



The Text Publishing Company

London Rights Guide 2019



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For additional information, please contact:

Khadija Caffoor

Rights & Export Coordinator

The Text Publishing Company

khadija.caffoor@textpublishing.com.au

Swann House

Level 10, 22 William St Melbourne

tel: +61 3 8610 4536 fax : +61 3 9629 8621

Victoria 3000 Australia

Anne Beilby

Rights Manager

The Text Publishing Company

anne.beilby@textpublishing.com.au

Swann House

Level 10, 22 William St Melbourne

tel: +61 3 8610 4535 fax : +61 3 9629 8621

Victoria 3000 Australia

Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Bell, Davina	The End of the World Is Bigger than Love	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Kerr, Kay	Please Don't Hug Me	World	Jacinta di Mase
Kimberley, Maree	Dirt Circus League	World	Jacinta di Mase
Nugent, Carly	Sugar	World	Author
Wakefield, Vikki	Untitled novel	World	Drummond Agency
Zable, Arnold and Ron Brooks	The Glass Horse of Venice	World	Authors

Adult

Barbery, Muriel	Un Étrange Pays	ANZ	Gallimard
Bishop, Alice	A Constant Hum	World	Author
Biss, Eula	Having and Being Had <i>and</i> Ownership	ANZ	David Grossman
Buijsman, Stefan	Pluses and Minuses	ANZ	De Bezige Bij
Del Amo, Jean-Baptiste	Animal Kingdom	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Durastanti, Claudia	La Straniera	ANZ	Casanovas Lynch
Hall, Steven	Maxwell's Demon	ANZ	Canongate
Hertmans, Stefan	The Convert	ANZ	De Bezige Bij
Kiesling, Lydia	The Golden State	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	William Morris Endeavour
Koch, Herman	The Ditch	ANZ	Ambo Anthos
Lindqvist, John Ajvide	I Am the Tiger	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Hedlund Literary Agency
Malonowska, Kaja	Fog	World English	Barbara Zitwer
Melchor, Fernanda	Hurricane Season	ANZ	New Directions
Nordbo, Mads Peder	Cold Fear	World English	Politiken Literary Agency
Pagano, Emmanuelle	Les Adolescents Troglodytes	World English	POL
Raabe, Melanie	The Shadow	World English	Verlagsgruppe Random House
Shibli, Adiana	Minor Detail	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Shute, Neville	On the Beach	ANZ	United Agents
Van der Werf, Gerwin	Merciless Road	World English	Atlat Contact
Vann, David	Woman, Desiring	ANZ	Rogers, Coleridge & White
Widder, Edie	Below the Edge of Darkness	ANZ	Abner Stein UK
Winegard, Timothy	The Mosquito	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Penguin Random House USA
Woodland, Greg	The Whistler Calls	World	Melanie Ostell

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Cece, Adam	The Utterly Indescribable Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls	Blacklock Literary Management
Dabos, Christelle	A Winter's Promise	Gallimard Jeunesse
Halse Anderson, Laurie	Shout	Writers House
King, A. S.	Dig	Penguin Random House USA
Laguna, Ingrid	Songbird	Curtis Brown Australia
Levithan, David	Someday	United Agents
Smith, Mark	Land of Fences	Author

Adult

Best, Gillian	The Last Wave	House of Anansi Press
Brown, Jeremy	Influenza	Simon & Schuster USA
Darrieussecq, Marie	The Baby	Éditions P.O.L.
Disher, Garry	Kill Shot	Jenny Darling
Garner, Helen	The Children's Bach <i>and</i> Monkey Grip	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Jordan, Toni	The Fragments	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Larraquy, Roque	Comemadre	Conville and Walsh
Luna, Louisa	Two Girls Down	Penguin Random House USA
Ma, Ling	Severance	Wylie Agency
Malcolm, Janet	Nobody's Looking at You	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
McPhee, John	The Patch	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Moorhouse, Jocelyn	Unconditional Love	HLA Management
Msimang, Sisonke	The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela	Blake Friedmann
Murnane, Gerald	A Season on Earth	Golvan Arts Management
Norris, Mary	Greek to Me	W.W. Norton
Salzmann, Sasha Marianna	Beside Myself	Suhrkamp Verlag
Serong, Jock	Preservation	Author
St John, Madeleine	Ladies in Black	Lutyens and Rubinstein
Tiffany, Carrie	Exploded View	Lutyens and Rubinstein
Woodfox, Albert	Solitary	Grove Atlantic
Zafón, Carlos Ruiz	The Labyrinth of Spirits	Colchie Literary Agency

***The Subjects* by Sarah Hopkins**

As we got closer I could see behind the sandstone a curved concrete building: a purpose-built structure. But still no fence, no wire. Not a bar in sight. For this, I'd been told that morning, I should be grateful. This was a 'lifeline...a last chance'. That is what the judge said.

Daniel is a sixteen-year-old drug dealer, and he's going to jail.

Then, suddenly, he's not.

A courtroom intervention. A long car ride to a luxurious facility in the country. Other 'gifted delinquents': the elusive, devastating Rachel; sensitive Alex, so brittle he seems about to shatter.

So where are they? It's not a school, despite the 'lessons' with the headsets and changing images. It's not a psych unit—not if the absence of medication means anything. It's not a jail, because Daniel's free to leave. Or that's what they tell him.

He's pretty sure he and the others are part of an experiment. But he doesn't know who's running it or what they're trying to prove. And he has no idea what the next seven months are going to do to him.

Praise for Sarah Hopkins

'The Subjects explores the utopian madness of social engineering in a way that reminded me of Charlotte Wood's *The Natural Way of Things*. The dark pull of this novel is so vivid.' Malcolm Knox on *The Subjects*

'Her real achievement...is the emotional and psychological authenticity of her characters.' Emily Maguire, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Crimes of Billy Fish*

'This book can be read as a damning indictment of the social welfare and criminal justice systems.' Age on *The Crimes of Billy Fish*

'Sarah Hopkins proves herself among the leading chroniclers of contemporary Australian life.' *Sydney Morning Herald* on *This Picture of You*

Sarah Hopkins is the author of three novels including *The Crimes of Billy Fish*, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. She works as a criminal lawyer in Sydney and is married with two children.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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June 2019

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Manuscript available

Shepherd by Catherine Jinks

Tom Clay was a poacher back in Suffolk. He was twelve when he was caught, tried and transported to New South Wales.

Now, assigned to a shepherds' hut out west, he is a boy among violent men. He keeps his counsel, watches over his sheep and steers clear of blowhards like the new man, Rowdy Cavanagh. He is alert to danger, knowing he is a foreigner here: that the land resists his understanding.

The question is: how fast can he learn?

Because a vicious killer named Dan Carver is coming for Tom and Rowdy. And if Tom can't outwit Carver in the bush—and convince Rowdy to keep his stupid mouth shut—their deaths will be swift and cruel.

This riveting, fast-paced new novel from the multi-award-winning Catherine Jinks brings the brutality and courage of Australia's frontier vividly to life—and sees one of our master storytellers at the peak of her powers.

Praise for Catherine Jinks

'A popular and intelligent mystery to wallow in with complete abandon.' *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Notary*

'With finely drawn characters, poignant relationships and a dramatic, moody backdrop, *The Dark Mountain* cements Jinks's reputation as one of Australia's great storytellers.' *Sunday Telegraph* on *The Dark Mountain*

'Deftly structured . . . The eerie power of the Australian outback is a familiar theme, but the vividness of Jinks's characters and the energy of her story make up the ground.' *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Road*

Catherine Jinks has published more than forty books for adults and children. Her books have been published in ten countries. She has won many awards including the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the Aurealis Award for science fiction, the Adelaide Festival Award and the Davitt Award for crime fiction. Catherine is a four-time winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award and in 2001 was presented with a Centenary Medal for her contribution to Australian children's literature. She lives in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales.

