



The Text Publishing Company



London Rights Guide 2020

Recent Acquisitions	3
Recent Publications	4
Fiction	5—17
<i>The Rain Heron</i> by Robbie Arnott	5
<i>The Beautiful Fall</i> by Hugh Breakey	6
<i>A Million Things</i> by Emily Spurr	7
<i>It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake</i> by Claire Christian	8
<i>A Room Made of Leaves</i> by Kate Grenville	9
<i>Our Shadows</i> by Gail Jones	10
<i>The Labyrinth</i> by Amanda Lohrey	11
<i>Two Women and a Poisoning</i> by Alfred Döblin	12
<i>Consolation</i> by Garry Disher	13
<i>The Burning Island</i> by Jock Serong	14
<i>The Mountain</i> by Massimo Donati	15
<i>The Long Shadow</i> by Anne Buist	16
Non-fiction	17—20
<i>The Believer</i> by Sarah Krasnostein	17
<i>The Climate Emergency: A Plan for Survival</i> by Tim Flannery	18
<i>Show Me Where It Hurts: Essays on Invisible Illness</i> by Kylie Maslen	19
<i>The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen</i> by Krissy Kneen	20
Young Adult and Children	21—24
<i>The Tunnel of Dreams</i> by Bernard Beckett	21
<i>Please Don't Hug Me</i> by Kay Kerr	22
<i>Metal Fish, Falling Snow</i> by Cath Moore	23
Text Classics	24
Text Publishing Agents	25—26

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Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Kimberley, Maree	Dirt Circus League	World	Jacinta di Mase
Smith, Mark	Shut it Down	World	Author
Weetman, Nova and Gale, Emily	Elsewhere Girls	World	Authors
Young, Georgina	Loner <i>and</i> Bootstrap	World	Author

Adult

Barbery, Muriel	A Strange Country	ANZ	Gallimard
Bedford, Kavita	Friends & Dark Shapes	ANZ	Sterling Lord Literistic
Biss, Eula	Having and Being Had <i>and</i> Ownership	ANZ	David Grossman
Buijsman, Stefan	Pluses and Minuses	ANZ	De Bezige Bij
Buist, Anne and Simsion, Graeme	Two Steps South	World	Authors
Christian, Claire	Week on Week Off	World	RGM Artists
Clarke, A Suiter	Like Clockwork	ANZ	Abner Stein
Connolly, Paul & Pavlidis, Jim	Kitchen Sink Drama	World	Authors
Durastanti, Claudia	La Straniera	ANZ	Casanovas & Lynch
Higgins, Jane	Glimpse	World	Author
Jinks, Catherine	Untitled novel	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Believers	ANZ & Translation	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Kurbjuweit, Dirk	Haarmann	World (ex Germany)	Random House Germany
Lohrey, Amanda	The Labyrinth	World	ALM
McAnulty, Dara	Diary of a Young Naturalist	ANZ	Little Toller Books
McCourt, Suzanne	The Year of the Wolf	World	Author
McGirr, Michael	Bypass	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Murphy, Fiona	The Shape of Sound	World	Author
O'Brien, Connor Tomas	Change Is Hard	World	Author
Peck, Loraine	The Second Son <i>and</i> Untitled novel	ANZ	Curtis Brown Australia
Prior, Sian	A Terrible Freedom	World	Jenny Darling
Shibli, Adania	Minor Detail	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

King, A. S	The Year We Fell From Space	Scholastic USA
Levithan, David	19 Love Songs	United Agents
Miller, Jessica	The Republic of Birds	Inkwell Management
Stead, Rebecca	The List of Things that Will Not Change	Penguin Random House USA
Wakefield, Vikki	This Is How We Change the Ending	Drummond Agency

Adult

Annear, Robyn	Nothing New: A History of Second Hand	Author
Cain, Amina	Indelicacy	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Calhoun, Ada	Why We Can't Sleep: Women's New Midlife Crisis	Grove Atlantic
Flannery, Tim	Life	Author
Garner, Helen	The Yellow Notebook	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Luna, Louisa	The Janes	Penguin Random House USA
McPhee-Browne, Laura	Cherry Beach	Author
Melchor, Fernanda	Hurricane Season	New Directions Publishing
Pitonak, Anna	Necessary People	Janklow & Nesbit Associates
Savage, Ellena	Blueberries	Lutyens & Rubinstein
Tursten, Helen	The Hunting Game	Rights People
Weinstein, Alexander	Universal Love: Stories	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Wilson, Kevin	Nothing to See Here	Abner Stein
Yunkaporta, Tyson	Sand Talk	Author
Zable, Arnold	The Watermill	Author

The Rain Heron by Robbie Arnott

AUTHOR OF THE NOT THE BOOKER PRIZE-SHORTLISTED *FLAMES*

From a 2019 Sydney Morning Herald Young Novelist of the Year and the author of the highly praised novel *Flames* comes another beguiling, transformative work of fiction confirming Robbie Arnott as one of Australia's most exciting writers.

