



The Text Publishing Company



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The Text Publishing Company acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country on which we work, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

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Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Boyle, Alice	<i>Dancing Barefoot</i>	World	Author
King, A. S.	<i>Switch</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	Penguin Random House USA
Kelly, Erin Entrada	<i>Those Kids from Fawn Creek</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	Rights People UK
Sheppard, Holden	<i>The Brink</i>	World	Left Bank Literary
Sheppard, Holden	<i>Nullarbor Brothers</i>	World	Left Bank Literary
Thompson, Lin	<i>The Best Liars in Riverview</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	Hachette Book Group USA
Webster, Allayne	<i>Selfie</i>	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency

Adult

Borrell, Brendan	<i>The First Shots</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	AM Heath
Caddy, Meg	<i>Slipping the Noose</i>	World	Author
Cotter, Andrew	<i>Dog Days: A Year with Olive and Mabel</i>	ANZ	Black & White
Del Amo, Jean-Baptiste	<i>Le Fils de L'homme</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Down, Jennifer	Untitled collection of stories	World	Author
Grenville, Kate	<i>Elizabeth Macarthur's Letters</i>	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Hendrick, Kate	<i>Fish out of Water</i>	World	Author
Jinks, Catherine	Untitled novel	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Jones, Kimberly	<i>How We Can Win</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Jones, Lloyd	<i>The Fish</i>	World	Author
Kenwood, Nina	<i>Unnecessary Drama</i>	World	Author
Kenwood, Nina	Untitled novel	World	Author
Malcolm, Janet	<i>Pictures</i>	ANZ	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Meyer, Marissa (ed.)	<i>Serendipity</i>	ANZ	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Meyer, Marissa	<i>Gilded duology</i>	ANZ	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Saeed, Aisha	<i>Omar Rising</i>	UK & Comm excl Canada	Penguin Random House USA
Tokarczuk, Olga	<i>The Books of Jacob</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Williams, Sue	<i>To Grill a Mockingbird</i>	World	Author
Woodland, Greg	<i>The Carnival Is Over</i>	World	Melanie Ostell Literary

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Arnold, David	<i>The Electric Kingdom</i>	Writers House USA
Gale, Emily and Weetman, Nova	<i>Elsewhere Girls</i>	Authors
Hall, Leanne	<i>The Gaps</i>	Author
He, Joan	<i>The Ones We're Meant to Find</i>	Rights People
Laguna, Ingrid	<i>Bailey Finch Takes a Stand</i>	Curtis Brown Australia
Obama, Barack	<i>Dreams From My Father: Adapted for Young Adults: A Story of Race and Inheritance</i>	Abner Stein in association with Dystel, Goderich & Bourret LLC
Paterson, Andrew	<i>Rainfish</i>	Author
Pitt, Darrell	<i>Balloon Girls</i>	Author

Adult

Barbery, Muriel	<i>A Single Rose</i>	Actes Sud
Burnet, Graeme Macrae	<i>Case Study</i>	Blake Friedmann Literary Agency Ltd
Down, Jennifer	<i>Bodies of Light</i>	Author
Ellmann, Lucy	<i>Things Are Against Us</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Fenster, Gigi	<i>A Good Winter</i>	High Spot Literary
Hall, Steven	<i>Maxwell's Demon</i>	Canongate
Hillman, Robert	<i>The Bride of Almond Tree</i>	Jacinta di Mase Management
Jennings, Karen	<i>An Island</i>	Holland House Books
Jinks, Catherine	<i>The Attack</i>	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Low, Nic	<i>Uprising</i>	Author
McCourt, Suzanne	<i>The Tulip Tree</i>	Author
Ozeki, Ruth	<i>The Book of Form and Emptiness</i>	Abner Stein in association with The Friedrich Agency
Rothwell, Nicolas	<i>Red Heaven</i>	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Rowell, Simon	<i>The Long Game</i>	Author
Sentilles, Sarah	<i>Stranger Care</i>	Penguin Random House USA
Simsion, Graeme and Buist, Anne	<i>Two Steps Onward</i>	Authors
Suiter Clarke, Amy	<i>Girl, 11</i>	Abner Stein in association with Dystel, Goderich & Bourret LLC
Widder, Edith	<i>Below the Edge of Darkness: A Memoir of Exploring Light and Life in the Deep Sea</i>	Abner Stein in association with Chase Literary Agency LLC
Wilson, Kevin	<i>Tunneling to the Center of the Earth</i>	Abner Stein in association with The Book Group
Yan, Lianke	<i>Hard Like Water</i>	The Susijn Agency

The Labyrinth by Amanda Lohrey

Winner of the 2021 Miles Franklin Literary Award

A profound novel by one of Australia's most admired authors, *The Labyrinth* is a moving tale of solitude, 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, and a meditation on how art can both be both ruthlessly destructive and restore sanity. It shows Amanda Lohrey to be at the peak of her powers.

Praise for *The Labyrinth*:

'A nuanced and engrossing novel of bread and bones broken, the trace and rack of violence, and threads that lead the way out of exile.' *Saturday Paper*

'A deeply meditative book...Beautifully layered, rich in imagery and meaning, without ever being laboured... It is a sharply tuned novel, a sprawling narrative that resists rigid expectations, instead allowing those who inhabit the pages to surrender themselves to the mode of "reversible destiny" that it is constructed around.' *Guardian*

'My novel of the year, full stop.' *Australian*

Amanda Lohrey lives in Tasmania and writes fiction and non-fiction. She has taught at various universities and is a regular contributor to the *Monthly* magazine. Her previous novels include *Vertigo*, *Camille's Bread* and *The Morality of Gentlemen*. In 2012 she received the Patrick White Award for literature.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

|

August 2020

|

Finished pages available

Limberlost by Robbie Arnott

A brilliant new novel by one of the brightest stars of Australian fiction.

In a small valley, a river flows and a boy becomes a man. Far away, a devastating war is being waged but here seasons pass, an orchard bears fruit and an array of animals—some ordinary, some strange—come and go. The land on which Ned and his family live offers a cycle of death and rebirth, feast and famine.

