

# The Text Publishing Company



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# Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

## Adult

Ammaniti, Niccolò	Anna	ANZ	Canongate
Ball, Jesse	Census	ANZ	Sterling Lord Literistic
Bordo, Susan	The Destruction of Hillary Clinton	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Melville House
Burdick, Alan	Why Time Flies	ANZ	Sterling Lord Literistic
Cottrell, Patty Yumi	Sorry to Disrupt the Peace	ANZ	Wolf Literary Agency
Darriussecq, Marie	Being Here	World English	Editions P.O.L.
Gary, Romain	The Kites	ANZ	New Directions
Herrera, Yuri	Kingdom Cons	ANZ	And Other Stories
Hertmans, Stefan	The Convert	ANZ	De Bezige Bij
Julien, Maude and Ursula Gauthier	The Only Girl in the World	ANZ	Susanna Lea Assoc.
Koch, Herman	The Ditch	ANZ	Shared Stories
Kostova, Elizabeth	The Shadow Land	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Jenny Meyer
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Trauma Cleaner	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Curtis Brown UK
Kurniawan, Eka	Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash	ANZ	Pontas Agency
Lianke, Yan	The Years, Months, Days	ANZ	Susijn Agency
Lindqvist, John Ajvide	I Will Always Find You	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Copenhagen Literary Agency
McGirr, Michael	Things You Have to Read	World (excl. NA)	Curtis Brown Australia
Ramaswamy, Chitra	Expecting	ANZ	Saraband
Riggs, Nina	The Bright Hour	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Jenny Meyer
Sentilles, Sarah	Draw Your Weapons	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Penguin Random House USA
Tuck, Lily	Sisters	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Grove Atlantic
Wu, Ming-Yi	The Stolen Bicycle	World English	Georgina Capel Assoc.
Zafon, Carlos Ruiz	The Labyrinth of the Spirits	ANZ	Tom Colchie

## Young Adult

Barnard, Simon	Gaolbird	World	Author
Brubaker Bradley, Kimberley	The War I Finally Won	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Penguin Random House USA
King, A.S.	Still Life With Tornado	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Penguin Random House USA
Murray, Martine	Marsh and Me	World English	InkWell Management
Reyl, Hilary	Kids Like Us	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein in assoc. with Lippincott Massie McQuilkin

# Recent Adult and YA Publications

## Adult

Angel, Libby	The Trapeze Act	Author
Axat, Federico	Kill the Next One	Pontas Agency
Baram, Nir	A Land Without Borders	Liepman Agency
Burnet, Graeme Macrae	His Bloody Project <i>and</i> The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau	Saraband
Coetzee, J.M.	The Schooldays of Jesus	David Higham Assoc.
Dalton, Robin	One Leg Over	Author
Drabble, Margaret	The Dark Flood Rises	Canongate
Evenson, Brian	A Collapse of Horses	Coffee House Press
Ferrante, Elena	Frantumaglia	Europa Editions
Greenall, Stephen	Winter Traffic	Author
Grenville, Kate	The Case Against Fragrance	Jane Novak
Haynes, Elizabeth	Never Alone	Myriad Editions
Herrera, Yuri	The Transmigration of Bodies <i>and</i> Signs Preceding the End of the World	And Other Stories
Kelly, Vivienne	The Starlings <i>and</i> Cooe	Curtis Brown Australia
Kneen, Krissy	An Uncertain Grace	Author
Koch, Herman	Dear Mr M	Ambo Anthos
Kurbjuweit, Dirk	Fear	Rowohlt
Lovett, Charlie	The Lost Book of the Grail	Abner Stein
Rash, Ron	The World Made Straight	Canongate
Sala, Michael	The Restorer <i>and</i> The Last Thread	Zeitgeist Agency
Simsion, Graeme	The Best of Adam Sharp	Author
Vann, David	Bright Air Black	Rogers, Coleridge and White
Weinstein, Alexander	Children of the New World	Farrar, Straus and Giroux

## Young Adult

Bornstein, Michael and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat	Survivors Club	Rights People
Bowe, Steph	Night Swimming	Curtis Brown USA
Griffin, Paul	When Friendship Followed Me Home	Penguin Random House USA
Levithan, David and Nina LaCour	You Know Me Well	United Agents
Miller, Jessica	Elizabeth and Zenobia	Author
Starr, Kimberley	The Book of Whispers	Author

## *On the Java Ridge* by Jock Serong

*Amid the furious ocean there was no human sound on deck: some people standing, watching the wave, but no one capable of words. The boat swung faintly left then straightened as the distance closed. For a second Roya felt relief, thinking the nose would again spear through most of the impact. But something took hold of the dying boat and this time threw it to its right, so that the whole starboard side of the vessel faced the impending blow.*

*Roya could feel it, that this was the worst possible way for the wave to meet the boat. She counted down the final breaths before the impact, looked at her mother and dropped to the deck. The last move she made was to wrap her arms around her mother's ankles.*

*They were up high for an instant, the rain in the air around them. Then the furious water descended and the night disappeared.*

On the *Java Ridge*, skipper Isi Natoli and a group of Australian surf tourists are tracking memorable waves off the Indonesian island of Dana.

In the Canberra office of Cassius Calvert, Minister for Border Integrity, a Federal election looms and (not coincidentally) a hardline new policy is being announced regarding maritime assistance to asylum-seeker vessels in distress.

A few kilometres away from Dana, the *Takalar* is having engine trouble. Among the passengers fleeing from persecution are Roya and her mother, and Roya's unborn sister.

The storm now closing in on the *Takalar* and the *Java Ridge* will mean catastrophe for them all.

With *On the Java Ridge* Jock Serong, bestselling author of *The Rules of Backyard Cricket*, brings us a literary novel with the pace and tension of a thriller—and some of the most compelling, heartstopping writing about the sea since Patrick O'Brian.

Praise for Jock Serong:

*'One of the fastest moving literary crime titles of the year.'* *Publishers Weekly*

*'Funny, sad and oddly touching...Beautifully written and acutely observed, The Rules of Backyard Cricket is a noir tour de force.'* Sue Turnbull, *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Jock Serong** lives and works on the far southwest coast of Victoria. He is a lawyer and features writer, and is the editor of *Great Ocean Quarterly*. His debut, *Quota*, won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Crime Novel in 2015.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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August 2017

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Manuscript available

## *Two Steps Forward* by Graeme Simsion and Anne Buist

Zoe, a sometime artist, is from California. Martin, an engineer, is from Yorkshire. Both have ended up in picturesque Cluny, in central France. Both are struggling to come to terms with their recent past—for Zoe, the death of her husband; for Martin, a messy divorce.

Unsure of what the future holds, each sets out alone to walk hundreds of kilometres along the Camino: the Way, the centuries-old pilgrim route to Santiago, in northern Spain. Walking the Camino changes you, it's said. It's a chance to find a new version of yourself.

But can these two very different people find each other?

In this smart, funny and romantic journey, Zoe's and Martin's stories are told in alternating chapters by husband-and-wife team Graeme Simsion (author of the international bestseller *The Rosie Project*) and Anne Buist (author of the Natalie King thrillers).

*Two Steps Forward* is about the challenge of walking a great distance and working out who you really are. It's about the people you meet along the way, and those left behind. Most of all, it's about taking chances and learning to love again.

**Graeme Simsion** is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. The combined sales of *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are over four million copies worldwide. His most recent novel is *The Best of Adam Sharp*.

**Anne Buist** is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and has twenty-five years of clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry. She is the author of two Natalie King mysteries, and has published ten erotic romance-suspense novels under the pseudonym Simone Sinna.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Brazil—Record; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Czech Republic—Mladá Fronta; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; Finland—Otava; France—Éditions Robert Laffont; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Indonesia—Gramedia Pustaka Utama; Italy—Longanesi; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Poland—Bukowy Las; Portugal—Presença; Russia—Sinbad Books; Slovenia—Mladinska Knjiga Založba; Sweden—Forum; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; Thailand—Earnest Publishing; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—St Martin's Press; Vietnam—Women's Publishing House.