Soldiers have come to the village.

Ren looked up, avoiding Barlow's words, resting her eyes on the pines that crowded the sky, swamp-green, thick, heavy with resin that stuck to skin and cleared throats, nostrils, eyes.

Barlow was sitting on a large rock. When she didn't answer, he kept talking.

They're after something—they won't say what. But it's up here. On the mountain.

Ren lives alone on the remote frontier of a country devastated by a coup. High on the forested slopes, she survives by hunting and trading—and forgetting. But when a young soldier comes to the mountains in search of a legendary creature, Ren is inexorably drawn into an impossible mission.

As their lives entwine, unravel and erupt—as myth merges with reality—both Ren and the soldier are forced to confront what they regret, what they love, and what they fear.

'Robbie Arnott is singlehandedly reinventing Australian literature. *The Rain Heron* is a soaring feat of the imagination.' Bram Presser

'*The Rain Heron* is genuinely and completely magnificent—a magical thing.' Robert Lukins

'A strange and joyous marvel.' Richard Flanagan on *Flames*

'Delightful...enchancing.' *Guardian* on *Flames*

Robbie Arnott was born in Launceston in 1989. *Flames*, his highly acclaimed first novel, was published in 2018, and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the *Guardian* Not the Booker Prize, and longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Robbie lives in Hobart.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: France—Actes Sud, North America—Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Norway—Cappelen Damm; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Atlantic.

Fiction

June 2020

Manuscript available

The Beautiful Fall by Hugh Breakey

Read this now. Right now. Don't even think of going near that door. Not until you know what's going on.

Your name is Robert Penfold. Age 31. The apartment you're standing in is your home: 116 Dornoch Terrace, Brisbane, Australia.

(If you're not in the apartment, something has gone wrong. I'm sorry about that. But don't worry. You won't be far from home. Look for a street sign to find out where you are. In your back jeans pocket, you'll find a map. Follow it home. Your apartment is on the fifth floor, number 509. Do it now, and whatever you do, don't ask for help. Don't speak to anyone. This is for your own safety.

Every 179 days Robbie's memory resets. He knows this because he told himself in the letter he found after his last forgetting. To survive his recurring amnesia, Robbie leads a life that's solitary and regimented. Alone in his apartment, he works to complete a bizarre, herculean task bequeathed to him by his former self.

And then, with twelve days left before his next forgetting, Julia invades his life. Who is this aloof and beautiful young woman with plans of her own?

As the hour draws near, Robbie is forced to confront the fact that his past is very different from how he had imagined it. When Julia reveals her own terrible secret he must come to terms with the truth about his own identity and their shared history.

Is he about to lose everything all over again?

The Beautiful Fall is a cinematic, page-turning romance. It's both an intellectual puzzle and a compulsively readable love story.

Hugh Breakey is an award-winning and widely published philosopher. He has previously worked as a kitchen hand, editor, airport construction worker, theatre director, ethics consultant, pinball repairer, disk jockey, tennis court builder, and university lecturer. Hugh lives in rural Australia with his two children and his wife, novelist and *New York Times* bestseller Kylie Scott.

Rights Held: World ex. NA

Other Rights: Alex Adsett Publishing Services

Rights Sold: German—Blanvalet

Fiction

February 2021

Manuscript available

A Million Things by Emily Spurr

Lettie's sitting with her back to me. She doesn't move when I step onto our porch. She doesn't move when I walk out our gate and over to hers. She doesn't move when I open the latch, my fingers holding onto the same spot as that cardigan-cuffed hand.

Splinter pushes past and rushes over. She gives his ear a scratch.

'Biscuit?' She holds out a tin.

I stare at her.

She shrugs. 'Suit yourself.' She takes one out and eats it. It looks good. It looks really good. My tummy growls, reminding me I haven't had lunch.

Rae is ten years old, and she's tough. She's had to be: life with her mother has taught her the world is not her friend. Now something has happened and her mum is gone and Rae is alone except for her dog, Splinter.

