



# The Text Publishing Company

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## Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

Elena Ferrante	The Story of a Name	ANZ	Europa Editions
Magnus Flyte	City of Dark Magic & City of Lost Dreams	ANZ	Penguin Books USA
Malcolm Gay	The Digital Mind	ANZ	The Robbins Office
David Greene	Midnight in Siberia	ANZ	Abner Stein
Trent Jamieson	Day Boy	World	Cameron's Management
Raphael Jerusalem	Saving Mozart	ANZ	Actes Sud
Lloyd Jones	Paint Your Wife	World	Michael Gifkins & Assoc.
Marianne Kavanagh	For Once In My Life	UK & Comm	Adrian Weston Literary Agency
Jo Marchant	Heal Thyself	ANZ	Canongate Books
Eimear McBride	A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing	ANZ	David Grossman & Assoc.
Rebecca Mead	The Road to Middlemarch	ANZ	The Robbins Office
Sian Prior	Shy: A Memoir	World	Jenny Darling & Associates
Tom Rachman	The Rise and Fall of Great Powers	ANZ	A P Watt
Anne Sinclair	21 Rue la Boétie	ANZ	Grasset
Sebastian Smee	Swapped, Seduced, Slashed & Stolen: Rivalry & Friendship in Art	ANZ	The Zoe Pagnamenta Agency
Daniel Soar	Spies!	ANZ	Canongate Books
Ilka Tampke	Skin	World	Author
Meg Caddy	Waer	World	Author
Crystal Chan	Bird	ANZ	Folio Literary Management
Sarah Cohen-Scali	Max	World English excl. NA	Gallimard
David Levithan	How They Met	ANZ	William Morris Endeavour Entertainment
Martine Murray	Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars	World	Author
Diana Sweeney	Flood Damage	Author	World
Paula Weston	The Rephaim Series ( <i>Books 3 &amp; 4</i> )	World	Australian Literary Management

## Recent Adult and YA Publications

Daniel Bergner	What Do Women Want?	Canongate Books
J. M. Coetzee	The Childhood of Jesus	David Higham Associates
Marie Darrieussecq	All the Way	Editions P. O. L.
Margaret Drabble	The Pure Gold Baby	Canongate Books
Elena Ferrante	My Brilliant Friend & The Story of a New Name	Europa Editions
Lloyd Jones	A History of Silence: A Memoir	Michael Gifkins & Assoc.
Eleanor Learmonth & Jenny Tabakoff	No Mercy: True Stories of Disaster, Survival and Brutality	Curtis Brown Australia
Janet Malcolm	Forty-One False Starts	Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Diego Marani	New Finish Grammar & The Last of the Vostyachs	Dedalus Books
Ruth Ozeki	A Tale for the Time Being	Abner Stein
Gabriel Roth	The Unknowns	Aitken Alexander
Carlos Ruiz Zafón	Marina	The Colchie Agency
Graeme Simsion	The Rosie Project	Author
Simon van Booy	The Illusion of Separateness	HarperCollins USA
David Vann	Goat Mountain	Rogers, Coleridge & White

A. J. Betts	Zac & Mia	Author
Alyssa Brugman	Alex As Well	Author
Kate Hendrick	The Accident	Author
Paul Griffin	Burning Blue	Penguin Group USA
David Levithan	Two Boys Kissing	William Morris Endeavour Entertainment
Carlos Ruiz Zafón	The Watcher in the Shadows	The Colchie Agency
Rebecca Stead	Liar & Spy	Random House USA

## *The Train to Paris* by Sebastian Hampson

After a holiday in Madrid with his girlfriend Sophie, which hasn't gone well, Lawrence Williams takes the train back to Paris where he is studying art history. He's twenty, and discovering how to see the world, which means he doesn't mind too much when he gets stranded at the border.

And that's when Élodie Lavelle in her white leopard print dress enters his field of vision. She might be twice his age but she's amused by the boy's earnest charm, and decides to entertain herself by educating him in the rules of her society. She takes him to Biarritz for an evening in the grand style that he will never forget.

But Élodie has not counted on what Lawrence might teach her in return, or how much their unlikely encounter will mark them both. Sebastian Hampson's *The Train to Paris* is an unexpected, compulsively readable love story.

**Sebastian Hampson** was born in 1992 in Auckland, New Zealand. He grew up in Wellington and was educated at Scots College. He has spent time living in Europe and currently resides in Wellington, New Zealand, where he is a student of art history and literature at Victoria University. This is his first novel.

Fiction • March 2014 • Manuscript available  
**Rights Held:** World

## *Tree Palace* by Craig Sherborne

*They tried Mansfield but it was freezing and snowed and people like them don't fit in because they don't look prosperous. One time near Yellingbo they found a church no one prayed in and they lived there and for three weeks had stained glass for windows. It was the perfect church Shane was looking for for work. They got chased out and went to Shepparton but Shane had a run-in and police said move.*

Shane, Moira and Midge, along with young Rory and Zara, are 'trants'—itinerants wandering the plains of western Victoria in search of disused houses to sleep in, or to strip of valuable heritage fittings when funds are low.

When they find their Tree Palace outside the town of Barleyville, things are looking up. Finally, a place in which to settle down.

But Zara, fifteen, is pregnant and doesn't want to look after the child. She'd rather have a normal life, not trant life with a baby. Moira decides to step in: as the boy's grandmother, she can nurse him.