Fiction

October 2017

Manuscript available  
April 2017

# *The Book of Dirt* by Bram Presser

*We were too young to understand. We thought them immortal—our grandparents, our great uncles and aunts, their friends. They chose not to speak and now they are gone. And we cannot find the pieces of the puzzle that make up those few years of their life, for they too are gone.*

*What's left to fill the silence is no longer theirs. This is my story, woven from the threads of rumour and legend, post-memory.*

*The Book of Dirt* is a love story, a riveting survivors' tale, and a grandson's quest to learn about his grandparents' extraordinary lives.

Jakub and Daša never spoke of their experiences during the war. The family built myths around them: he was a teacher in the camps, keeping the children busy until it was their turn to be killed; she was uneducated but capable of lifting the railway sleepers used to build the tracks that brought her fellow Jews to their deaths. When they died only a month apart, their stories went with them.

Then came the cracks. Everything the family thought they knew was wrong. *The Book of Dirt* is the story of two unlikely survivors and their even less likely love story. Bram Presser brilliantly imagines the fate of Jakub Rand, who was in fact deported to Theresienstadt to sort through the thousands of Jewish texts that were confiscated from across occupied Europe for use in the Nazis' bizarre Museum of the Extinct Race. It is also the story of how teenaged Daša miraculously survived the same camp.

Like Daniel Mendelsohn's *Lost*, *The Book of Dirt* is a completely original, page-turning exploration of family myths, and a heartwarming story about a grandson's devotion to the power of writing, storytelling and his family's legacy.

**Bram Presser** was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1976. His stories have appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *The Sleepers Almanac* and *Higher Arc*. In 2011, he won the *Age* Short Story Award. When not writing fiction, Bram also pens the literary blog 'Bait For Bookworms', occasionally works as a criminal lawyer and is one of the founders of Melbourne Jewish Book Week.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

September 2017

Manuscript available  
April 2017

# Twins by Dirk Kurbjuweit

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

*The night the girl fell from the sky, Ludwig became my friend.*

*It was summer. I lay awake listening; the window was open. Ludwig was asleep. When there were no cars driving over the bridge, I could hear him breathe. If a car came, I heard first a faint whistle, then a rushing sound, growing louder and ever louder, then softer and softer.*

*I strained my ears for the next whistle—I'd rather hear a car than Ludwig's breathing in the silence. Maybe that's why I couldn't sleep—or maybe because I was wondering whether Ludwig might be my friend. I wasn't sure whether Ludwig was right for me.*

*Then the girl fell from the sky.*

Johann and Ludwig, and Ludwig's younger sister Vera, live in a country town on a river dominated by the high bridge that crosses it, a place from where people jump to take their own lives. When the boys meet as eleven-year-olds, Ludwig is confident, a risk-taker. Johann is quieter, thoughtful. They become inseparable, doing everything together. As sixteen-year-olds, Ludwig and Johann take up rowing in a coxless pair, determined to win the regatta—but they will have to beat the best team in the district, twins who row in perfect harmony.

The boys decide they must become twins too. They must do the same things, think the same thoughts. They even lose their virginity together.

But Johann has a secret life with Vera, which Ludwig doesn't know about—or so he thinks.

This compelling novella puts us inside the skins of its adolescent protagonists, with their dreams, their innocence, their embarrassments, their fears. It is a memorable, painful and moving tale.

**Dirk Kurbjuweit** was born in 1962 in Wiesbaden, and is head of *Der Spiegel's* Berlin office. He has written eight critically acclaimed novels, many of which have been adapted for film and television, including *Schussangst* and *Zweier Ohne*. Kurbjuweit has twice received the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize for journalism.

**Imogen Taylor** is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Trap* and *The Stranger* by Melanie Raabe, *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango and *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

**Rights Held:** World (excl. Germany, France, the Netherlands & Korea)

**Option Publishers:** Canada—House of Anansi; Catalan—Ara Llibres; Czech Republic—Euromedia; Israel—Kinneret; Italy—Bollati; Lithuania—Baltos Lankos; Poland—Sonia Draga; Spain—Salamandra; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Orion; USA—HarperCollins.

**Other Rights:** Hanser Verlag

Fiction

September 2017

Manuscript available



# *The Stranger* by Melanie Raabe

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

*I stare at the man before me—stare into his face, looking for a sign of recognition—but find nothing. It isn't that Phillip was tall and strong, while this man is hardly bigger than me—nor is it the beard that covers his cheeks so I have no way of knowing whether he has dimples like Phillip. It isn't even the strange way in which this man moves.*

*It is his eyes, which not only lack all warmth, but are also much darker than the eyes I fell in love with all those years ago. The hair on my neck stands on end. However exhausted this man may look, there is a disturbing energy emanating from him.*

*THAT. IS. NOT. PHILLIP.*

Phillip Petersen, a wealthy businessman, disappears without trace on a trip to South America. His wife, Sarah, is left to bring up their son on her own.

Seven years later, out of the blue, Sarah receives news that Phillip is still alive. But the man who greets her before a crowd of journalists at the airport is not her husband. He is a stranger—and he threatens Sarah. If she exposes him, she will lose everything: her house, her job, her son...her whole beautiful life.

Reviewers have compared Melanie Raabe to writers of suspense including Gillian Flynn, Paula Hawkins, S.J. Watson and Harlan Coben.

**Melanie Raabe** began her working life as a journalist but secretly wrote books by night. Her first novel, *The Trap*, was a bestseller in Germany. First published in English by Text in 2016, it has now appeared in many other territories, and the film rights have been acquired by TriStar Pictures. *The Stranger* is Raabe's second book. Published in Germany in 2016, it was an immediate bestseller, and remained on *Der Spiegel's* bestseller list for almost six months.

**Imogen Taylor** is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Trap* by Melanie Raabe, *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango and *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

**Rights Held:** World English

**Option Publishers:** Canada—House of Anansi Press; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Pan Macmillan; USA—Grand Central Publishing

**Other Rights:** Verlagsgruppe Random House GmbH

Fiction

October 2017

Manuscript available  
April 2017

## *Some Tests* by Wayne Macauley

*So you see? said Dr Panchal. How far do we go? When do we stop? The more faults we look for, the more we find.*

It begins with the normally healthy Beth—aged-care worker, wife of David, mother of Lettie and Gem—feeling vaguely off-colour. A locum sends her to Dr Yi for some tests. ‘There are a few things here that aren’t quite right,’ says Dr Yi, ‘and sometimes it is these little wrongnesses that can lead us to the bigger wrongs that matter.’

Beth is sent on to Dr Twoomey for more tests. Then to another specialist, and another...She is bumped from suburb to suburb, bewildered, joining busloads of people all clutching white envelopes and hoping for answers.

But what is wrong with Beth—is anything, in fact, wrong with her? And what strange forces are at work in the system? As Wayne Macauley’s new novel reaches its stunning climax, we realise how strange these forces are. Unnerving and brilliant, *Some Tests* is about waking up one morning and finding your ordinary life changed forever.