In Ned’s eyes, heroism and carefully measured violence are part of what it means to be a man. Kindness is a silent thing, a matter of small actions not discussed.

While Ned waits and hopes for his brothers to return from service overseas, he works ever more intently shooting rabbits and selling their pelts to buy himself the means to sail the river.

Ned’s life is marked with changes: he shrugs off youth and falls in love; later, he learns about loss. This is a book that captures the splendour of life and the wonder of the moments that define a person.

Limberlost is a story of fathers and sons, the animals we kill and those we care for, and the mysterious allure of things we don’t understand.

Robbie Arnott was a 2019 *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Novelist and won the Margaret Scott Prize in the 2019 Tasmanian Premier’s Literary Prizes. His widely acclaimed debut, *Flames* (2018), was shortlisted for a Victorian Premier’s Literary Award, a New South Wales Premier’s Literary Award, a Queensland Literary Award, the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and Not the Booker Prize. His second novel, *The Rain Heron*, was published to rave reviews in 2020, was shortlisted for the 2021 Miles Franklin Literary Award and won the 2021 *Age* Book of the Year. He lives in Hobart.

Rights Held: World

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

Option Publishers: France—Actes Sud; Norway—Cappelen Damm

Fiction

| October 2022

| Manuscript available

The Way It Is Now by Garry Disher

Set in a beach-shack town an hour from Melbourne, *The Way It Is Now* tells the story of a burnt-out cop named Charlie Deravin.

Charlie is living in his family's holiday house, on forced leave since he made a mess of things at work.

Things have never been easy for Charlie. Twenty years earlier his mother went missing in the area, believed murdered. His father has always been the main suspect, though her body was never found.

Until now: the foundations are being dug for a new house on a vacant block. The skeletal remains of a child and an adult are found—and Charlie's past comes crashing in on him.

The Way It Is Now is the enthralling new novel by Garry Disher, one of Australia's most loved and celebrated crime writers.

Praise for Garry Disher:

'Smooth, assured mastery.' *New York Times Book Review on Bitter Wash Road*

'Peter Temple and Garry Disher will be identified as the crime writers who redefined Australian crime fiction in terms of its form, content and style.' *Sydney Morning Herald on Peace*

'Disher is one the foremost proponents of rural noir' *Sunday Times on Consolation*

Garry Disher has published fifty titles across multiple genres. He has won multiple German Crime Fiction and Ned Kelly awards, including the Ned Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2021 his previous novel *Consolation* won the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction.

Rights Held: World

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

Fiction

|

November 2021

|

Finished pages available

After You Were Gone by Vikki Wakefield

Not knowing was like living inside a well with slippery sides and the occasional crack between stones, a foothold, a scrabbling place...That damned pink dress Sarah was wearing. I tortured myself, going over the things I could have changed if I had been paying attention...After Sarah was gone, I still yearned for answers. I moved on, but I'd built my house around the well. While I was busy living, it sank deeper; the distance was greater, the light dimmer. This time the climb might be impossible, but I had no choice—I let myself fall.

My life is a story in two parts.

Before.

After.

What happens to a family when a child goes missing? How far would you go to learn the truth?

In a busy street market, Abbie lets go of six-year-old Sarah's hand. She isn't a bad mother, just exhausted. When she turns around, her daughter isn't there. After a full-scale search and a high-profile investigation, there is still no trace of Sarah.

Six years later, Abbie is in love and getting married. Her family, despite their problems, have seen her through her worst imaginings—only Abbie's mother seems unwilling to let her move on. Her fragile peace is constantly threatened: not knowing what happened to Sarah is like living with a curse.

Then a phone call from an unknown number offers closure. A man claims to know what happened to Sarah, but if Abbie tells anyone or fails to follow instructions, she'll never find out. What price must Abbie pay to know the truth?

Vikki Wakefield writes fiction for young adults and adults. Her books explore family, class and relationships in a contemporary setting. Her novels *All I Ever Wanted*, *Friday Brown*, *Inbetween Days* and *Ballad for a Mad Girl* have been shortlisted for numerous awards. *This Is How We Change the Ending* won Book of the Year: Older Readers, Children's Book Council Awards, 2020. *After You Were Gone* is her first novel for adults.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

September 2022

Manuscript available
March 2022

The Competition by Katherine Collette

Frances quite honestly isn't that excited about the SpeechMakers annual national conference and public-speaking competition. What she's excited about (relatively speaking) is that this year there's a major prize. Frances has a few small problems and forty thousand dollars would go a long way to sorting them out.

Keith is Frances's probably-ex-mentor, it's hard to tell since she's not talking to him, and he disapproves of the prize money. He thinks SpeechMakers should be about self-improvement, not self-enrichment. He wants to win the competition, though. He thinks it might help the situation with his wife, Linda.

Neil doesn't care about the competition at all but Judy, his mother and coach, does, so.

And Rebecca...

Actually, what the hell is Rebecca doing here? Rebecca belongs to Frances's past, not her present. And certainly not her (hopefully) less-disastrous future.

Praise for *The Helpline*:

'A fun read, full of unique characters.' *Daily Mail*

'The character of Germaine, endearing but far from cutesy, is the great triumph of this accomplished debut.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'*The Helpline* is populated with prickly women who are often terse or unkind to the people around them. And it's wonderful.' *Broadsheet*

Katherine Collette, author of the hilarious *The Helpline*, returns with another sharply observed comedy of manners and a cast of loveable underachievers, headed for self-improvement despite themselves.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Simon & Schuster; Germany—Insel Verlag; Italy—Garzanti

Fiction

|

February 2022

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Manuscript available

The Grass Hotel by Craig Sherborne

Carry me, son. Do not leave me behind.

Are you listening to me?

Of course you're listening, you say, and add the F-word. Off you go to cope with a storm.

Lucerne armfuls for horses. For cows, plain hay.

Alone in the paddocks of his grass hotel a man tends to his beloved horses, Socks and Boy. The voice of his mother—accusatory, fragmenting from dementia—haunts his every move, an excoriating reminder of his failures in the world of people.