Then, after a job at an empty mansion, Shane finds himself in serious trouble with the local police...

*Tree Palace* is a moving story of family and rural life, enlivened by a sharp wit. Warmly told and evocative, Craig Sherborne's second novel is a revelation.

**Craig Sherborne's** debut book of fiction, *The Amateur Science of Love* won the Best Writing Prize in the 2012 Melbourne Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the NSW and Victoria Premiers' Awards. His 2005 memoir, *Hoi Polloi*, was shortlisted for both the Queensland and Victorian Premiers' Literary Awards. The follow-up, *Muck*, won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2008. Sherborne is a former Wal Cherry Play of the Year award-winner. He has also written two volumes of poetry and a verse-drama called *Look at Everything Twice for Me*. Sherborne's journalism and poetry have appeared in most of Australia's leading literary journals and anthologies.

Fiction

• April 2014

• Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World

# *The Confabulist* by Steven Galloway

From the beloved author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, an exciting novel that uses the life and sudden death of Harry Houdini to weave a tale of magic, intrigue, and illusion.

What is real and what is an illusion? Can we trust our memories to provide an accurate record?

In a narrative both entertaining and suspenseful, Galloway weaves together the rise and fall of world-famous Harry Houdini with that of Martin Strauss, an everyday man whose fate seems forever tied to the magician's in unforeseen ways. In the end, the book is a kind of magic trick in itself: there is more to Martin's story than meets the eye.

Historically rich and cleverly told, *The Confabulist* is a novel about magic and memory, truth and illusion, and the ways that love, grief, and imagination can—for better or for worse—alter what we perceive and believe.

Praise for *The Cellist of Sarajevo*

'A moving portrayal of the survival of the human spirit.' *Chicago Sun-Times*

'A grand and powerful novel about how people retain or reclaim their humanity under extreme duress.' Yann Martel, author of *Life of Pi*

'Inspiring.' *Entertainment Weekly*

'An unforgettable novel.' *Los Angeles Times*

**Steven Galloway** is the author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*. He lives in British Columbia and teaches creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

Fiction • May 2014 • Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** ANZ & translation

**Other English language publishers:** Canada—Random House Canada; UK—Atlantic; USA—Riverhead Books.

**Option Publishers:** Bosnia—BTC; Brazil—Rocco; Catalan—Empuries; China—Nan Hai; Czech—Marek Turna; Denmark—Cicero; France—Lattes; Germany—Luchterhand; Greece—Empiria; Italy—Mondadori; Japan—Random House Kodansha; Korea—Munhaskongne; Netherlands—Podium; Norway—Libretto Forlag; Portugal—Presenca; Romania—Litera International; Slovenia—Modrijan; Spain—El Aleph; Sweden—Lindelows Bokforlag; Taiwan—CTW Culture; Turkey—ODTU Yayincilik.

# *The Lost Child* by Suzanne McCourt

*I hide in the leaves of the kurrajong tree. I hide in my reading and writing and sums. I hide in my Sunday-school singing and Mrs Bullfrog's big bosom breathing the hymns, that same secret bosom I've seen at the lake without her pink-strapped brassiere. I hide in the stillness that flattens the sea before the storm comes, in the cloud of black ducks that spreads like an inkblot across the white sky. I hide in Miss Taylor's kind eyes. I hide.*

Sylvie is five. It's the 1950s and she lives in Burley Point, a fishing village south of the Coorong on Australia's wild southern coast. She worships her older brother Dunc even though he excludes her from his adventures. She tries to make sense of her brooding mother, and her moody father who ignores her and then abandons the family for The Trollop, Layle Lewis, across the lagoon.

It's hard to keep secrets in a small town, but when Dunc goes missing, Sylvie is terrified that she is the cause. Now her father is angry all the time; her mother won't leave the house or stop cleaning. The bush and the birds and the endless beach are Sylvie's only salvation, apart from her teacher, Miss Taylor.

In the tradition of the novels of Anne Tyler and Eudora Welty, Suzanne McCourt's *The Lost Child* is a beautifully written story about family, identity and growing up. Sylvie is a charming narrator with a big heart and a sharp eye for the comic moment. As the years go by she learns how tiny events can change entire lives, how loved ones can desert you, and how leaving might be the only solution when you're a smart young woman and the world as you know it has been changed forever.

After a career in teaching, marketing, public relations and private employment, **Suzanne McCourt** is now a full-time writer. She lives in Melbourne with her family, and she is the Publisher at Posh Dog Publishing, which publishes photo-based gift books. *The Lost Child* is her first novel.

Fiction • March 2014 • Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World



# *The Full Ridiculous* by Mark Lamprell

*The blue car moves closer.*

*You recall a stuntman talking about how the important thing to do is to position yourself so you go over the car when it hits. If you go under, most likely you get stuck on some sticky-out bit of the engine, dragged along and de-skinned, then kidney-squishingly, eye-poppingly, brain-squeezingly, run over by one or more wheels. You go over, at least you've got a chance if you land right.*

*You don't know how you remember all this in a millisecond but you do. You start to turn to face the blue car but you can't turn very far in a millisecond. You do manage to raise yourself off the road a little before the car drives into your left thigh.*

*You feel no pain.*

*And that's all you remember.*

Michael O'Dell is hit by a car. When he doesn't die he is surprised and pleased. His wife Wendy and his teenage children are, of course, relieved.

