

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2023

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FICTION



**AUGUST 2023
FICTION**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 304pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

The Healing Party

Micheline Lee

Evocative, taut and wryly funny, this stunning novel is about faith and lies, the spirit and the flesh

Estranged from her family, Natasha is making a life for herself in Darwin when her sister calls with bad news. Their mother is ill, and has only a few months to live. Confused and conflicted, Natasha returns to the home she fled many years before. But her father, an evangelical Christian, has not changed – he is still the domineering yet magnetic man she ran from, and her sisters and mother are still in his thrall.

One night her father makes an astonishing announcement: he has received a message from God that his wife is to be healed, and they must hold a party to celebrate. As Natasha and her sisters prepare for the big event – and the miracle – she struggles to reconcile her family's faith with her sense that they are pretending. Is she a traitor or the only one who can see the truth? And what use is truth anyway, in the face of death?

The Healing Party is a unique and compelling portrait of the deep complexities of family connection.

MICHELINE LEE's *The Healing Party*, was shortlisted for several awards including the Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Born in Malaysia, she migrated to Australia when she was eight. She is a former human rights lawyer and painter, and the author of forthcoming Quarterly Essay on humanity, disability and the NDIS.

PRAISE FOR

The Healing Party

‘A compelling portrait of religious zealotry but also of true goodness. The portrait of the family is wonderfully realised, especially the mother, whom Lee has imbued with warmth and grace, and her own inner mystery.’

—AMANDA LOHREY,
MILES FRANKLIN AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR OF *THE LABYRINTH*

‘Micheline Lee excels at drawing the ambiguities and frictions of familial connections: conflict, dislike and difference balanced by enduring love, which, in this family, is felt, but never expressed ... Lee creates a memorable, almost tragi-comic portrait of an Asian-Australian family.’

—BOOKS+PUBLISHING

‘The tenderness and exasperation with which the characters are drawn will ensure comparisons with Amy Tan ... *The Healing Party* succeeds in the aim all novels share: it suggests new ways of seeing.’

—THE MONTHLY

‘The combination of a family on high alert while dealing with terminal illness, cultural difference, blind faith, and grieving provides all the momentum and drama a reader could wish for.’

—BOOKTOPIA

‘A wild family drama, shot through with a furious, pure and grieving love.’

—HELEN GARNER

‘*The Healing Party* is part reality television and part an anthropological study of a strange foreign culture ... [a] deceptively simple, disciplined work’

—THE SATURDAY PAPER

‘Lee is an exceptionally talented writer ... An impressive, unique Australian debut.’

—READINGS MONTHLY

‘A gripping family drama concerning love, grief and the complexities of faith.’

—CANBERRA WEEKLY

‘Incredibly gripping, highly recommended’

—ANNABEL CRABB AND LEIGH SALES,
CHAT 10 LOOKS 3

‘I couldn’t stop till I finished. Horrifying and wonderful.’

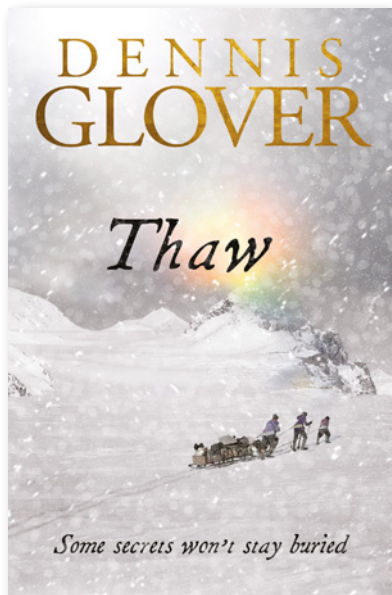
—DAVID MARR

‘A compelling portrait of family life’

—MINDFOOD

‘Compelling from start to finish, *The Healing Party* is a mature and illuminating account of the complex ties of family.’

—AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW



**AUGUST 2023
FICTION**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

‘Dennis Glover proves himself a master of the historical novel. *Thaw* is a gripping evocation of nature in extremis, of explorers and scientific discovery, blended with a contemporary tale of the frozen past coming back to life.’

—Chris Feik, Publisher

Thaw

Dennis Glover

Some secrets won't stay buried.

‘Scott’s lost expedition was still here, she thought – frozen, preserved, waiting to be rescued from the thaw. The truth lay beneath the surface, and she was going to bring it up.’

In 1912, five British explorers struggle across the freezing Antarctic landscape, through howling winds and plummeting temperatures, seeking the safety of their camp.

Today, as the world’s ice sheets begin to melt and surrender their secrets, renowned glacial archaeologist Missy Simpson works to discover the true cause of the explorers’ deaths – a subject that has intrigued researchers for more than a century.

Her colleague, Cambridge professor Jim Hunter, is working on his own scientific mysteries – and is willing to risk everything to solve them.

In hallowed halls of learning and on the icy polar plateau, these risk-takers must grapple with the unfathomable power of the natural world and the dramatically changing weather – while navigating their own complicated relationships.

Drawn from the pages of history and cutting-edge science, *Thaw* is a gripping read that will forever change how you see the frozen continent – and those who seek to conquer it.

DENNIS GLOVER was educated at Monash and Cambridge universities, and he has made a career as one of Australia’s leading speechwriters and political commentators. His first novel, *The Last Man in Europe*, was nominated for several literary prizes, including the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction. It was also published in the UK (Polygon) and USA (Overlook) and translated into Russian. His second novel, *Factory 19*, was published in 2020 and is currently in development as a TV series.



**APRIL 2023
FICTION**

Imprint: Upswell Publishing | RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 272pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Glass Houses

A Novel

Anne Coombs

Beloved author Anne Coombs' final novel – a gentle satire with a rapier edge that captures the joys and hypocrisies of a mid-nineties version of the Australian bourgeoisie.

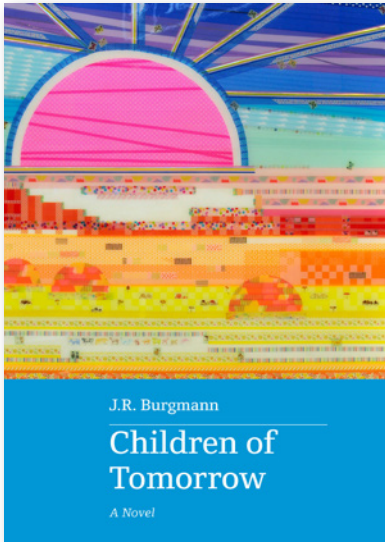
Raymond causes a stir in country town Glaston when he buys Glastonbridge, a house of vast, neo-Gothic fantasy, abandoned for decades. It's an ambitious project, and all previous renovators have come to grief. Out of the woodwork come real estate agents, a jealous sister, the heritage council, prospective tourism operators and journalists, proffering opinions and making his life a misery.

As the restoration goes on, Raymond becomes increasingly isolated, unable to trust anyone, alienating his friends and giving courage to his enemies. He believes that unseen forces are trying to remove him from his grand project.

At turns pitied, admired, humoured and loved, Raymond undoubtedly has the knowledge, vision and fortune to make Glastonbridge thrive again – but will he be able to see it through?

Glass Houses is a gentle satire with a rapier edge, perfectly capturing the socially mobile mid-nineties milieu of city folk with country houses. The final novel from acclaimed author and activist Anne Coombs is about finding your place of refuge and reaching for what you want.