The Grass Hotel is a story of damage and repair, of familial obligation and the resentments it can cause. It is also about the profound comfort that a connection with animals can offer.

With its extraordinary use of language, Craig Sherborne's novel is by turns savage and tender, raw and poetic: a small masterpiece.

Praise for Craig Sherborne:

'Sherborne's talents with narrative and poetry combine to produce a striking fiction...offering a unique, vivid portrait of his characters. With the crystallisation and compression of poetry, Sherborne explores ideas of property, freedom and loyalty, and produces a novel as beautiful in its conjunctions as the chandelier swinging over its landscapes.' *Australian on Tree Palace*

'A riveting piece of writing that is liable to transfix any reader who gets past the opening chapter...Sherborne is a breathtaking writer because he writes of unspeakable things with a kind of affectless gaucherie that dazzles the mind...this is an engulfing, heart-stopping book—a performance that dazzles the eyes and leaves the reader gasping for air.' *Age on The Amateur Science of Love*

Craig Sherborne's memoir *Hoi Polloi* was shortlisted for the Queensland and Victorian Premiers' Literary Awards. The follow-up, *Muck*, won the Queensland Literary Award for Non-fiction. Sherborne's debut novel, *The Amateur Science of Love*, won the Best Writing Prize in the 2012 Melbourne Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the NSW and Victorian Premiers' Awards. He has also written two volumes of poetry, and his journalism and poetry have appeared in Australia's leading literary journals and anthologies. His two most recent novels are *Tree Palace*, shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and *Off the Record*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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February 2022

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Manuscript available

World Shadow by Nir Baram

TRANSLATED FROM THE HEBREW BY JESSICA COHEN

A fast-paced novel about politics, money, power and corruption that holds a mirror up to the present day.

It's the mid-1990s. Gabriel Mantzur wants to take advantage of all the business opportunities opening up in Israel. Moving in political and financial circles, he finds his way into the upper reaches of power—but the higher he goes, the less he understands the intrigues in which he is involved.

Cut to the present. A group of young Londoners—homeless, unemployed and disaffected—is organising a worldwide strike to protest globalisation and inequality. Sick of being screwed over, they conspire to overturn the prevailing order.

Meanwhile, an eerily familiar American political consulting firm, with interests everywhere from Bolivia to the Congo, ostensibly exists to further liberal and progressive causes—until the veil is drawn back on the true nature of its activities.

With its masterly interwoven narrative strands and its global perspective, *World Shadow* confirms Nir Baram as a major writer on the world stage.

Praise for *World Shadow*:

'The best novel Baram has written so far, a brilliant literary achievement. *World Shadow* is asking the most important questions of our time.' *Israel Today*

'A real literary achievement. Surely one of the most impressive novels written in Hebrew in the past years. It is a mind-blowing epos that raises big questions about the human spirit, democracy, morals and violence.' *Haaretz*

'One of the most ambitious novels I have ever read... You can hear in *World Shadow* echoes of *Underworld* by Don DeLillo.' *El País*

Nir Baram was born in Jerusalem in 1976. He is the author of five novels, including *Good People*, which was translated into English in 2016. His novels have been translated into more than ten languages and received critical acclaim around the world.

Jessica Cohen is a British-Israeli-American translator. She shared the 2017 Man Booker International Prize for translating David Grossman's 2014 novel *A Horse Walks into a Bar*.

Rights Held: World English

Fiction

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January 2022

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Manuscript available

Bootstrap by Georgina Young

Set across rural Australia, futuristic Shanghai and ancient Crete, *Bootstrap* is both a thrilling race against time and a witty contemporary love story.

Jackson Sweeney is stewing in his tiny hometown, feeling stuck as he spends his days working at Al's Takeaway. His childhood friend Marnie returns to Ginsborough on her family's annual visit, but she's reeling from a break-up and is determined to lie low.

One night an odd-looking stranger shows up: long black hair, pointed features, hands deep in the pockets of a leather trench coat. He calls himself Bootstrap and says he's here to see the night Jackson Sweeney becomes a hero.

With that, Sweeney and Marnie find themselves swept up in an adventure they never could have imagined—with a fugitive from the future, pursued for a crime that he didn't commit. Or, at least, that's what he says.

Praise for *Loner*:

'I loved this razor-sharp, whip-smart, exquisitely funny debut.' Nina Kenwood

'Wry, funny and witty.' *Big Issue*

'A story for the misfits...Instantly relatable.' *Herald Sun*

Georgina Young is a writer and designer living in Melbourne. She has had her work published in *Voiceworks* magazine, as well as in *Branches*, an anthology published by the Bowen Street Press. She won the Text Prize for her first novel, *Loner*, which was published in 2020.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

May 2022

Manuscript available

The Fish by Lloyd Jones

Then she lifts the Fish up from the bassinet and holds him out to me.

'Go on, take him.' And to the Fish she says, 'This is your uncle.'

It is a bit like catching a hastily thrown ball. She lets go before I am ready. But I manage to clap my hands either side of the fish bundle. I know I am supposed to hold the Fish tight. Maybe rub my cheek against his. But I feel like I am holding an expensive glass. Once you're told not to drop it, all you can think of is the glass shattering across the floor.

When his troubled sister's baby is born, in a shabby caravan at a remote beach park, the child is not like other babies. Not the kind of baby anyone expected: startling in his otherness. But one the family will try to protect and love and accept.

The Fish is central in the life of the young narrator as he tries to make sense of his family and its confusing secrets and shame, and to find his own way in the world.

Lloyd Jones brings his unique lyrical style to this mesmerising and tender story of family bonds, both strained and strengthened by tragedy.

Lloyd Jones has written novels, short stories and a memoir. He won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for his novel *Mister Pip*. His other books include *Hand Me Down World*, *A History of Silence* and *The Cage*. Lloyd lives in New Zealand.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: New Zealand—Penguin Random House New Zealand

Option Publishers: France—Actes Sud

Fiction

| March 2022

| Manuscript available

The Secret Wife by Mark Lamprell

In 1961, on the day that Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to rocket into outer space, Edith Devine moves into her brand-new suburban home—and meets her new neighbour, Frankie Heyman. Frankie is a glamorous, sophisticated foil to the quiet, clever Edith, and the two housewives become firm friends.