Then his life starts to crumble.

Daughter Rosie punches a vindictive schoolmate; son Declan is found with a stash of illicit drugs. A strange policeman starts harassing the family and ordinary mishaps take on a sinister desperation.

And Michael finds he can't concentrate, or control his anger and grief, or work out what to do about any of it. So what, really, is the point of him? And how can he get himself back together?

It's the full ridiculous.

A funny, charming and always compelling novel about love and family and the precarious business of being a father and a husband, Mark Lamprell's extraordinary debut examines the terrible truth: sometimes you can't pull yourself together until you've completely fallen apart.

[twitter.com/marklamprell](https://twitter.com/marklamprell)

**Mark Lamprell** is an award-winning film maker and screenwriter. His most recent movie is *Goddess*, a box office hit in Australia. *Goddess* will be released internationally later this year. He lives in Sydney with his family. *The Full Ridiculous* is his first novel.

Fiction • September 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Canada—House of Anansi Press; Israel—Keter; Poland—Prószyński Media; USA—Counterpoint Press.

# *Untitled Sequel to The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

*A story about love, change and having babies.*

With the Wife Project complete, Don Tillman settles into a routine in New York as a genetics professor and part-time barman. Rosie is studying medicine. Then Rosie becomes pregnant. Unexpectedly. Right after Don has invited his friend Gene to live with them, following the collapse of his marriage to Claudia.

Panicking at first at the prospect of becoming a parent, Don soon applies himself to The Baby Project with customary zeal, adding it to his mission to repair Gene's marriage and help his old friend Dave the Baseball Fan lose weight. Soon he's an expert in all things obstetric. But when he goes to the playground to study children, he is arrested for his clearly suspicious behaviour and, unknown to Rosie, put under the supervision of a social worker named Lydia.

Lydia is convinced that Don lacks the emotional skills for fatherhood. Driven to greater efforts to prove himself, Don drives everyone crazy, from the nurse running the ante-natal class to Dave and his wife Sophie, who is also pregnant.

Meanwhile, Rosie is fighting the medical faculty to continue her studies uninterrupted. She is determined to handle everything by herself.

When Lydia insists on meeting Rosie, Don decides to bring Sophie along to the meeting as a ring-in. Sophie goes into labour. There are complications. Don's ready with his newly acquired obstetric skills, but Sophie panics. Chaos ensues.

In the end Don finds the solution but not before he learns that emotional support is as important as practical expertise.

And Rosie realises she can rely on him.

Don and Rosie's son is delivered happily into the world.

[graemesimsion.com](http://graemesimsion.com)

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[twitter.com/GraemeSimsion](https://twitter.com/GraemeSimsion)

Fiction

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Publication in late 2014

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** USA—Simon & Schuster

**Option Publishers:** See over page

# *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

'Adorable and really funny and heart-warming, a gem of a book.' Marian Keyes

'The funniest, most charming, clever debut I've read for years.' Amanda Craig, author of *Hearts and Minds*

'This good-hearted, pacy, thoroughly enjoyable novel takes a significant step towards showing that all human variants are a potential source of life-affirming comedy.' *Guardian*

'Funny, endearing and pure, wonderful escapism.' *Independent*

'I absolutely loved *The Rosie Project*—original and clever, and perfectly written.' Jill Mansell, bestselling author of *Rumour Has It*

'Charming and delightful, *The Rosie Project* kept me riveted long into the night. I was so enamored of it that I read it in a single, marathon sitting.' Ayelet Waldman, bestselling author of *Red Hook Road*

'Written in a superbly pitch-perfect voice, *The Rosie Project* had me cheering for Don on every page. I'm madly in love with this book! Trust me, you will be, too.' Lisa Genova, author of *Still Alive* and *Left Neglected*

'A beautiful book.' Matthew Quick, author of *The Silver Linings Playbook*

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[twitter.com/GraemeSimsion](https://twitter.com/GraemeSimsion)

Fiction

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February 2013

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Albania—Dudaj Publishing; Brazil—Record; Bulgaria—Bard; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Catalan—La Campana; China—Hachette-Phoenix; Croatia—Skloska Knjiga; Czech—Fortuna; Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; Finland—Otava; France—Editions Robert Laffont; Germany—Wolfgang Krüger Verlag; Greece—Metaichmio; Hungary—Libri; Iceland—Bjartur Veröld; Israel—Achuzat Bayit; Italy—Longanesi; Japan—Kodansha; Korea—BIR; Latvia—Apgads Zvaigzne ABC; Lithuania—Alma Littera; Netherlands—Sijthoff; Norway—Aschehoug; Poland—Media Rodzina; Portugal—La Divina Comedia; Romania—Editura Polirom; Russia—Sindbad Books; Slovak—Fortuna; Slovenia—Mladinska Knjiga Založba; Spain—Salamandra; Sweden—Forum; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; Thailand—Earnest Publishing; Turkey—Pegasus; UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—Simon & Schuster; Vietnam—Women's Publishing House.