Praise for Wayne Macauley:

‘Macauley has published some of the most memorable fiction going.’ *Age*

‘Thought-provoking and brilliant.’ *Guardian*

**Wayne Macauley** is the author of the acclaimed novels *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe*, *Caravan Story*, *The Cook* and *Demons*. *The Cook* was shortlisted for a Western Australian Premier’s Book Award, a Victorian Premier’s Literary Award and the Melbourne Prize Best Writing Award.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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June 2017

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Manuscript available

# *How Shakespeare Saved My Life* by Salvatore Striano

TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN BY BRIGID MAHER

*'You want to play Ariel? Why's that?' Cavalli is intrigued.*

*'Because he seems strong. I like the way he clutches at freedom. He becomes so servile because he has one goal: freedom, which is what each of us in here values most highly.' This is something I've thought about a lot.*

*'It's decided, then,' says Cavalli, not worrying about the fact that Cosimo is white with rage. 'You'll be Ariel.'*

*Those words sound almost like magic words. Something tells me that our little theatre company, from this moment, has changed: we've upped the ante. And I feel as though I can discern, like a passing breeze, and in my ear, the crystalline laugh of the spirit of the air.*

*Or could it even be Shakespeare's?*

This inspirational novel, which has all the force of a memoir, tells the story of a life of crime redeemed through a love of reading—and of Shakespeare.

Sasà has never been to school. He has grown up in Naples with street violence, bloodshed. By the age of fourteen, he is leader of a gang of boys who became Camorristi in order to defend themselves. By the age of thirty, he is in prison. His future seems all mapped out.

That's when Shakespeare steps in. At Sasà's lowest and most hopeless point, he is persuaded to join the prison's drama troupe. In Shakespeare's *Tempest* Sasà stumbles on what he needs to explain the world which has defined his own life.

*How Shakespeare Saved My Life* is a novel whose drama has been formed by the truth. It is a story about betrayal, forgiveness, and above all, about the transformative power of reading.

**Salvatore Striano** was born in 1972 into a district in Naples controlled by organised crime. During a stint in prison, he discovered a love of reading and theatre. Striano is now a successful actor and has had a number of roles in the cinema and on TV, including *Cesare deve morire*, based on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* (Golden Bear at the Berlin Festival).

**Brigid Maher** was born in Lucca and spent part of her childhood there. She has translated several Italian novels and is currently Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Her research focuses on literary translation, contemporary Italian writing and the translation, circulation and reception of crime fiction.

**Rights Held:** World English

**Other Rights:** Alferj e Prestia Agenzia Letteraria

Fiction

October 2017

Manuscript available

## ***Australia Day* by Melanie Cheng**

*'Did you know that forty per cent of people who fly Australian flags would still support the White Australia policy?' Stanley asks.*

*The car's air conditioner is broken and beads of sweat catch in the hairs on Jessica's upper lip. She laughs. 'My dad has an Australian flag bumper sticker. What does that say about him?'*

*'The research looked at flags, not stickers. It would be wrong for me to extrapolate.'*

*A moth meets its messy demise on the windscreen. Powdered wings smear the glass.*

*'He's going to hate me, isn't he?' Stanley asks.*

The stories in *Australia Day* are about characters who are young, old, rich, poor, married, widowed, Chinese, Lebanese, Christian, Muslim. What they have in common—no matter where they come from—is the desire we all share to feel that we belong. In this debut collection Melanie Cheng explores universal themes of love, loss, family and identity, at the same time asking crucial questions about the possibility of human connection in a globalised world. Cheng's writing has a chameleon-like quality, combining an insider's intimate knowledge of the culture she describes with an outsider's clear-eyed objectivity.

Highly accessible and emotionally engaging, Melanie Cheng's work will appeal to readers of Anne Tyler, Ruth Ozeki and Nam Le. *Australia Day* was winner of the prestigious Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript in 2016, the same award won by international bestseller *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion, also published by Text, and *The Dry* by Jane Harper.

**Melanie Cheng** is a writer and general practitioner. Of Chinese-Australian heritage, she grew up in Hong Kong but now lives in Melbourne. In 2016 she won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. *Australia Day* is her first book.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

|

July 2017

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Manuscript available

## *Pulse Points* by Jennifer Down

The characters in Jennifer Down's *Pulse Points* live in small dusty towns, glittering exotic cities and slow droll suburbs; they are mourners, survivors and perpetrators.

In the award-winning 'Aokigahara', a young woman travels to the sea of trees in Japan to say goodbye. In 'Coarsegold', a woman conducts an illicit affair while her recovering girlfriend works the overnight motel shift in the middle of nowhere. In 'Dogs', Foggo runs an unruly gang of bored, cruel boys with a scent for fresh meat. In 'Pressure Okay' a middle-aged man goes to the theatre, gets a massage, remembers his departed wife, navigates the long game of grief with his adult daughter.

Jennifer Down, whose first novel, *Our Magic Hour*, was commended in the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, is a masterful stylist whose sharp eye has been compared to that of Helen Garner. *Pulse Points* is a brilliant collection that showcases her singular voice, and talent.

Praise for *Our Magic Hour*:

'All the rapture and calamity of youth. Jennifer Down is a writer of rare insight and heart.'  
Carrie Tiffany

'Astute, perceptive and always convincing...It's compelling writing.' *Australian*

'An emotionally sophisticated and impressive novel.' *Australian Book Review*

**Jennifer Down** was born in 1990. Her novel *Our Magic Hour* was highly commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. Her writing has appeared in the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Lifted Brow*, *Best Australian Stories* and *Blue Mesa Review*. Jennifer's stories have won a number of prizes, including the 2014 Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Award and the 2015 Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

August 2017

Manuscript available  
April 2017

## ***Suburbia* by Jeremy Chambers**

*The clouds cracked open and pale sunlight flooded the grass. Cassie looked upwards to face the warming rays, her eyes closed, her face illuminated and her hair golden in the light. The clouds moved and the shadows returned.*

Roland lives with his parents, Graham and Joyce, and his younger sister, Lily, in the golden light of an outer suburb—Glenella. He dreams of escaping, of finding an intoxicating life somewhere else.

He is fascinated by Cassie Noble, the daughter of local car dealer, Reg, and his brash wife, Colleen. But when Darren Wilson moves into the neighbourhood with his Triumph motorcycle, everything begins to change.

After his acclaimed debut, *The Vintage and the Gleaning*, Jeremy Chambers' new novel, *Suburbia*, is a revelation—a coming-of-age drama about the end of innocence set in a hidden world of paling fences and fragrant lawns, amid the flickering light of memory and desire.

Praise for *The Vintage and the Gleaning*:

'The most distinguished first novel by an Australian writer I have read for a long time.'  
*Sydney Morning Herald*

'Chambers is a great writer. He's the real thing.' M.J. Hyland

'A truly miraculous writer.' *Les Echos*

'An author not only in possession of an authentic feel for the ordinary but also blessed with a well-developed understanding of personal turmoil.' *Irish Times*

**Jeremy Chambers'** first novel, *The Vintage and the Gleaning*, was shortlisted for the Australian/Vogel Literary Award and The Colin Roderick Award and longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Quebec Booksellers' Award. His short fiction has appeared in *Griffith Review*, *Higher Arc*, *Review of Australian Fiction* and *The White Review*.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

|

September 2017

|

Manuscript available

## *The Benefactor* by Sebastian Hampson

*He picked up the sketchpad and saw a violent impression of a woman's face, cut up and rearranged like a collage, or a cubist painting. It was Martha, the sketch based on a photograph from the magazine.*

*'What is this?' he asked the girl, calm.*

*'It's my sketchpad, Henry.'*

*'And you left it out so I'd find it.'*

*'Sounds like that's what you want to believe, so I won't argue.'*

*'I'm happy for you to be here, but using my wife as inspiration for your work wasn't part of the deal.'*

*She looked at him bemused.*

*'Not sure where you got that from,' she said. 'If anything, it's a self-portrait.'*

Magazine editor Henry Calder has just been ousted from the glamorous job that gave his life meaning. He lost his wife, Martha, a year earlier, and without her he feels adrift. Alone in his Manhattan penthouse, Henry finds himself succumbing to nostalgia for their early days together in the gritty New York of the 1980s.

Then he meets Maggie, a rebellious young artist working as a bartender, and drunkenly offers her a place to stay. When Maggie is evicted not long after, Henry takes her in, but there is something about the young woman and her work that disturbs him, and before long she precipitates a crisis Henry could never have foreseen.