Rights Held: World

Fiction | July 2019 | Manuscript available

Lapse by Sarah Thornton

Clementine crouched down, peered around the moss-covered giant between her and the noise. She saw nothing at first, then her eyes adjusted and she saw the red shirt. She shivered, her fingernails digging into the soft bark of the myrtle. If he found her...She shut her eyes, saw the glint of the flick-knife, its cruel arched spine, the curve under the tip. A tiny brown bird flitted onto a branch in front of her, looked at her, head cocked, flitted away.

Former corporate lawyer Clementine Jones is living in self-imposed exile, passing the time by coaching a country-league footy club and trying to forget the past.

Now the team is winning, and the pressure is on to take the Cats to their first grand final in over fifty years.

When her star player, Clancy Kennedy, quits on the eve of the finals, something doesn't stack up. Clem's a tough negotiator, used to getting her own way—but when she sets out to win Clancy back, she uncovers a deadly conspiracy that puts them both in danger.

Solving the mystery could end in Clementine's worst nightmare—the exposure of her shameful secret—but only if she survives to tell the tale.

'A true page-turner and a surefire hit.' Michael Collins, author of the Booker shortlisted *The Keepers of Truth*

Sarah Thornton ditched her law career not long after being awarded Australian Corporate Lawyer of the Year in 2016. She now lives with her husband onboard a 43-foot sailing catamaran, exploring everything she can and chasing an endless summer. She took up writing novels as a way to liberate her imagination after twenty years in the structured confines of legal and corporate life. Her debut novel, *Lapse*, is the first of a series in which former corporate lawyer Clementine Jones stumbles headlong into criminal conspiracies and other nefarious goings-on.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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August 2019

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Manuscript available

***Cherry Beach* by Laura McPhee-Browne**

We arrived on a Tuesday, I can remember that. I can remember Hetty's hand in mine as we moved slowly down the steps of the escalator, as if standing completely still would have been harder than moving. It was cold even in the airport, the first time I realised how cold can seep through. I remember Hetty's hand was cold too, and that she felt tired next to me.

Hetty and Ness, best friends since childhood, have left suburban Melbourne for the first time to live abroad. Hetty is charming, captivatingly beautiful, the life of the party. Ness is troubled, a wallflower, hopelessly in love with her.

In the student quarter of Toronto, the pair take a room in a rambling share house full of intimidatingly self-assured creatives. Hetty disappears into barkeeping work and a whirlwind nightlife, while Ness drifts aimlessly about the city.

But when Ness finds Hope one day in the Art Gallery of Ontario, an intense affair develops. There are new friends, too, and a job: at last her life starts to make some sense. And Hetty's starts spectacularly to fall apart, in a mess of bad drugs and bad men.

As winter freezes the lakeside city, the dark undercurrents of Hetty's character—her pattern of abusive relationships, her dangerous obsession with bodies of water—become ever stronger. Ness may lose the person she loves more than anyone else in the world.

With its intimate portrayal of twenty-something female friendship, acute insights into desire, sexual identity and mental health, and sensuous writing, Laura McPhee-Browne's first novel is a revelation. *Cherry Beach* will appeal to fans of Sheila Heti, Sally Rooney and Jennifer Down.

Laura McPhee-Browne is a writer and social worker from Melbourne. Her short fiction has appeared in *Meanjin*, *Island*, *Overland*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Seizure*, *Tincture Journal* and *Scum Mag*. In 2016 she was highly commended in the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and the Hope Prize. Laura is a fiction editor for the literary magazine *Verity La*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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February 2020

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Manuscript available

Mischance Creek by Garry Disher

After being busted down to uniform, Constable Paul Hirschhausen was posted to a one-officer police station in the dry wheat-and-wool country south of the Flinders Ranges. He's spent the past year forging good community relations: tennis-club working bees, helping the elderly and the vulnerable, 'volunteering' to be this year's Santa.

Apart from a grass fire, two boys stealing a ute, and Brenda Flann entering the main bar of the pub without exiting her car first, Hirsch's life has been pretty peaceful in the lead-up to Christmas.

Until blood is shed in Kitchener Street. And Sydney police request a welfare check on a family living along a forgotten back road...

Mischance Creek is the sequel to *Bitter Wash Road*, which was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Awards for Best Crime Novel.

Praise for Garry Disher

'Smooth, assured mastery.' *New York Times Book Review*

'A top-class writer.' *Times*

'Garry Disher has been giving us highly intelligent literary thrillers for decades and he gets better and better.' *Australian*

'Crime fiction king Garry Disher is a literary machine...Bring on the next case.' *Herald Sun*

'Disher turns out to be a superb chronicler of macho pop culture.' *Sunday Times*

'Garry Disher's crime fiction is as prolific as it is highly decorated.' *Guardian*

Garry Disher grew up in South Australia and now lives on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. He is the author of more than fifty titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, and the Wyatt thrillers. Garry Disher has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction in 2007 and 2010. In 2018, he won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ned Kelly Awards.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Germany—Unionsverlag; Italy—Marcos y Marcos; North America—Soho.

Fiction

November 2019

Manuscript available
May 2019

A Constant Hum by Alice Bishop

I try not to think about the things we lost, much. But it's the time of year, again, when the bush outside is burning. Turn on the TV and you'll see women huddled under faded fluorescent beach towels—along with footage of ash-cheeked kids getting brand-new-used bikes from the Red Cross tent. But that's not our story: Dev, he had one hand on the wheel, and the other, white-knuckled, over my own. We stayed at my parents' house that night, their faces pale with worry. It'll be okay, my mother said, her head nodding like the kids were—already—part of some long-forgotten dream. It'll all be okay, my mother said, and then I remember the way her familiar face scrunched, afterwards—reflected back at me, in the fogged bathroom mirror, when she thought I couldn't see.

Before the bushfires—before the front of flames comes roaring over the hills—the ridges are thick with gums. After the fires, the birds have gone. There is only grey ash and melted metal, the blackened husks of cars.

And the lost people: in temporary accommodation on the outskirts of the city, on the TV news in borrowed clothes, or remembered in flyers on a cafe wall.

A Constant Hum grapples with the aftermath of disaster with an eye for telling detail. Some of these stories cut to the bone; others are empathetic stories of survival, even hope. All are gripping and beautifully written, heralding the arrival of an important new voice in literary fiction.

Alice Bishop's fiction addresses the infamous Black Saturday bushfires that devastated a large region near Melbourne, Victoria, in 2009—but it also speaks eloquently to the universal experience of natural disaster in a world suffering from ever more extreme climate change.

Alice Bishop grew up in Christmas Hills, Victoria. Her writing has been published by *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Australian Book Review*, *Lip Magazine* and the Wheeler Centre. *A Constant Hum* is her debut book and was highly commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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July 2019

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Manuscript available

Lucky Ticket by Joey Bui

Fortunes rise and fall. One day you have a lucky ticket and get a dinner so good and you eat so much that you think you'll never need to eat again. You get busy making plans and then the hunger comes looking for you.

I'm just an old man selling lucky tickets, but my theory is that we all get our turn in the end. I've had my turn at fortune. It was some years ago, maybe 2002, because I remember that was when Sài Gòn was less red and bright with fried chicken signs everywhere.

A highly original collection of stories by a talented young writer.

In the comic-tragic eponymous story, 'Lucky Ticket', the narrator, a genial, disabled old man, whose spirit is far from crushed, sells lottery tickets on a street corner in bustling Saigon. In 'Mekong Love', two young people in a restrictive society try to find a way to consummate their relationship—in an extraordinary tropical landscape.

In 'Abu Dhabi Gently', a story of dreams and disappointment, of camaraderie and disillusionment, a migrant worker leaves Vietnam to earn money in the UAE in order to be able to marry his fiancée. 'White Washed' depicts a strained friendship between two students in Melbourne, the Vietnamese narrator and a white girl. What does it mean to be Asian? What does it mean to be white? And what makes up identity?

In *Lucky Ticket*, Joey Bui introduces a diverse range of characters, all with distinctive voices, and makes us think differently about mixed-race relationships, difficulties between family generations, war, dislocation and identity.