ANNE COOMBS (1956–2021) was a journalist, author, political activist and philanthropist. She authored five books, including *Sex and Anarchy: The Life and Death of the Sydney Push* (Viking, 1996) and *Broometime* (Hodder Headline, 2001), co-authored with Susan Varga. Anne was one of the founders of Rural Australians for Refugees and a board member and chair of GetUp! She died at her Exeter home in December 2021.



MARCH 2023
FICTION

Imprint: Upswell Publishing | RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 256pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Rights sold: North America (Great Plains Publications); Audio (Wavesound)

Children of Tomorrow

A Novel

J.R. Burgmann

An imaginative tour de force and an unforgettable family saga by a new voice in climate change literature.

Children of Tomorrow is an episodic saga, a sweeping history of family and friendship, spanning multiple generations and geographies across the twenty-first century. This web of characters struggle, both individually and collectively, through a time of unprecedented, escalating change.

Beginning in 2016, Arne Bakke witnesses the historic devastation of that summer's bushfires across the ancient wilderness of Tasmania. Elsewhere, Londoner Evie Weatherall witnesses extreme climate events in her travels. They each see a dangerous future forming. When their paths collide in Melbourne, Australia, where they are both enrolled in a PhD, they and their group of close friends are set on course to witness and struggle together against the coming century, an age of great individual and planetary loss.

Children of Tomorrow depicts an all-too-real future history, rushing on at an unstoppable speed and fracturing the lives of its many characters, the effects of which ripple throughout subsequent generations and the earth they inherit.

J.R. BURGMANN is a writer and critic. He is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and received his PhD in Literary and Cultural Studies from Monash University, where he is based at the Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub. *Children of Tomorrow*, his debut novel, was highly commended in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2021 in the category of unpublished manuscripts. In 2022 he was awarded a Wheeler Centre Hot Desk Fellowship.

PRAISE FOR

Children of Tomorrow

‘*Children of Tomorrow* is a vivid and disturbing vision of what could happen in this coming century if we don’t respond well to the current polycrisis. It’s not a matter of endofeverything apocalypse, but rather a continuous epic struggle to cope with wild change. Burgmann shows how the novel can be put back to its proper use describing history itself, by way of braided swift stories of people doing the epic work of survival. A novel to remember!’

—KIM STANLEY ROBINSON

‘Intimate and profound, *Children of Tomorrow* is a love song for a burning planet.’

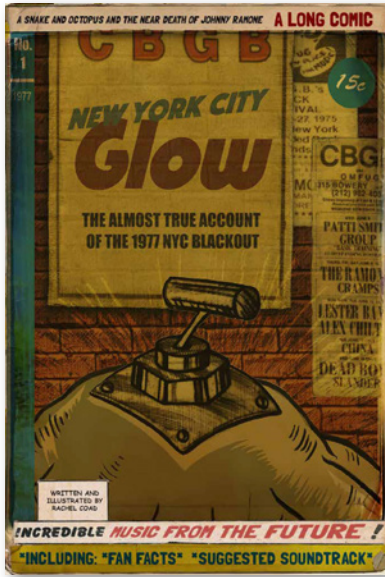
—JAMES BRADLEY

‘With echoes of Kim Stanley Robinson, James Bradley and Richard Powers, JR Burgmann provides a lyrical catalogue of the terrifying crises to come. If you’re waiting for a hero to save us, *Children of Tomorrow* is a timely reminder that climate change is caused by a complex network of people, and that collective action and diverse approaches are our only way out of this.’

—JANE RAWSON

‘In *Children of Tomorrow*, JR Burgmann delivers a preemptive elegy to our world as it spins through the 21st century into what could conceivably be the human race’s endgame. The tension increases chapter by chapter much like the carbon dioxide in the air, preventing characters, and us, from breathing easily. And yet, as resources dwindle, stability vanishes and longheld values and viewpoints fall by the wayside, the relationships and networks that bind us to each other in our inevitably shared destiny hold, just about, though not without cost, and certainly not without grief. This novel doesn’t pull its punches but does, ultimately, nail its colours to the mast of that most persistent and valuable of all human commodities: hope.’

—PAUL DALGARNO



JULY 2023
GRAPHIC NOVEL / ILLUSTRATED

Imprint: Upswell Publishing | RRP: AU\$34.99
Format: Paperback | 260 x 175mm | 108pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV

New York City Glow

Rachel Coad

A snake, an octopus and the near death of Johnny Ramone. The almost true account of the 1977 New York City blackout.

Set in the 1970s, the story's capstone is the 1977 New York City blackout.

Ray the snake is a sad, lonely, middle aged insurance salesman from Midway Kentucky, looking for a better life. Strawberry is a Glow Octopus (*Stauroteuthis syrtensis*) with an inability to control her glow. Strawberry finds herself in constant trouble; she has a prison record and an FBI file to prove it.

The unlikely pair embark on a road trip to New York City, where they rub shoulders with rock royalty, things get electric – in more ways than one.

A tribute to all kinds of music, from elevator to opera.

In a painting career spanning 20 years, **RACHEL COAD** has exhibited in both Australia and the UK. In 2016 she was awarded Black Swan Prize for portraiture. A history in illustration and design. This is Rachel's first graphic novel. Or as she likes to call it: 'A long comic'.



NON- FICTION



**NOVEMBER 2024
BIOGRAPHY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$49.99
Format: Hardback | 234 x 153mm | 368pp
Sample: Available
Manuscript: February 2024
Rights held: World; film/TV

Robert Hughes

The Biography

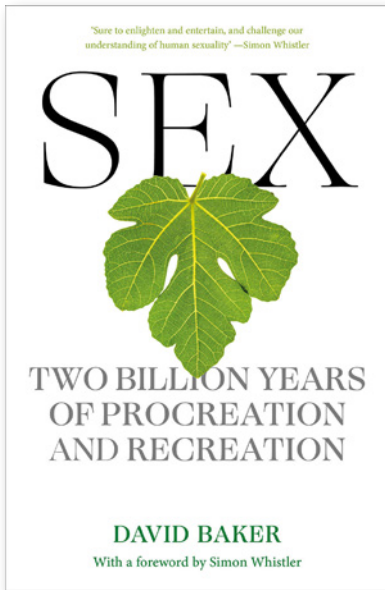
Thornton McCamish

For many years he was the world's leading art critic. A swashbuckling figure from the golden age of journalism, he was also the pioneering TV presenter of *The Shock of the New* and the author of *The Fatal Shore*. Robert Hughes led a life of brilliance, achievement and – often – chaos.

Finally, we have a biography of this extraordinary figure, and one that is worthy of Hughes – irreverent, perceptive, original and full of new information.

In astonishingly vivid and entertaining prose, Thornton McCamish draws on interviews with everyone from Tina Brown to Simon Schama, Leo Wieseltier and Walter Isaacson, and from first access to the recently opened Hughes archive. He paints a picture of a life lived with zest, and not without tragedy - in which art, history and criticism collide in one extraordinary character.

THORNTON MCCAMISH is a freelance journalist and writer. His previous book, *Our Man Elsewhere: in Search of Alan Moorehead*, won the 2017 Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature.