*The Benefactor* is about art's power to alter our view of ourselves and our world. It asks how we construct meaning in our lives—and how we react when the foundations we have built our identities upon are knocked out from beneath us.

**Sebastian Hampson's** debut novel, *The Train to Paris*, was published by Text in 2014, when he was twenty-three. Hampson's portrait of his protagonist in *The Benefactor*—a man nearing sixty, at the disappointing end of a once-illustrious career—shows an insight and empathy that would be a remarkable achievement for any writer, let alone one so young.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

| September 2017

| Manuscript available

# *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

*I had always believed my father capable of a massacre. Whenever I heard on the news that there had been a killing spree, I would hold my breath, unable to relax until it was clear that it couldn't have been him. That's paranoid, I know, but it's inevitable if you grew up the way I did.*

Randolph insists he had a normal childhood, though his father kept thirty loaded guns in the house. Now he has an attractive, intelligent wife and two children, enjoys modest success as an architect and has just moved into a beautiful flat in a respectable part of Berlin. Life seems perfect—until his wife, Rebecca, meets the man living in the basement below.

The downstairs neighbour is friendly at first, but soon he starts to frighten them—and when Randolph fails to act, the situation quickly spins out of control.

*Fear* is an uncomfortable meditation on middle-class privilege—with a shocking conclusion—comparable to sophisticated works of psychological suspense such as Herman Koch's *The Dinner* and Lionel Shriver's *We Need to Talk About Kevin*.

'*Fear* shifts our moral codes. It makes us sympathetic to violent revenge, accessories to murder...A great achievement.' Herman Koch

'*Fear* dramatically exposes how small fears and suspicions can expose and create larger tensions in society...It offers an unnerving portrait of how close many of us can come to committing unspeakable acts of violence.' *The Lifted Brow*

**Dirk Kurbjuweit** was born in 1962 in Wiesbaden, and is head of *Der Spiegel*'s Berlin office. He has written eight critically acclaimed novels, many of which have been adapted for film and television, including *Schussangst* and *Zweier Ohne*. Kurbjuweit has twice received the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize for journalism.

**Imogen Taylor** is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango and *The Trap* by Melanie Raabe.

**Rights Held:** World (excl. Germany & Hungary)

**Rights Sold:** Canada—House of Anansi; Catalan—Ara Llibres; Czech Republic—Euromedia; France—Delcourt Littérature; Israel—Kinneret; Italy—Bollati; Lithuania—Baltos Lankos; Netherlands—Ambo Anthos; Poland—Sonia Draga; Spain—Salamandra; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Orion; USA—HarperCollins.

**Other Rights:** Rowohlt Verlag

Fiction

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February 2017

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Finished copies available



# *The Best of Adam Sharp* by Graeme Simsion

FROM THE AUTHOR OF INTERNATIONAL SMASH HIT *THE ROSIE PROJECT*

On the cusp of turning fifty, Adam Sharp likes his life—he's happy with his partner, Claire, he stars in music trivia at quiz night at the pub, he does the occasional IT consulting job—but there's something he can never quite shake off.

And that's his nostalgia for what might have been: his blazing affair more than twenty years before with Angelina Brown, an intelligent and strong-willed actress who teaches him for the first time, as he plays piano and she sings, what it means to find—and then lose—love. How different might his life have been if he hadn't let her walk away?

And then, out of nowhere, Angelina gets in touch. What does she want? Adam has no idea, but this might be his only chance to rekindle his great lost love. Does he dare to live dangerously? Can a song turn out to be true?

*The Best of Adam Sharp* is about happy times and sad memories. It's about playing games for keeps. And it's about the power of the songs we sing when we fall in love.

'A great read—romantic, wry and well-written in that blokish David Nicholls-ish way. And totally rock 'n' roll: Bob Dylan and Patti Smith fans will love all the references.'  
*Daily Mail*

'While Simsion's touch is delicate, this is a dark comedy of manners, an adult entertainment that extends the range of his first, more light-hearted book.'  
*Age*

'[A] poignant glimpse into human relationships—what it is to love and to be loved...*The Best of Adam Sharp* hits you right in the morals and leaves you thinking—how far would you go for a second chance?' *Books+Publishing*

**Graeme Simsion** is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. The combined sales of *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are over four million copies worldwide.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Record; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Czech Republic—Mladá Fronta; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; France—Éditions Robert Laffont; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Italy—Longanesi; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Poland—Bukowy Las; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—St Martin's Press.

Fiction | September 2016 | Finished copies available

# *The Plains* by Gerald Murnane introduced by Ben Lerner

WINNER OF THE 1999 PATRICK WHITE LITERARY AWARD

*Twenty years ago, when I first arrived on the plains, I kept my eyes open. I looked for anything in the landscape that seemed to hint at some elaborate meaning behind appearances.*

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'.

This is the story of the families of the plains—obsessed with their land and history, their culture and mythology—and of the man who ventured into their world. First published in 1982, *The Plains* is a mesmerising work of startling originality.

This handsome new hardback edition is introduced by Ben Lerner, author of the internationally acclaimed novels *Leaving the Atocha Station* and *10:04*, and a work of criticism, *The Hatred of Poetry*.

Praise for Gerald Murnane:

'Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' Teju Cole

'A distinguished, distinctive, unforgettable novel.' Shirley Hazzard

'A piece of imaginative writing so remarkably sustained that it is a subject for meditation rather than a mere reading...In the depths and surfaces of this extraordinary fable you will see your inner self eerily reflected again and again.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'*The Plains* has that peculiar singularity that can make literature great.' Ed Wright, *Australian*, Best Books of 2015

**Gerald Murnane** was born in Melbourne in 1939. He has been a primary teacher, an editor and a university lecturer. His debut novel, *Tamarisk Row* (1974), was followed by nine other works of fiction, including *The Plains* and most recently *A Million Windows*. In 1999 Murnane won the Patrick White Award and in 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature. His memoir *Something for the Pain* won the 2016 Victorian Premier's Award for non-fiction. He lives in western Victoria.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Catalan—Minúscula; France—Éditions P.O.L.; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Spain—Minúscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Förlag.

Fiction

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April 2017

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Finished copies available

# *Sunlight and Seaweed: An Argument for How to Feed, Power and Clean Up the World* by Tim Flannery

*Much of my recent writing spelled out a message of hope for the future. It is clear to me that even with the climate crisis assuming its current frightening proportions, and with billions more people on our finite planet, that life in 2050 can be much better than it is today, and the state of our biodiversity and ecosystems much improved. But hope is not enough. We need a coherent vision of the future that is capable of guiding investments in clean technologies so that hope can be turned into concrete reality.*

Acclaimed scientist Tim Flannery investigates technologies being developed to address our most pressing environmental threats in a book that presents a positive future for us and our planet. Climate change, food production and toxic pollution are huge challenges, but, as Flannery shows, we already have innovative, practical and inspiring solutions.

Solar energy has, until now, been limited to supplying power only when the sun is shining. But new technology using concentrated sunlight to produce intense heat energy that can be effectively stored overcomes this problem, providing clean renewable power around the clock. Further, the large amounts of power produced can be used beyond our current power demands to tackle the issue of feeding the world's growing population—by enabling energy-intensive methods of cleaning up polluted land for agricultural production.

With accessible and engaging explanations of the fascinating science behind these technologies, as well as accounts of the systems already in operation around the world, *Sunlight and Seaweed* is an enlightening and uplifting view of the future.

Praise for Tim Flannery:

'This man is a national treasure, and we should heed his every word.' *Sunday Telegraph*

**Tim Flannery** is a scientist, explorer and conservationist, a leading writer on climate change and the 2007 Australian of the Year. His books include the award-winning international bestseller *The Weather Makers*, *Here on Earth* and *Atmosphere of Hope*. He is currently head of the Climate Council.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Canada—HarperCollins Canada; France—Bouchet/Chastel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Romania—Seneca; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Penguin Press; USA—Grove Atlantic.