## ***Belomor* by Nicolas Rothwell**

*'Belomorkanal is a brand of strong, mood-altering cigarettes, and this book is best taken like such a cigarette, as a release from the chains of second-after-second time. It is a desert fable, and a testament to things seen; an Australian pilgrimage, and a flight through Europe's memory-shaded skies. It puts together the jigsaw pieces of our shattered world.'* Nicolas Rothwell

Elegiac and seductive, *Belomor* is the frontier where truth and invention meet—where fragments from distant lives intermingle, and cohere.

A man seeks out the father figure who shaped his picture of the past. A painter seeks redemption after the disasters of his years in northern Australia. A student of history travels into the depths of religion, the better to escape the demons in his mind. A filmmaker seeks out freedom and open space, and looks into the murk and sediment of herself.

Four chapters: four journeys through life, separate, yet interwoven as the narrative unfolds. In this entrancing new book from one of our most original writers, we meet European dissidents from the age of postwar communism, artists in remote Australia, snake hunters, opal miners and desert magic healers.

*Belomor* is a meditation on time, and loss: on how the most bitter recollections bring happiness, and the meaning of a secret rests in the thoughts surrounding it.

*'This is a remarkable work, tinged with sadness and verging on poetry, tempered now and then with humour and authentic historical insight. It is a contemporary Australian novel of such beauty, it's hard to find a precedent.'* *Sunday Age*

*'His writing wafts across the consciousness like smoke, so it's fitting that the title of Rothwell's book is also a Russian cigarette.'* *Qantas magazine*

*'Rothwell's writing resists easy description. He roams the borderlands between memoir and fiction and insinuates himself into gaps between time and place...His prose is lush and often beautiful.'* *Weekend Australian*

**Nicolas Rothwell** is the award-winning author of *Heaven and Earth*, *Wings of the Kite-Hawk*, *Another Country*, *The Red Highway* and *Journeys to the Interior*. He lives in Darwin, and is the *Australian's* roving northern correspondent.

[nicolasrothwell.com](http://nicolasrothwell.com)

Fiction

• February 2013

• Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

# *The Double* by Maria Takolander

A student travels to Estonia to investigate his violent father's mysterious upbringing.

A woman is possessed by visions of her young brother's brutal death at a lake in Finland.

A bride plumbs the depths of her loathing for her husband on a journey across Africa.

A lonely boy is haunted by dreams of a disturbing new classmate who sleeps with their teacher.

Each of the stories in *The Double* echoes a literary voice from the past: Chekhov, Dostoyevsky, Wells, Milton, Freud. Each of them is unnerving, and unforgettable.

Ranging from rural Australia to Eastern Europe and beyond, from the dark past of the Soviet era to a terrifying vision of the near future, *The Double* marks the arrival of a unique and bewitching talent.

'Extraordinary. I was entranced. Takolander's stories have a remarkable concentration of vision; their images are haunting and powerful, and will remain with me for a long time.' Jeremy Chambers, author of *The Vintage and the Gleaning*

'[Maria Takolander's] stories seem like wordscapes that offer panoramic views without shunning fine, sometimes devastating, details. They reverberate with the passage of time, especially those stories that link Australia to northern Europe, to Stalinism...Takolander's prose has a quite gorgeous directness, a desert-like sparseness, even when—no, especially when—the topic is melancholy or fearsome.' *Australian Book Review*

'Fiercely intelligent and idiosyncratic, sometimes shot through with black humour, sometimes pressing down on the reader with the full weight of human horror...Individually, Takolander's stories can be bleak. But collectively they are thrilling. Slender as this collection may be, it announces the arrival of a considerable talent.' *Weekend Australian*

'Incisive, economic, imbued with simple depth and glittering with hard truth, *The Double* is a literary force. Poetic in its brevity, the stories are none the less substantial, speaking of the nature of courage, the damage done by ignoring the past, and human beings' ability to torture themselves.' *West Australian*

'Takolander's stories are beautifully melancholy, full of arresting, dream-like sequences and imagery that stay with one long after the final page is turned.' *Arts Hub*

**Maria Takolander** is a senior lecturer in literature at Deakin University in Geelong. She is the author of a work of literary criticism and two poetry collections. This is her first book of fiction.

Fiction • September 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

# *The Midnight Promise: A Detective's Story in Ten Cases* by Zane Lovitt

WINNER, NED KELLY AWARD FOR BEST FIRST CRIME NOVEL, 2013

NAMED ONE OF THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD'S BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS, 2013

LONGLISTED, COMMONWEALTH BOOK PRIZE FOR BEST FIRST BOOK, 2013

John Dorn: private eye, public nuisance—at least to the targets he's employed to catch in the act. And to the cops, sometimes. And frequently to the few people he calls friends.

John's good at his job, and he'd like to think he's done some good by doing it. Problem is, it's not always clear what's good or bad in his line of work. And sometimes what you think is good can just lead you deeper into the shit.

Ten cases. Many shades of grey. One promise that's getting a lot harder to hold on to.

In his gripping debut, Zane Lovitt takes us on a journey through the human psyche via the seamy criminal underworld of crooked minds and amoral lives. Hardboiled and darkly funny, *The Midnight Promise* is detective story with a difference.