Then, when Frankie's domineering husband Ralph refuses to let her get a job, Edith hatches a plan to keep her friend's household running while Frankie secretly goes out to work—and so Edith becomes Frankie's secret wife.

As Frankie builds a business empire, Edith runs both their homes: dusting, cleaning and cooking her way through the sexual revolution, the summer of love and the second wave of feminism. Throughout the 1960s, the world's great events seem to be mirrored in the lives of two women—until the day in 1969 when the first humans step out onto the surface of the moon, and Frankie and Edith face a calamitous reckoning.

The Secret Wife is an irresistible story of fierce love, unconditional sacrifice and the transcendent power of pulling together.

Praise for *The Secret Wife*:

'What a gorgeous pair of women Lamprell has created in Frankie and Edith. By turns heartbreaking and hilarious—*The Secret Wife* is a tender love song to a decade that changed the world.' Kathryn Heyman, author of *Fury*

'Moving, wry and powerful, Mark Lamprell's compelling new novel is laden with secrets and brimming with wit, warmth and razor-sharp observations. I loved it.' Suzanne Leal, author of *The Teacher's Secret*

Mark Lamprell is a writer of novels and children's books published in sixteen countries and twelve languages, including the novels *The Full Ridiculous* and *A Lover's Guide to Rome*. He also works internationally as a writer and director in film, with movie credits including *Babe: Pig in the City*, *My Mother Frank*, *Goddess*, *A Few Less Men* and *Never Too Late*.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Canada—Anansi; Israel—Keter Books; Poland—Proszynski Media; USA—Counterpoint

Fiction

April 2022

Manuscript available
December 2021

To Grill a Mockingbird by Sue Williams

My shop bell rang. I glanced up, thinking it would just be Vern with another update on his Sunset-Over-The-Silos series. Vern's General Store and my shop constitute the CBD of Rusty Bore. Along with a row of much-photographed galvanised steel silos...at least by Vern.

But it wasn't him. A woman—tall and slim with short, dark, spiky hair. Oversized sunglasses. She was wearing a pinstriped black trouser suit; white shirt blazing under the jacket. Long elegant legs, made even longer by soaring red heels.

'Helen?' I dropped my Jex in surprise.

The last person Cass Tuplin expects to see in her shop, ordering a double bacon cheeseburger, is her sister Helen.

Helen, who left Rusty Bore thirty years ago and never looked back. Helen, who is a life coach and runs wellness seminars, who is now sitting inside Cass's shop smoking a cigarette and not eating her chips.

Helen is frazzled, that's for sure. A dead boyfriend, and all evidence is leading to her. Cass isn't even completely sure Helen hasn't done it—but either way, trouble is on the menu.

Praise for Sue Williams:

'Williams has put together a recipe for madcap adventure, the main ingredient an engaging female lead whose nosiness solves the mysteries of her tiny hometown.' *Adelaide Advertiser* on *Dead Men Don't Order Flake*

'Sue Williams is Australia's answer to New Jersey's Janet Evanovich. Both mix murder with mirth, and both feature semi-competent female investigators who bounce in and out of trouble...Great light entertainment.' *New Zealand Listener*

Sue Williams is the author of a crime series set in Rusty Bore, population 147. She was raised in country Victoria and hotly denies this provided any inspiration for her writing. She is a science and travel writer and a chartered accountant who also holds a PhD in marine biology. These days, Sue lives in Melbourne with her husband. Her previous Cass Tuplin books are *Murder with the Lot*, *Dead Men Don't Order Flake* and *Live and Let Fry*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

June 2022

Manuscript available

The Carnival Is Over by Greg Woodland

'Dan Makepeace?' Mick walked over. Dan grunted, pointing a long finger into a back room. A smell wafted from it, of vomit, human excreta and something acrid and chemical: the aromas of death.

'She's in there?'

'Where d'you think she bloody is?' he said, his voice a swirling soup of emotions: rage, shock, grief, confusion. Goodenough lowered his hand gently onto Dan's shoulder. The sharp angles of his face seemed to soften and melt like wax.

'I told her...she oughta leave...she hated the place,' he gasped between sobs.

'This house?' Mick said, unsurprised, glancing down the hall towards shoddy rooms in need of a good paint job—or demolition.

'The bloody abattoir!' he roared, and glared at the scratched purple fibro wall, pulling his fist back as if he'd like to do the job himself.

September, 1971.

Spring has finally hit Moorabool, draping the winter streets and back roads with bright yellow explosions of wattle and creamy eucalyptus blooms. Hal is doing his best to try and get out of town, but in the meantime he's working at the local abattoir, where there is definitely something dodgy going on.

But meatworks corruption is one thing. Murder is quite another. How deep do the town's secrets go? When Hal starts to work it out, he finds himself in terrible danger.

The Carnival Is Over is a nostalgic triumph, simmering with small-town menace.

Praise for Greg Woodland:

'This coming-of-age crime tale balances its more gruesome turns with relatable human warmth.'
Books+Publishing on The Night Whistler

'Troubling undercurrents swirl in a seductively involving story of small-town secrets and obsessions.' Garry Disher on *The Night Whistler*

Greg Woodland is an author, screenwriter and director. Since 2000 he's worked as a freelance script editor and consultant for film funding bodies and the Australian Writers' Guild. His first novel, *The Night Whistler*, was shortlisted for a Ned Kelly Award.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: France—Editions Belfond; Russia—AST

Fiction

| August 2022

| Manuscript available

Bodies of Light by Jennifer Down

So by the grace of a photograph that had inexplicably gone viral, Tony had found me. Or: he'd found Maggie.

I had no way of knowing whether he was nuts or not; whether he might go to the cops. Maybe that sounds paranoid, but I don't think it's so ridiculous. People have gone to prison for much lesser things than accusations of child-killing.

