Titles





Fiction / Contemporary / Satire / Political Thriller

Product Details

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

Edited manuscript due end Sep 2026



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 was banned by one of New Zealand's major high street shops.

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 . . .

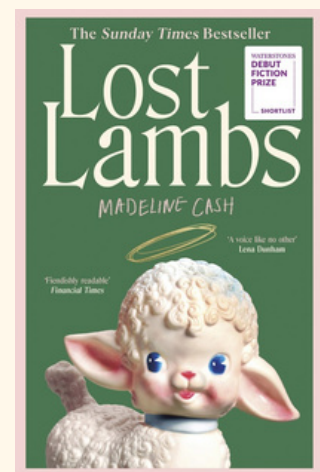
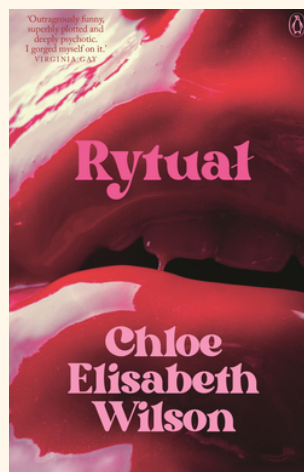
Cleo Turner spent her twenties as a political advisor. She was ambitious, smart and youthfully naive to the reality of political friendships.

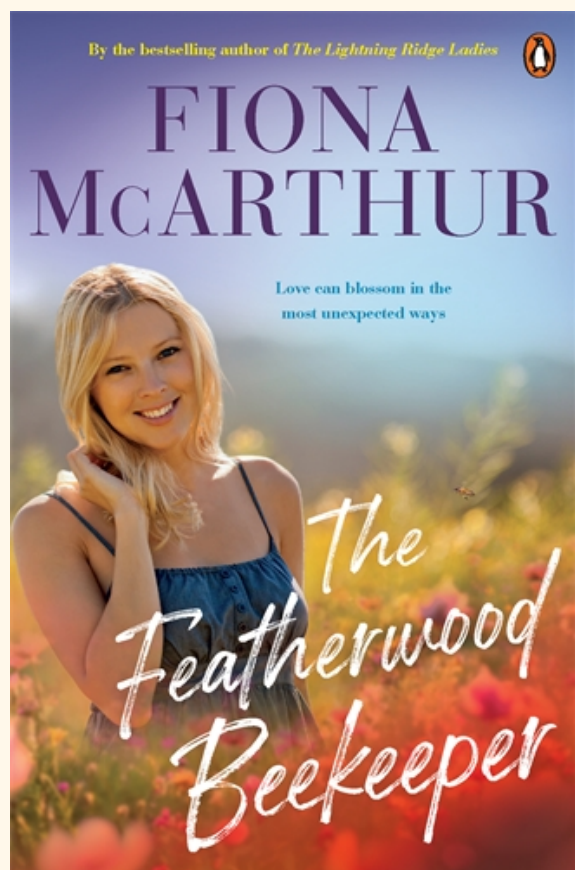
Then she ended up married to a government minister. Now, she's a political widow, living in a remote electorate with just her baby for company.

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.

Comparison Titles





**Fiction / Romance /
Contemporary / Medical**

Product Details

Sep 2026 | Trade Paperback | 368pp
World Translation Rights



Drawing from her earlier life as a rural midwife, Fiona McArthur shares her love of working with women, families and health professionals in her books. In her compassionate fiction, her love of the Australian landscape meshes with warm, funny, multigenerational characters as she highlights challenges for rural families, and the strength shared between women. Happy endings are a must.

Fiona is the author of the non-fiction book *Aussie Midwives*, and lives on a farm with her husband. She was awarded the NSW Excellence in Midwifery Award in 2015 and the Australian Ruby Award for Contemporary Romantic Fiction in 2020, and was shortlisted for the same award in 2023.

Find her at FionaMcArthurAuthor.com.

The Featherwood Beekeeper

Fiona McArthur

Hives are failing up and down the coast – but not in Featherwood.

Government scientist Natasha Yarrington is sent to find out why, and the trail leads her to an off-grid beekeeper whose colonies are not just surviving but thriving. Isaac Stevens came to Featherwood to disappear, but a man who holds the secret to healthy bees is difficult to walk away from. For Natasha, he turns out to be the most compelling mystery in Featherwood.