Non-Fiction

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August 2017

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Manuscript available

## ***Snooze: The Lost Art of Sleep* by Michael McGirr**

*In the history of human civilisation, sleep is the unrivalled hero. It is the wellspring of creativity. It is the space in which so much happens, mainly because, while we are asleep, we can't squeeze any extra appointments or make any extra phone calls or look at one more thing on the internet. In sleep we are most ourselves because we have to surrender our egos.*

From the bestselling author of *Things You Get for Free* and *Bypass* comes *Snooze*, a revised edition of the entertaining and enlightening *The Lost Art of Sleep* (2009).

Michael McGirr always had trouble sleeping, but the arrival of twins made him realise he'd never known true exhaustion. While he celebrated these small children who brought him so much joy, he also found himself desperately searching for a few extra winks a night.

In *Snooze*, McGirr delves into the mysterious world of sleep: its many benefits, its stubborn elusiveness and what our brains get up to while we're in bed. He takes readers on a tour through the odd sleep patterns of some of history's greatest figures, including Plato and Homer, Shakespeare and Dickens, Florence Nightingale (who slept a great deal) and Thomas Edison (who hardly slept at all). He looks at the demise of sleep in our ever more fragmented world, and what that means for everyone from average sleepers to those with serious sleep disorders.

A profound and humorous exploration of the precious resource of sleep—and the causes and consequences of getting too little of it—*Snooze* is the perfect book for sleepless nights.

Praise for *The Lost Art of Sleep*:

'A shrewd and warm deliberation on a fascinating and underappreciated topic.' *Age*  
'He successfully integrates autobiography, literary criticism, historical anecdote, popular science, low-key theology, and lucid social commentary... There are many quiet joys in this book.' *Australian*

**Michael McGirr** is the bestselling author of *Things You Get for Free* and *Bypass: The Story of a Road*. He has reviewed more than nine hundred books for the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Canberra Times*; his short fiction has appeared in numerous publications in Australia and overseas; and he has been the publisher of *Eureka Street* and fiction editor of *Meanjin*. Michael's expertise in the area of sleep derives not only from having several sleep disorders but also from having three children.

**Rights Held:** World (excl. USA)

Non-Fiction

| June 2017

| Manuscript available

## *Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love* by Mark Raphael Baker

*One minute my wife was there. In a flash she was gone.*

*In the ten months of Kerryn's dying, I prepared myself for everything except for her death.*

*Now that she is gone, I am desperate to know her as I never knew her.*

*Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love* is a moving memoir of Mark's wife of thirty-two years, Kerryn Baker, who died ten months after her diagnosis, aged fifty-five, from stomach cancer. It is a portrait of grief, of a marriage and of a family.

It is also a study in how we construct our own version of the past after Mark discovers a cache of Kerryn's letters in the laundry cupboard and has to rethink their relationship. How can he use words to restore her to life? *Thirty Days* is a book about memory and its uncertainties as Mark sifts through photos and home movies, as his wife gets sicker, and his search for clues about their relationship grows more desperate.

In her last days Kerryn reveals her traumatic childhood to Mark for the first time. She emerges as the rock of the family, a brave and wise woman, clear-eyed about her treatment, focused on finding the path to a peaceful death. Paradoxically, her dying brings the couple back to the intensity of their first love.

In the tradition of Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air* and Cory Taylor's remarkable memoir, *Dying*, Mark Baker's *Thirty Days* is an inspirational book about death and dying.

'A lament, a wail, a raw confession of suffering and regret, but most of all, of love.'

Ramona Koval

**Mark Raphael Baker** is Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the School at Monash University, Melbourne. As well as *The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey Through Memory*, a seminal book on his parents' experience during the Holocaust, Mark has written a compelling memoir, *Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love*, about the recent death of his wife.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

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August 2017

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Manuscript available

# *The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey through Memory* by Mark Raphael Baker

WINNER, NSW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARD

*'This gate here, I recognise it. Behind it is a steep slope, a hill, fields, grass. We would slide down it in winter.'*

*At last, an incontrovertible test through which my father's memory might be vindicated. Two lone gates that appear to lead nowhere.*

*'Push,' we scream, 'lift the latch and push.'*

*'No. I remember too much now. No.'*

A love story and a detective story, a study of history and of memory, this spellbinding work explores a son's confrontation with the terror of his parents' childhood during the Holocaust. Moving from Poland and Germany to Jerusalem and Melbourne, Mark Baker travels across the silence of fifty years.

Baker's father, Yossl, was imprisoned in some of the most notorious concentration camps while his mother, Genia, was forced to hide for several years once the Jews of her village had been murdered. When the family revisits the villages and death camps familiar to his parents, the emotional pressure for Genia and Yossl becomes intense and Baker's probing of their past arouses profound reactions.

Inspired by Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi, *The Fiftieth Gate* is a journey from despair and death towards hope and life.

*'Combining precise historical research and poetic eloquence, Mark Baker's *The Fiftieth Gate* remains the gold standard of second generation Holocaust memoirs on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary edition.'* Christopher R. Browning, Frank Porter Graham Professor of History Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*'Baker does with memory, what Rembrandt does with light. He uses it to model, to imagine, to illuminate, to astonish.'* Phillip Adams, ABC Radio National

**Mark Raphael Baker** is Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the School at Monash University, Melbourne. As well as *The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey Through Memory*, a seminal book on his parents' experience during the Holocaust, Mark has written a compelling memoir, *Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love*, about the recent death of his wife.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

| August 2017

| Manuscript available

# *Anaesthesia: The Gift of Oblivion and the Mystery of Consciousness* by Kate Cole-Adams

*You know how it is when you go under. The jab, the countdown, the—  
—and then you wake.*

*This book is about what happens in between.*

This extraordinary non-fiction work illuminates a crucial element of modern medicine that works in practice for reasons barely understood even by expert practitioners.

Until a hundred and seventy years ago many people chose to die rather than undergo the ordeal of surgery. Now hundreds of thousands do it every day. Anaesthesia has made it possible.

But how much do we really know about what happens to us on the operating table? Can we hear what's going on around us? Is pain still pain if we are not awake to feel it, or don't remember it afterwards? How does the unconscious mind deal with the body's experience of being cut open and ransacked? And how can we help ourselves through it?

The scientific research into such questions, fascinating in its own right, is interwoven with personal accounts—of patients waking up under the knife, of subsequent traumatic reactions, of hallucinations and submerged memories—along with passages of memoir that evoke the complexities of memory and dreaming, and the nature of self-hood.

Haunting, lyrical, sometimes shattering: *Anaesthesia* leavens science with personal experience, and brings an intensely human curiosity to the unknowable realm beyond consciousness.

'A work of splendid richness and depth, driven by a curiosity so intense that it hazards at times the extreme boundaries of the sayable.' Helen Garner

**Kate Cole-Adams** is a journalist and novelist. Her debut novel, *Walking to the Moon*, was published in 2008. She lives in Melbourne with her family.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

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June 2017

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Manuscript available

# *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders* by Stuart Kells

*How much of themselves did Shakespeare, Donne, Hemingway and Woolf leave behind in their libraries? And how much of their personalities is discernible from their books? Creating a library is a psychically loaded enterprise. In gathering their bounty, booklovers have displayed anxiety, avarice, envy, fastidiousness, obsession, lust, pride, pretension, narcissism and agoraphobia—indeed every Biblical sin and most of the pathologies from the American Psychiatric Association manual.*

Libraries are much more than mere collections of books. The best are magical, fabled places. This book explores the libraries, real and fictitious, whose fame has become part of the cultural wealth they are designed to preserve.