Born in 1990, Jennifer Down already has published a highly regarded novel and book of stories. *Bodies of Light* is the novel that fulfils the promise of this early work.

It turns a single human life into an epic story, a hugely readable book that traverses the darkest territory, a book that fulfils fiction's promise to immerse us in the realities of another identity.

Bodies of Light tracks the life of Maggie: from her childhood shuttled from one abusive care home to another; to domestic happiness that ends in tragedy; to the arms of a passionate woman in New Zealand; and to a new existence in the USA—only for her to find that she can't leave her old self behind so easily.

This is the story of a life in full, detailed, wrenching, sensuous and compelling. It's about trauma and heartbreak, memory and loss, the refusal to do anything but survive, no matter the odds.

Praise for Jennifer Down:

'A brilliant, sharply observed and deeply affecting epic that secures Down's status as one of the best writers in Australia today.' *Books+Publishing* on *Bodies of Light*

'Mesmerising, uncompromising and extraordinary.' Robbie Arnott on *Bodies of Light*

'Down writes about love and friendship with an emotionally resonant sparseness...A collection pulsing with emotion; a writer crackling with potential.' *Kirkus Reviews* on *Pulse Points*

Jennifer Down was named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year in 2017 and 2018. *Our Magic Hour*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript, the Voss Literary Prize and a NSW Premier's Literary Award. Her second book, *Pulse Points*, was the winner of the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and the Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection in the Queensland Literary Awards. She lives in Naarm/Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

|

October 2021

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Finished copies available

Childhood by Shannon Burns

This is what I think I know: my father met my mother while he was dating her sister. Their love was figured on betrayal, both hostile and libidinous. She was in her late teens. He was twenty and travelled everywhere barefoot. Neither had finished high school and both were decorated with amateur tattoos. Things may have been good for a while, but it didn't last: they argued fiercely and he left. Weeks later, she tracked him down and said she was pregnant. So he moved back in, and they prepared themselves for parenthood.

Eleven months later I was born. By the time my father discovered the deception, it was too late.

There is something chastening about this mode of conception, about knowing that, by most ordinary standards, your beginning was aberrant.

In this arresting memoir, Shannon Burns recalls a childhood bouncing between dysfunctional homes in outer-suburban Adelaide, between impoverished family members unwilling or unable to care for him. Aged nine, he beats his head against the floor to get himself to sleep. Aged ten, he knows his mother will never be able to care for him: he is alone, and can trust no-one.

Five years later, he is working in a recycling centre—hard labour, poorly paid—yet reading offers hope. He begins reciting lines from Dante, Keats, Whitman, speeches by Martin Luther King, while sifting through the filthy cans and bottles. An affair with the mother of a schoolfriend offers a way out, a path to eventual independence and a life utterly unlike the one he was born into.

'I want to imagine the past,' Burns says, 'in order to discard it more fully. I want to ensure that its power over me is diluted even further, to forestall the possibility of a more damaging reckoning.' He writes concisely, sketching crisp scenes that often terrify in their brutality. Possessing a clarity of purpose and vividness of expression that bring to mind Raimond Gaita's *Romulus, My Father*, this book is destined to be a classic.

Shannon Burns is a writer and critic from Adelaide. His work has appeared in the *Monthly, Meanjin* and *Australian Book Review*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

September 2022

Manuscript available

Childless: A Story of Freedom and Longing by Sian Prior

I always wanted to have children. The earth might be in trouble—overpopulated, descending into ecological crisis—but I was always sure my kids would help make the world a better place. I would be a green-feminist supermum, having it all.

Nothing turned out the way I expected.

Like many women, Sian Prior arrived at the point where she was ready to start having babies—and found they were not hers to have. Three miscarriages with a supportive partner; a new partner who already had all the children he wanted; step-children; step-grandchildren; the decision to parent solo, followed by many rounds of fertility treatments.

After all this Sian found herself, at fifty, childless and coming to terms. Weighing up the freedoms against the losses. Dealing with the unacknowledged legacy of her own lost father. Observing parenthood itself—how we succeed at it and how we fail—from a perspective outside the trenches.

Compelling, moving, beautifully written and unexpectedly uplifting, *Childless* is her story.

Praise for Sian Prior:

'A fascinating meditation on how temperament can shape a person's life.' *Books+Publishing* on *Shy*

'Charming and beautifully evoked...' *Weekend Australian* on *Shy*

Sian Prior is a Melbourne-based writer, broadcaster, musician and creative-writing teacher. She has been an ABC radio host and a regular columnist for the *Age* / *Sydney Morning Herald*. Her first book, *Shy: A Memoir* was published in 2014.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

April 2022

Manuscript available
January 2022

The Novel Project by Graeme Simsion

'Writing is easy: All you do is sit staring at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.' Variously attributed to Thomas Wolfe, sportswriter Paul Gallico and, inevitably, Ernest Hemingway, the quote portrays writing as mysterious, romantic, tortuous and, implicitly, unteachable.

This book is about another approach, based on established theories of creativity and design, and on the experience of authors, including me, who—preferring to save the drama for the story—have adopted a more structured and reliable process.

It's aimed at those who want to write a book for publication, or at least one that others will want to read.

Graeme Simsion's books have been published into forty-five territories and the Rosie series has sold almost six million copies worldwide. Now he offers an entertaining masterclass on writing.

The Novel Project is at once a primer, a writer's diary and a gift to aspiring authors of what an established novelist knows. With his trademark wit, Simsion explains how to develop a novel from its initial idea: how to build the plot and characters and, once the draft is complete, how to work with an editor. Drawing on diaries that Simsion kept while writing the Rosie series, *The Novel Project* is part how-to guide, part inside view into a writer's process. Simsion strikes the perfect balance between inviting writers to explore strategies that might work for them and revealing the methods that work for him.

The Novel Project is the perfect guide for anyone who wants to write a book and get it published.