Joey Bui is a Vietnamese-Australian writer. She graduated from New York University Abu Dhabi, where she completed her first collection of short stories, *Lucky Ticket*, based on interviews with Vietnamese refugees around the world. Joey has been published in journals and magazines in the US and Australia. She is currently studying at Harvard Law School.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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September 2019

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Manuscript available

Don Tillman's Standardised Meal System by Graeme Simson

'So, you cook this same meal every Tuesday, right?'

'Correct.' I listed the eight major advantages of the Standardised Meal System.

1. No need to accumulate recipe books.
2. Standard shopping list—hence very efficient shopping.
3. Almost zero waste—nothing in the refrigerator or pantry unless required for one of the recipes.
4. Diet planned and nutritionally balanced in advance.
5. No time wasted wondering what to cook.
6. No mistakes, no unpleasant surprises.
7. Excellent food, superior to most restaurants at a much lower price (see point 3).
8. Minimal cognitive load required.

'Cognitive load?'

'The cooking procedures are in my cerebellum—virtually no conscious effort is required.'

'Like riding a bike.'

'Correct.'

Here at last, by popular demand, is the system of food preparation that Professor Don Tillman lives by: everything from preparing lobster salad to boning quail, in twenty-one essential recipes to cover a whole week of cooking. This essential guide also includes handy tips about mixing cocktails, and Don's guidelines for serving wine and beer at the correct temperatures.

Don Tillman's Standardised Meal System will not only show you how to make delicious meals—it will teach you how to cut down on shopping, increase your thinking time, and maximise your nutritional intake.

And how to shuck an oyster the Tillman way.

Graeme Simson is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are international bestsellers with combined worldwide sales of around five million copies, and *The Rosie Result* debuted as the number-one bestselling novel in Australia. Graeme's screenplay for *The Rosie Project* is in development with Sony Pictures and *The Best of Adam Sharp* is in development with Toni Collette's Vocab Films. Graeme's novel *Two Steps Forward*—co-written with his wife, Anne Buist—has been optioned for film by Ellen DeGeneres and Fox Searchlight.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Hungary—Libri Kaido; Israel—Achuzat Bayit; Italy—Longanesi; Netherlands—Luitingh Sijthoff; Poland—Media Rozina; Russia—Sindbad; Spain—Salamandra; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin.

Fiction

December 2019

Manuscript available
August 2019

The Rosie Result by Graeme Simsion

THE NUMBER-ONE BESTSELLING NOVEL IN AUSTRALIA

Don and Rosie are back in Melbourne after a decade in New York, and they're about to face their most important challenge.

Their son, Hudson, is struggling at school: he's socially awkward and not fitting in. Don's spent a lifetime trying to fit in—so who better to teach Hudson the skills he needs?

The Hudson Project will require the help of friends old and new, force Don to decide how much to guide Hudson and how much to let him be himself, and raise some important questions about his own identity.

Meanwhile, there are multiple distractions to deal with: the Genetics Lecture Outrage, Rosie's betrayal at work, estrangement from his best friend Gene.

And opening a cocktail bar.

Hilarious and thought-provoking, *The Rosie Result* is the tremendous final instalment of the internationally bestselling series that began with *The Rosie Project*.

Praise for Graeme Simsion

'This is a thoughtful and provocative novel [with] a grand design that will have relevance in the lives of many individual readers.' Helen Elliott, *Age* on *The Rosie Result*

'A wholly absorbing, vivid read that leaves you pining to be reunited with its characters every time you put it down—if you're able to.' *Independent* on *The Rosie Effect*

'One of the most profound novels I've read in a long time.' Bill Gates on *The Rosie Project*

Graeme Simsion is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are international bestsellers with combined worldwide sales of around five million copies, and *The Rosie Result* debuted as the number-one bestselling novel in Australia. Graeme's screenplay for *The Rosie Project* is in development with Sony Pictures and *The Best of Adam Sharp* is in development with Toni Collette's Vocab Films. Graeme's novel *Two Steps Forward*—co-written with his wife, Anne Buist—has been optioned for film by Ellen DeGeneres and Fox Searchlight.

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Fiction

| February 2019

| Finished copies available

A Season on Earth by Gerald Murnane

Lost to the world for more than four decades, *A Season on Earth* is the essential link between two acknowledged masterpieces by Gerald Murnane: his debut novel, *Tamarisk Row*, a lyrical account of boyhood, and the revolutionary prose of *The Plains*.

A Season on Earth is Murnane's second novel as it was intended to be, bringing together all of its four sections—the first two of which were published as *A Lifetime on Clouds* in 1976 and the last two of which have never been in print.

A hilarious tale of a lustful teenager in 1950s Melbourne, *A Lifetime on Clouds* has been considered an outlier in Murnane's fiction. That is because, as Murnane writes in his foreword, it is 'only half a book and Adrian Sherd only half a character'. Here, at last, is young Adrian's journey in full, from fantasies about orgies with American film stars and idealised visions of suburban marital bliss to his struggles as a Catholic student-priest, and finally a burgeoning sense of the boundless imaginative possibilities to be found in literature and landscape.

Adrian Sherd is one of the great comic creations in Australian writing, and *A Season on Earth* a revelatory portrait of the artist as a young man.

Praise for Gerald Murnane

'Not one word is wasted...Worth the wait.' *Herald Sun* on *A Season on Earth*

'Murnane's books are strange and wonderful.' *New York Times*

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

'*The Plains* is a bizarre masterpiece that can feel less like something you've read than something you've dreamed.' Ben Lerner, *New Yorker*

'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' *Australian*

Gerald Murnane was born in Melbourne in 1939. He is the author of thirteen works of fiction, a memoir and a collection of essays. His prizes include the Melbourne Prize for Literature and a Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Murnane lives in western Victoria.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Albania—Aleph Klub

Option Publishers: Catalan—Miniscula; Denmark—THP; France—Éditions P.O.L.; Germany—Suhrkamp; Greece—Kastaniotis Editions; Hungary—Libri Kiado; Italy—Safarà Editore; Netherlands—Signatuur; Spain—Miniscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag.

Fiction

|

February 2019

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Finished copies available

Attraction by Ruby Porter

WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL MICHAEL GIFKINS PRIZE FOR AN UNPUBLISHED NOVEL

A third of our genes aren't fixed. They get coded—in the womb, in life. You can pass them on, those genes. You can pass on your fuck-ups, your hang-ups, your heartbreaks. You can pass on trauma. You can pass on guilt.

I made that up. I don't know if it was a third, or a quarter. But I imagine it like the sea and its salt, infinite. Floating, mixing, rearranging. Churning up bits of the past, bringing them to the surface. Or pushing them deeper.

The present reckons with the past in *Attraction*, Ruby Porter's atmospheric debut novel.

Porter's unnamed narrator is on a road trip with her friends Ashi and Ilana, haunted by the spectre of her emotionally abusive ex-boyfriend, her complicated family background and New Zealand's colonial history. In lyrical fragments, she explores what it means to be and to belong, to create and to destroy.

'Attraction peels back the landscape to reveal deeper truths. The book is a slow-burning fuse that brims with intensely felt experience. Porter is an exciting new talent.' Lloyd Jones

'This gifted new writer reveals character and progresses story by use of sharp imagery, intergenerational relationships, and the natural, historic and domestic environments of modern New Zealand.' Patricia Grace

Ruby Porter is a tutor of creative writing at the University of Auckland. She has been published in *Geometry Journal*, *Aotearotica*, the *Spinoff* and the *Wireless*, and a selection of her poetry is available on NZEPC. In 2018, she also won the Wallace Foundation Short Fiction Contest.