OCTOBER 2023
HISTORY

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 320pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Rights sold: North America (The Experiment);
Spain (Antoni Bosch)

DAVID BAKER is a history and science writer for SimonWhistler.com who holds the world's first PhD in Big History, studying under David Christian. He has delivered award-winning lectures at Macquarie University and the University of Amsterdam, is a visiting lecturer at the University of Paris-Sorbonne, and wrote the YouTube series *Crash Course Big History*, hosted by John and Hank Green in partnership with the Gates Big History Project. He is also the author of *The Shortest History of the World*, which has been published in thirteen territories.

Sex

Two Billion Years of Procreation and Recreation

David Baker

How did sex begin? How did it evolve to be so varied and complex in humans? What influence does our genetic ancestry have on our love life today? And what might sex look like in the future?

Sex traces where all the facets of human sexuality came from, starting at the creation of sex approximately 2 billion years ago and chasing it down our evolutionary family tree – from dinosaurs to primates and the earliest humans – until we arrive at the present, revealing why humanity's baffling array of passions, impulses and fetishes are the way they are.

From the basic chemical process of two microbes sharing DNA to the modern phenomena of Tinder and OnlyFans, author David Baker guides the reader towards a clear understanding of one of the deepest and most abiding forces of human nature. *Sex* looks at how sex changed for humans across the foraging, agrarian and modern eras, and how we arrived at a period in history where the present nature of our sex lives has no historical or evolutionary precedent. Baker then looks at the horizon to figure out where current trends may lead us in the near future, as humans navigate the brave new world of technology.

The result is a revealing and utterly unique insight into history and human behaviour – and the dance between Nature and Nurture in society.

With a foreword by Simon Whistler



**AUGUST 2023
MEMOIR**

Imprint: Upswell Publishing | RRP: AU\$29.99
 Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 180pp
 Manuscript: Available
 Rights held: World; film/TV

‘I read it in one sitting and loved loved loved it. Truly. It is beautifully and cleverly told.’

—Simon Winchester, *New York Times*
 bestselling author of *The Professor and the Madman*

‘Raw and honest ... a testament that the only way to break these cycles is to tell the truth.’

—Amy Richards, Producer of the Emmy-nominated *Woman* (ViceLand) and author of *We Are Makers*.

‘Vivid and transparent. Deft. I was absolutely hooked from the first paragraph.’

—Professor Joanna Benjamin, Emeritus Professor of Law, The London School of Economics

Trust

A Fractured Fable

Jeanne Ryckmans

A darkly funny memoir and investigation into the charms and crimes of the untrustworthy

Romance scams, pyramid schemes, bogus debts and fake news, the world is awash with confidence tricksters and swindlers. But what happens if the fraudster is your lover?

It has been said that trust is a risk masquerading as a promise and, as Hemingway suggested, ‘The way to make people trustworthy is to trust them’. Once we have fallen under the spell of malevolent hucksters, their power is real, as is the loss of self and hope when the spell breaks.

A hybrid memoir and a personal detective story, *Trust* is an exploration of what it means to trust, why we trust, and what happens when trust is betrayed. With a particular view to fraud and corruption within the hallowed walls of sandstone universities, Ryckmans brings to light the oft subtle, brutal nature of the control that fraudsters have over their victims, and shows the deep impacts their actions have on others personally and professionally. The cover up – sometimes said to be worse than the crime – has insidious effects.

Trust is a fractured fable. It is darkly funny, wistful, and spare in tone and approach.

JEANNE RYCKMANS has worked for two decades in Australian publishing. A literary agent with Cameron’s Agency, she was formerly senior publisher at Random House and HarperCollins Australia. Prior to this she worked in arts television in France and Australia as presenter and producer, and was features editor at *ELLE* and books editor for *Vogue Australia*. She is the author of two books.



**OCTOBER 2023
BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 336pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Quaint Deeds

Unlikely adventures in teaching
and treasure-hunting: a memoir

A.J. Mackinnon

From the bestselling author of
The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow,
a hilarious and heart-warming memoir
of teaching, treasure hunts and finding
your own way in life

A.J. ‘Sandy’ Mackinnon is best known to readers as a much-loved travel writer. But between eccentric voyages, he has for almost forty years taught at schools in Australia and the UK. In *Quaint Deeds* he brings his trademark wit and warmth to the classroom, recalling the ups, downs and unexpected detours of a teaching life. Along the way, he shares the lessons his students have taught him, often in the most unlikely moments – whether playing pranks, experimenting with home-made fireworks, or searching for buried treasure in the English countryside. Uproarious and insightful in equal measure, *Quaint Deeds* is an irresistible ode to the magic and mystery of youth.

A.J. MACKINNON was born in 1963 and travelled as a boy on P&O liners between Australia and England, developing a love of slow travel. He started his teaching career in 1984 and has worked in various schools around the world, sharing his passion for English Literature, Mathematics, Drama, Art and Philosophy with countless students over the years. He now lives in the Victorian High Country of Australia where he continues to love his teaching, his garden and various other creative projects. His previous books are *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow* and *The Well at the World’s End*.



**OCTOBER 2023
BIOGRAPHY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$39.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 384pp

Manuscript: April 2023

Rights held: World

Film/TV: Australian Literary Management

Family Business

David Marr

For three generations one colonial family killed and stripped land from Indigenous people, first as squatters and then as officers of the most brutal force in Australia, the Native Police. This is the story of the dispossession, seen up close.

Not long ago, the acclaimed journalist and biographer David Marr discovered that some of his relatives had been at the centre of Queensland's nineteenth-century frontier massacres – the longest and bloodiest conflict in Australia's history.

In this riveting book, Marr brings his forensic intelligence, deep biographical insight and narrative skill to tell what happened and why, and what it means for today.

DAVID MARR has written for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Saturday Paper*, *The Guardian* and *The Monthly*, and has served as editor of the *National Times*, reporter for *Four Corners* and presenter of ABC TV's *Media Watch*. His books include *Patrick White: A Life*, *The High Price of Heaven*, *Dark Victory* (with Marian Wilkinson), *Panic* and six bestselling *Quarterly Essays*: *His Master's Voice*, *Power Trip*, *Political Animal*, *The Prince*, *Faction Man* and *The White Queen*.



OCTOBER 2023
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 256pp
Manuscript: June 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV

Pivot to India

Andrew Charlton

Australia is obsessed with our strategic position between the United States and China, but we have a blindspot for India. Now, Australia has an opportunity to build a relationship with an emerging superpower that can enhance our security and prosperity in the 21st century.

Australian cities are full of thriving 'Little Indias' created by a growing Indian diaspora which is becoming the largest migrant group in Australia; but our relationship with the nation of India is weaker than it should be. Australia's trade with India will be about a trillion dollars smaller than it should be for its size over the next decade. Both Indians and Australians have an outdated view of each other, trapped in decades-old stereotypes.

The conditions for Australia and India to become much closer are now in place. The question is: will we seize this opportunity?

ANDREW CHARLTON is the federal MP for Parramatta and former economic adviser to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. He has a doctorate from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes scholar. At age twenty-six he published a landmark book, *Fair Trade for All*, co-authored with Joseph Stiglitz, which was translated into thirteen languages. He went on to write several more successful books and two Quarterly Essays.

Saving THE planet is big business. Realising this, savvy companies are hopping on the sustainability bandwagon. Some may have altruistic ends in mind, but a GREAT many just want to make a quick buck. As ethical spending and consumer options increase, GREENWASHING is not only proliferating—it's also becoming harder to discern.