Some still exist today, such as the Bodleian, the Folger and the Smithsonian; some are lost, such as Aristotle's library, and those of Herculaneum and Alexandria; some have been sold or dispersed, such as the Cottonian, Roxburghe and Ashley libraries; and some never existed, such as the libraries of Middle Earth, Umberto Eco's mediaeval library labyrinth in *The Name of the Rose*, and libraries imagined by John Donne, Jorge Luis Borges, François Rabelais and Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

Stuart Kells tells the stories of these and other libraries—their creators, their prizes, their secrets and their fate. Ancient libraries, grand baroque libraries, scientific libraries, memorial libraries, personal libraries, clandestine libraries.

*The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders* is a fascinating and engaging exploration of libraries as places of beauty and wonder; a celebration of books as objects and of bookish spaces; and an account of how the idea of the library continues to possess our imagination.

**Stuart Kells** is an author, bibliophile and book-trade historian. His 2015 book, *Penguin and the Lane Brothers*, was shortlisted for the Ashurst Business Literature Prize. An authority on rare books, he has written and published on many aspects of print culture and the book world. Stuart lives in Melbourne with his family. He is writing a book about Shakespeare's library.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

| September 2017

| Manuscript available



# *Beautiful Mess* by Clare Christian

WINNER, 2016 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

*I've only been back at school full time for a month and if it was up to me I'd never have come back. I'd have loved to just leave with some grand parting gesture like painting a big dick on the oval with grass killer or something. But Mrs Bryan and the other teachers lost their shit about missing work and my dad was running out of excuses to hold them off. The last few weeks have fused into a blur of me struggling to pay attention and listening to people monologue about how they know how I feel because when their nanna died or when their aunty died or when their fucking dog died they felt blah, blah and blah.*

*But none of them know. It wasn't my nan, or my aunt or my pet that died, it was Kelly. It was my best friend.*

Since Ava lost Kelly, things haven't been going so well. Even before she loses her and gets thrown out of school for shouting at the principal, there's the simmering rage and the getting drunk and the strange angry sex with Kelly's brother. The only thing going right for Ava is her weekend job at Magic Kebab.

That's where she meets Gideon. Skinny, shy Gideon. Who turns out to be not just a poet and a collector of vinyl records and weirdly opposed to social media. He's also the only person who can help Ava move forward with her life.

The 2016 winner of the Text Prize for Children's and YA Writing is a raw, funny, painfully truthful take on grief, loss and first love. Claire Christian is a new YA writer to watch.

**Claire Christian** is a writer, podcaster and theatre maker from Brisbane. In 2013 she was named one of Queensland's 125 Leading Women by YWCA Queensland. She has several plays available through Playlab Press, including her solo work *Talking to Brick Walls*, as well as *Hedonism's Second Album* and *The Landmine is Me*, both co-written with the winner of the 2014 Text Prize, David Burton.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction

September 2017

Manuscript available  
May 2017

**The Text Prize** has unearthed extraordinary, multi-award-winning novels for children and young adults and launched international publishing careers.

Praise for the Text Prize:

*'The Text Prize is going from strength to strength...Winners that push the boundaries of young-adult fiction.'* *Books+Publishing*

*'Quickly building a glowing reputation.'* *Sydney Morning Herald*

## *The Undercurrent* by Paula Weston

The near future.

Eighteen-year-old Jules De Marchi is different. As in: she has an electrical undercurrent beneath her skin that stings and surges like a live wire. She can use it—to spark a fire, maybe even end a life—but she doesn't understand what it is. And she can barely control it, especially when she's anxious.

Ryan Walsh was on track for a stellar football career when his knee blew out. Now he's a soldier—part of an experimental privatised military unit that has identified Jules De Marchi as a threat. Is it because of the weird undercurrent she's tried so hard to hide? Or because of her mother Angie's history as an activist against bio-engineering and big business?

It's no coincidence that Ryan and Jules are in the same place at the same time—he's under orders to follow her, after all. But then an explosive attack on a city building by an unknown enemy throws them together in the most violent and unexpected way.

Paula Weston, author of the much-admired *Rephaim* series, returns with a standalone work: a futuristic thriller that is only slightly futuristic—but utterly and undeniably thrilling. Great writing, heart-burning characters, probing questions about where technology is taking us—and a plot that zips and zings like an electrical current itself. This is a great young-adult writer at the peak of her powers.

Praise for the *Rephaim* series:

'Late for dinner, late for work, late late late. Thanks so much, Paula Weston. I picked up *Shimmer* and forgot everything else.' *Adelaide Advertiser*

'Superbly written, action-packed fiction with interesting, brilliantly flawed characters.' *Fictional Thoughts*

**Paula Weston** is a Brisbane-based author. She has more than twenty years' experience as a professional writer—first as a print journalist and then as a government communication and media specialist. She co-owns a writing/design consultancy.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** North America—Tundra; Turkey—Ithaki Yayinlari; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Orion.

Young-Adult Fiction | September 2017 | Manuscript available

# *Ballad for a Mad Girl* by Vikki Wakefield

*At this rate I won't survive high school. I'll be a dead, friendless virgin.*

A ghost story with a difference. Another brilliant novel by award-winning writer Vikki Wakefield—a suspense tale you won't be able to put down.

Everyone knows seventeen-year-old Grace Foley is a bit mad. She's not afraid of anything—except losing. As part of the feud between two local schools in Swanston, Grace accepts a dangerous challenge. That night she experiences something she can't explain. The funny girl isn't laughing anymore.

As she's drawn deeper into the twenty-year-old mystery of missing girl Hannah Holt, she can no longer tell what's real or imagined. Is she moving closer to the truth? Or is she at risk of losing everyone—including herself?

'Everything you already love about Vikki Wakefield—plus a spine-tingling supernatural mystery. *Ballad for a Mad Girl* is brilliantly creepy and thrilling.' Fiona Wood

'There's a dark side to being the funny one in the group. This is a piercing, creepy tale about a wild girl who could lose herself to a ghost. Vikki Wakefield's writing never fails to give me chills.' Emily Gale

'Vikki Wakefield is one of Australia's best YA writers. I couldn't put down *Ballad for a Mad Girl*.' Cath Crowley

'*Ballad for a Mad Girl* is brilliant, edgy and unsettling. Grace is a tough and sympathetic anti-heroine. I felt her grief and, even when I cursed her curiosity, was compelled to follow her to the story's satisfying, cinematic end.' Simmone Howell

**Vikki Wakefield's** first young-adult novel, *All I Ever Wanted*, won the 2012 Adelaide Festival Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction, as did her second novel, *Friday Brown*, in 2014. *Friday Brown* was also an Honour Book in the 2013 Children's Book Council of Australia awards. Among other awards, it was shortlisted for the prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Awards in 2013. Vikki's third novel, *Inbetween Days*, was an Honour Book in the 2016 Children's Book Council of Australia awards.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction | June 2017 | Manuscript available

## ***Wilder Country* by Mark Smith**

Kas, Willow and Finn have survived a brutal winter on limited food stores, shellfish gathered from the reef, and the occasional trapped rabbit. But although spring brings new opportunities, the three friends are no longer safe at Angowrie. Ramage will be back: he has an old score to settle with Finn and, as far as he is concerned, Kas is his property.

Storm damage has left roads and tracks blocked, but that's the least of the difficulties Finn, Kas and Willow face as they set out for the valley, where they hope to find support to confront the tyrannical Ramage and his gang of Wilders.

*Wilder Country*, the exciting sequel to Mark Smith's acclaimed debut *The Road to Winter*, is a fast-paced adventure that explores friendship, loyalty and, above all, questions of morality in the face of desperate survival.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction

September 2017

Manuscript available  
April 2017

## ***The Road to Winter* by Mark Smith**

Since a deadly virus and the violence that followed wiped out his parents and most of his community, Finn has lived alone on the rugged coast with only his loyal dog Rowdy for company. He has stayed alive for two winters—hunting and fishing and trading food, and keeping out of sight of the Wilders, an armed and dangerous gang that controls the north, led by a ruthless man named Ramage.