Rae can do a lot of things pretty well for a kid. She can shop and cook—a little—and take care of Splinters and keep the front yard neat enough that the neighbours won't get curious. But she is gnawed at by shadows, anxieties that she cannot put into words.

With Lettie, the old woman who lives next door, the words are not the problem. Lettie's problem is a house full of objects that can't make up for the things she has lost.

Their friendship gives them both an escape, but how long can it last?

A Million Things is a tender, funny, and heartbreaking story of how we cope with grief.

Emily Spurr is a past recipient of the NEEF Australia Maurice Saxby Mentorship for Writing for Children and in 2018 was shortlisted for the Text Prize for her manuscript *Black Dog, Small Bird*. In 2020 she was shortlisted for the Victorian Premiers Literary Award's Unpublished Manuscript prize for *A Million Things*.

She lives in Melbourne with her family and a deaf, geriatric cat.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

April 2021

Manuscript available

It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake by Claire Christian

At last count there are at least ten people who I think should be on my potential sexual conquests list. Real-life men and women who I went on dates with, or I flirted with, or who I very well could've had sex with if I'd just got the hell out of my own way.

So my plan is quite simple: find these people from my past and have sex with them.

Leaving room for the statistical probability that some of them will be in new relationships, or plainly just not be interested in having sex with me anymore, I am counting on maybe a statistical average of three shags. Three shags to right the wrongs of my past. To have my own mini, very structured, very safe, sexual revolution.

Honest, raw, and hilariously funny, *It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake* is a quirky, feel-good novel about life and learning to love yourself.

Noni didn't expect she'd be starting over at the age of thirty-six. But it's been eighteen months since the breakup of her decade-long relationship. It's time to step back into the world of dating.

After a sexy blonde firefighter joins the list of people Noni has slept with, she starts thinking about the other people on that list...and, perhaps more importantly, those who should have been.

That's how Noni finds herself travelling to London to seek out the one that got away: the alluring, elusive Molly. But she soon realises that what she needs to fix isn't a relationship with any one else—it's her relationship with herself.

And then she meets Beau, a tall, sexy tattoo-artist ...

Claire Christian lives in Brisbane. She has had four plays published by Playlab, and her play *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* premiered at La Boite in 2018. Her debut novel *Beautiful Mess* won the Text Prize in 2016. *It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake* is her first novel for adults.

Text Publishing also holds world rights to two further novels by Claire Christian. *Six Summers* is a comic, heart-warming tale about finding your true love again, and again, and again. *Week On Week Off* is a love letter to female friendship and a do-it-yourself guide to choosing your real family.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Netherlands—De Fontein; North America—MIRA/Harlequin.

Fiction

October 2020

Manuscript available

A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville

A Room Made of Leaves is an extraordinary novel which takes as its starting point the story of a young Englishwoman in the late eighteenth century, and breaks it open into a playful dance of possibilities. Intelligent and educated, Elizabeth Macarthur is a farmer's daughter raised in Devon by the local clergyman, in a world Jane Austen would have understood. She grows up in comfort but her prospects are limited. When she finds herself pregnant to the enigmatic young soldier John Macarthur, her life changes forever.

As the first soldier's wife to arrive in the infant colony of New South Wales, Elizabeth is unprepared both for its brutal isolation, and the demands of her difficult and unpredictable husband—but she comes to learn that her new home offers her opportunities that she could otherwise have scarcely imagined.

A Room Made of Leaves conjures out of the past a woman of spirit, cunning and wit, who picks apart our received ideas about truth and lies. It may be set two centuries ago but it is a book for our times, where it is never wise to believe too quickly.

'Grenville's magnificent novel [is] an unflinching exploration of modern Australia's origins.' *New Yorker* on *The Secret River*

'Grenville's powerful telling of this story is so moving, so exciting, that you're barely aware of how heavy and profound its meaning is until you reach the end in a moment of stunned sadness.' *Washington Post* on *The Secret River*

'Exuberant, cruel, surprising, a triumphant evocation of a period and a people filled with both courage and ugliness.' *New York Times* on *Sarah Thornhill*

'Both brilliant fiction and illuminating personal history.' *Independent* on *Sarah Thornhill*

Kate Grenville is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller *The Secret River* was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and the Man Booker Prize. Grenville's other novels include *Sarah Thornhill*, *The Lieutenant*, *Dark Places* and the Orange Prize winner, *The Idea of Perfection*. Her most recent books are two works of non-fiction, *One Life: My Mother's Story* and *The Case Against Fragrance*. In 2017 Grenville was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Canongate

Fiction

July 2020

Manuscript available

Our Shadows by Gail Jones

A multi-generational saga set on the goldfields of Western Australia, *Our Shadows* is about the frayed but tenacious bonds of family.