Now, more than ever, you need to be on the lookout for how brands, governments and influencers are lying to you.

JOHN PABON

JUNE 2023

ENVIRONMENT/ECONOMICS

Imprint: Melbourne Books | RRP: AU\$34.00

Format: Paperback | 235 x 154mm | 288pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Rights sold: North America (House of Anansi Press); Audio (Bolinda, UK/Comm ex Canada)

The Great Greenwashing

How Brands, Governments and Influencers Are Lying to You

John Pabon

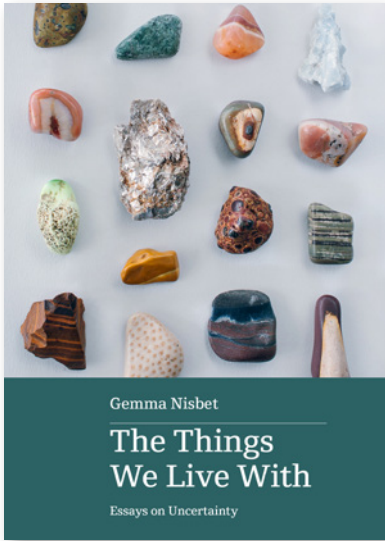
Saving the planet is big business.

Realising this, savvy companies are hopping on the sustainability bandwagon. Some may have altruistic ends in mind, but most want to make a quick buck. As ethical spending and consumer options increase, greenwashing is not only proliferating—it's also becoming harder to discern.

But how is someone at the supermarket supposed to decipher all this?

In *The Great Greenwashing*, John Pabon pulls no punches in arming consumers and business professionals with the tools they need to educate themselves, filter out the BS from the truth, and make a positive impact.

JOHN PABON is a globally recognised expert in sustainability. He has previously held roles with the United Nations, McKinsey, A.C. Nielsen, and as a consultant with BSR; the world's largest sustainability-focused business network. He is a regular commentator on CNN, *EuroNews*, and the ABC. He is the Program Director for The Conference Board's Asia Sustainability Leaders Council, a member of the United Nations Association of Australia, and serves on the board of advisors to the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce.



OCTOBER 2023
ESSAYS

Imprint: Upswell Publishing | RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 150mm | 220pp

Sample: Available

Manuscript: April 2023

Rights held: World; film/TV

The Things We Live With

Gemma Nisbet

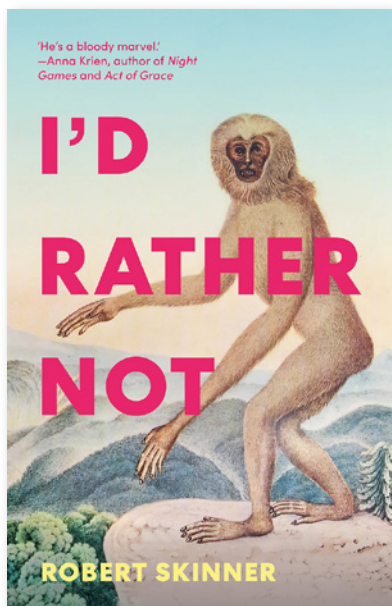
A meditation on the burden and joy of inheritance and the strange power of the objects and keepsakes that connect us.

This is how I became interested in things; in their strange pull and power; in the ways they hold on to us and we to them.

After her father dies of cancer, Gemma Nisbet is inundated with keepsakes connected to his life by family and friends. As she becomes attuned to the ways certain items can evoke specific memories or moments, she begins to ask questions about the relationships between objects and people. Why is it so difficult to discard some artefacts and not others? Does the power exerted by precious things influence the ways we remember the past and perceive the future? As Nisbet considers her father's life and begins to connect his experiences of mental illness with her own, she wonders whether hanging on to 'stuff' is ultimately a source of comfort or concern.

Intimate and wide-ranging, *The Things We Live With* is a collection of essays about how we learn to live with the 'thing' handed down in families which we carry throughout our lives: not only material objects, but also grief, memory, anxiety and depression. It's about notions of home and restlessness, inheritance and belonging – and, above all, the ways we tell our stories to ourselves and other people

GEMMA NISBET is a Western Australian-based writer whose work has appeared in *Westerly*, *Australian Book Review* and *TEXT*, among other publications. A former travel journalist, she is undertaking a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Western Australia, teaches Creative Writing and Literary Studies at universities, and writes a weekly book review column for *The West Australian*. She lives on Whadjuk Noongar land with her partner and a dog named Pickle. *The Things We Live With* is her first book.



JULY 2023
MEMOIR/HUMOUR

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$27.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 176pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV
Rights sold: North America (Steerforth Press);
Audio (Penguin Random House)

'This book is like a big, properly made gin and tonic drunk outside in a garden on a perfect Saturday afternoon.' —Cate Kennedy, author of *The World Beneath* and *Like a House on Fire*

'My heart leaps whenever I see Robert Skinner's byline; I know I am in for a hilarious literary treat' —Anna Krien, author of *Night Games* and *Act of Grace*

'... a funny and affecting celebration of the glorious choices we so often have of where to go and how to get there.' —Jim Shepard, author of *The Book of Aron* and *Phase Six*

I'd Rather Not

Robert Skinner

From one of Australia's most wryly funny writers comes an original and utterly hilarious memoir of reaching for the stars while lying in a ditch

Sometimes a literary sensibility catches the spirit of the times. In *I'd Rather Not*, Robert Skinner has it all covered. This wonderful book of adventures (and misadventures) in the art of living is wryly subversive and constantly hilarious. It is about work, escape and that something more we all need.

'I was sleeping in what might reasonably be described as a ditch, though I tried not to think of it in those terms for morale reasons ...'

Robert Skinner arrives in the city, searching for a richer life. Things begin badly and then, surprisingly, get slightly worse. Pretty soon he's sleeping rough and trying to run a literary magazine out of a dog park. His quest for meaning keeps being thwarted, by gainful employment, beagles, house parties, ill-advised love affairs, camel trips and bureaucratic entanglements.

I'd Rather Not is a deeply funny book of light and shade, triumph and misadventure, where the wisdom is hard-won and promptly forgotten. Yet even when his ventures fail, Robert Skinner succeeds, always, in delighting readers.

ROBERT SKINNER was born and raised in Kaurana country, on the Adelaide Plains. His writing appears frequently in *The Monthly*, and has also been featured in *Best Australian Essays*, *Best Australian Comedy Writing*, *Internazionale*, as well as the *International Reader's Digest*, thus fulfilling a lifelong dream ... of his father's. He currently lives in Melbourne where he works in a bookshop and plays football at the lowest level.