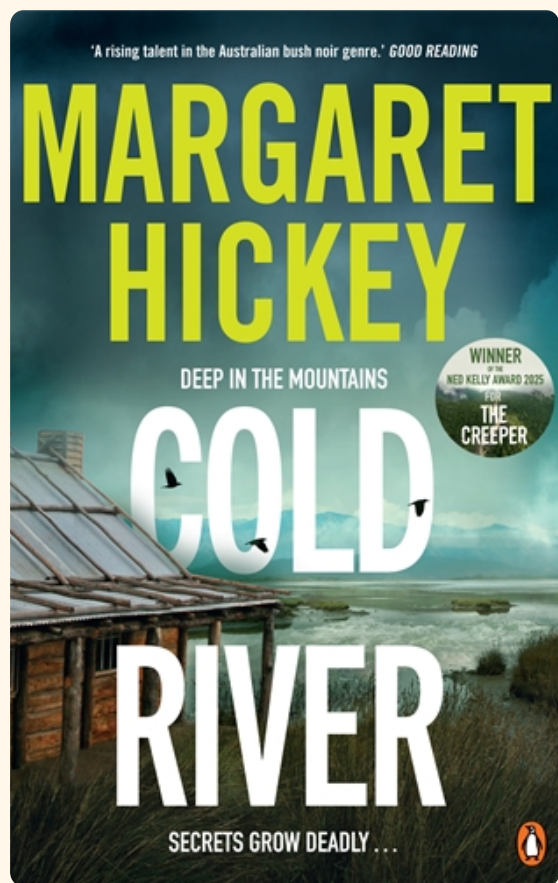
Natasha is swept into the warm heart of the town alongside eighteen-year-old Birdie Vaughn, who has followed a postmark all the way from Sydney in search of her long-lost brother, and the irrepressible Molly Rogan – newly married and navigating a late-in-life pregnancy – who has a gift for drawing strays into her orbit and holding a town together. As Natasha's relationships with the people of Featherwood grow, she starts to wonder if she's stumbled onto something far more important than a scientific answer.

Set against the backdrop of a rural town and a community still finding its feet after the last two years of flood and fire, *The Featherwood Beekeeper* is a story about second chances at love, found family and the courage it takes to let people in.

With her trademark warmth, humour and deep love of the Australian landscape, Fiona McArthur reminds us that family can be built as much as born, and that the most important discoveries aren't always the ones you were looking for.

Backlist





**Fiction / Crime and Mystery /
Thriller and Suspense**

Product Details

Jul 2026 | Trade Paperback | 368pp
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 the author of six crime novels – *Cutters End*, *Stone Town*, *Broken Bay*, *The Creeper*, *An Ill Wind* and *Cold River* – 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*.

Cold River

Margaret Hickey

Deep in the mountains, secrets grow deadly . . .

Senior 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 persons case that bears striking similarities. Astrid Marlowe, a young lawyer, vanished in the same mountains two years earlier.

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

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

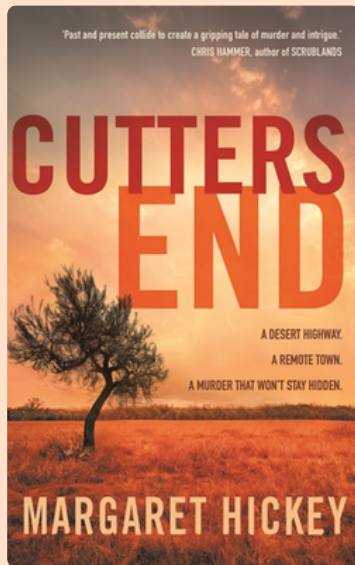
Praise for Margaret Hickey

On *The Creeper*: 'Eerie, vivid and tense. A powerhouse of a novel - I loved it.' Shelley Burr

On *Broken Bay*: 'Margaret Hickey blazed on to the Australian crime writing scene with *Cutters End* . . . [She] excels at using the setting to add tension and, here, it is the South Australian coast and limestone caves . . . A fresh setting for a crime novel, and the underwater scenes are suffocatingly horrifying.' *Weekend Australian*

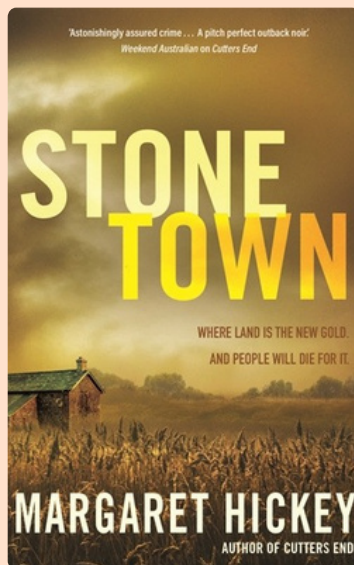
On *Cutters End*: 'A tightly woven and utterly unpredictable plot that will keep you guessing and gasping until the explosive truth leaves you shocked. A stunning debut.' Lyn Yeowart, author of *The Silent Listener*