Nell and Frances have always been a team. Inseparable as girls, and close enough in age to be mistaken for twins, the sisters have now grown apart. Each is struggling to come to terms with their grandmother Else's dementia: while Frances does her best to make Else comfortable, Nell refuses to visit.

A lifetime earlier, Else fell in love with Fred, in the tough mining town of Kalgoorlie. It's a hard place to raise their daughters, Enid and Mary, and life on the goldfields in the early 1900s has its horrors.

When Mary marries miner Patrick, he wants to be a good husband, and a good father to Nell and Frances—but then tragedy strikes. Patrick vanishes, abandoning the girls to the care of their grandparents and their aunt Enid.

But now Frances decides it's time to find their father, beginning an unexpected journey that will take her deep into the desert and to a new understanding of the past—and the present.

'An oblique and poetic novel...a vivid, unsettling study of mortality.' *Sunday Times* on *The Death of Noah Glass*

'Weaving together multiple narratives...the novel sketches a family portrait full of love, loss, and regret.' *Kirkus* on *The Death of Noah Glass*

'An intellectually strenuous entertainment concerned with the nature and loss of senses, of filial obligations and their cost, of the vertiginous role of chance...another rich and accomplished work.' *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Death of Noah Glass*

Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her work has been translated into twelve languages, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize, and shortlisted for the IMPAC Award and the Prix Femina Étranger. *The Death of Noah Glass*, won the Prime Minister's Literary Award, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Victorian Premier's Award for Fiction.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

October 2020

Manuscript available

The Labyrinth by Amanda Lohrey

My son is an artist; he has done nothing in his adult life but daub canvas, nothing, that is, until his crime. Like any fantasist he believed he could remake the world in his own image, and when that failed he had no alternative but to smash it up; the world, that is. His, and mine.

A profound novel by one of Australia's most respected literary authors, *The Labyrinth* is a moving tale of grief, community and the possibility of starting over.

Erica Marsden's son, an artist, has been imprisoned for homicidal negligence. In a state of grief, Erica cuts off all ties to family and friends, and retreats to a quiet hamlet on the south-east coast near the prison where he is serving his sentence.

There, in a rundown shack, she obsesses over creating a labyrinth by the ocean. To build it—to find a way out of her quandary—Erica will need the help of strangers. And that will require her to trust, and to reckon with her past.

The Labyrinth is a hypnotic story of guilt and denial, of the fraught relationship between parents and children, a meditation on how art can both be ruthlessly destructive and restore sanity. It shows Amanda Lohrey to be at the peak of her powers.

'The story of Richard Kline is marked by a...luminous wit, along with the quiet courage of a mind willing to countenance mysteries that our secular age refuses to broach.' *Australian on A Short History of Richard Kline*

'Extraordinarily vivid and compelling...a stunning and memorable novella' *Age on Vertigo*

Amanda Lohrey lives in Tasmania and writes fiction and non-fiction. She is the author of six books. In 2012 she received the Patrick White Award.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

August 2020

Manuscript available

Two Women and a Poisoning by Alfred Döblin

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

First published in 1924, and never before translated into English, *Two Women and a Poisoning* is a true crime novel by one of the giants of twentieth-century literature. The novel tells the story of two unhappily married women who become lovers and decide to murder their husbands.

The actual case was something of a sensation. The trial of the 'husband killers' was closed to the public because of the 'unconscionability of the circumstances'. Ella Klein and her lover Grete Nebbe had plotted to kill their husbands, and Klein had consummated the plot by poisoning her husband Willi. The women were described in the press as 'unfeeling', 'abnormal' and 'inhuman'; their sentence was criticised as too mild.

Alfred Döblin worked in psychiatry and took a forensic interest in the case. The preoccupations of the book seem to place it somewhere between *Crime and Punishment* and *Heavenly Creatures*.

Döblin's brief account defies sensation. He writes of the events leading up to the murder and of the trial that followed with almost clinical detachment. But his book, part true crime, part psychological case study, is compelling; his refusal to demonise or condemn makes for deeper, more complex characters. This edition includes commentaries on the case by Robert Musil and Joseph Roth.