Praise for Graeme Simsion's fiction:

'An extraordinarily clever, funny, and moving book...This is one of the most profound novels I've read in a long time.' Bill Gates on *The Rosie Project*

'[A] romantic comedy that's just as smart, funny and heartwarming as the original.' *Washington Post* on *The Rosie Effect*

'Fiction as good as it gets...Laugh-out-loud funny.' *New York Times* on *The Rosie Result*

Graeme Simsion is the internationally bestselling author of *The Rosie Project*, *The Rosie Effect*, *The Rosie Result* and *The Best of Adam Sharp*. He lives with Anne Buist, his co-author of *Two Steps Forward* and *Two Steps Onward*, in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

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March 2022

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Manuscript available

Elizabeth Macarthur's Letters edited by Kate Grenville

The first collection of the fascinating, historically significant correspondence of Elizabeth Macarthur, a pioneer in Sydney of the early 1800s and wife of the notorious John Macarthur.

These letters were the starting point for Kate Grenville's bestselling novel *A Room Made of Leaves*. They inspired the portrait of her imagined Elizabeth Macarthur: shrewd, subtle, passionate. And they offer a glimpse into the complex inner life of one of our most powerful foremothers. Yet, until now, a general reader could only access a handful of them.

This book offers an edited selection, with commentary from Grenville, of the many letters Elizabeth Macarthur wrote 'home' from colonial Sydney over her long life—letters in which we can hear the voice of a remarkable woman. Circumstances confronted her with huge challenges, but also gave her opportunities unknown to most women of the time. It was a life of tumult, of griefs and joys—all faced with spirit, and recorded in this lively and engaging correspondence.

Praise for *A Room Made of Leaves*:

'Grenville invites the reader to reflect on the complex relationship between truth and falsehood, history and fiction...[A] stunning literary achievement.' *Guardian*

'Grenville's Macarthur is an unforgettable character who makes us question everything we thought we knew about our colonial past.' Clare Wright, author of *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*

'An almost flawless novel about our early colonial history told through the fictional eyes of Elizabeth Macarthur...Beautifully realised.' Heather Rose, author of *The Museum of Modern Love*

Kate Grenville is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller *The Secret River* was awarded local and overseas prizes, has been adapted for the stage and as an acclaimed television miniseries, and is now a much-loved classic. 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*, and the novel *A Room Made of Leaves*, which won a New South Wales Premier's Literary Award. She has also written three books about the writing process. In 2017 Grenville was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Canongate; Germany—Nagel & Kimche Verlag; Italy—Neri Pozza Editore; Lithuania—Briedis; Russia—AST

Non-fiction

| April 2022

| Manuscript available

Desire by Jessie Cole

What to do with the intensity of longing that occasionally arises? Sometimes I hug my pup so hard he growls. When my pup growls, I see I need to find some other way of letting off steam. It's easy to imagine I could just touch myself and be done with it, but no matter how many times I make myself come, that feeling of wanting doesn't subside. A friend has a term for the need for touch—'skin hungry'. Lots of people live without sex, but I find it a kind of deprivation.

What does it mean to be awakened? To want? To love? Jessie Cole is in her late thirties when she meets a man twenty years older than she is. They become lovers. Both passionate and companionable, fraught and uneven, their relationship tests her fears and anxieties. Through their interstate affair, through bushfires and the pandemic, she learns about herself, how her initiations into womanhood shaped who she is now, and how the shadow of family trauma still inhabits her body.

Jessie Cole has written an unabashed, thrilling exploration of the very nature of desire, a story about vulnerability and strength, loss and regeneration. A memoir of the body, *Desire* is a visceral book in which feeling and desire are laid bare.

Praise for Jessie Cole:

'A wounded, lovely, luminous book about grief, trauma and the strange healing potential of words.' Tim Winton on *Staying*

'Graceful, revealing, pitch-perfect. Cole is an author who pays sharp attention to the world around her.' *Australian* on *Deeper Water*

Jessie Cole grew up in an isolated valley in northern New South Wales and still lives in the house of her childhood. Her first novel, *Darkness on the Edge of Town*, was shortlisted for the 2013 ALS Gold Medal and longlisted for the Dobbie Literary Award. Her second novel, *Deeper Water*, was released in 2014 to much critical acclaim. Her memoir, *Staying*, was longlisted for the Colin Roderick Award and shortlisted for the 2019 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

August 2022

Manuscript available June
2022

Dancing Barefoot by Alice Boyle

Winner of the 2021 Text Prize for Young Adult and Children’s Writing

Dancing Barefoot is a story about finding love, figuring out your place in the world, and learning to embrace the challenges life throws in your path.

Patch feels out of place at Mountford College: she wears the wrong clothes, she’s on a scholarship, and she has an embarrassingly persistent crush on Evie Vanhoutte, popular girl and golden child. Evie has no idea Patch exists until one day, a chance encounter sparks a friendship that’s equal parts exhilarating, terrifying, and very, very confusing.

As if that weren’t enough to deal with, Patch is also trying to avoid a vindictive school bully, forgetting to be supportive of her transitioning best friend, Edwin, and worrying about a potential new stepmother turning out to be the evil Baroness from *The Sound of Music*.

Alice Boyle is an English teacher and author living in Naarm/Melbourne. She’s written for *SBS Voices* and the Stella Prize, and her short story ‘The Exchange’ was published in the anthology *Growing Up Queer in Australia*. In 2019 she was highly commended for the Wheeler Centre’s Next Chapter program.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

September 2022

Manuscript available

Unnecessary Drama by Nina Kenwood

Brooke likes order, she likes lists, she likes rules.

The first and only rule of her new sharehouse is ‘no unnecessary drama’. Which means no fights, no tension, and absolutely no romance with housemates Penny and Jesse. That’s fine by Brooke, because she has plans. This is going to be her year: her first year of university, the year she’s moved to Melbourne, and the year she’s going to live up to all of her potential.

But things get off to a bad start: university isn’t what she thought it would be; she’s desperately homesick, chronically anxious and, to add to her problems, Brooke might be developing inconvenient romantic feelings for off-limits housemate Jesse.

Unnecessary Drama follows Brooke as she navigates friendship, romance, ex-best friends, ex-boyfriends, housemates, her own overly anxious tendencies and what it means to find a home away from home.