'I was totally blown away by this book. This is crime fiction at its absolute best.' *Bite the Book*

'*The Midnight Promise* crashes straight into Temple, Corris and Chandler territory.' *Books + Publishing*

'This is a fine book. Read it with the light on and the lock on the door.' *Weekly Times*

'Lovitt has created a notable, confident first novel. Told with intensity and conviction, it offers a refreshing perspective on a well worked genre.' *Australian Book Review*

'An extraordinary debut.' *MX*

'*The Midnight Promise* is the kind of zesty Australian crime writing that doesn't come along often.' *Saturday Age*

**Zane Lovitt** has a Masters in Screenwriting and a Juris Doctor degree, both from the University of Melbourne. He worked internationally as a documentary filmmaker before turning his hand to crime fiction, and his stories have since appeared in anthologies and magazines. Zane lives in Melbourne and is working on his new novel.

Crime Fiction

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Gallimard; North America—Europa Editions.

# *A History of Silence: A Memoir by Lloyd Jones*

*A History of Silence* is a book about a family and a landscape. It's about the devastation in Christchurch, New Zealand, after the 2011 earthquake. It's about the fault lines which that cataclysmic event opened up in Lloyd Jones' understanding of his own family history.

In this remarkable memoir Lloyd Jones embarks on a quest for the truth about his family. What happened? Why do there seem to be so few stories in the Jones family? Why are there so few mementos? The answers are completely unexpected and change everything.

In this compelling and formally ambitious book Jones, the author of *Mister Pip* and *Hand Me Down World*, embarks on a journey of discovery, but this time his panoramic vision is focused on New Zealand, and finally on a remote farm in the South Island. *A History of Silence* is a deeply moving book about loss and survival, about courage and betrayal.

'Poetically observed detail and an affecting evocation of the past will reward readers interested in the way our history (even, or especially, that which we don't know about) can shape us.' *Books + Publishing*

'Honest and thought-provoking.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'The stories Jones uncovers speak of loss, displacement, unbearable sadness, but also courage.' *Canberra Times*

'*A History of Silence* quickly establishes itself as a captivating memoir...Jones has written a brave and remarkable tribute to his forbears.' *Readings Monthly*

'Memoir shrinks themes and holds them close to the bone. It brings out the poet in Jones as he scours family letters and bureaucratic records in New Zealand and Wales for clues. It's a meandering investigation...but with Jones the meandering is a pleasurable experience, gently paced and studded with lovely phrasing.' *Weekend Australian*

**Lloyd Jones** was born in New Zealand in 1955. His best known novel is *Mister Pip*, which won the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the 2008 Kiriama Prize Fiction Category, the 2008 Montana Award for Readers Choice, the Montana Fiction Award and the Montana Medal for Fiction or Poetry. It was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and is a feature film, directed by Andrew Adamson (*Shrek* and *Narnia*) and starring Hugh Laurie. Lloyd Jones lives in Wellington.

Non-Fiction • September 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World excl NZ

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Rocco; Germany—Rowohlt Verlag; UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—John Murray.

# ***No Mercy: Deadly Tactics of Real-Life Survivors* by Eleanor Learmonth & Jenny Tabakoff**

*Enthralling storytelling, history and psychology in spine-tingling combination*

Disaster strikes. A ship goes down, a plane crashes, a party of travellers is cut off.

But when the panic and confusion subside and the dead are counted, the survivors must find a way to keep surviving. And in desperation, unconstrained by law or conventional authority, the tactics they resort to can be both horrifying and ultimately self-destructive.

Learmonth and Tabakoff outline the physical and neurological changes that typically affect the victims of disaster. Then, using true stories from history as case studies, they investigate the scenario famously imagined by William Golding in *Lord of the Flies* and borne out by the extraordinary Robbers Cave experiments of the 1950s. As this fascinating book unfolds the awful truth becomes clear. In extremity, humans are capable of a descent into murderous savagery so swift and complete it could—literally—take your breath away.

‘Succinct yet considered, accessible yet authoritative, Learmonth and Tabakoff strike a happy balance between scholarliness and readability throughout... cogent presentation of some truly harrowing subject matter, which less responsible hands might have milked for vulgar sensationalism.’ *Books + Publishing*

‘Well researched and well argued, lively and energetic, *No Mercy* is full of insights into leadership, loyalty, sacrifice and compassion that will challenge readers to wonder what they might do if similarly tested.’ *Booktopia Buzz*

**Eleanor Learmonth** has worked as a teacher and freelance journalist in Japan and Australia. She has a reputation as a magnet for natural disasters. **Jenny Tabakoff** has been a senior journalist in Australia and Britain for *The Times*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and AAP. She is the co-author of *Australian Style*. Eleanor and Jenny live in Sydney with their husbands and children. They met at the school gate.

Non-Fiction • August 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World



## *The Firebird Mystery* by Darrell Pitt

Jack Mason has grown up as an acrobat in a circus. Now, after the tragic death of his parents, he must live inside the gloomy walls of Sunnyside Orphanage in London, a city of fog and snow, filled with airships, steamcars and metrotowers that stretch into space.

The good news is that Ignatius Doyle, a brilliant and very eccentric detective, needs an atheletic young assistant.

Soon after Jack goes to work for Mr Doyle, a girl named Scarlet Bell comes seeking the great detective's help. Her father has been kidnapped, and the future of the world itself may be at stake. Is the evil hand of Professor M pulling all the strings? Mr Doyle and Jack know there is no time to lose.

With its twists and turns and helter-skelter action, *The Firebird Mystery* is an addictive story and a spellbinding homage to the world of Victorian literature that will appeal to readers of all ages.