The Michael Gifkins Prize for an Unpublished Novel was made possible by generous sponsorship from Ann Hatherly and André Gifkins, partner and son of the late Michael Gifkins, and Text Publishing. It pays tribute to the support and encouragement Michael Gifkins gave to New Zealand writers throughout his career. The competition is open to previously published authors and new writers who are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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May 2019

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Manuscript available

Room for a Stranger by Melanie Cheng

The boy who greeted her on the doorstep was holding a large cardboard box. There was a duffel bag slung across his shoulder and another cardboard box at his feet. Today was supposed to be an introduction—a chance to get to know each other before making a final decision—and yet the young man standing before her looked ready to move in. Helpless, Meg ushered him inside.

Meg is living alone, with only her African grey parrot, Atticus, for company. Andy is in his second year of university and buckling under the pressure. Through circumstances largely out of their control, they find themselves living together in Meg's family home. *Room for a Stranger* chronicles the unlikely friendship that emerges between Meg and Andy—a unique and powerful bond that will ultimately prove lifesaving for both of them.

In crisp, elegant prose, Melanie Cheng gives us a story full of wisdom and compassion. In these two beautifully flawed characters we will recognise our friends, our family and ourselves. *Room for a Stranger* is a story about difference and compassion, a moving and complex portrayal of an improbable friendship.

Praise for Melanie Cheng

'Room for a Stranger explores the high stakes of quiet moments, reveals the beauty of unlikely connections and shows how the antidote to shame is always compassion...Impossible to put down.'

Benjamin Law, author of *The Family Law*

'Melanie Cheng offers both razor-sharp insight into the flaws and foibles of ordinary people and a deep tenderness for them. *Room for a Stranger* is that rare thing: a novel which stings and soothes all at once.'

Emily Maguire, author of *An Isolated Incident*

'A wholly engrossing portrait of two very different people whose collision reminds us that the need for understanding and companionship is ultimately what unites us all. With startling humanity and precision, Cheng shows us how complex, contradictory and difficult to define we are.'

Felicity Castagna, author of *No More Boats*

'Melanie Cheng is an astonishingly deft and incisive writer.'

Christos Tsiolkas on *Australia Day*

Melanie Cheng is a writer and general practitioner. She was born in Adelaide, grew up in Hong Kong and now lives in Melbourne. In 2016 she won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript for her collection of stories, *Australia Day*, which also won the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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May 2019

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Finished copies available

***The Women in Black* by Madeleine St John**

Now an award-winning film directed by Bruce Beresford and starring Julia Ormond, Angourie Rice, and Rachael Taylor, *The Women in Black* is a fairytale which illuminates the extraordinariness of ordinary lives. The women in black are run off their feet, what with the Christmas rush and the summer sales that follow. But it's Sydney in the 1950s, and there's still just enough time left on a hot day to dream and scheme...

Rights Sold: France—Albin Michel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Israel—Tchelet; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar; North America—Scribner; Spain—Planeta; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Little, Brown.

The Essence of the Thing

SHORTLISTED, 1997 BOOKER PRIZE

A comic and tender look at the vicissitudes of love. Nicola should never have stepped out to buy that pack of cigarettes, because the man she discovers in her living room when she returns is not the Jonathan with whom she has been sharing her life—that Jonathan would never have unilaterally decided that she should 'move out'. Nicola packs her bags and sets out on the bumpy course that will take her to the essence of the thing.

Rights Sold: France—Albin Michel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar.

A Pure Clear Light

A Pure Clear Light examines a marriage at the moment it goes haplessly off-track: when Simon succumbs to the temptation of his cool blond accountant and Flora heeds the cry of her reawakened faith. Ultimately, though, neither Simon nor Flora can escape the revelation that lies beyond excuses and remorse and candour, at the heart of the phenomenon called love.

Rights Sold: Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar.

A Stairway to Paradise

Here is the eternal triangle, the story of three people—Alex, Andrew, and Barbara—in an unhappy tangle of emotions, none able to articulate the precise quality of their longing and dissatisfaction. Are any of them truly interested in reaching the 'paradise' they claim to be seeking, or are they actually trying to avoid it? In St John's hands, what is commonplace is transformed and transcendent.

Rights Sold: Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar.

'A pocket masterpiece. A jewel.' Hilary Mantel on *The Women in Black*

'A delicious book. Funny and happy, it's like the breath of youth again.' Jane Gardam on *The Women in Black*

'Brisk, sophisticated and artful.' *New York Times Book Review* on *The Essence of the Thing*

Madeleine St John was born in Sydney in 1941. She studied arts at Sydney University, where her contemporaries included Bruce Beresford, Germaine Greer, Clive James and Robert Hughes. She was the first Australian woman to be shortlisted for the Booker. Madeleine St John died in 2006.

Untitled collected essays by Tim Flannery

Tim Flannery is one of the world's great thinkers, environmental scientists and writers. Sir David Attenborough described him as being 'in the league of the all-time great explorers like Dr David Livingstone.'

This definitive collection of his work brings together thirty years of essays, speeches and occasional writing on palaeontology, mammology, environmental science and history, including the science of climate change and the challenges and opportunities we face in addressing this critical issue.

Praise for Tim Flannery

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

'Flannery is a writer who sneezes at political correctness and charges into the densely land-mined territory of the biological determinants of human behaviour.' *Washington Post*

'No one tells it better than Tim Flannery.' David Suzuki

'Flannery synthesises a vast range of scientific studies and a decent selection of historical and cultural writings, leavening those with his own forceful ideas.' *New York Times Book Review*

Tim Flannery is a paleontologist, 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 chief councillor of the Climate Council.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: China—United Sky; France—Flammarion; Germany—Insel Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; North America—Grove Atlantic; Poland—Dressler Dublin; Romania—Grup Media Litera; Slovenia—Modrijan Zalozba; Spain—Biblioteca Nueva; Turkey— Panama Yayincilik; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Penguin Press.

Non-fiction

September 2019

Manuscript available
June 2019

Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World

by **Tyson Yunkaporta**

Sand Talk is about everything from echnidas to spirits, from cosmology to cooking, from the nature of yarning to the symbolism of the Aboriginal flag.

It's about how patterns and symbols and shapes can make sense of the world. It's about finding different ways to think about things and to look at them. It's about how we learn and how we remember.

Most of all, it's about the nature of Indigenous thinking and cultural practice. And how the concept of sustainability is at the heart of everything Indigenous.

To write each chapter, Tyson Yunkaporta makes carvings of what he wants to say, so that his thinking is made manifest in symbols and diagrams. And he yarns with people, looking for ways to connect images and stories with place and relationship to create a coherent world view. And he uses sand talk, honouring the Aboriginal custom of drawing images on the ground to convey knowledge.

We are used to being offered a simplified view of Indigenous life. It's a view that focusses on 'what' rather than 'how'. Yunkaporta's goal is to turn the lens around. What happens when we bring an Indigenous perspective on to the big picture, on to history, education, money, power and so much else besides?

How can we use Indigenous thought processes to explore contemporary issues?

And how can we have proper concepts of sustainable life without Indigenous knowledge?

Dr Tyson Yunkaporta is an academic, an arts critic, and a researcher. He is a Bama man from Queensland who carves traditional tools and weapons and also works as a senior lecturer at Monash University in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

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September 2019

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Manuscript available

***Blueberries* by Ellena Savage**

Sometimes I think it's possible to live with anything. That we're wired to survive-survive-survive, to grip onto the gnarliest thread until life is pried from our bones. Other times I think, it's not possible to live at all. Not at all.

We might describe *Blueberries* as a collection of essays, the closest term available for a book that resists classification. More accurately, it is a blend of personal essay, polemic, prose poetry, true-crime journalism and confession that considers a fragmented life, reflecting on what it means to be a woman, a body, an artist. It is both a memoir and an interrogation of memoir. It is a new horizon in storytelling.

Blueberries opens with 'Yellow City', recently extracted in the *Paris Review Daily*, in which the author returns to Lisbon, the scene of her sexual assault a decade earlier, and attempts a reckoning. The title piece is a hilarious account of a very expensive writers' workshop at a very expensive liberal arts college and the writer's life under capitalism. 'Holidays with Men' is a conversation with an earlier piece, also titled 'Holidays with Men', made up of a series of vignettes from the author's love life.