Alfred Döblin, was born in 1878 and died in 1957. He is one of the most German important writers of the last century. His most famous novel is *Berlin Alexanderplatz*.

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

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: S. Fischer Verlag

Fiction

February 2021

Manuscript available

Consolation by Garry Disher

Garry Disher is a bestselling crime writer, a master of the form. His new novel *Consolation* takes us back to the world of *Bitter Wash Road* and *Peace*, the hardscrabble landscape in South Australia's dry country that is patrolled by Constable Paul Hirschhausen.

After the fires of the previous summer, the winter rains have come at last. There are green shoots in the paddocks and snow on the Razorback.

Wendy and her daughter Katie are Hirsch's sanctuary. Except now he is being stalked by one of Wendy's teaching colleagues. He tries to ignore it, but things escalate and his judgment isn't always sound—people start to notice. And it leads to threatening behaviour against Wendy and Katie.

There is money trouble in the district, and things get a lot worse when a disgruntled farmer assaults a debt collector and goes on the run in the back country with his son, both of them armed. And then an elderly woman dies in a house fire. Hirsch suspects murder.

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

'Disher is the gold standard for rural noir.' Chris Hammer

'There is no peace for a good man when the mercury rises, tempers fray and violence simmers. This is a scorchingly good novel.' Michael Robotham on *Peace*

'I loved *Peace*. It is an an uplifting book, an utterly compelling mystery with rare heart and humanity. If you enjoyed Jane Harper's *The Lost Man*, this novel is for you.' Dervla McTiernan

Garry Disher grew up in South Australia and now lives on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. He is the author of more than fifty titles and has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction in twice. In 2018, he won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ned Kelly Awards. His previous novel in the Hirsch series, *Peace*, was a bestseller.

Rights Held: World

Other Rights: Jenny Darling & Associates

Option Publishers: Germany—Unionsverlag; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Serpent's Tail.

Fiction

November 2020

Manuscript available June
2020

The Burning Island by Jock Serong

Eliza Grayling, born in Sydney in 1798 when the colony itself was still an infant, has lived there all her thirty-two years. Too tall, too stern—too old, now—for marriage, she lives by herself, looking after her reclusive father Joshua, who has become overly fond of a drink. There is a shadow in his past, she knows. Something obsessive. Something to do with a man who bested him thirty-three years ago.

Then Srinivas, another figure from that dark past, offers Joshua Grayling the chance for a reckoning with his nemesis. The plan entails a sea voyage far to the south and an uncertain, possibly violent, outcome. Eliza is horrified. Out of the question for an elderly man—insanity for a helpless drunkard who also happens to be blind.

Unable to dissuade her father from his mad quest, Eliza begins to understand she may be forced to go with him. Then she sees the ship they will be sailing on. And, in that instant, the voyage of the *Moonbird* becomes Eliza's mission too.

Praise for *Preservation*:

'Gripping and extremely accomplished.' *Australian Book Review*

'One of Australia's most innovative and ambitious crime writers.' *NZ Listener*

Jock Serong is the author of *Quota*, winner of the 2015 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction; *The Rules of Backyard Cricket*, shortlisted in the 2017 Victorian Premier's Award for Fiction, finalist in the 2017 MWA Edgar Awards for Best Paperback Original, and finalist in the 2017 INDIES Adult Mystery Book of the Year; *On the Java Ridge*, shortlisted for the 2018 Indie Awards; and *Preservation*, the first of his novels set among Tasmania's Furneaux Islands.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: France—Editions 10/18

Fiction

September 2020

Manuscript available

The Mountain by Massimo Donati

TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN BY BRIGID MAHER

The first thing Roberto remembers of that last summer is the dark glasses. The ones his nonna shoved on to hide her tears before getting into the baby blue Citroën.

They were the only people in the grassy little valley. Him, his grandmother and his father, departing. The unusually desolate scene might have been explained by previous night's storm, but he knew the real reason. He looked around; he had the feeling he'd landed in that television show where an epidemic has killed nearly everyone and the few people left alive are wandering around deserted cities looking for their friends and relatives.

It was then that he realised that they, the Beltrami family, were not the survivors.

They were the perpetrators.

1981. Twelve-year-old Roberto, returning to the mountain village where he spends his summer holidays, renews his friendship with the intense, brooding Mario. Bound together by contempt for 'baby-children' and a thirst for grown-up adventure, they drive each other to test their courage and daring.

But then they decide to take on the mountain, and the expedition ends in tragedy and guilt.