**Darrell Pitt** began his lifelong appreciation of Victorian literature when he read the Sherlock Holmes stories as a child. He moved on to H. G. Wells and Jules Verne and has reread these authors many times. This early reading led to a love of comics, science-fiction and all things geeky. His favourite films have an alien or a monster in them, preferably both. He is still waiting for science to build a choclitizer (a device which can turn anything into chocolate) and is most disappointed that no-one seems to be working on developing this vital technology. Darrell is married with one daughter. He lives in Melbourne.

Fiction • February 2014 • Manuscript available  
**Rights Held:** World

## *Alex As Well* by Alyssa Brugman

What do you do when everybody says you're someone you're not?

When fourteen-year-old Alex decides he is a girl no one knows how to react. Least of all her parents.

Alex has ditched one school, enrolled in another, and thrown out her clothes. And slowly (with many hilarious moments in between) she is creating a new identity that changes her world.

And Alex—the other Alex—has a lot to say about it.

Alyssa Brugman's new novel looks at the universal teen experiences of grappling with identity, sexuality, friendship, belonging and conflict in an original and confronting story.

*Alex As Well* will make you laugh, and cry, and want to be best friends with Alex—both of them.

'Smart, moving and confronting. *Alex As Well* is one of the most significant books to be coming out in 2013.' *Alpha Reader*

'A thought-provoking read for anyone—especially those who don't quite fit into their own skin.' *Weekend Herald NZ*

'This brave book tackles issues of identity that go way beyond the typical teen angst and search for a place in the world, and it does so with compassion, courage and humour.' *Sunday Tasmanian*

'Original, thought-provoking and rich in memorable characters and scenarios.' *Magpies Magazine*

**Alyssa Brugman** is the award-winning author of several books for young adults, including *Finding Grace* and *Walking Naked*. She has also written a popular series of pony books for younger readers. Alyssa writes full-time and lives in Australia's Hunter Valley with her partner, their sons and various quadrupeds. She is currently pursuing postgraduate studies at the University of Canberra. [alyssabrugman.com.au](http://alyssabrugman.com.au)

Young adult fiction • February 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Italy—EDT; North America—Henry Holt Books for Young Readers; UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—Curious Fox.

# *Zac & Mia* by A. J. Betts

WINNER, TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING, 2012

The last person Zac expects in the room next door is a girl like Mia, angry and feisty with questionable taste in music. In the real world, he wouldn't—couldn't—be friends with her. In hospital, different rules apply, and a knock on the wall leads to a note—then a friendship neither of them sees coming.

You need courage to be in hospital; a different kind of courage to be back in the real world. In one of those worlds Zac needs Mia. And in the other Mia needs Zac. Or maybe they both need each other, always.

*Zac & Mia* is a funny, surprising and tender novel about hope, love and extraordinary courage.

'An instant Australian young adult classic.' *Lamont Books*

'A must for every teenage and adult reader alike.' *West Australian*

'If you are after a book filled with hope and heart, I recommend *Zac & Mia*.' *Obsession with Books*

'*Zac & Mia* is tender, moving, funny and spirited. A. J. Betts has skillfully blended light with dark to create a nuanced, compelling read, and I loved it.' *Mostly Reading YA*

'Zac and Mia are unforgettable—they put hooks into my heart that are still there. Be warned: if you pick up this book, you won't want to put it down.' Fiona Wood, author of *Six Impossible Things*

'A stand-out novel for 2013.' *Books + Publishing*

**A. J. Betts** is the winner of the 2012 Text Prize. She is a university lecturer and a high school English teacher, and has spent the last eight years teaching in a hospital setting. Her previous two novels are *Wavelength* and *ShutterSpeed*, published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press. A. J. lives in Perth with five bikes.

For more information about The Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing, go to:

[textpublishing.com.au/about-text/the-text-prize](http://textpublishing.com.au/about-text/the-text-prize)

Young adult fiction • August 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Novo Conceito; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Salani; Netherlands—Blossom Books; Russia—Gayatri; Turkey—Pena Yayinlari; USA—Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

# *Friday Brown* by Vikki Wakefield

SHORTLISTED, PRIME MINISTER'S LITERARY AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT FICTION, 2013

SHORTLISTED, QLD LITERARY AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT FICTION, 2013

SHORTLISTED, WA PREMIER'S BOOK AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT FICTION, 2013

SHORTLISTED, CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA OLDER READER'S SHORT LIST, 2013

HONOUR BOOK, CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA OLDER READER'S LIST, 2013

LONGLISTED, GOLD INKY AWARD, 2013

*'Friday Brown* will haunt you long after you've turned the last page. Vikki Wakefield waves the fantastical and the gritty into a harrowing, heartbreaking, intensely suspenseful story that's as dangerous and starkly gorgeous as the Australian outback. It will break your heart then put the pieces back together in a new way. I absolutely loved this book.' Libba Bray

'Australian author Wakefield spins a tense, multilayered tale about loyalty, memory and survival...Imagery—a dust-filled ghost town, harrowing dreams of drowning—is vivid and evocative, and Friday's changing sense of herself and her relationship to her mother's legacy give the story another layer of depth. Lyrical, suspenseful and haunting.' *Starred Kirkus Review*

'A stunning contribution to young adult fiction. Five stars.' *Books + Publishing*

'A feat of storytelling.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Wakefield's first novel, *All I Ever Wanted*, revealed her as an important voice in Australian literature. This beautiful, brave book cements that position. Written for a teenage audience, it has the scope for a broader appeal.' *Readings Monthly*

*'Friday Brown* is every superlative you can throw at it. It is a masterpiece. There are no words to describe this novel adequately. There is only humbled, awestruck, heartbroken silence.' *Mostly Reading YA*

'Deeply satisfying and surprisingly upbeat.' *NZ Listener 50 Best Children's Books 2012*

**Vikki Wakefield** has worked as a freelance journalist, copywriter and graphic designer. She is an award-winning short story writer and lives in the Adelaide foothills with her husband and young family.