In crystalline prose, Savage explores the essential questions of the examined life: what is it to desire? What is it to accommodate oneself to the world? And at what cost?

Ellena Savage teaches creative writing at RMIT and the University of Melbourne. Her essays, poems and short stories have been published in the *Paris Review Daily*, *Literary Hub*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Lifted Brow*, *Big Issue*, *Guardian*, *Australian* and *Eureka Street*, among others, as well as in various anthologies. An early draft of *Blueberries* was shortlisted for the 2017 Penguin Random House Australia Literary Prize and longlisted for the inaugural *Kill Your Darlings* Unpublished Manuscript Award. The title essay was shortlisted for the 2016 Scribe Nonfiction Prize for Young Writers and longlisted for the 2016 Richell Prize. Ellena lives in Athens.

Rights Held: World ex. UK

Other Rights: Lutyens and Rubinstein

Non-fiction

March 2020

Manuscript available
May 2019

***On the Chin: A Boxing Education* by Alex McClintock**

I never thought of myself as the sort of person would enjoy seeing people hit each other, let alone enjoy hitting people myself. And as for getting hit...

But I guess I am that sort of person, a fact that still surprises me if I think about it hard enough.

How did that happen?

The sport of boxing provokes love, loathing and sometimes lust with equal intensity. It is practised by boors and aesthetes, thugs and intellectuals. It's a ticket out of poverty, a middle-class fascination and a promoter's goldmine. It can hook people with a primal burst of adrenaline and clinch them tight—or repel them utterly from the first jab.

In *On the Chin* Alex McClintock uses his own unlikely progress through the amateur ranks as a springboard to explore the history, culture and contradictions of the sweet science—with detours through some of its notable characters, including:

Benny 'The Ghetto Wizard' Leonard, who took great pride in the fact that his hair remained immaculately Brylcreemed throughout his fights; Australian middleweight champion and cafe proprietor Luigi Colluzi, dubbed 'the boxing barista'; the immaculately named Trenton Titsworth, who was once docked two points for kissing his opponent on the neck; and Joe Louis, the great African-American fighter famously described as 'A credit to his race: the human race.'

Informative, insightful and effortlessly entertaining, *On the Chin* is your essential guide to the art of hitting and getting hit.

Alex McClintock grew up in Sydney, Australia, and now lives in Toronto, Canada. His sports journalism has been published by the *Guardian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Monthly*, HBO and ABC Radio National. *On the Chin: A Boxing Education* is his first book.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

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August 2019

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Manuscript available

Promise Me You'll Shoot Yourself: The Mass Suicide of Ordinary Germans in 1945 by Florian Huber

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

Twenty-three-year-old Irene Bröker was fleeing the town. Only little Holger, her two-year-old son, was still with her. She was careful not to let him stray from her side. She knew that difficulties lay ahead; she had even provided for a time when she might no longer want to live. On a string around her neck, Irene carried a small, watertight pouch.

In 1945, as Nazi defences crumbled, the German people were surrendered to the enemy with no means of defence. A wave of suicides rolled across the country as thousands chose death—for themselves and their children—rather than face the defeat of the Third Reich and what they feared might follow.

Drawing on eyewitness accounts, historian Florian Huber tells the compelling story of the largest mass suicide in German history and its suppression by the survivors—a fascinating insight into the feelings of ordinary people caught in the tide of history who saw no other way out.

'Huber acquaints us with a chapter of German history largely unknown until now, and likely repressed.' *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Dr Florian Huber was born in 1967 and wrote his PhD on British policy regarding the postwar occupation of Germany. He is the author of several works of history and has also produced award-winning documentaries on contemporary subjects, including the fall of the Wall, the mysterious end of the poet Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and the 1936 Olympic Games.

Imogen Taylor is a literary translator based in Berlin. Her translations include *Fear and Twins* by Dirk Kurbjuweit, Sascha Arango's *The Truth and Other Lies* and Melanie Raabe's *The Trap and The Stranger*.

Rights Held: World (ex. Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway)

Rights Sold: North America—Little, Brown; Spain—Atico de los Libros; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Penguin Random House UK.

Other Rights: Piper Verlag

Non-fiction

| June 2019

| Manuscript available

On a Wing and a Prayer: The Race that Stopped the World

by Di Websdale-Morrissey

In 1934, Melbourne's Lord Mayor announced a London-to-Melbourne air race to celebrate his city's centenary.

The audacious plan captured imaginations across the globe: newspapers and magazines everywhere were filled with it; the world's pilots scrambled to get sponsorship; and the organisers scrambled to get the rules straight and permission to fly in foreign air space.

Sixty-four entrants from eleven countries signed up, but only twenty planes eventually took off on 20 October 1934. The winner arrived in Melbourne seventy-one hours later—but three planes crashed and two pilots died in the attempt.

The world followed the progress and applauded the winners, Britain's *Grosvenor House* (outright) and The Netherlands' *Uiver* (on handicap), but the real climax of the story is the astonishing efforts by the town of Albury in saving the *Uiver* as it battled through a fierce thunderstorm with no navigational aids, guiding the tiny plane to an emergency landing in the middle of the town with the most quick-thinking, imaginative response to its terrifying predicament.

This heroic race, considered the greatest single sporting event in the history of aviation, is a tale of eccentric characters, daring deeds and sublime courage. Di Websdale-Morrissey's page-turning account will have readers holding their breaths, just as the world did eighty-five years ago.

Di Websdale-Morrissey is a non-fiction writer and a teacher. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

August 2019

Manuscript available
May 2019

The Enchantment of the Long-haired Rat: A Rodent History of Australia

by **Tim Bonyhady**

They talked of myriads, legions, swarms and armies—of visitations, invasions and plagues. The reports ran to not just hundreds or thousands but millions of rats. Where passenger pigeons were once so abundant in North America that they blocked out the sun, the rats in Australia left no trace of whatever preceded them. By one account, they obliterated wheel and horse tracks for miles along a main road as they ‘paddled down the sandy soil like a flock of sheep’.

The Enchantment of the Long-haired Rat tells the story of a small Australian rodent known for its fast and prodigious breeding and spread after big rains: plagues for the European colonists who feared and loathed all rats; an abundance of food for the Indigenous peoples who feasted with delight in these times of plenty.

While the rats brought despair and hardship for the early colonists—they ate not only crops and supplies but clothes, boots and saddlery—their presence also offered a lifeline as a food source. The Burke and Wills story might well have had a different ending had the hapless explorers been tempted to follow the example of the Aboriginal people and make use of a nutritious and readily available meat.

Tim Bonyhady’s account—from the earliest evidence of the rat’s existence, to its most recent boom triggered by the immense rains across Australia of 2010–11 and current research into its mysterious life—presents a fascinating view of Australia’s history, illuminating a species, a continent, its climate and its people.

Praise for Tim Bonyhady

‘A book so rich in texture, so full of artistic and visual detail, that a whole lost central European world, and particularly its art, architecture and music, comes alive on the page.’ *Spectator* on *Good Living Street*

‘This is a deeply affecting portrait of a family and the way that memory is held through objects and art. It is a remarkable book.’ Edmund de Waal, author of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* on *Good Living Street*

Tim Bonyhady is a cultural historian and environmental lawyer. His many books include the prize-winning *The Colonial Earth*.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

August 2019

Manuscript available
May 2019

Two Afternoons in Kabul Stadium: Afghanistan in Peace and War

by Tim Bonyhady

For its first thirty-five years, the Kabul stadium was closed to Afghan women—until one afternoon in August 1959, when women from the country’s ruling elite appeared unveiled in western dress at a celebration of Afghanistan’s independence.

This dramatic change was a turning point, not only for women in Afghanistan’s cities, but for the country more generally, symbolising its embrace of the modern. In 1972, many Afghani women wore short skirts and Western hairstyles; in 1986, fifty-five per cent of university students in communist Kabul were female.