BACKLIST Margaret Hickey



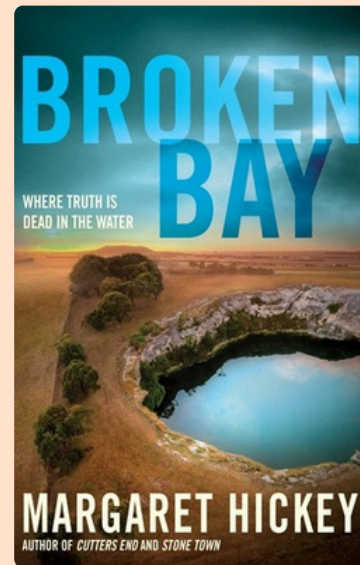
Product Details

Aug 2021 | TPB | 384pp
World Rights + Film



Product Details

Jul 2022 | TPB | 416pp
World Rights + Film

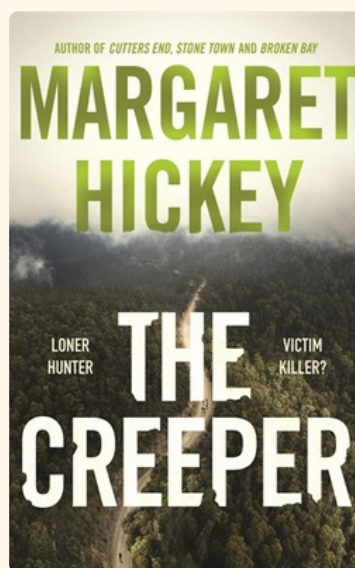


Product Details

Jun 2023 | TPB | 384pp
World Rights + Film

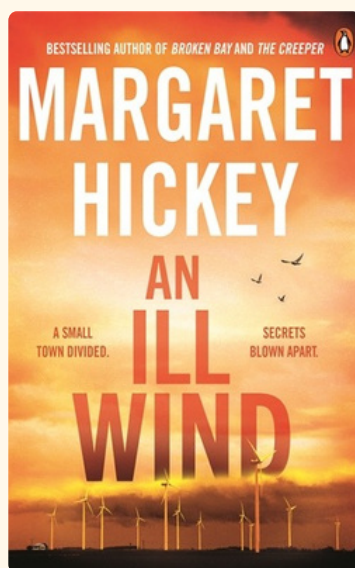
AWARD-
WINNING
BESTSELLING
AUTHOR

90k+
COPIES
SOLD
IN ANZ



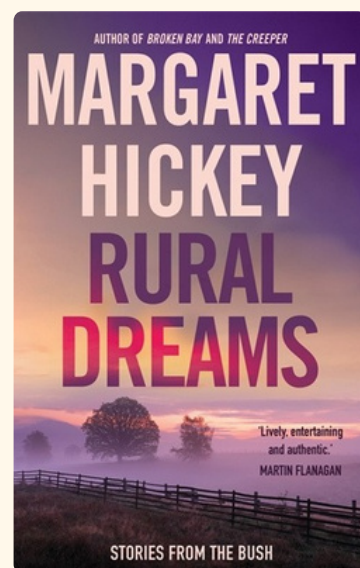
Product Details

Jul 2024 | TPB | 352pp
World Rights + Film



Product Details

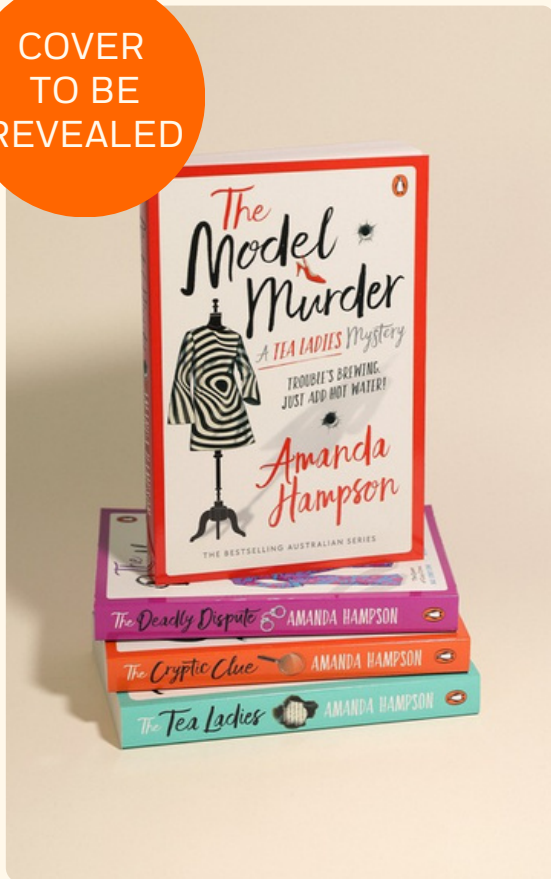
Jul 2025 | TPB | 384pp
World Rights + Film



Product Details

Jan 2025 | PB | 240pp
World Rights + Film

COVER
TO BE
REVEALED



**Fiction / Crime & Mystery /
Historical**

Product Details

Aug 2027 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights

Unedited manuscript due end Sep 2026



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

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.

The Fatal Feud: The Tea Ladies #5

Amanda Hampson

The fabulous team are back in Book 5 of the award-winning *Tea Ladies* series!

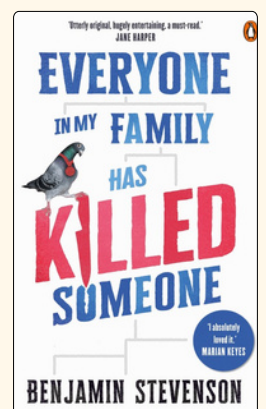
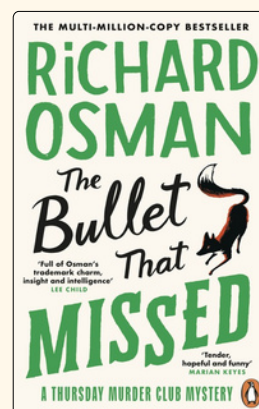
1969: Two major events occur this year. The first is the moon landing, watched by an estimated 650 million people around the world – the space age has arrived!