[vikkiwakefield.com](http://vikkiwakefield.com)

Young adult fiction • September 2012 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; North America—Simon & Schuster; UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—Hot Key Books.

# *The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie

INTRODUCED BY DAVID MALOUF

WINNER, AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY GOLD MEDAL, 1937

'*The Young Desire It* presents the adolescent boy's view with power and poignancy.' *The Times*

'A beautifully written story of a sensitive boy's movement towards adult love.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'A hymn to youth, to life, to sexual freedom and moral independence.' David Malouf

'Amazingly brilliant.' *Liverpool Daily Post*

'A first novel of exceptional interest and originality.' *Spectator*

'An extremely impressive work of fiction that well deserves this reissue by Text Publishing...A novel to be welcomed back to Australian literature's available past.' *Age*

'*The Young Desire It* reminds us there is more than a single line of descent in Australian literature...Mackenzie, who died, penniless and forgotten in his fifties, turns out to be a missing link in our literary tradition. The family tree burgeons at his return.' *Weekend Australian*

'*The Young Desire It* is an utterly remarkable work of art.' *Australian Book Review*

'The novel is distinguished by a rare sensitivity and an impressive ethical and psychological wisdom...its seamless narrative is able to probe the depths and ambiguities of its characters' personalities and lives.' *Canberra Times*

'Sensitive, vital and erotic.' Veronica Brady, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

**Kenneth Mackenzie** was born in 1913 in South Perth. His parents divorced in 1919, and he grew up with his mother and maternal grandfather on a property at Pinjarra, south of Perth. He was a sensitive child who developed an intense love of nature. At age thirteen Mackenzie was sent to board at Guildford Grammar School in Perth. His experiences there informed *The Young Desire It*, his first novel, published under the name Seaforth Mackenzie by Jonathan Cape in 1937. The author was just twenty-three. After studying law, he became a journalist and he produced three further novels and two volumes of poetry. Kenneth Mackenzie's last years were spent mainly alone, in declining health and battling alcoholism, at Kurrajong in New South Wales. On 19 January 1955 he drowned in mysterious circumstances while swimming in Tallong Creek, near Goulburn.

Fiction

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

[www.textclassics.com.au](http://www.textclassics.com.au)

# *The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower

INTRODUCED BY JOAN LONDON

*Breaking their poses like trees snapping branches, the women urgently regarded each other, cleared away all signs of work in an instant, examined their souls for defects, in a sense crossed themselves, and waited.*

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit in his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control.

Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney during the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power. Its sharp observations and searing insights into the darkest aspects of humanity make it unique and unforgettable.

'This is a harrowing novel, relentless in its depiction of marital enslavement, spiritual self-destruction and the exploited condition of women in a masculinist society...It is a brilliant achievement.' Michael Dida, *Washington Post*

'Haunting...Harrower captures brilliantly the struggle to retain a self.' *Guardian*

'Elizabeth Harrower wrote *The Watch Tower* in the 1960s. I don't know how it fared then but there is not a whiff of datedness about it—its blistering subject matter reads as if it were written yesterday. For this is that very rare thing: a novel that stands the cruelest of tests—time...It left me with the strongest sense I have had for a very long time of the infinite preciousness of consciousness, at whatever cost, and of our terrifying human vulnerability.' Salley Vickers, *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Haunting and delicate.' *Kirkus Reviews*

'A brilliant novel by a scandalously overlooked writer.' Michelle de Kretser

'A superb psychological novel that will creep into your bones.' *The Monthly*

**Elizabeth Harrower** was born in Sydney in 1928. *The Watch Tower*, her fourth and final novel, was published in 1966. She was admired by many of her contemporaries, including Patrick White and Christina Stead, and is without doubt among the most important writers of the postwar period in Australia. Elizabeth lives in Sydney.

Fiction

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

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## *Text Classics*

***All the Green Year* by Don Charlwood** introduced by Michael McGirr

This much-loved coming-of-age novel unforgettably tells Charlie Reeve's story. It explores the experience of boyhood with delicate compassion but no hint of sentimentality. *All the Green Year* has sold over 100,000 copies since its first publication in 1965.

**Rights Held:** World

***Wake in Fright* by Kenneth Cook** introduced by Peter Temple

*Wake in Fright* tells the tale of John Grant's journey into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. 'A true dark classic of Australian literature.' J. M. Coetzee

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Grua Livros; France—Autrement; Germany—BTB Verlag; Netherlands—Podium; Spain—Seix Barral.