Thirty years later Roberto is an art dealer in Zurich. When his father dies he is forced to confront the unresolved issues of that distant summer, to unearth the guilt kept secret for too long. But to do this he needs Mario.

And to go back to the mountain, one last time.

Massimo Donati is a writer and a director for cinema and theatre. His movie *Fuoriscena* won a number of awards, including the Premio Speciale ai Nastri d'Argento 2014. He lives and works between Milan and Rome. *The Mountain* was a finalist for the Strega Priza for Fiction in 2018.

Brigid Maher is Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies at La Trobe University in Melbourne, and has translated a number of Italian books into English.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Italian Literary Agency

Fiction

May 2020

Manuscript available

The Long Shadow by Anne Buist

Psychologist Isabel Harris has come to the outback town of Riley because her husband Dean is assessing the hospital—the hub of the community—with a view to closing it down. Isabel, mostly occupied with her toddler, will run a mother–baby therapy group. But, on the first day, she gets an anonymous note from one of the mothers: *The baby killer is going to strike again. Soon.*

Then a series of small harassments begins.

Is it an attempt to warn Dean off? Or could the threat be serious? A child was murdered in Riley once before.

As Isabel discovers more about the mothers in her group, she begins to believe the twenty-five-year-old mystery of a baby’s death may be the key to preventing another tragedy.

‘[A] well-informed, fast-paced look at the dangers in the child welfare system.’ *Kirkus on This I Would Kill For*

‘An intelligent thriller.’ *Who Weekly on Medea’s Curse*

‘Buist brings her considerable experience as a perinatal psychiatrist to bear in this novel, giving it authenticity and gravitas.’ *Daily Telegraph on Medea’s Curse*

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women’s Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. She has thirty years’ experience in perinatal psychiatry, and works with the legal system in cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder. Her Natalie King: Forensic Psychologist series of thrillers is published by Text. She is the co-author of the best selling *Two Steps Forward*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

May 2020

Finished copies available

The Believer by Sarah Krasnostein

From award-winning author Sarah Krasnostein comes an exploration of the power of belief.

What do we believe? Who do we believe? Why do we believe them?

Sarah Krasnostein has been applying her trademark compassion and empathy to interview subjects around the world. Some of them believe in things most people don't. Ghosts. UFOs. The literal creation of the universe in six days by an all-powerful God.

Some of them believe in things most people would like to. Living with integrity and compassion. Dying with dignity and autonomy. Facing up to our transgressions with a truthful heart.

In this intensely personal and gorgeously written new book Krasnostein, the bestselling, multi-award-winning author of *The Trauma Cleaner*, talks to these believers—and finds out what happens when their beliefs crash into her own.

Praise for *The Trauma Cleaner*:

'Krasnostein's playful yet heartfelt debut is one of the most arresting works of biography you will read in a long time.' *Guardian*

'Intriguing...A complex protagonist makes for engaging material.' *Publishers Weekly*

'Wields emotion, truth and reality with one-of-a-kind dexterity.' *Elle Australia*

'The Trauma Cleaner is a disturbing and fascinating read with a heavy, beating heart at its centre...[Krasnostein] shows how a writer can empathise and engage with a subject yet still paint a realistic portrait.' *Australian*

Sarah Krasnostein is a writer and a legal researcher with a doctorate in criminal law. She was born in America, studied in Melbourne and has lived and worked in both countries. Her first book, *The Trauma Cleaner*, won the Victorian Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for The Wellcome Book Prize. Sarah lives in Melbourne and spends part of the year working in New York.

Rights Held: ANZ and translation

Other Rights: Jane Novak Literary Agency

Non-Fiction

October 2020

Manuscript available April
2020

The Climate Emergency: A Plan for Survival by Tim Flannery

In the summer of 2019 and 2020, Australia burst into flames. More than 5 million hectares were ravaged by mega fires so vast that they created their own weather. Major cities choked on smoke whose particles then circled the globe. As many as a billion animals perished, and thousands of properties were destroyed.

In the space of a few months Australia illustrated the fate of our planet if global warming is not checked.

In this urgent essay, Tim Flannery, one of the world's leading authorities on climate change, makes an overwhelming case for what we must do now. What are the policies that governments must adopt? How do we decarbonise our electricity grid in the next decade? How do we make the shift to clean industrial energy? What are our options for all forms of transport?

Can we find effective ways to take carbon out of the atmosphere? Flannery provides an up-to-the-minute assessment of the technologies available to us. Could a global geo-engineering treaty help us cool our planet?