But the Kabul stadium is now remembered as the Taliban’s prime place of public punishment. One afternoon in November 1999, a woman known only as Zarmeena knelt on the edge of the penalty box in a chador. A crowd including a group of women, segregated in one part of the stands, watched as she was shot in the back of the head by a man with a Kalashnikov.

The decades between these two afternoons in Kabul Stadium in 1959 and 1999 were a momentous period which saw Afghanistan enjoy extended peace for almost twenty years, before the country’s communists seized power through a military coup and Afghanistan became a site of enduring war.

In *Two Afternoons in Kabul Stadium*, Tim Bonyhady presents a fascinating exploration of nearly a century of Afghanistan’s history, focussing on the public lives of women and the way photography and art have shaped that history for western eyes.

Tim Bonyhady is a cultural historian and environmental lawyer. His many books include the prize-winning *The Colonial Earth*.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

August 2020

Manuscript available
November 2019

City of Trees: Essays on Life, Death and the Need for a Forest

by Sophie Cunningham

I watched Dad try and perform for the doctors. He was valiant. He was given a revised diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. Similar to Alzheimer's but different.

'He'll live with it longer,' the doctor told me, 'and he'll know what's happening for longer than is fair.' I had to hand it to this guy. He was a straight shooter.

How do we take in the beauty of our planet while comprehending the losses? What trees can survive in the city? Which animals can survive in the wild? How do any of us—humans, animals, trees—find a forest we can call home?

In these moving, thought-provoking essays Sophie Cunningham considers, among other things, the meaning of trees: how we love them and live with them, walk among them and around them. She chronicles her father's death from dementia and contemplates the loneliness of Ranee, Australia's first elephant; she celebrates the iconic eucalyptus—and explores its international status as an invasive species.

City of Trees is a powerful collection of nature, travel and memoir writing set in the context of global climate change and the pressures being placed on both the natural and urban worlds to survive. It meanders through, circles around and sometimes faces head on the most pressing issues of the day. It never loses sight of the trees.

Praise for Sophie Cunningham

'Completely engrossing...The overall effect is a kind of collage of an ever-changing city, a carefully compiled album of snapshots.' *Readings Monthly on Melbourne*

'It celebrates the obvious but generously cherishes the secret and sublime.' Kate Holden, *Sydney Morning Herald on Melbourne*

'A compelling journey through an intriguing interior landscape.' *Sunday Telegraph on Geography*

Sophie Cunningham is the author of four books: *Geography*, *Bird*, *Melbourne*, and *Warning: The Story of Cyclone Tracy*. She is a former publisher and editor, was a co-founder of the Stella Prize and is now an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University's Non/fiction Lab. Her novel *Geography* was shortlisted for the 2004 Commonwealth Writers Prize.

Rights Held: World (ex. North America)

Other Rights: Author

Non-fiction

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April 2019

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Finished copies available

The End of the World Is Bigger than Love by Davina Bell

SHORTLISTED, 2018 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

She said we didn't know what the world out there had become. We had been alone there so long on that tiny island, in that tiny church.

But in the night, I couldn't bear it.

My chest beat like wings.

Identical twin sisters Summer and Winter live alone on a remote island, sheltered from the fallout of a mysterious event that has laid waste to the rest of the world.

They survive on rations stockpiled by their father and spend their days reading and rereading their mother's collection of classic literature—until the arrival of a mysterious stranger upends their carefully constructed reality.

At first, Edward is a welcome distraction. But who is he really, and why has he come?

As love blooms and the world stops spinning, the secrets of the girls' past begin to unravel their new existence—until escape is the only option.

A sumptuously written novel of love and grief; of sisterly affection and the ultimate sacrifice; of technological progress and climate catastrophe; of an enigmatic bear and a talking whale: *The End of the World Is Bigger than Love* is unlike anything you've read before.

Davina Bell is a writer for young people of many ages, and a children's book editor. Her award-winning and Notable picture books include *All the Ways To Be Smart*, *Under the Love Umbrella*, *The Underwater Fancy-dress Parade*, *Oh Albert!* and *Hattie Helps Out*. She is also the author of the Alice books in Penguin's bestselling Our Australian Girl series and the Lemonade Jones series. *The End of the World Is Bigger than Love* is her first book for young adults.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

March 2020

Manuscript available
July 2019

Youth by Vikki Wakefield

I have questions I've never asked. Worries I've never shared. Thoughts that circle and collide and die screaming because they never make it outside my head. Stuff like that, if you let it go—it's a survival risk.

Sixteen-year-old Nate McKee is doing his best to be invisible. He's worried about a lot of things—how his dad treats Nance and his twin half-brothers; the hydro crop growing in his bedroom; the way his friend Merrick always drags him into fights. And he has never forgiven his mother for leaving.

But none of it is his fight, right? He's just waiting for his time.

Nate hangs out at YouthWorks, the local youth centre threatened with closure, and fills his notebooks with the things he can't say. But when some of his pages are stolen and his words are graffitied on the wall of the centre, Nate realises he has allies. He might be able to make a difference, change his life, and claim his future. Or can he?

Youth is a story that will have you on the edge of your seat, hoping Nate will find a way out, despite the odds.

Praise for Vikki Wakefield

'Vikki Wakefield is one of the most creative and daring authors writing for young adults today.'
Danielle Binks

'*Friday Brown*...will break your heart then put the pieces back together in a new way. I absolutely loved this book.' Libba Bray

'Vikki Wakefield writes stories that will break your heart.' Readings

'Vikki Wakefield is one of Australia's best YA writers.' Cath Crowley

Vikki Wakefield writes realistic fiction for young adults. Her work explores coming-of-age, family, class, relationships, and the lives of contemporary teens. Her novels *All I Ever Wanted*, *Friday Brown*, *Inbetween Days* and *Ballad for a Mad Girl* have won numerous awards. Vikki lives in Adelaide, Australia.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

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October 2019

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Manuscript available

The Republic of Birds by Jessica Miller

Olga loves the stories of the old cartographers and pores over their ancient books and maps, trying to unlock their secrets. Sometimes, she thinks she can even feel through the maps—almost see into them—as if by magic.

But magic is banned in Tsaretsvo, ever since the war with the birds that divided the kingdom, and the powerful magic-wielding Iagas have long been banished. Now, any young girl who shows signs of being an Iaga is whisked away to Bleak Steppe—to a life, so the story goes, of unspeakable punishment.

When the bird army kidnaps Olga's sister in a surprise attack on the human kingdom, Olga realises she has to venture into the Republic of Birds to bring her back. But first, she must learn to unlock her magical ability.

As her journey takes her into the hidden world of the Iagas and the wilds of the Unmappable Blank, Olga discovers the truth about the war with the birds—and learns just how much is at stake for the human kingdom.

Inspired by Russian folklore, *The Republic of Birds* is a rich middle-grade fantasy adventure for readers of C. S. Lewis, Karen Foxlee and Jessica Townsend.

Praise for Jessica Miller

'A lonely girl, a creepy house, spirit presences and long-ago mysteries—I'm completely in love with this novel.' Karen Foxlee on *Elizabeth and Zenobia*

'Readers will be absorbed by Elizabeth and Zenobia's conversations, the complex and chilling plot.' *Publishers Weekly* on *Elizabeth and Zenobia*

'By the time I reached the end of the book my heart was racing and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough...a simple, good-old-fashioned scary manor mystery.' *Books+Publishing* on *Elizabeth and Zenobia*

Jessica Miller is a children's writer and PhD student from Brisbane, currently living in Germany. She has written for a variety of publications including *Kill Your Darlings* and *Stilts*. Her first novel was *Elizabeth and Zenobia*.

Rights Held: ANZ, Turkey, UK & Comm. (ex. Canada).

Option Publishers: Turkey—Kultur; UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)—Faber.