***Careful, He Might Hear You* by Sumner Locke Elliott** introduced by Robyn Nevin

It's the Great Depression. Six-year-old PS is an orphan. He lives in Sydney with his Aunt Lila. But all that is about to change. Now his Aunt Vanessa has decided to take proper care of him. *Careful, He Might Hear You* is an extraordinary portrait of childhood. 'Graceful and assured.' *New York Times*

**Rights Held:** World

***Fairyland* by Sumner Locke Elliott** introduced by Dennis Altman

An intimate, affecting, sometimes harrowing portrait of a lifelong search for love, *Fairyland* charts the life of an aspiring writer coming to terms with his homosexuality in the repressive atmosphere of inner-city Sydney during the 1930s and '40s.

**Rights Held:** World

***Cosmo Cosmolino* by Helen Garner** introduced by Ramona Koval

Janet is a skeptic, a journalist; Maxine revels in New Age fantasies; and Ray, a drifter, is a born-again Christian. The common ground is the house they share. But their fragile domestic balance is about to explode amid the smashing of ukeleles, the unexpected ascension of an angel, and a sudden shower of jonquils. 'Helen Garner writes the best sentences in Australia.' *Bulletin*

**Rights Held:** World

***Wish* by Peter Goldsworthy** introduced by James Bradley

J.J. is back living at home in Adelaide, unemployed and drifting after a messy divorce. Then he is offered a job teaching Sign to Eliza. His new pupil is smart, sensitive, attractive—and a gorilla recently liberated from a medical research laboratory by animal rights activists. First published in 1995, *Wish* is a dazzling story about scientific experimentation and ethics, language and love.

**Rights Held:** World

***The Quiet Earth* by Craig Harrison** introduced by Bernard Beckett

John Hobson, a geneticist, wakes one morning to find his watch stopped at 6.12. The streets are deserted, there are no signs of life or death anywhere, and every clock he finds has stopped: at 6.12. Is Hobson the last person left on the planet? Inventive and suspenseful, *The Quiet Earth* is a confronting journey into the future—and a dark past.

**Rights Held:** World

***Julia Paradise* by Rod Jones** introduced by Emily Maguire

Shanghai, 1927: hot, teeming, mysterious. Kenneth Ayres, a disciple of Freud, is an anonymous expatriate treating the lonely wives and daughters of British colonials. When Julia Paradise, the wife of a missionary, is sent to him for psychoanalysis, he is seduced into her world, a kaleidoscope of incestuous eroticism and grotesque hallucinations. But Ayres hides an even darker secret...

'Utterly original...a remarkable achievement.' *New York Times*

**Rights Held:** World

***The Scarecrow* by Ronald Hugh Morrieson** introduced by Craig Sherborne

Fifties pop culture meets Gothic thriller in a brilliant, hallucinatory mixture. There's a killer on the loose. Can Neddy Poindexter save his sister Prudence, the prettiest girl in Klynham? There isn't another novel on the planet like *The Scarecrow*.

**Rights Held:** World excl NZ

**Rights Sold:** France—Editions Rivages; French graphic adaptation—Editions Payot; Latvia—AGB.

***A Lifetime on Clouds* by Gerald Murnane** introduced by Andy Griffiths

A beautifully constructed romp through a teenage boy's erotic imagination from one of the world's most respected writers. This is funny, honest and sweetly told: a less ribald, Catholic Australian *Portnoy's Complaint*.

**Rights Held:** World

***The Plains* by Gerald Murnane** introduced by Wayne Macauley

A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'. Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers alive today.

'One of the strangest novels I've ever read...The real plains are the folds of the brain, which contain the elusive matter of memory. Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' *Teju Cole*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Editions P.O.L.; Hungary—Libri Kaido; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag.



***The Odd Angry Shot* by William Nagle** introduced by Paul Ham

Seminal account of Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War. Brief and bracing, tragic yet darkly funny, it portrays a close-knit group of knockabout fighters: their mateship, homesickness and fears; their practical jokes, drinking and fighting. The enemy is not just the Vietcong they've been sent to fight, but their superiors, the mud and torrential rain, and boredom.

**Rights Held:** World

***Swords and Crowns and Rings* by Ruth Park** introduced by Alice Pung

This Miles Franklin-winning novel brilliantly evokes Australia in the midst of the Great Depression. Written with warmth and affection, it is a powerful story about human nature and the strength of an unlikely love.

**Rights Held:** World

***An Iron Rose* by Peter Temple** introduced by Les Carlyon

The classic thriller by the winner of the Gold Dagger. Mac Faraday has left a dangerous job to live and work down a country lane. But then gentle Ned, his father's best friend, is found hanging from a beam in his machine shed. It's 2.45am. And Mac is back in a world where the questions he asks are first answered with lies—and then with violence.

'His images catch in the mind like things glimpsed under lightning.' *Observer*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—Quercus.

***Happy Valley* by Patrick White** introduced by Peter Craven

The magnificent debut novel of Patrick White, Australia's first Nobel Prize winner, available for the first time since its initial publication in 1939. Based on his own experiences in the early 1930s as a jackaroo at Bolaro, near Adaminaby in south-eastern New South Wales, it paints a portrait of a community in a desolate landscape.

'One of the most mature first novels of recent years.' Graham Greene

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** China—Chongqing Green Culture Co.; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; France—Gallimard; Israel—Am Oved; UK & Comm excl ANZ & Canada—Random House.

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