The second is most famous music festival in history – Woodstock; a peaceful gathering of almost half a million people come together to experience some of the best music and artists of our time and, in the process, create the hippie movement.

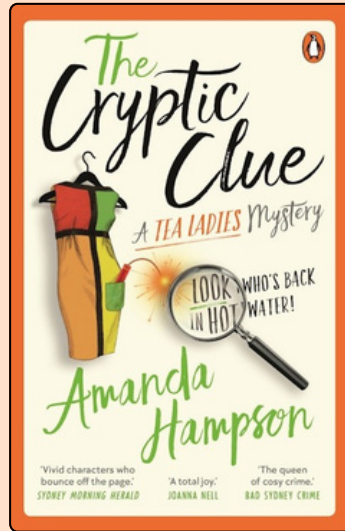
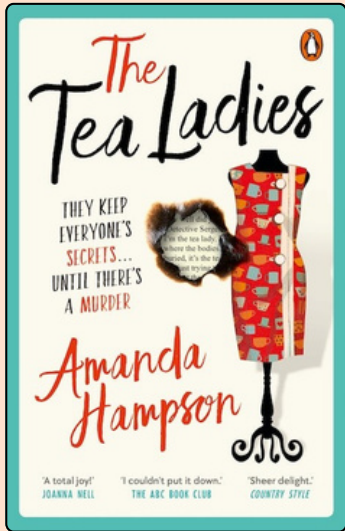
These two seismic events send shockwaves around the globe, capturing people's imaginations and changing perceptions of what is possible. These events become a catalyst for cultural changes that influence everything from food to fashion.

Meanwhile, in Zig Zag Lane, Surry Hills, our tea ladies are busy solving a particularly perplexing crime.

Comparison Titles



The Tea Ladies SERIES



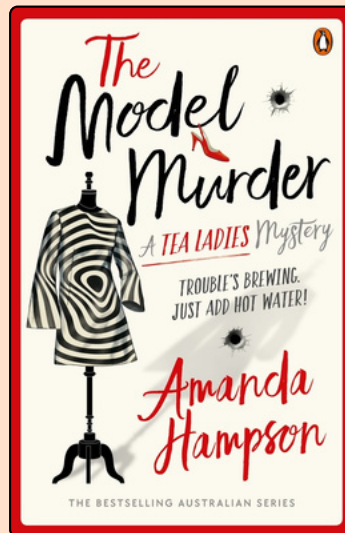
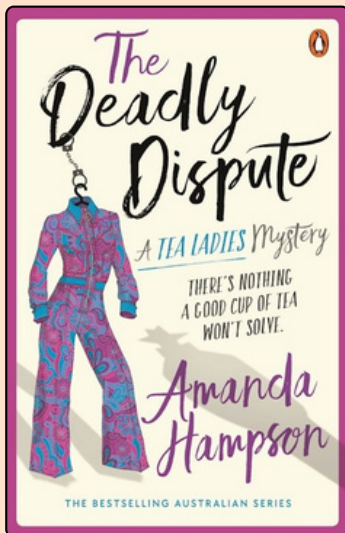
80K+
COPIES
SOLD IN
ANZ

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

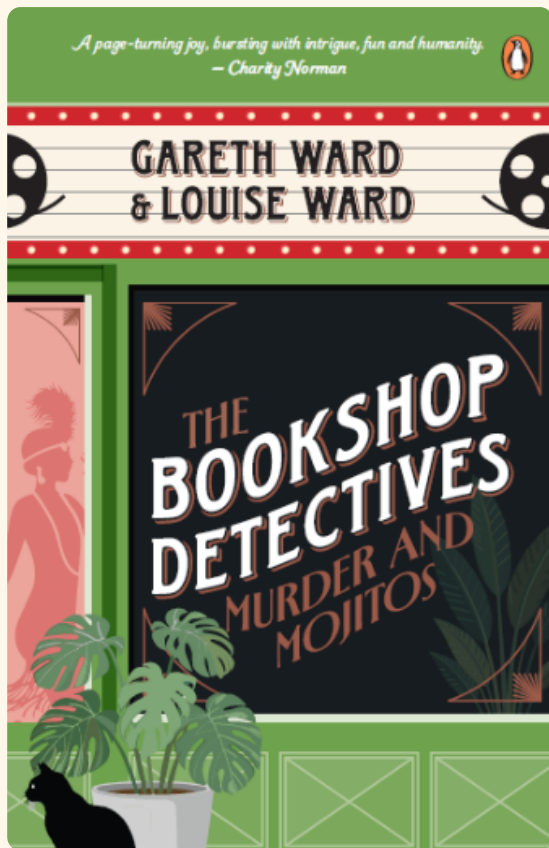
Awards (*The Tea Ladies*)

- **Winner** 2024 Danger Awards - Best Fiction
- **Shortlisted** 2024 Sisters In Crime Davitt Awards - Best Adult Crime
- **Shortlisted** 2024 Ned Kelly Awards - Best Fiction



Praise for Amanda Hampson

'The Tea Ladies is a total joy! With her ear for dialogue and eye for authentic detail, Amanda Hampson has created a refreshing take on a murder mystery that is both wickedly funny and highly entertaining. Hazel, Betty, Irene and Merl leapt straight off the page and into my heart. I can still hear them laughing, gossiping and plotting, long after I finished this delightful book.'
Joanna Nell, bestselling author



Fiction / Mystery & Detective / Contemporary

Product Details

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



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 & Louise Ward

Art Deco glamour, a Cuban crime queen and a grammar-obsessed killer collide in the #1 best-selling *Bookshop Detectives*' high-stakes final instalment.