Praise for Nina Kenwood:

‘A sweet, funny and relatable account of the dramas of those grappling with late adolescence.’
Age on It Sounded Better in My Head

‘The novel perfectly captures the terror of being in-between, caught both in the liminal space between adolescence and adulthood, and in that befuddling period where a friendship might be turning into something more. A perfect pick for fans of Jenny Han’s *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* who are looking for their next quirky romantic heroine.’ Booklist on *It Sounded Better in My Head*

Nina Kenwood is a writer who lives in Melbourne. She won the 2018 Text Prize for her debut young adult novel, *It Sounded Better in My Head*.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: France—Pocket Jeunesse; Germany—Carlsen Verlag; Hungary—Móra; Italy—De Agostini; Spain & Catalan—Planeta; North America—Flatiron

Young adult fiction

October 2022

Manuscript available
November 2021

If Not Us by Mark Smith

Hesse lives in a small coastal town, where a coalmine and power station are a part of the scenery, and a part of the ever-growing problem of climate change.

His mother is a member of a local environmental group campaigning to close the mine and shut down the power station. It's a no-brainer, of course, but Hesse is more interested in surfing—and in Fenna, the new exchange student from the Netherlands. But when someone seems to be trying to derail the campaign, and his friends' families face losing their jobs, Hesse begins to realise that things are complex.

Even though he's reluctant to step into the spotlight, with Fenna's encouragement he decides it's time to make a stand. Because some things are too important to leave to everyone else. And even one small, nervous voice can make a difference.

When Hesse agrees to speak at a protest meeting he has no idea of the storm he is about to unleash.

If Not Us is Mark Smith's first standalone young adult novel following his hugely successful Winter trilogy. This book is an impassioned plea for climate action that will inspire and empower.

Praise for Mark Smith:

'A riveting story of survival that questions the prices of freedom and safety as well as the value of an individual life...A breakout new series full of romance, danger, and a surprisingly engaging world.' *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review, on *The Road to Winter*

'Tense and atmospheric...Mark Smith's debut is assured, gripping and leaves you wanting more.' Best Books for Younger Readers 2016, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Road to Winter*

'Mark Smith writes in a taut style that keeps the pages turning...Absorbing entertainment, this is what most young folk would look for in reading.' *Magpies* on *Wilder Country*

Mark Smith is an award-winning author. He lives, works and surfs on Victoria's Surf Coast. The first book in his acclaimed Winter trilogy, *The Road to Winter*, is widely taught in secondary schools and loved by readers of all ages, and *Wilder Country*, the second book of the trilogy, won the 2018 Indie Book of the Year for Young Adults.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

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October 2021

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Finished copies available

The Brink by Holden Sheppard

A brilliant new novel by a rising star of young adult fiction.

When Leonardo Kontos' friends cancel their end-of-school celebrations, his ambitious father arranges for him to go on a trip with another group of kids from his school. Geeky, asthmatic, shy and suffering from a serious panic disorder, Leonardo feels very awkward among the cool crowd.

When they arrive, full of dangerous energy, on a remote island, the teenagers quickly turn to drugs and alcohol to get the party started. When a local turns up dead, things quickly get out of hand. Scared that they will be accused, they leave their gruesome discovery on the beach. As morning breaks and the body is discovered, blame and fear set in.

Caught up in a messy situation of lies and coverups the teenagers quickly form unlikely alliances, turn on each other and expose powerful secrets, with devastating consequences.

The Brink is a dark and gritty novel that delves into masculinity, sexuality, mental health, drug and alcohol use, relationships and sex.

Praise for Holden Sheppard and *Invisible Boys*:

'The characters leap off the page, warts and all, and Sheppard writes with complexity and realism about sexual discovery, family and social rejection, coming of age (and coming out). A galvanising read for adolescents, and frank about the issues raised by queer teens in a way they'll appreciate.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Sheppard writes with unflinching honesty and an eye for authentic detail. It all makes for an impressive debut that's thoroughly deserving of the accolades it has received.' *Weekend West*

Holden Sheppard is an award-winning author born in Geraldton, Western Australia. His debut novel, *Invisible Boys* (Fremantle Press, 2019), was published to both critical and commercial success. *Invisible Boys* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. The novel is currently in development as a television series.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

|

August 2022

|

Manuscript available

Social Queue by Kay Kerr

Maia waves me over to her desk. It's one of the plush ones in the corner, and it's decorated as though she knows she is secure in her position here. Lots of photos, stacks of nice stationery. With her staggering ability to break exclusive news on the regular, it's no wonder.

'So it turns out you're a bit of a heartbreaker, Zoe Kelly,' she says, opening up a document filled with what look like web comments and links.

Zoe has just finished school and started an internship at a local newspaper. Her first assignment is to write about romance, but where to begin? Zoe hasn't been in love. She doesn't think anyone has ever even liked her. So when her article is published and she's contacted by a number of young men who were interested in her in their schooldays, Zoe realises that somehow she had missed the social cues.

Social Queue is a funny-serious story about being a young autistic woman navigating the dating scene and sorting out complex and often confusing feelings on the road to finding love.

Kay Kerr's debut novel, *Please Don't Hug Me*, was beloved by readers for its portrayal of the life of an autistic teenager. Her second novel, *Social Queue*, is another heartwarming contemporary young adult novel with huge appeal for neuro-diverse and neuro-typical readers alike.

Praise for *Kay Kerr*:

'A perceptive, honest, and warmly captivating romantic comedy that touched my heart. I adored it!' Helen Hoang, author of *The Kiss Quotient*

'This book is beautifully intimate, and so authentic. You're going to love getting to know its central character, Erin. I'm so thrilled this book exists.' Claire Christian, author of *Beautiful Mess Gaps* on *Please Don't Hug Me*

'A moving and insightful story about finding your place in the world.' Nina Kenwood, author of *It Sounded Better in My Head Gaps* on *Please Don't Hug Me*

'This Australian debut about a young woman who is shaped—but not defined—by her autism, balances its funny and serious sides perfectly, and is a heartwarming read about self-acceptance and authenticity.' Leanne Hall, author of *The Gaps* on *Please Don't Hug Me*

Kay Kerr 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 novel, when she received her own autism-spectrum diagnosis.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

|

October 2021

|

Finished copies available

Growing Up in Flames by Zach Jones

I've heard of Noah the way you hear about car accidents. A series of whispers, theories and rumours...