Other Rights: InkWell Management

Children's fiction

September 2019

Manuscript available
April 2019

It Sounded Better in My Head by Nina Kenwood

WINNER, 2018 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

It's Christmas Day, and we've just finished playing our annual post-lunch game of Scrabble when Dad says we need to talk. He's using his Bad News voice, and I figure he's either going to give me another lecture about getting my driver's licence or tell me he's reactivated his Twitter account.

'Natalie, this is really hard to tell you, but we're, uh, we're separating,' he says.

'You're breaking up?' My tone is friendly, giving them the space to say 'just kidding!' in case it's an elaborate prank, even though we are not a household that is open to pranks of any kind, most especially unfunny, emotionally scarring ones like this.

'No one is at fault here,' Dad says, which is exactly what someone at fault would say. 'We love you.'

This is no comfort. I'm their only child. They have to love me.

When her parents announce their impending separation, Natalie can't understand why no one is fighting or at least mildly upset. And now that Zach and Lucy, her two best friends, have fallen in love, she's feeling slightly miffed and decidedly awkward. Where does she fit in now? And what has happened to the version of her life that played out like a TV show, with just the right amount of banter, pining and meaningful looks? Nothing is quite going according to plan. But then an unexpected romance comes along and shakes things up even further.

It Sounded Better in My Head is a tender, funny and joyful novel about longing, confusion, feeling left out and finding out what really matters—from an exciting new voice in Australian YA writing.

Nina Kenwood is the marketing manager at Readings bookshop in Melbourne. She has worked in the book industry for ten years, but has been writing, secretly, for much longer. *It Sounded Better in My Head* is her first novel.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Catalan—Planeta; France—Pocket Jeunesse; Germany—Carlsen Verlag; Italy—DeAgostini; North America—Flatiron Books/Macmillan; Spain—Planeta.

Young adult fiction

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August 2019

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Manuscript available

Lizard's Tale by Weng Wai Chan

That was easy. Maybe too easy. Something nagged at him, telling him things weren't quite right. Best to get out quick, then. He shoved the box into his satchel and closed the secret drawer. As he slipped out from under the desk and moved towards the open window, he realised what was wrong. The ceiling fans in the bedroom. Why would they be on if no one was in? He didn't see the girl standing in the bedroom doorway watching him.

In Singapore in 1940, war is just around the corner—but twelve-year-old Lizard doesn't know that. He lives in Chinatown above a tailor's shop, surviving on his wits and hustling for odd jobs.

When he steals a small teak box from a Raffles Hotel suite, he finds himself trapped in a dangerous world of double cross and spies. Lizard doesn't know who to trust. What is the mysterious book inside the box? How is it connected to his friend Lili, a girl full of secrets and unexpected fighting skills? Can he trust her, or will she betray him in the end?

Lizard's Tale is an action-packed adventure for middle-grade readers, set in a British colony in Asia as the World War II Japanese invasion of Singapore looms.

Weng Wai Chan was born and grew up in Singapore. She now lives in Auckland with her husband and three children. *Lizard's Tale* was inspired by her own childhood in Singapore and the stories her father told of his life as a child before and during the Japanese invasion.

Rights Held: World

Children's fiction

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June 2019

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Manuscript available

Devil's Ballast by Meg Caddy

I counted fifteen dead men working the deck of the Kingston. Well, they weren't dead yet; but the day was young, and I had a full belt of shot.

Anne Bonny was eighteen when she ran away from her brutal husband, James, and into the arms of pirate captain Calico Jack Rackham. Now she's ensconced aboard Jack's ship *Ranger*, passing as a cabin boy and playing her ruthless part in a crew that is raining down mayhem and murder on the ships of the Caribbean.

But James Bonny is willing to pay to get his 'property' back. And pirate-hunter Captain Barnet is happy to take his money.

The *Ranger's* a fast ship: Anne might just be able to outrun Barnet. But can she outrun the consequences of her relationship with Calico Jack?

Action-packed yet nuanced, culturally relevant and sharp as a cutlass, this new novel by the remarkable Meg Caddy brings to life one of history's most fascinating anti-heroines.

Praise for Meg Caddy

'A new world of shape-shifters and a time-honored battle between good and evil come alive in Caddy's debut fantasy for teens.' *Kirkus* on *Waer*

'This is a tale of, among other things, righteous revenge, told in alienating chapters by the two main characters, whose perspectives convey the impact of the difficult circumstances on even the most gentle people...Love wins out in this well-constructed world, mapped literally and figuratively by the author.' *Booklist* on *Waer*

'An astonishing debut...The writing is assured, the action is swift and the characters ring as true as Caddy's psychological insights.' *West Australian* on *Waer*

Meg Caddy is a bookseller by day and a boarding-school tutor by night. Her first book, *Waer*, was shortlisted for the 2013 Text Prize and the 2017 CBCA Children's Book Awards. She lives with two rescue cats and an ever-expanding bookshelf.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

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May 2019

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Manuscript available

Songbird by Ingrid Laguna

What was Mina doing now? Jamila squeezed her eyes shut tight to send her thoughts to her friend. Mina, are you okay?

Jamila wanted to tell the class about Mina, but how could she tell people she had only known for a few weeks that she had been wrenched away from her best friend in the world? How could she explain that her father was not here and that she didn't know when she would see him again?

Jamila has left her friends, her school and her home in Iraq, and now she has a new home. It's safe in Australia, but she is finding it hard to settle in. She misses her best friend and worries for her dad's safety back in Iraq. It's hard to speak and write in English all day. And Jamila has a secret she is struggling to keep hidden.

When she joins the choir at her primary school, Jamila begins to feel confident and happy. Singing helps take her worries away. And singing will help her find her place in her new life, a place where she can finally shine.

Songbird is a tender middle-grade story about belonging, about the importance of friendship and of asking for help, and about the parts of our lives we try to keep concealed.

'I loved the story of Jamila and the resilience and bravery of her family. Jamila is a wonderful character, full of courage and heart, who children will relate to and learn from.' Sally Rippin

'A beautiful story full of hope, heartache and love.' Zana Fraillon

'I loved the story of Jamila and the resilience and bravery of her family. Jamila is a wonderful character, full of courage and heart, who children will relate to and learn from.' Sally Rippin

Ingrid Laguna is a writer, teacher and musician. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and daughter and teaches English to children and adults from all over the world, many of whom have refugee backgrounds. *Songbird* is her first book for children.

Rights Held: World

Children's fiction

| May 2019

| Manuscript available

The Billionaire series by Richard Newsome

Waterman Entertainment has acquired rights to *The Billionaire's Curse* and plans are in the works to make a live-action feature film out of the books. The company is also considering a streaming series.

Gerald Wilkins is just a normal thirteen year old—until he inherits the twenty-billion pound estate of a great aunt he's never met and a bundle of envelopes that set him off on the adventure of his life.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Germany—Oetinger Verlag; Italy—Rizzoli; Poland—Wydawnictwo Kamien; Spain—Versatil; Turkey—Pegasus; US—Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins.

Film Rights: Waterman Entertainment

The Billionaire's Curse

WINNER, 2008 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

Someone has stolen the world's most valuable diamond. Schoolboy Gerald Wilkins doesn't have anything to do with this—until a surprise inheritance reveals a mystery that will take him into secret passageways, a musty bookshop, an ancient crypt, a ruined tower and a secret, priceless treasure.

The Emerald Casket

What do you do when you're a billionaire, you're thirteen and you've just discovered your family tree goes back a thousand years to a pact made by three brothers to carry three caskets to three secret locations and to protect them for centuries to come?

The Mask of Destiny

Gerald's quest to discover the secret of the power of the three caskets will take him to the island castle of Mont St Michel in France, locked rooms in the Vatican, and the ancient hidden city of Delphi in Greece.

The Crystal Code

Gerald is about to get more than he expected for Christmas. Join Gerald and his friends in the USA, the Czech Republic and a tiny island in Sweden for a new thrilling adventure.

The House of Puzzles

A mysterious coded message. A search for a fabled perpetual-motion machine. A horse ride from hell. And a night in the exclusive Billionaire's Club: the House of Puzzles.