The Climate Emergency sets out a clear plan for survival. As Australia's fires show, we cannot avoid all the consequences of global warming, but we can prepare for them, and begin to find ways to stabilise our climate. The time for action is now.

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

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, Atmosphere of Hope* and *Sunlight and Seaweed*. He is currently chief councillor of the Climate Council.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

October 2020

Manuscript available April
2020 (estimated length
30,000 words)

Show Me Where It Hurts: Essays on Invisible Illness by **Kylie Maslen**

My body dictates who I am. I work the way I do because of my body, I vote the way I do because of my body and I live the way I do because of my body. It is not my body that is at fault, but society's failure to deal with bodies like mine. I might be in pain, but I am whole. I refuse to have the difficult parts cropped out.

Kylie Maslen has been living with invisible illness for twenty years—more than half her life. Its impact is felt in every aspect of her day-to-day existence: from work to dating; from her fears for what the future holds to her struggles to get out of bed some mornings.

Drawing on pop music, art, literature and online culture, Maslen explores the lived experience of invisible illness with sensitivity and wit, revealing a reality that many struggle—or refuse—to recognise. *Show Me Where It Hurts: Living With Invisible Illness* is a powerful collection of essays that speaks to those who have encountered the brush-off from doctors, faced endless tests and treatments, and endured chronic pain and suffering. But it is also a bridge to partners, families, friends, colleagues, doctors: all those who want to better understand what life looks like when you cannot simply show others where it hurts.

Kylie Maslen is a writer and critic. Her work has appeared in the *Guardian*, *Meanjin*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *Adelaide Review*, *Crikey* and *Junkee*, among other outlets. In 2018 she was the recipient of the *Kill Your Darlings* New Critics Award, and her essay 'I'm Trying to Tell You I'm Not Okay' was longlisted for the Lifted Brow & RMIT non/fictionLab Prize for Experimental Non-fiction. She lives in Adelaide.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

September 2020

Manuscript available

The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen by Krissy Kneen

My grandmother sits in a chair. Forty-degree heat, the rest of us sweating. My head feels light and unmoored. It might blow off in a breeze, but there is none. There is just the weight of heat and our clothes wet on our skin. There is just the ticking of insects, an ever-increasing buzz then the tch-tch-tch that precedes another escalation of sound. Too hot for birds. Even the crows are silent now. ...

I tip some water out of my warming glass into my palm and press it to my forehead.

I remember why I hate this place.

Stern, domineering, fiercely loving, Lotty Kneen—born Dragitsa—was always tight-lipped about her early life and family history. She rebuffed her granddaughter Krissy’s curiosity and forbade her from taking the trip back to Slovenia that might have satisfied it.

After her grandmother died recently, Krissy finally felt at liberty to explore the questions that had nagged at her for so long. Where had the family come from, to end up so weirdly as reclusive professional papier-mache artists in an unvisited ‘tourist attraction’ in rural Queensland? Why the secrecy and paranoia, and the fear of men? Who was Dragitsa—and, by extension, who was Krissy herself?

In *The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen* Krissy sets out with a box containing her grandmother’s ashes, intending to trace the old woman’s early life in Slovenia and Egypt, and perhaps locate some remnants of family. Along the way she uncovers the extraordinary story of the colony of Slovene women who became the nannies of choice for the wealthy Italians of pre-war Alexandria—and identifies as best she can the places where Lotty’s restless, demanding spirit will be at peace.

Krissy Kneen is the award-winning author of memoir—*Affection*—and fiction: *An Uncertain Grace*, *Steeplechase*, *Triptych*, *The Adventures of Holly White* and *the Incredible Sex Machine*, as well as the Thomas Shapcott Award-winning poetry collection *Eating My Grandmother*. She has written and directed broadcast documentaries for SBS and ABC Television.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

September 2020

Manuscript available

The Tunnel of Dreams by Bernard Beckett

Every month, when the moon was full, without fail, the brothers would dream the same dream. They found themselves in a dark tunnel, moving towards a thin slit of light, from which there came a strong cool wind that filled the passageway with a sound like a song of mourning. As they got closer to the light, the lament grew louder and the wind pushed ever harder against their progress, and every time, just as the light threatened to clarify into a scene before them, they woke.

The Tunnel of Dreams, which began as a bedtime story that Bernard Beckett told to his own young twins, is a rollicking adventure in a hidden world, with mysterious villains, two sets of twins and one epic competition.