**DECEMBER 2023
BIOGRAPHY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$29.99
Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 272pp
Manuscript: June 2023
Rights held: World
Rights sold: France (Belfond); Film/TV
(Matchbox); Audio (Audible)

‘Benjamin Law manages to be scatagological, hilarious and heartbreaking all at the same time. Every sentence fizzes like an exploding fireball of energy.’ —Alice Pung, author of *One Hundred Days*

‘A vivid, gorgeously garish, technicolour portrait of a family. It’s impossible not to let oneself go along for the ride and emerge at the book’s end enlightened, touched, thrilling with laughter.’ —Marieke Hardy, author of *You’ll Be Sorry When I’m Dead*

The Family Law

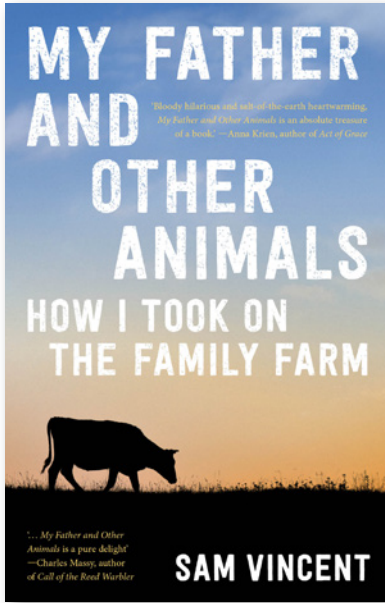
Benjamin Law

A beloved Australian writer revisits his much-acclaimed memoir

Meet the Law family – eccentric, endearing and hard to resist. Your guide: Benjamin, the third of five children and a born humorist. Join him as he tries to answer some puzzling questions. Why won’t his Chinese dad wear made-in-China underpants? Why was most of his extended family deported in the 1980s? Will his childhood dreams of *Home and Away* stardom come to nothing? What are his chances of finding love?

Hilarious and moving, *The Family Law* is a linked series of tales from a beloved Australian writer.

BENJAMIN LAW is the author of *The Family Law*, which he adapted for SBS TV, *Gaysia*, and *Quarterly Essay: Moral Panic 101*. He is a columnist for *Good Weekend* magazine and a co-host of ABC Radio National’s *Stop Everything*. Law has also written for over 50 publications internationally. He appeared on *Survivor: Heroes v Villians* in 2023.



**AUGUST 2023
MEMOIR**

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$29.99

Format: Paperback | 210 x 135mm | 304pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World; film/TV

Rights sold: Audio (OrangeSky)

BEST SELLER

My Father and Other Animals

How I Took on the Family Farm

Sam Vincent

New format of Sam Vincent's beloved and moving memoir of his seven-year apprenticeship to inherit the family farm

Sam Vincent is a twenty-something writer in the inner suburbs, scrabbling to make ends meet, when he gets a call from his mother: his father has stuck his hand into a woodchipper, but 'not to worry – it wasn't like that scene in *Fargo* or anything'. When Sam returns to the family farm to help out, his life takes a new and unexpected direction.

Whether castrating calves or buying a bull – orknocking in a hundred fence posts by hand when his dad hides the post-driver – Sam's farming apprenticeship is an education in grit and shit. But there are victories, too: nurturing a fig orchard to bloom; learning to read the land; joining forces with Indigenous elders to protect a special site. Slowly, Sam finds himself thinking differently about the farm, about his father and about his relationship with both.

By turns affecting, hilarious and utterly surprising, this memoir melds humour and fierce honesty in an unsentimental love letter. It's about belonging, humility and regeneration – of land, family and culture. What passes from father to son on this unruly patch of earth is more than a livelihood; it is a legacy.

SAM VINCENT'S writing has appeared in *The Monthly*, *The Saturday Paper*, *Griffith Review* and *The Best Australian Essays*. His first book, *Blood and Guts*, was longlisted for the Walkley Book Award. In 2019 he won the Walkley Award for longform feature writing. He runs a cattle and fig farm in the Yass Valley, NSW, and supplies fruit to some of the best restaurants in the Canberra region.

PRAISE FOR

My Father and Other Animals

‘A window onto the new rural Australia.’

—CAMERON WOODHEAD AND STEVEN
CARROLL, *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*

‘I had tears well up at some points, and laughed out loud at others. I cheered Sam’s fig orchard on and sympathised with him, his parents and his sisters during the difficult family discussions’

—AUSTRALIAN RURAL & REGIONAL NEWS

‘A witty memoir of taking on the family farm [that] reckons with Indigenous dispossession and climate change’

—CATIE GRESSIER, *THE CONVERSATION*

‘Vincent paints a funny and familiar picture of the generational differences between father and son. The handyman father who can’t be slowed even by doctors’ orders, and the son who can hardly be described as anything resembling “handy”.’

—2022 GRATTAN INSTITUTE PRIME
MINISTER’S READING LIST

‘Sam Vincent’s memoir *My Father and Other Animals* complicates clichéd notions of rural life ... a wholesome book with some serious arguments to make about sustainability.’

—JAMES LEY, *SYDNEY REVIEW OF BOOKS*

‘For any reader desiring to understand contemporary rural Australia, this entertaining and important book is a must-read ... Refreshingly honest, acutely observed, witty, lyrical and delightfully ironic, *My Father and Other Animals* is a pure delight.’

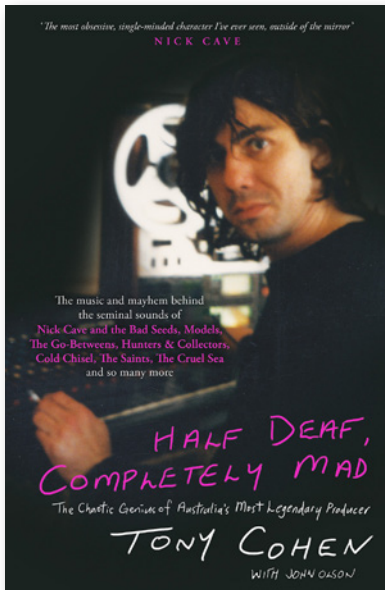
—CHARLES MASSY,
AUTHOR OF *CALL OF THE REED WARBLER*

‘A farmer, his son ... what to forget and what to remember, how to inherit and when to change. Sam Vincent has learned a few things from his dad, and among them is how to pay attention. For those of us who hunt our food plastic-wrapped in aisle three, this is a funny, kindly and observant introduction to the landscape that wraps around our cities, keeps us alive and means the world.’

—KATE HOLDEN,
AUTHOR OF *THE WINTER ROAD*

‘At once a rollicking comic memoir and a thoughtful meditation on Australian farming, *My Father and Other Animals* is a warm, surprising and beautifully crafted book.’

—BILLY GRIFFITHS,
AUTHOR OF *DEEP TIME DREAMING*



JUNE 2023

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Imprint: Black Inc. | RRP: AU\$32.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 240pp

Manuscript: Available

Rights held: World

Film/TV: Melanie Ostell Literary

'The most obsessive, single-minded character I've ever seen, outside of the mirror'

—Nick Cave

Half Deaf, Completely Mad

The Chaotic Genius of Australia's Most Legendary Producer

Tony Cohen and John Olson

The music and mayhem behind the seminal sounds of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Models, Hunters & Collectors, The Saints, The Go-Betweens, Cold Chisel, The Cruel Sea and so many more

'I first met Nick Cave ... at Richmond Recorders in January. I appeared shoeless, red-eyed and late. As usual. The grand piano was overflowing with bits of metal, microphone stands, anything that wasn't nailed down. "That should sound interesting," I said. It was the start of a great love affair.'