But Finn's isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose is a Siley—an asylum seeker—and she has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her sister, Kas. Rose is desperate, sick, and needs Finn's help. Kas is still missing somewhere out in the bush.

And Ramage wants the girls back—at any cost.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction

July 2016

Finished copies available

**Mark Smith** works with teenage boys in his job running an outdoor-education residential campus on the west coast of Victoria. His writing has won a number of awards and has appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Review of Australian Fiction* and the *Big Issue*.

## Various titles by Robin Klein

Robin Klein was born in 1936 in Kempsey, New South Wales into a family of nine children. After leaving school at age fifteen, Klein had her first story published at age sixteen, but then worked several jobs before becoming established as a writer. She went on to write more than forty books, and is widely considered one of Australia's most prolific and beloved YA authors.

Praise for Robin Klein:

'She's a master of dialogue, sibling dynamics, and youthful characters...Fresh, humorous, offbeat, with a bit of nostalgia for the era of film stars and red, red lipsticks.' *School Library Journal*

### ***Came Back to Show You I Could Fly* introduced by Simone Howell**

WINNER OF THE 1989 HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD FOR LITERATURE

WINNER OF THE 1990 CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

Seymour is running from a gang of kids when he opens a back-lane gate. And there is Angie. She is older than Seymour, confident, cool and alluring, and she treats him with the affection of an older sister. But Angie has a dark side—a secret that threatens to destroy her. This is a heartwarming account of an unlikely friendship that shows a very human side of drug addiction.

### ***All in the Blue Unclouded Weather* introduced by Amie Kaufman**

*All in the Blue Unclouded Weather* begins the story of the Melling sisters, four girls growing up in an Australian country town in the post war years and often referred to as Australia's Little Women. Vivienne is the youngest, always the last to wear the hand-me-down clothes—after Grace and Heather and Cathy—and always longing for something new and special. This is a heartwarming and often humorous story of loyalty and affection—under blue unclouded skies.

### ***Dresses of Red and Gold* introduced by Fiona Wood**

The second book in the Melling Sisters Trilogy. The sisters and their mother are preparing for a wedding. Cathy is to be bridesmaid and her dress is a thing of awe and beauty, but not in Cathy's eyes—she hates the idea of being a bridesmaid. Vivienne would love to wear it; perhaps she will.

### ***The Sky in Silver Lace* introduced by Alice Pung**

This is the third and final book in the Melling Sisters Trilogy. The Melling family has moved from Wilgawa to the city suburb of Lacey's Bay. There's a new school, a new place to live and new friends to make—it's exciting, but also terrifying, especially when the first potential friend Vivienne meets is large, bold and threatening.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction

| February 2017

| Finished copies available

## Various titles by Elizabeth Harrower

**Elizabeth Harrower** is the author of the novels *Down in the City*, *The Long Prospect*, *The Catherine Wheel* and *The Watch Tower*—all of which have been republished as Text Classics—and *In Certain Circles*, which was published in 2014 and shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction in 2015. Elizabeth lives in Sydney.

### *A Few Days in the Country and Other Stories*

Internationally acclaimed for her five brilliant novels, Elizabeth Harrower is also the author of a small body of short fiction. *A Few Days in the Country* brings together for the first time her stories published in Australian journals in the 1960s and 1970s, along with those from her archives—including ‘Alice’, published for the first time in 2015 in the *New Yorker*. Essential reading for Harrower fans, these finely tuned pieces show a broader scope than the novels, ranging from caustic satires to gentler explorations of friendship.

**Rights Held:** World

### *In Certain Circles*

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, ‘a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel’. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful. Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other’s shadow. *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

‘Harrower evokes the waste and futility of a decadent class with all the bite and poignancy of F Scott Fitzgerald.’ Eimear McBride

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Finland—Fabriikki; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau-Verlag; Greece—Dardanos; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Turkey—Metis.

### *The Watch Tower* introduced by Joan London

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 in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

‘It is a brilliant achievement.’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau-Verlag; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Editura Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.

### ***The Catherine Wheel* introduced by Ramona Koval**

Twenty-five-year-old Clemency James has moved from Sydney to a chilly bedsit on the other side of the world. When she meets Christian, a charismatic would-be actor, she can see he's trouble—not least because he's involved with an older woman who has children. She is drawn to him nonetheless: drawn into his world of unpayable debts and wild promises. First published in 1960, *The Catherine Wheel* is Elizabeth Harrower's third novel and the only one of her books not set in Australia.

**Rights Held:** World

### ***Down in the City* introduced by Debra Falconer**

Esther Prescott has seen little of life outside her wealthy family's Rose Bay mansion—until flashy Stan Peterson comes roaring up the drive in his huge American car and barges into her life. Within a fortnight they are living in his Kings Cross flat. Moody and erratic, proud of his well-bred wife yet bitterly resentful of her privilege, Stan is involved with his former girlfriend and a series of shady business deals. Esther, innocent and desperate to please him, must endure his controlling ways.

**Rights Held:** World

### ***The Long Prospect* introduced by Fiona McGregor**

Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, twelve-year-old Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

**Rights Held:** World

Praise for Elizabeth Harrower:

'A novelist who deserves as wide an audience as possible.' *Sunday Age*

'I can't recommend this brilliant, austere writer strongly enough...Harrower is funny and elegant and devastating.' James Wood, *New Yorker*

## Various titles by Helen Garner

**Helen Garner** is an award-winning author of novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction. Her novel *The Spare Room* won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Barbara Jefferis Award.

### *Everywhere I Look*

**WINNER OF THE 2016 WINDHAM–CAMPBELL PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION**

*Everywhere I Look* is a book full of unexpected moments, sudden shafts of light, piercing intuition, flashes of anger and incidental humour. *Everywhere I Look* includes Garner's famous and controversial essay on the insults of age, her deeply moving tribute to her mother and extracts from her diaries. *Everywhere I Look* glows with insight. It is filled with the wisdom of life.

'Garner is scrupulous, painstaking, and detailed, with sharp eyes and ears. She is everywhere at once, watching and listening, a recording angel at life's secular apocalypses... her unillusioned eye makes her clarity compulsive.' James Wood, *New Yorker*

**Rights Held:** World

### *This House of Grief*

**WINNER OF THE NED KELLY AWARD FOR TRUE CRIME**

Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother when his car left the road and plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession.

'*This House of Grief* has all the trademark Helen Garner touches: harrowing scenes recorded without restraint or censorship; touching observations of characters' weaknesses; wry moments of humour.' *Guardian*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Berlin Verlag; Japan—Gendaikikakushio Publishers.

### *True Stories*

Helen Garner visits the morgue, and goes cruising on a Russian ship. She sees women giving birth, and gets the sack for teaching her students about sex. She attends a school dance and a gun show. She writes about dreaming, about turning fifty, and the storm caused by *The First Stone*.

'Garner is a storyteller, an observer... Her style is beautifully simple, a mixture of plain English, a dash of local idiom, a shock word.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Rights Held:** World



## ***Monkey Grip***

'A new kind of novel; not just a random accretion of information but a thoughtfully observed, deeply felt work of art.' *Australian*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ, France & Germany)

## ***The Children's Bach***

'[Garner has] an ear for the lyricism and complex drama of life's second-rate warblers, and to weave them, with the lightest of touches, into elaborate harmonies.' *Age*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ & Germany)

## ***Honour and Other People's Children***

'How do you throw out the bathwater of civilization and still keep hold of the slippery baby? Garner bravely takes hold of the problem.' *New York Times*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ & Germany)

## ***Cosmo Cosmolino* 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.

**Rights held:** World

## ***The Last Days of Chez Nous & Two Friends* afterword by Laura Jones**

'Exceptional...Garner's polished script believes in the power and relevance of small domestic moments.' *LA Times*

**Rights Held:** World

## ***The Spare Room***

'A perfect novel, imbued with all Garner's usual clear-eyed grace but with some other magnificent dimension that hides between the lines of her simple conversational voice.'