The Bookshop Detectives are on the case!

Booksellers Garth and Eloise Sherlock (and their cowardly dog, Stevie) have been roped into hosting Murder and Mojitos, a glamorous Art Deco festival event starring Cuba's queen of crime fiction. Between flapper frocks, rooftop hijinks and competitive cocktail shaking, it should be the bookshop's biggest break yet.

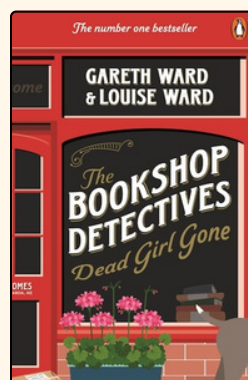
But when mysterious parcels arrive at the shop and a body turns up on a quiet local beach, every clue points back to Arthur Pinter – the literary-obsessed serial killer from the Sherlocks' past.

With the mojitos flowing and half of the town in costume, Garth and Eloise must untangle a web of old betrayals, new alliances and international intrigue before the festival's finale turns into a bloodbath. Can they protect their staff, their small town and their beloved bookshop – or will this be their final chapter?

Rights sold

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

Backlist





**Fiction / Legal Thriller /
Crime and Mystery / Historical**

Product Details

May 2027 | Trade Paperback | 352pp
World Rights

Edited manuscript due end Sep 2026



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 two crime novels, *When the Deep, Dark Bush Swallows You Whole* and *The First Law of the Bush*.

The Deadly Circle

Geoff Parkes

***The Deadly Circle* is a gripping rural crime novel, alternating modern and historical storylines, set in the rugged landscape of New Zealand's King Country.**

The past never stays buried . . .

Lawyer Ryan Bradley has never defended a murder trial before. Now he's facing the toughest challenge of his career.

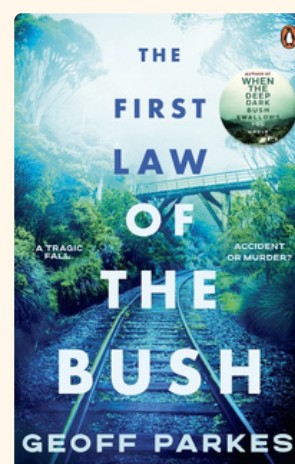
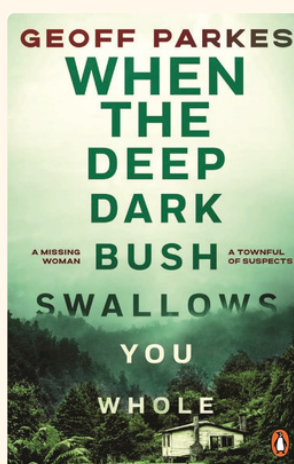
Environmental activist Arlo Addison is accused of killing forestry executive Richard Maguire, whose body is found hanging at the entrance to an abandoned bush tunnel. As the trial begins, Ryan knows he'll have to keep his unconventional client in check, while outsmarting veteran prosecutor, Ivan Manly.

Seventy years earlier, returned soldier Arthur Maguire is carving a new life from the King Country bush. He joins workers clearing the native trees to create farmland, determined to be granted a plot of his own. But a devastating betrayal shatters that dream.

From felling forests to build farms . . . to buying farms to plant forests, the battle for the King Country has come full circle.

Some injustices lie buried for generations - but the bush never forgets . . .

Backlist





**Fiction / Sports Romance /
Contemporary / LGBTQI+**

Product Details

Jan 2027 | Paperback | 368pp
World Rights + Film

First pages available



Darcy Green (they/them) is a Naarm-based author who writes joyful queer stories across a variety of genres. Their Brunswick Falcons books blend romance, sport and comedy in the world of the AFL(M). Darcy loves books, footy, ice hockey, and writing when they should be doing other things. They are almost always listening to an audiobook.

Home Ground

Darcy Green

Love is closer than you think in this forced-proximity football rom-com for fans of *Heated Rivalry*, Casey McQuiston and Cat Sebastian.

Aleksandar Yelich was ready to hang up his boots.

Now his marriage has disintegrated, he's doubting his abilities as a captain, and the premiership he's spent his career chasing seems permanently out of reach.

Ryker Elliot settled down with the love of his life.

Or so he thought. A bad break-up puts him on the road to Melbourne and a job with the Brunswick Falcons. He doesn't know anything about AFL, but a fresh start sounds perfect.

Aleks needs to stay focused. Ryker has to keep it professional.