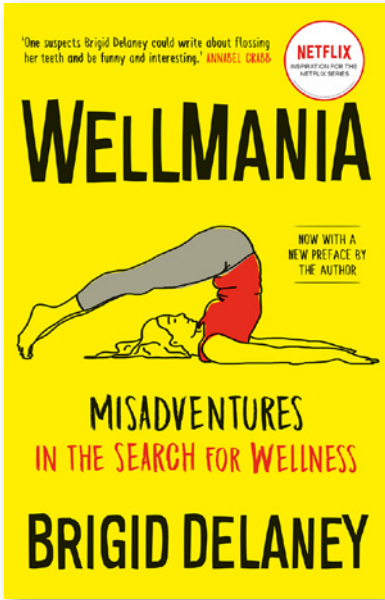
Masterful music producer-engineer Tony Cohen defined Australia's punk and rock sounds in the late '70s and '80s. His long and celebrated career took him from the studios of Melbourne and Sydney to West Berlin and London's Abbey Road, working with innumerable bands up until his death in 2017.

In candid reflections, Tony's decades-long relationship with Nick Cave and his bands – The Boys Next Door, The Birthday Party, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds – is well documented, along with behind-the-scenes classic recordings by The Ferrets, Laughing Clowns, Models, The Reels, The Go-Betweens, Hunters & Collectors, Cold Chisel, Beasts of Bourbon, The Saints, X, The Cruel Sea, Paul Kelly and so many more.

Half Deaf, Completely Mad is an exuberant, hilarious, tragic and triumphant memoir that reveals a chaotic genius who lived hard and LOUD.

TONY COHEN (1956–2017) started out as a fifteen-year-old dubbing boy at Armstrong Studios and went on to become the most sought-after music producer in Australia and the winner of three ARIA awards.

JOHN OLSON is a producer-engineer, archivist and researcher of film, television, radio and music history.



FEBRUARY 2023
MEMOIR/SELF-HELP

Imprint: Nero | RRP: AU\$24.99
 Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 320pp
 Manuscript: Available
 Rights held: World
 Rights sold: North America (Greystone Books);
 UK/Commonwealth (Coronet); France
 (Editions First); Poland (Wielka Litera); Russia
 (MTS library); Taiwan (Acme Publishing Co.)
 UK/Commwealth audio (Wavesound); Film/TV
 (Fremantle Media/Netflix)

‘I laughed so hard, I choked on a doughnut reading this book. I’m so glad Brigid Delaney tried all of this crazy stuff so I never have to.’
 —Jen Mann, *New York Times* bestselling author of *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*

‘Illuminating, thought-provoking, and hilariously honest. You’ll never look at fasting, yoga, or meditation the same way again.’
 —Robyn Harding, *Globe and Mail*-bestselling author of *The Party*

Wellmania

Misadventures in the Search for Wellness

Brigid Delaney

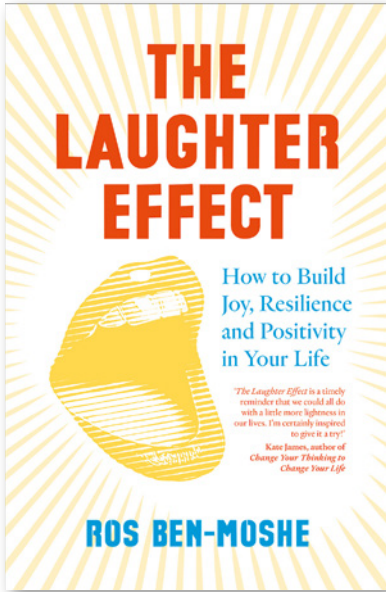
The inspiration for the Netflix series starring Celeste Barber, *Wellmania* is an in-depth, entertaining, laugh-out-loud-funny exploration of wellness culture.

Cold-pressed juices, quitting sugar, Paleo, hot yoga, mindfulness ... if you embrace these things you will be happy, you will be well – just ask Instagram. Wellness has become a global mega-industry. But does any of this stuff actually work?

Feeling exhausted, anxious and out of shape, journalist Brigid Delaney decides to find out – using herself as the guinea pig. Starting with a brutal 101-day fast, Brigid tests things that are meant to make us clean, lean and serene. Travelling the world, she tries colonics, meditation, silent retreats, group psychotherapy and oodles of yoga, working out what is helpful and what is just expensive hype.

In monasteries and health farms, on hiking trails and massage tables, she asks, why do so many of us swing from indulgence to detox and back again? Is it possible to integrate good habits into your daily life? What does our obsession with wellness say about us? And why do you smell so bad when you haven’t eaten in seven days?

BRIGID DELANEY is a senior writer for *Guardian Australia*. She has previously worked as a lawyer and journalist at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Telegraph* (London), *ninemsn* and *CNN*. She is the author of *Wellmania*, *This Restless Life* and *Wild Things*.



APRIL 2023
SELF-HELP

Imprint: Nero | RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 256pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV
Rights sold: World English-language ex ANZ (Alcove Press); Korea (SangSangSquare); Greece (Sofia Publications); Byblos (Russia); VR Editoras (Spanish language); China Science and Technology Press (China); Partvonal Kiadó (Hungary); Audio (Bolinda)

'The Laughter Effect is a timely reminder that we could all do with a little more lightness in our lives. Ros Ben-Moshe shares the science of laughter and the practical ways to include more of it in our days. I'm certainly inspired to give it a try!' —Kate James, author of *Change Your Thinking to Change Your Life*

The Laughter Effect

How to Build Joy, Resilience and Positivity in Your Life

Ros Ben-Moshe

Turbocharge your humour, laughter and joy with this transformative body-mind guide by laughter wellness and positivity expert Ros Ben-Moshe

The Laughter Effect is a powerful philosophy that enhances wellbeing and provides you with a road map to tap into the lighter side of life and awaken both your inner and outer smiles.

Drawing on research, practice and wisdom from humour and laughter therapy, along with positive psychology and neuroscience, Ros Ben-Moshe offers a new dimension to self-care, elevating mindfulness, gratitude and self-compassion.

This book is enriched by case studies from around the globe, and Ros shares how the highly accessible Laughter Effect enhances resilience to stress, enabling you to respond to adversity and bounce forward with humour, levity and grace. Living the Laughter Effect will awaken a positive change in yourself, how you respond to the world and, in turn, how the world responds to you.

ROS BEN-MOSHE is an internationally recognised laughter wellness and positivity expert. She is an adjunct lecturer at La Trobe University, where she teaches positive psychology and health promotion, and is the author of *Laughing at cancer: How to Heal with Love, Laughter and Mindfulness*.

FORTHCOMING IN

The Shortest History Series

The Shortest History of Economics

Andrew Leigh



**FEBRUARY 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp | Manuscript: April 2023 | Rights held: World; film/TV

ANDREW LEIGH is the federal member for Fenner and shadow assistant treasurer. Before being elected in 2010, he was a professor of economics at the Australian National University. His books include *Battlers and Billionaires*, *The Luck of Politics*, *Reconnected* and *Randomistas*, which was published by Yale University Press and translated into Chinese.

The Shortest History of Italy

Ross King



**MARCH 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 240pp | Manuscript: March 2023 | Rights held: World; film/TV
Rights sold: North America (The Experiment)

ROSS KING is a renowned expert in the Italian Renaissance. He is the author of numerous bestselling and acclaimed books including *The Bookseller of Florence*, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Machiavelli*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, *Leonardo and the Last Supper* and *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. He lives just outside Oxford.