In an abandoned house at the end of their street, twin brothers Stefan and Arlo discover a young girl hiding in its dusty shadows. Alice needs their help—her twin sister is locked in a cage suspended high above a mysterious mine in a strange parallel world—and she asks an impossible favour. Will they meet her on the next full moon at the entrance to a tunnel they both know doesn't exist?

Except that it does. And when they travel through it, Stefan and Arlo find themselves on a quest that will challenge all their ideas of who they are and what they can do.

The Tunnel of Dreams is a delightful middle-grade fantasy adventure about friendship and loyalty, about dreaming big and achieving the impossible.

Bernard Beckett is the author of eleven books, most of them for young adults. He has won numerous awards including the 2010 Prix Sorcières, the Esther Glen Award from the NZ Librarian's Association and the NZ Post Book Award for his novel *Genesis*. *The Tunnel of Dreams* is his first middle-grade novel. Bernard lives with his family in Wellington, New Zealand.

Rights Held: World

Middle grade fiction

September 2020

Manuscript available

Please Don't Hug Me by Kay Kerr

The most stressful interactions for me are ones like this, where the person's face says one thing but their words say another. Which one am I supposed to believe? Faces seem to be more truthful, but people always act as though their words are the only things that matter.

Erin is looking forward to the end of school trip—at least, she thinks she is. But her plans are going awry.

She's lost her job at Surf Zone after an incident that clearly was not her fault, and now she's not on track to have saved enough money. Her driving test went badly, which was also not her fault: she followed the instructor's directions perfectly. Her boyfriend is not turning out to be the romantic type. And she's missing her brother, Rudy, who left almost a year ago.

But now that she's writing letters to him, some things are beginning to make sense.

A heartwarming own-voices contemporary YA novel with with huge appeal for neuro-diverse and neuro-typical readers alike, Kay Kerr's *Please Don't Hug Me* depicts life on the cusp of adulthood—and on the autism spectrum—and the complexities of finding out and accepting who you are and what's important to you.

Told through a series of letters from Erin to her deceased brother, this debut novel is an exquisite exploration of grief, neuro-diversity and the teenage experience.

'This book is beautifully intimate, and so authentic. You're going to love getting to know it's central character, Erin. I'm so thrilled this book exists.' Claire Christian

'A moving and insightful story about finding your place in the world.' Nina Kenwood

Kay Kerr is a former journalist and community newspaper editor from Brisbane. She now lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and daughter, and works as a freelance writer. Kay was writing the first draft of *Please Don't Hug Me*, her first book, when she received her own autism-spectrum diagnosis.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction | May 2020 | Finished copies available

Metal Fish, Falling Snow by Cath Moore

Drawing on her own Afro-Caribbean Irish background, Cath Moore explores questions of identity and belonging in this heart-rending contemporary YA novel.

When Mum was here I never thought about what this town was made of. But after the fall, the world shattered into a thousand pieces. Then I realised those little particles of dust floating through the air were a part of every word we said, every breath and step we took. When they float away there's nothing left and now this place is all but gone.

Fourteen-year-old Dylan has always been troubled by her black skin, the legacy of her absent father. She lives with her white French mother, and together they dream of one day sailing across the water to France.

But when her mother dies in a freak accident, Dylan finds herself on a very different journey: a road trip in the care of her mother's grieving boyfriend, Pat. As she and Pat travel through outback towns then form an unlikely bond. One that will be broken when he delivers her to the family she has never known.

A warm, funny and highly original portrait of a young girl's journey to deal with a sense of lost identity in the face of grief, *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* explores the complex and confronting dynamic between colour and identity. Through families lost and found, this own-voices story celebrates the resilience of the human heart and the need to know who we truly are.

Cath Moore is of Irish/ Afro-Caribbean heritage. *Metal Fish, Falling Snow* is her first novel. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

July 2020

Manuscript available

Text Classics

***The Women in Black* by Madeleine St John, introduced by Bruce Beresford**

On the second floor of the famous Goode's Department Store, the women in black are girding themselves for the Christmas rush. But it's Sydney in the 1950s, and there's still just enough time left on a hot and frantic day to dream and scheme...

'A little gem...shot through with old-fashioned innocence and sly humour.' *Vogue Australia*

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: France—Albin Michel, Israel—Steimatzky- Tchelet, Italy—Garzanti, Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar, North America—Scribner, Spain—Planeta, UK & Commonwealth (ex. ANZ) —Little Brown.

***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; Italy—Enrico Daminani.

***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; Spain—Impedimenta.

***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*

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