When Aleks offers Ryker his spare room, neither of them anticipates friendship, let alone a very inconvenient attraction. Still, nothing can come of it. Aleks has a flag to win, and Ryker isn't looking for love ... right?

Rights sold

Film Rights for *After the Siren* sold to Mad Ones Films (Australia)

Praise for *After the Siren*



'A fun, queer rom-com that is impossible to put down.'
Lauren Jackson

'Pure queer joy. Jake and Theo's chemistry off off-the-charts hot.' Abra Pressler

'Playful, joyful and HOT.'
Clare Fletcher

PENGUIN
BOOKS

COVER
COMING
SOON



**Fiction / Rom-com / LGBTQI+ /
First Nations**

Product Details

Jun 2027 | Trade Paperback | 336pp
World Rights + Film

Edited manuscript available



Skye Cusack is a Dulgubarra Yidinji and Asian writer, journalist and accidental comedian living in Naarm (Melbourne, Australia). Skye shares stories that make you laugh, cry and call your therapist. Common themes in her writing include mental health, disability, fatphobia, existential Blak crises and people generally making fools of themselves.

Checked Out is Skye's debut novel. Her second book, a sapphic New Adult fiction novel titled *The Dangers of Just One Person*, will be published by Magabala Books in 2028.

Checked Out

Skye Cusack

A laugh-out-loud funny queer First Nations rom-com about relationships with hot co-workers, Country, and your own brain.

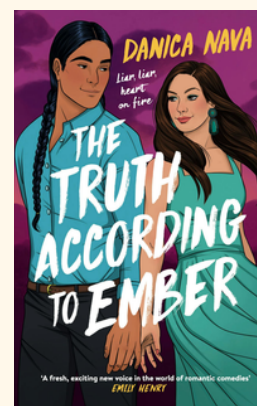
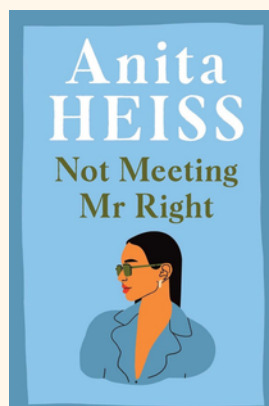
Ren hasn't seen her twin in ten years. So why is her sister suddenly blowing up her phone? Turns out she's just won twenty million dollars, bought a rundown hotel and wants Ren to move north to run it. It's their childhood dream, remember?

Ren moves from her city apartment to be close to her family on Dulgubarra Yidinji Country, determined to make the new hotel a success, despite her tangled nerves, OCD and the small matter of not knowing the first thing about hospitality. Or, for that matter, about her Country.

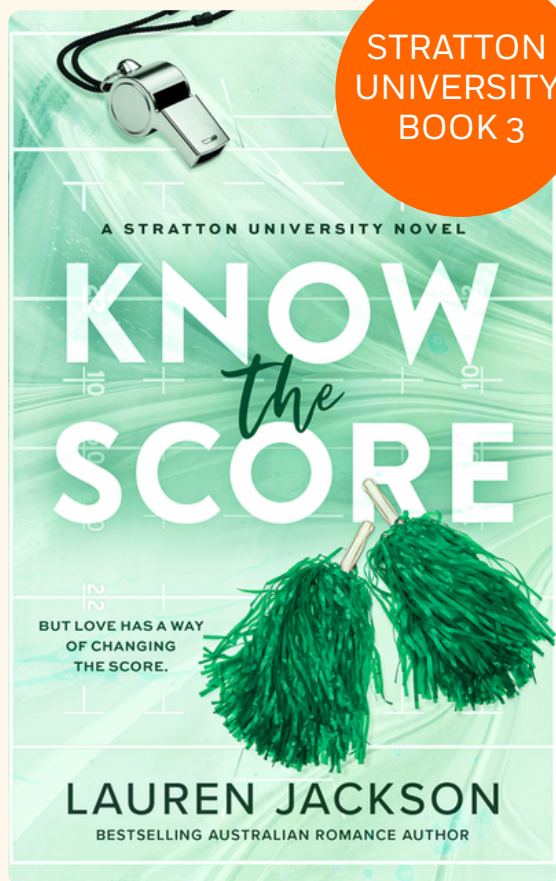
Soon she's sharing front desk shifts with her maddeningly calm co-manager, Saint. Saint is able to charm every guest and go on a new date every night, while Ren's chaotic management style is leaving everyone confused. But maybe opposites do attract: while Ren and Saint have been checking guests in, they've also been checking each other out.

When it comes to family, healing and maybe even love, Ren can't keep hiding behind the Do Not Disturb sign forever.

Comparison Titles



STRATTON
UNIVERSITY
BOOK 3



**Fiction / Contemporary /
College Sports Romance /
Steamy Romance**

Product Details

Feb 2027 | Paperback | 336pp
World Rights

Unedited manuscript due end Sep 2026



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.

Know the Score

Lauren Jackson

An addictive single-dad college sports romance for fans of Elle Kennedy's *Off Campus*, from a bestselling Australian romance author.

Everyone thinks they know Cami Ashford. Confident. Driven. Untouchable.

With Nationals just around the corner, she has no time for distractions - especially not the mysterious football star who keeps looking at her like she's the only person in the crowd.