FORTHCOMING IN THE
SHORTEST HISTORY SERIES

The Shortest History of Japan

Lesley Downer



**JUNE 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp | Manuscript: July 2023 | Rights held: World | Film/TV: AM Heath & Co

LESLEY DOWNER is an author, journalist and historian. She has travelled all over the world and given lectures at the Japan Society, Asia House, the Royal Geographic Society, the British Museum and the Japan Society in New York. She has written four novels, and several works of non-fiction, including *The Brothers*, which was chosen as a *New York Times* 'Book of the Year'.

The Shortest History of Ancient Rome

Ross King



**MARCH 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 240pp | Manuscript: October 2023 | Rights held: World; film/TV Rights sold: North America (The Experiment)

ROSS KING is a renowned expert in the Italian Renaissance. He is the author of numerous bestselling and acclaimed books including *The Bookseller of Florence*, *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Machiavelli*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, *Leonardo and the Last Supper* and *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. He lives just outside Oxford.

FORTHCOMING IN THE
SHORTEST HISTORY SERIES

The Shortest History of First Nations Australia

Larissa Behrendt



**AUGUST 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 240pp | Manuscript: March 2024 | Rights held: World; film/TV

LARISSA BEHRENDT is the award-winning author of the novels *Home*, *Legacy* and *After Story*. She has written numerous non-fiction books, including *Indigenous Australia For Dummies* and *Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling*. She was awarded the 2009 NAIDOC Person of the Year award and 2011 NSW Australian of the Year. She is the host of *Speaking Out* on ABC radio and is Distinguished Professor at the Jumbunna Institute at the University of Technology Sydney.

The Shortest History of Music

Andrew Ford



**NOVEMBER 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm | 256pp | Manuscript: November 2023 | Rights held: World; film/TV

ANDREW FORD is a composer, writer and broadcaster. His music has been performed and recorded around the world, played by ensembles such as the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Brodsky Quartet and the New Juilliard Ensemble, and sung by the likes of Yvonne Kenny, Katie Noonan and Iva Bittová. He presents *The Music Show* on ABC Radio National and has written ten books ranging from a study of sound in film to the songs of Van Morrison to the compulsion of composers to explore the primitive in their music.

FORTHCOMING IN THE
SHORTEST HISTORY SERIES

The Shortest History of the United States

Don Watson



**SEPTEMBER 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm |
288pp | Manuscript: October 2023 | Rights held: World; film/TV

DON WATSON is the author of many acclaimed books, including *Caledonia Australis*, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*, *American Journeys*, *The Bush*, *Watsonia* and *The Story of Australia*.

The Shortest History of Australia

Mark McKenna



**SEPTEMBER 2024
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm |
240pp | Manuscript: January 2024 | Rights held: World
Film/TV: Australian Literary Management

MARK MCKENNA is one of Australia's leading historians, based at the University of Sydney. He is the author of several prize-winning books, including *From the Edge: Australia's Lost Histories*, *Looking for Blackfellas' Point* and *An Eye for Eternity: The Life of Manning Clark*, which won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for nonfiction and the Victorian, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australian premiers' awards. His most recent book is *Return to Uluru*, published in the US by Dutton.

FORTHCOMING IN THE
SHORTEST HISTORY SERIES

The Shortest History of Turkey

Benjamin Fortna



**SEPTEMBER 2025
HISTORY**

Imprint: Black Inc. | AU\$26.99 | Format: Paperback | 198 x 128mm |
240pp | Manuscript: September 2024 | Rights held: World; film/TV

BENJAMIN C. FORTNA is a professor at the University of Arizona, where he is the director of the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies. He was formerly Professor of the History of the Middle East, SOAS, University of London. He has published numerous books on the Ottoman Empire, the early Turkish Republic and modern Turkey, and appeared on BBC programmes *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Empire*.



**LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY
PRESS**



**NOVEMBER 2023
TECHNOLOGY/AI**

Imprint: La Trobe University Press |
RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 288pp
Manuscript: Available
Rights held: World; film/TV
Rights sold: World English-language
ex ANZ (Flint)

**From the author of
internationally acclaimed
It's Alive!, 2062 and
Machines Behaving Badly
– all published in many
territories around
the world**

Faking It

Artificial Intelligence in a Human World

Toby Walsh

If you want to understand artificial intelligence, you will have to put aside your preconceptions. You will need to forget all those fanciful ideas Hollywood might have given you – especially the bits about humanoid robots. You aren't, unfortunately, going to have a robot butler anytime soon. And robots aren't likely to destroy humanity anytime soon either. We're pretty good at doing that to ourselves!

You know what intelligence is from being intelligent yourself. But artificial intelligence isn't going to be like your human intelligence. For one, AI isn't going to have all your weaknesses. It isn't going to think as slow as you do. Nor is it going to be as forgetful. And it might not be hindered by your emotions, like anxiety and fear.

Artificial intelligence is about being artificial – about pretending to be intelligent. It is about faking it. This book is about that artificiality. It is partly a strength: by abstracting intelligence, we can hand over many tasks to machines. But it is also a great weakness – and something that should be of concern to everyone.

TOBY WALSH is one of the world's leading researchers in Artificial Intelligence. He is a Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of New South Wales and leads a research group at Data61, Australia's Centre of Excellence for ICT Research. He has been elected a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of AI for his contributions to AI research, and has won the prestigious Humboldt research award. He is the author of *It's Alive!, 2062*, and *Machines Behaving Badly*.



**MARCH 2024
ECONOMICS**

Imprint: La Trobe University Press |

RRP: AU \$32.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 304pp

Manuscript: August 2023

Rights held: World; film/TV

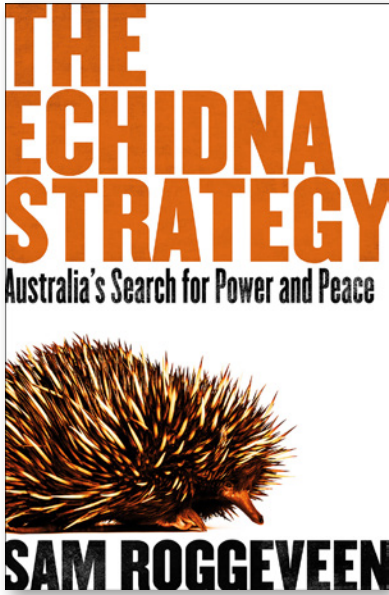
The Economy of Algorithms

Marek Kowalkiewicz

Algorithms have been around for hundreds of years, but it's only recently that they have begun to 'escape' our understanding. They're not just as good as us, they're becoming infinitely better, and, at the same time, massively more surprising.

We are witnessing the emergence of a new economy: the economy of algorithms. In the twentieth century, things were simple – we had the economy of corporations. In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, we've seen the emergence of the economy of people, enabled by the internet. Now we're seeing a new economy: the economy of algorithms. How do you advertise to a fridge? Can an algorithm take your job? Do algorithms dream of electric sheep? These questions and more are answered by this exciting and ground-breaking book.

Professor **MAREK KOWALKIEWICZ** is founding director of the Queensland University of Technology Research Centre for the Digital Economy. He joined QUT from Silicon Valley, where he led innovation teams of one of the largest enterprise software vendors in the world. Before Silicon Valley, Marek worked in Singapore, Australia and China. He has delivered many keynote addresses to conferences on the digital age.



SEPTEMBER 2023
POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Imprint: La Trobe University Press |
RRP: AU\$32.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 288pp
Manuscript: April 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV

The Echidna Strategy

Australia's Search for Power and Peace

Sam Roggeveen

In the wake of a shift in the global power balance, how can Australia best protect itself?