Peter Carey

**Rights held:** World

**Rights sold:** Albania—Dritan Editions; Brazil—Objetiva; Canada—House of Anansi Press; China—Shanghai Gaotan Culture; Finland—Atena; France—Éditions Philippe Rey; Galician—Rinoceronte; German—Berlin Verlag; India/Marathi—Mehta Publishing House; Italy—Mondadori; Netherlands—De Bezige Bij; Norway—Pax Forlag; Portugal—ASA; Romania—SC Leda Editserv; Spain—Salamandra; Taiwan—Business Weekly; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Canongate; USA—Holt.

## Australian Classics

We launched the Text Classics series in May 2012. Since then we have brought some extraordinary writers from Australia and New Zealand to international attention, writers including Elizabeth Harrower, Kenneth Cook, Kenneth Mackenzie, Gerald Murnane and Madeleine St John. We published our 100th Text Classic in September 2016, and it's another forgotten marvel: *The Dyehouse* by Mena Calthorpe, first published in 1961.

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

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback mining town of Bundanyabba, planning to stay overnight before catching the plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five and he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original and the greatest outback horror story. It was made into a film in 1971, arguably the greatest film ever made in Australia. Lost for many years, the restored film was re-released to acclaim in 2009.

'A true dark classic of Australian literature.' J. M. Coetzee

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Grua Livros; France—Autrement; Netherlands—Podium; Spain—Seix Barral; Turkey—Ayrinti.

### ***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

**Rights Sold:** Film—Triptych Pictures; Turkey—Ayrinti.

### ***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 Bolero, near Adaminaby in south-eastern New South Wales, it paints a portrait of a community in a desolate landscape.

'Miraculously good.' *The Times*

**Rights Held:** World

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

## ***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie** introduced by David Malouf

Fifteen-year-old Charles Fox is sent away to boarding school, innocent and afraid. There, one of his masters develops an intense attachment to him. But when Charles meets Margaret, a girl staying at a nearby farm for the holidays, he is besotted, and a passionate, unforgettable romance begins. Published in London in 1937 to wide acclaim, *The Young Desire It* is a stunning novel about coming of age: an intimate and lyrical account of first love, and a rich evocation of rural Australia.

‘Why isn’t this stunning novel famous?’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Hanser Verlag

## ***I for Isobel* by Amy Witting** introduced by Charlotte Wood

WINNER, 1990 BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD

*This was life: no sooner had you built yourself your little raft and felt secure than it came to pieces under you and you were swimming again.*

Born into a world without welcome, Isobel observes it as warily as an alien trying to pass for a native. Her collection of imaginary friends includes the Virgin Mary and Sherlock Holmes. Later she meets Byron, W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot. Isobel is not so much at ease with the flesh-and-blood people she meets, and least of all with herself, until a lucky encounter and a little detective work reveal her identity and her true situation in life.

*I for Isobel*, a modern-day Australian classic, was followed by *Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop*, winner of the Age Book of the Year Award.

**Rights Held:** World

## ***The Dyehouse* by Mena Calthorpe** introduced by Fiona McFarlane

First published in 1961, *The Dyehouse* is a devastating novel set in an era when work was being radically transformed by new industrial technologies. Mena Calthorpe—who herself worked in a textile factory—takes us inside this world of underlings, middlemen and bosses. She has a tragic apprehension of its harsh sexual politics, and an intimate understanding of the price her characters will pay for the rewards of their labour.

**Rights Held:** World

To view the full list, visit [www.textpublishing.com.au](http://www.textpublishing.com.au)

# Film Rights Highlights

## *Good People* by Nir Baram

It's 1938. Thomas Heiselberg has built a career in Berlin with an American advertising company. In Leningrad, twenty-two-year-old Sasha Weissberg has grown up eavesdropping on conversations in her parents' literary salon. Neither of them thinks about politics much, but after catastrophe strikes they will have no choice. Thomas puts his research skills to work elaborating Nazi propaganda. Sasha persuades herself that working as a literary editor of confessions for Stalin's secret police is the only way to save her family. When destiny brings them together, they will face the consequences of the decisions they have made. *Good People* is a tour de force: sparkling, erudite, a glimpse into the abyss.

## *Alex As Well* by Alyssa Brugman

*Alex As Well* is a confronting and heartfelt story of adolescent experience—of questioning identity, discovering sexuality, navigating friendships and finding a place to belong. Alex is a strong, vulnerable, confident, shy and determined character, one you will never forget. With the same tenderness and insight as young-adult stars such as John Green and David Levithan, Alyssa Brugman has crafted a story about identity, sexuality and family that speaks to a universal teen experience.

'Brugman's beautiful writing offers a startlingly accurate portrayal of teenage life and is a remarkable exploration of gender and sexuality. *Alex as Well* tackles its subject matter with fearless honesty...strong insight and a delightful sense of humour.' *Books+Publishing*

## *In Certain Circles* by Elizabeth Harrower

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, 'a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel'. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful. Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other's shadow. Set amid the lush gardens and grand stone houses of the north side of Sydney Harbour, *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

## *The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower

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 in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

## ***The Snow Kimono* by Mark Henshaw**

Set in Paris and Japan, *The Snow Kimono* tells the stories of Inspector Jovert, former professor of law Tadashi Omura, and his one-time friend the writer Katsuo Ikeda. All three men have lied to themselves, and to each other. And these lies are about to catch up with them. *The Snow Kimono* is an intricate psychological thriller that is also an unforgettable meditation on love and loss, on memory and its deceptions, and the ties that bind us to others.

## ***Nine Days* by Toni Jordan**

One family. Nine momentous days. An unforgettable novel of love and folly and heartbreak. In *Nine Days* Toni Jordan has harnessed all the spiky wit, compassion and lust for life that drew readers in droves to *Addition* and *Fall Girl*. Ambitious in scope and structure, triumphantly realised, this is a novel about one family and every family. It is about dreams and fights and sacrifices. And finally, of course, it is—as it must be—about love.

‘A witty and wise family saga...gorgeously layered...a treasure.’ *Kirkus Reviews*

## ***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie**

Fifteen-year-old Charles Fox is sent away to boarding school, innocent and afraid. There, one of his masters develops an intense attachment to him. But when Charles meets Margaret, a girl staying at a nearby farm for the holidays, he is besotted, and a passionate, unforgettable romance begins. Published in London in 1937 to wide acclaim, *The Young Desire It* is a stunning novel about coming of age: an intimate and lyrical account of first love, and a rich evocation of rural Australia.

## ***Skin* by Ilka Tampke**

AD 43. Iron Age Britain is on the cusp of Roman invasion. For the people of Caer Cad, ‘skin’ is their totem, their greeting, their ancestors, their land. Ailia does not have skin. Abandoned at birth, she serves the Tribequeen of her township. Ailia is not permitted to marry, excluded from tribal ceremonies and forbidden to learn. But the Mothers, the tribal ancestors, have chosen her for another path. *Skin* is a thrilling, full-blooded, mesmerising novel about the collision of two worlds, and a young woman torn between two men.

## ***My Beautiful Enemy* by Cory Taylor**

Arthur Wheeler is haunted by his infatuation with a Japanese youth in the enemy alien camp where he worked as a guard during World War II. Abandoning his wife and baby son, Arthur sets out on a doomed mission to rescue his lover from forced deportation back to Japan. Thus begins the secret history of a soldier at war with his own sexuality and dangerously at odds with the racism that underpins the crumbling British Empire. Like *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *My Beautiful Enemy* explores questions of desire and redemption against the background of a savage racial war.

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