Parker Evans has spent years keeping everyone at arm's length. Between football, university and responsibilities no one else sees, he's convinced there's no room in his life for anything more. The last thing he needs is a fearless cheerleader breaking down his walls.

Their chemistry is impossible to ignore. But just as Parker begins to let Cami into his carefully guarded world, one reckless mistake threatens to destroy the trust between them before they've even had a chance.

Sometimes the hardest game isn't played on the field . . . it's learning when to let someone into your heart.

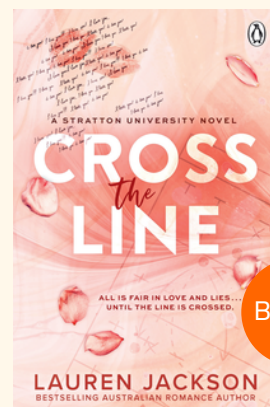
Know the Score is perfect for you if you're looking for:

- ♥ College sports romance
- ♥ Football player x cheerleader
- ♥ Single-dad romance
- ♥ Dual POV
- ♥ A touch of mystery and suspense
- ♥ Australian setting
- ♥ Spice
- ♥ Books like *Off Campus*

Stratton University series



Book 1



Book 2



COVER
COMING
SOON



Fiction / Fantasy / LGBTQI+

Product Details

Mar 2027 | Trade Paperback | 416pp
World Rights

Unedited manuscript due end Sep 2026



Bronte-Marie 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.

The Windstorm War: Broken Cycle #2

Bronte-Marie Wesson

An epic political fantasy, Book 2 in the series SenLinYu called 'addictively intricate.'

An ancient power awakens.

Rianthran has become the new ruler of Loghar – but his ascension has changed him forever. Now he carries the memories of every ruler who came before him, and as old magic returns to the world, a fragile peace begins to fall apart.

A prophecy no one can escape.

Luminara has spent her life running from destiny. But when a mysterious hero leads her into the heart of the Fair Folk's enchanted forest, she discovers the truth behind a prophecy that has shaped kingdoms for centuries.

As war draws closer, Luminara and Rianthran are pulled onto opposite paths. One is searching for a way to break the cycle of history. The other is preparing to fight for everything his people have lost.

One chance to change the future.

Ancient enemies are stirring. Forgotten magic is returning. And the choices made by a handful of unlikely heroes could decide the fate of two nations.

Can they break the cycle before history repeats itself once again?

Praise for *The Ascension of Souls* (Book 1 of the Broken Cycle)



'Bronte-Marie Wesson weaves identity, magic, and politics together into a beautiful tapestry of story. *The Ascension of Souls* is 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*



COVER
COMING
SOON



Fiction / Literary / Speculative

Product Details

Jun 2027 | Trade Paperback | 320pp
World Rights

Sample chapters on request



Claire G. Coleman is a Wirloomin Noongar woman whose ancestral country is on the south coast of Western Australia. Born in Perth she has spent most of her life in Naarm. She writes fiction, non-fiction and verse and has been extensively published.

Her debut novel *Terra Nullius* was published by Hachette in Australia and Small Beer in the US. *The Old Lie* is her second novel.

Lies Damned Lies: A Personal Exploration of the Impact of Colonisation, her first nonfiction book, was published by Ultimo Press and won the 2022 Queensland Literary Award Non Fiction Prize.

Enclave her third novel, was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Redemption Songs

Clare 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. He is following mysterious directives even he can't understand that seem to be delivered to his brain directly without words.

A cult is following Hand, believing him to be the "Hand of God" - a messiah - and his actions are seen as a message from god.

The world is falling apart. Runaway climate change and sociopolitical upheaval has made the earth unliveable. 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

'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

'Coleman, like so many of our Indigenous writers, demonstrates how acutely our history - most specifically, dispossession and colonisation - is with us in our present day and is not beyond becoming our future.' *The Guardian*

'Coleman is unflinching.' *Sydney Review of Books*



Fiction / Literary / Historical

Product Details

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

Second pages available



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.

Dedication

Laurence Fearnley

'A wonderful read! A finely observed study of women remaining faithful to their own ways of seeing.'

Catherine Chidgey.

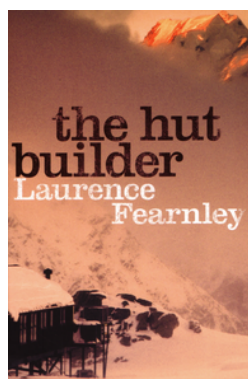
***Dedication* by Laurence Fearnley is a major new novel from one of New Zealand's literary greats.**

In 1990s Christchurch, struggling artist Caro is drawn into a film project about a 19th-century counterpart, the painter Margaret Stodart.

As Caro recreates Margaret's delicate watercolours for the screen, *Dedication* moves between the experiences of these two artists, living a century apart. Both are trying to make their mark while negotiating family, money, artistic legitimacy; both must decide what they are prepared to sacrifice for their work.

This is Laurence Fearnley at her rich, sensory best. It is an accessible literary novel with commercial crossover appeal - the themes of art and trying to live a creative life are presented beautifully and accessibly. This would work for book clubs, and is perfect for fans of Emily Perkins, Ingrid Horrocks and Ann Patchett.