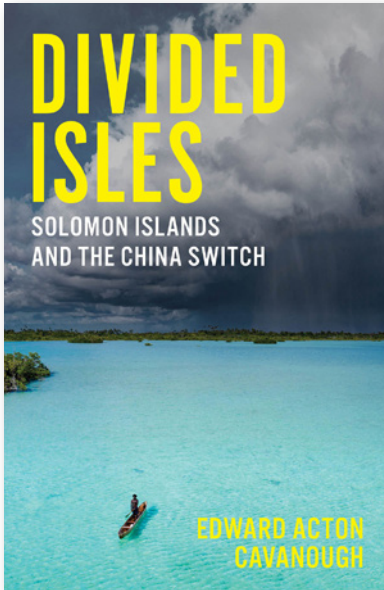
Amid China's rise and America's decline in Asia, what will happen to Australia?

In this authoritative account, defence expert and insider Sam Roggeveen questions the claim that Australia is vulnerable to China's military, and probes the assumption that we cannot defend ourselves without America. He argues Australia must become bigger, more powerful and more independent, but not more aggressive. The choice cannot be between submission and belligerence. There is a third way: 'the echidna strategy'.

The echidna strategy is, in part, a defence policy, but also a metaphor for the way Australia should approach its neighbours – benign and non-threatening, but with enough armour to protect ourselves. Above all, Australia must be dedicated to preserving peace among Asia's giants in an era in which nuclear war is our biggest risk.

The Echidna Strategy deftly examines the new contest for leadership in Asia, the challenges Australia faces and the strategies it needs to thrive.

SAM ROGGEVEEN is director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program. He was the founding editor of *The Interpreter* and is editor of the Lowy Institute Papers. Before joining the Lowy Institute, Sam was a senior analyst in Australia's peak intelligence agency, the Office of National Assessments.



SEPTEMBER 2023
POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Imprint: La Trobe University Press |
RRP: AU\$34.99
Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 288pp
Manuscript: April 2023
Rights held: World; film/TV

Divided Isles

Solomon Islands and the China Switch

Edward Acton Cavanaugh

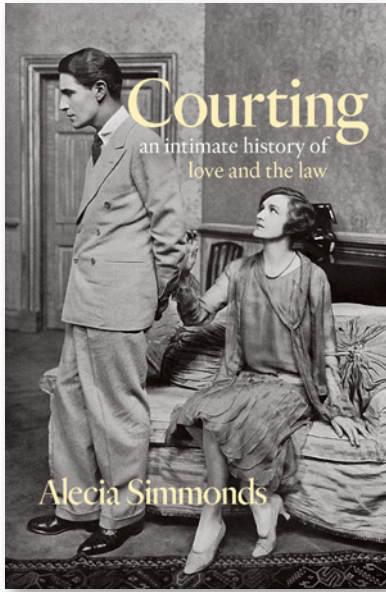
A pacy must-read analysis of one of the most consequential geopolitical events in Australia's region

In 2019, Solomon Islands made international headlines when the country severed its decades-old alliance with Taiwan in exchange for a partnership with Beijing. The decision prompted international condemnation and terrified Australian security experts, who feared Australia's historical Pacific advantage would come unstuck.

This development is often framed as another example of China's inevitable capture of the region – but this misrepresents how and why the decision was made, and how Solomon Islanders have skillfully leveraged global angst over China to achieve extraordinary gains. Despite Solomon Islands' importance to Australia, local readers know little about the country, a fragile island-nation stretching over a thousand islands and speaking seventy indigenous languages.

In *Divided Isles*, Edward Cavanaugh explains how the switch played out on the ground and its extraordinary potential consequences. He speaks with the dissidents and politicians who shape Solomon Islands' politics, and to the ordinary people whose lives have been upended by a decision that has changed the country – and the region – forever.

EDWARD ACTON CAVANOUGH is a journalist, researcher and policy analyst based in Adelaide. He has reported from Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. His writing has appeared in *The Saturday Paper*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The South China Morning Post* and *The Australian*.



NOVEMBER 2023
HISTORY

Imprint: La Trobe University Press |

RRP: AU\$34.99

Format: Paperback | 234 x 153mm | 400pp

Sample: Available

Manuscript: May 2023

Rights held: World; film/TV

Dr **ALECIA SIMMONDS** is a senior lecturer in law at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her first book, *Wild Man*, won the 2016 Davitt Prize for best nonfiction crime writing. She has been the recipient of numerous prestigious academic grants and her writing has appeared in world-leading scholarly journals and in publications including *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *Arena* and *Inside Story*.

Courting

An Intimate History of Love and the Law

Alecia Simmonds

In *Courting*, award-winning author and academic Alecia Simmonds uncovers stories of love and heartbreak from the archives of law.

Until well into the twentieth century, the law in many countries offered heartbroken men and women financial redress for their suffering: disappointed lovers could claim compensation for a ‘breach of promise to marry’. In Australia, almost a thousand people, largely from the working classes, came before the courts, and they provide a tantalising insight into the romantic landscape of the past – where couples met, how they courted, and what happened when flirtations turned sour. In packed courtrooms and breathless media reports, love letters were read as contracts and private gifts, gestures and gossip scrutinised as evidence.

Alecia Simmonds brings these cases vividly to life to unpick the entangled histories of love and law. Over the long arc of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, pre-industrial romantic customs gave way to middle-class respectability, women used the courts to demand a right to bodily autonomy, and law ceded its authority over love to psychology – and women, Simmonds argues, lost in the process. The extraordinary stories of breach-of-promise litigants are our portals into this history: a scheming governess from Jamaica in the 1850s, a Syrian hawkler in the 1890s and an English vaudeville star in the 1920s, among many others.

Challenging our preconceptions about how previous generations loved and lost and raising fascinating questions about the ethics of love today, *Courting* is a transnational journey into the most intimate corners of the past.



Helena Rubinstein

The Australian Years

Angus Trumble

The captivating story of the first global cosmetics empire, the fascinating woman who built it, and the past she preferred to leave behind

This meticulously researched and wryly entertaining portrait of Helena Rubinstein (1872–1965) focuses on the years she spent in Australia as a young woman, recovering a ‘lost’ chapter in the grand narrative of the woman who created one of the first global cosmetics corporations. At its height, Rubinstein’s brand was synonymous with elegance and employed 30,000 women around the world.

Rubinstein arrived in Australia from Poland when she was twenty-three years old. She lived in Australia for the next eleven years, working first as a governess and then as a waitress, before opening her first beauty salon in Melbourne.

In later years, owing to the degree of control she exercised over her glamorous image, many details of her early life in Australia were suppressed. But the events she airbrushed out of her own myth reveal the surprising origins of her extraordinary rise. In this absorbing book, we see her laying the foundations for a global empire.

ANGUS TRUMBLE (1964–2022) was senior research fellow at the National Museum of Australia and a former director of the National Portrait Gallery, Australia. He was senior curator of paintings and sculpture at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Conn. until January 2014. His previous books include *Love and Death: Art in the Age of Queen Victoria*, *A Brief History of the Smile*, *The Finger: A Handbook and Edwardian Opulence: British Art at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century*, co-edited with Andrea Wolk Rager. In 2015, he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

JULY 2023
BIOGRAPHY

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