Kenna's mother, Ava, was killed in a bushfire not long ago. Now Kenna's living with her uncle and his young family in the small town where Ava grew up, and she feels like an intruder.

Noah's mother has a mental illness that makes him both carer and jailer—constantly watchful, keeping things on an even keel.

One night Kenna sees the general store on fire, and a boy standing watching as it burns. It takes her a while to notice he's holding a petrol can, but then things move fast. She's tackled him and run off with his bag before she even knows what's happened.

The bag belongs to Noah, and he really wants it back.

Kenna wants something too. To make someone else burn the way her mum did.

And there's something she doesn't know: how Noah can help her find out the truth about her family.

Zach Jones has been an acrobat and a psychologist, and has taught Shakespeare in prisons, but his wife, Aneeka, is the best thing that ever happened to him. He spends his time running around after their six children and making up stories in his head. He completed his doctorate in creative writing at the University of the Sunshine Coast, and now lives on the north coast of NSW. This is his first novel.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

|

March 2022

|

Manuscript available

The Museum of Broken Things by Lauren Draper

I didn't always live here. Not so long ago I was living in a thriving metropolis with more than one coffee shop on each block and four full bars of reception. I went to Heathmont High School, home to one thousand students, two best friends, a deeply average orchestra, and one cursed statue. Well, allegedly.

Reece still isn't used to living in the small beachside town of Hamilton: she misses her old school, her old friends and her old life. She can't go back and she can't move: nothing feels right anymore. She's grieving the death of her beloved grandmother and wondering if she should give up on her dream of becoming a surgeon.

But when Reece inherits a strange artefact that belonged to her grandmother, she begins to unravel a mystery that might change the way she feels about everything around her, including her maddeningly attractive classmate, Gideon...

A lively, witty novel about letting go of the past and finding your place in the world, *The Museum of Broken Things* introduces a dazzling new voice in contemporary fiction.

Lauren Draper is a writer based in Melbourne. Her work has appeared in *Dumbo Feather* and *Kill Your Darlings*, and her commercial-fiction manuscript was longlisted in the 2019 Richell Prize. She has worked in the publishing industry for the past five years and is currently the marketing manager at Hardie Grant Egmont.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

June 2022

Manuscript available
November 2021

All the Little Tricky Things by Karys McEwen

It's the start of the summer holidays and eleven-year-old Bertie is worried. Next year she's going to a high school in the city, while all her friends stay behind in Merri, the small town she's lived in all her life.

To help her feel better prepared for high school, her best friend, Claire, makes a list of eleven tasks Bertie has to complete over the summer. They start working through the list together, but the tasks begin to reveal some of the cracks in their friendship.

Now Bertie's not even sure she'll have one friend by the end of the summer.

All the Little Tricky Things is a charming, heartfelt novel about a time when everything is changing, and a girl who's trying to make sense of it all.

Karys McEwen is the current president of the Victorian branch of the Children's Book Council of Australia. She is also a school librarian, and she is passionate about the role libraries and literature play in the wellbeing of young people. She has been a columnist for *Books+Publishing* and her work has appeared in library journals such as *FYI*, *Synergy* and *Connections*. *All the Little Tricky Things* is her debut middle-grade novel.

Rights Held: World

Middle-grade fiction

May 2022

Manuscript available

Sugar by Carly Nugent

What's yours is yours for a reason. Luck has nothing to do with it.

Some people get exactly what they deserve. And, as it turns out, I deserve to be called Persephone.

No simple-to-sound-out Pride and Prejudice style name like Elizabeth or Jane for me. Nope. Demi had to go Greek. Define 'Persephone'. Bringer of destruction. That pretty much sums it up.

Persephone is angry. Angry that her life revolves around finger-prick tests, carbohydrate counts and insulin injections. Angry at Alexander Manson. Angry with her mum for lots of things, for nothing and for everything.

But most of all, she's angry with herself. For deserving it all. Because of what she did, or didn't do. Because one year ago she caused her dad's death.

But then Persephone finds a body on a bush path, a young woman she doesn't know but feels a strong connection to. And as she tries to find out what happened to Sylvia, Persephone begins to understand her own place in the complex interconnectedness of the universe.

Sugar is the story of a sixteen-year-old girl trying to make sense of the life-changing events that have sent her world into a spin, her search for a reason behind it all, and ultimately her acceptance of life's randomness.

Carly Nugent lives in Bright in Victoria. Her short fiction has featured in numerous publications, including the *Bellevue Literary Review* and *Award Winning Australian Writing*. Her first novel, *The Peacock Detectives*, won the Readings Children's Book Prize, was a CBCA Honour Book, and was shortlisted for the Text Prize, the Australian Book Design Awards and the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards. *Sugar*, her first book for young adults, is inspired by her own experience of having type-1 diabetes.

Rights Held: World

Option publishers: North America—HarperCollins

Young adult fiction

April 2022

Manuscript available
November 2021

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—but 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

***Lilian's Story* by Kate Grenville, introduced by Toni Collette**

Inspired by the legendary Sydney bohemian Bea Miles, Kate Grenville's much-loved debut novel recounts the life of the irrepressible Lilian Una Singer: from wealthy middle-class girlhood under the rule of a monstrous father, to outspoken independence in adulthood, and eventually sleeping rough on the city's streets in later years, her spirit undaunted. Bold, exuberant and richly imaginative, *Lilian's Story* was acclaimed as a masterpiece on its publication in 1985. It is unforgettable.

'A work of considerable beauty and power...An uncompromising vision...told with honesty and virtuosity.' *New York Times Book Review*

Rights Held: World

***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

Rights Sold: Japan—Iwanami Shoten Publishers; Italy—Garzanti

***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

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