Backlist



PENGUIN
BOOKS

COVER
COMING
SOON



Fiction / Literary / Contemporary

Product Details

Mar 2027 | Trade Paperback | 320pp
World Rights

First pages due late Sep / Oct 2026



Brooke Maddison is a writer and editor with a Masters of Writing, Editing and Publishing from The University of Queensland. She was the founder and co-editor of UQ's *anthology of creative writing*. Her writing has appeared in publications such as *Griffith Review*, *The Guardian*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Mascara Literary Review*, *ArtsHub*, and the *Queer as Fiction Anthology*.

Driftwood

Brooke Maddison

On an island built on secrets, nothing stays buried forever.

Alice Moore has built a life at the edge of an island: a weather-beaten shack, a few shifts at the local pub, and her son, Joe. There are places she doesn't go, memories she doesn't touch, and questions about herself she refuses to ask.

Then Frank arrives.

Restless, magnetic and seemingly free, Frank is everything Alice is not. When a cyclone cuts the island off from the mainland, the two women are drawn together. But Frank has come to the island searching for something and the closer she gets to Alice, the more dangerous the truth becomes.

Because Frank remembers what Alice has forgotten.

As fragments of childhood begin to surface, Alice is forced to confront the secrets buried beneath her family's silence and the island's familiar landscape. When Joe disappears into the bush, past and present collide, threatening the one relationship Alice cannot bear to lose.

Driftwood is about memory, motherhood and desire; about the stories families bury in order to survive; and about what happens when those stories refuse to stay hidden.

Tender, unsettling and deeply atmospheric, *Driftwood* asks how we live with what has been done to us—and whether telling the truth can finally set us adrift from the past.

Brooke Maddison is a striking new voice in Australian literary fiction. For readers of **Favel Parrett**, **Sofie Laguna** and **Charlotte Wood**, *Driftwood* combines emotional intimacy with a visceral sense of place, bringing the wild Australian coast vividly to life.

WINNER
OF THE 2026
PENGUIN
LITERARY
PRIZE

BACKLIST SPORTS ROMANCE



RIGHTS SOLD

Film Rights for *After the Siren* sold to Mad Ones Films (Australia)

Finished *Heated Rivalry*? This is your next spicy MM sports romance!

After the Siren is a joyful romantic comedy about inconvenient attraction and second chances.

Product Details

Sep 2025 | Paperback | 368pp (World Rights)



♥ WINNER of Australian Romance Readers Award for Favourite Australian-set Romance

♥ #Finalist in Romance Writers of New Zealand Koru Award

'Tender, funny and perfectly spiced, In the Long Run is filled with heart-fluttering romance and delicious yearning. A thoroughly modern and satisfying friends-to-lovers story that will have you racing through its pages.' Amy Hutton

Product Details

Aug 2025 | Paperback | 336pp (World Rights)



Get trackside for this steamy grumpy x sunshine F1 romance!

Love in the Fast Lane has forced proximity, a secret relationship and fun spicy scenes. Perfect for readers of Lauren Asher and Simone Soltani.

Product Details

May 2026 | Paperback | 256pp (World Rights)

BACKLIST CRIME



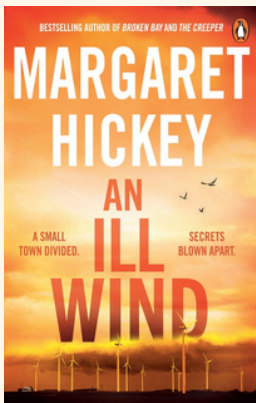
RIGHTS SOLD

The **blockbuster series** has **sold into 29 territories** around the world, it has **sold over 2 million copies worldwide** and is currently being **adapted into a major Amazon MGM drama!**

Everyone in this Bank is a Thief has been sold into 7 translation territories (including China, Italy, France, Germany, Hungary, Ukraine and Romania)

Product Details

Sep 2025 | Trade Paperback | 368pp (World Translation Rights)

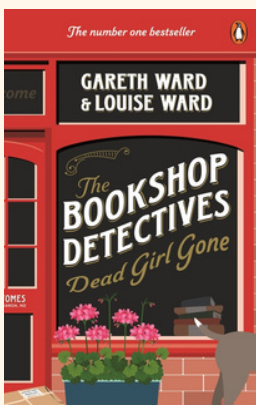


High on a hill above a small town, 300 wind turbines constantly spin. Except one is now deadly still - a body hanging from its huge white blade . . .

An Ill Wind is another brilliant crime and mystery novel from award-winning author and playwright, Margaret Hickey.

Product Details

Jul 2025 | Trade Paperback | 384pp (World Rights)



RIGHTS SOLD

Film Rights for *The Bookshop Detectives 1* sold to South Pacific Films (New Zealand)

Two small-town booksellers (and their cowardly dog) solve a decades-old murder-mystery in this witty debut novel, full of literary clues, sparkling dialogue, and comedic insights into the world of bookshops.

Product Details

Jul 2024 | Trade Paperback | 336pp (World Rights)