The Curiosity Machine

Gerald, Ruby, Sam and Felicity take off on their final exciting adventure, from glaciers to jungles and the depths of the Pacific Ocean to an island teeming with the most bizarre creatures on Earth.

Richard Newsome lives in Brisbane with his family. He won the inaugural Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing and the 2010 Esther Glen Award for *The Billionaire's Curse*, the first book in the Billionaire series.

The bestselling Road to Winter trilogy by Mark Smith

The Road to Winter

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 keeping out of sight of the Wilders, the dangerous gang that controls the north, and its ruthless leader, Ramage.

But Finn’s isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her sister, Kas. Rose is desperate, sick, and she needs Finn’s help. Kas is 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

Wilder Country

The 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.

Kas, Willow and Finn have survived a brutal winter, but although spring brings new opportunities, the three friends are no longer safe at Angowrie. 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 will have to confront the tyrannical Ramage and fulfil a promise they made to Rose.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction | September 2017 | Finished copies available

Land of Fences

Land of Fences is the compelling finale in Mark Smith’s acclaimed action-packed trilogy. Finn and Kas are surviving on the coast—and now, the lights of Wentworth mean life could soon be back to normal. Finn is cautiously optimistic, but for asylum-seeker Kas, the return of civilisation means a return to slavery is a very real possibility. She’s nervous. And it turns out she’s right to be.

When Kas is captured and taken inside the fences, Finn faces his greatest challenge yet.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction | June 2019 | Manuscript available

Mark Smith lives on Victoria’s Surf Coast where he writes novels and stories, and runs outdoor education programs for young adults. His second novel, *Wilder Country*, won the 2018 Indie Book Award for Young Adults.

Text Classics

***A Kindness Cup* by Thea Astley, introduced by Kate Grenville**

Two decades after a massacre of local Aboriginal people, the former residents of a Queensland town have reunited to celebrate the progress and prosperity of their community—Tom Dorahy, recently returned to his hometown, wants those responsible to own up to their actions. A reckoning with oppression, guilt and the weight of the past, *A Kindness Cup* is one of Thea Astley's greatest achievements.

'Smart, compassionate.' *New York Times*

Rights Held: World

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

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback town of Bundanyabba planning to stay overnight before catching a plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five as he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original greatest outback horror story.

'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 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.

'Excellent...The inevitability of the horror has a Hitchcock quality.' *Listener*

Rights Held: World

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

***The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower, 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.

'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—Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.

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

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.

'Amy Witting is comparable to Jean Rhys, but she has more starch, or vinegar. The effect is bracing.' *New Yorker*

Rights Held: World

Text Publishing Agents

Baltic Region

Tatjana Zoldnere
Andrew Nurnberg Associates
PO Box 77, Riga LV 1011
Latvia
Phone: +371 6 7506 495
Fax: +371 6 7506 494
Email: zoldnere@anab.apollo.lv

Brazil

Laura Riff
The Riff Agency
Avenida Calógeras, no. 6, sala 1007,
Centro, Rio de Janeiro RJ, 20030-070
Brazil
Phone: +55 21 2287 6299
Fax: +55 21 2267 6393
Email: laura@agenciariff.com.br

China and Taiwan

Gray Tan
The Grayhawk Agency
5F, No. 109-7, Sec 3
Xinyi Road, Taipei 10658 Taiwan
Phone: +886 2 2705 9231
Fax: +886 2 2705 9610
Email: grayhawk@grayhawk-agency.com

Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

Kristin Olson
Kristin Olson Literary Agency
Klimentská 24, 110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Phone +420 222 582 042
Fax +420 222 580 048
Email: kristin.olson@litag.cz

France

Eliane Benisti
Eliane Benisti Agency
80 Rue des Saints-Pères
75007 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 42 22 85 33
Fax: +33 1 45 44 18 17
Email: eliane@elianebenisti.com

German Language

Christian Dittus [adult titles]
Antonia Fritz [children's & YA titles]
Paul & Peter Fritz AG
Seefeldstrasse 303, CH-8008, Zürich,
Switzerland
Phone: +41 1 44 388 4140
Fax: +41 1 44 388 4130
Email: afritz@fritzagency.com
Email: cdittus@fritzagency.com

Greece

Evangelia Avioniti
Ersilia Literary Agency
Phone: +30 693 8454 332
Email: info@ersilialit.com

Hungary

Peter Bolza
Kátai & Bolza Literary Agents
PO Box 1474, H-1464 Budapest
Hungary
Phone: +36 1 456 0313
Fax: +36 1 456 0314
Email: peter@kataibolza.hu

Israel

Beverley Levit
The Book Publishers Association of Israel
29 Carlebach Street
Tel Aviv, 67132
Israel
Phone: +972 3 5614121 (ext 123)
Fax: +972 3 5611996
Email: rights1@tbpai.co.il

Italy

Erica Berla
Berla & Griffini Rights Agency
Via Stampa 4, 20123 Milano, Italy
Phone: +39 02 80 50 41 79
Fax: +39 02 89 01 06 46
Email: berla@bgagency.it

Japan

Maiko Fujinaga
Japan Uni Agency, Inc.
Tokyodo Jinbacho, no. 2 Building
1-27 Kanda Jinbo-cho
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051
Japan
Phone: +81 3 3295 0301
Email: maiko.fujinaga@japanuni.co.jp

Hamish Macaskill

The English Agency (Japan) Ltd.
Sakuragi Bldg. 4F
6-7-3 Minami Aoyama,
Minato-ku
Tokyo 107-0062
Japan
Phone: +81 3 3406 5385
Fax: +81 3 3406 5387
Email: hamish@ej.co.jp

Korea

Joeun Lee
KCC (Korea Copyright Center Inc.)
Gyonghigung-achim, Officetel Rm 520
Compound 3, Naesu-dong 72, Chongno,
Seoul 110-070
Korea
Phone: +82 2 725 3350
Fax: +82 2 725 3612
Email: jelee@kccseoul.com

The Netherlands

Paul Sebes
Sebes & Bisseling Literary Agency
Herengracht 613, 1017 CE Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 616 09 40
Fax: +31 20 618 08 43
Email: sebes@sebes.nl

Poland

Justyna Pelaska
GRAAL Literary Agency
Pruszkowska 29 lok. 252
02-119 Warszawa, Poland
Phone: +48 22 895 2000
Fax: +48 22 895 2001
Email: justyna.pelaska@graal.com.pl

Romania

Simona Kessler
International Copyright Agency Ltd
Str. banul Antonache 37
70 000 Bucharest 1, Romania
Phone: +401 231 8150
Fax: +401 231 4522
Email: simona@kessler-agency.ro

Russia

Natalia Sanina
Synopsis Literary Agency
PO Box 114
Moscow 129090, Russia
Phone: +7095 781 0182
Fax: +7095 781 0183
Email: nat@synopsis-agency.ru

Scandinavia

Thomas Mala
Northern Stories
Arbins Gate 1
0253 Oslo
Norway
Phone: +47 4667 6155
Email: thomas@northernstories.no

Southeast Europe

Diana Matulić
Corto Literary Agency
Braće Domany 8
1000 Zagreb, Croatia
Email: diana@cortoliterary.com

Turkey

Amy Spangler
Anatolialit Agency
Caferaga Mah.
Gunesli Bahce Sok. no: 48 Or. Ko Apt. B Blok
D:4 34710 Kadıköy, Istanbul
Turkey
Phone: +90 216 700 1088
Fax: +90 216 700 1089
Email: amy@anatolialit.com

UK

Sarah Lutyens
Lutyens & Rubinstein
21 Kensington Park Road
London W11 2EU
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 792 4855
Fax +44 207 792 4833
Email: sarah@lutyensrubinstein.co.uk

USA & Canada

Kim Witherspoon / David Forrer
InkWell Management
521 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2600
New York, NY 10175
USA
Phone: + 212 922 3500
Fax: + 212 922 0535
Email: david@inkwellmanagement.com