

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.

Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Bowe, Steph	<i>Sunny at the End of the World</i>	World English	Ginger Clark Literary
He, Joan	<i>Strike the Zither</i> duology	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	The Rights People
Laguna, Ingrid	<i>Kasia</i>	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Laguna, Ingrid	<i>Come On, Otto</i>	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Shepard, Sara	<i>Penny Draws a Friend</i> series	ANZ	PRH USA
Williams, Megan	<i>Let's Never Speak of This Again</i>	World	Author

Adult

Boehme, Jacob	<i>Dancing Back to My People</i>	World	Author
Calaby, Tara	<i>House of Longing</i>	World	Author
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>The Pole and Other Stories</i>	ANZ	David Higham Assoc.
Everett, Percival	<i>The Trees and Dr. No</i>	ANZ	Graywolf Press
Ísberg, Friðða	<i>Merking / The Mark</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Kwaymullina, Ambelin	<i>Liar's Test and its untitled sequel</i>	ANZ	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Langbein, Julia	<i>American Mermaid</i>	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein in assoc. with Levine Greenberg Rostan
Latronico, Vincenzo	<i>Le Perfezioni / The Perfections</i>	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo
Martel, Yann	<i>The Son of Nobody</i>	ANZ	Westwood Creative Artists
Melchor, Fernanda	<i>Aqui no es Miami / This Is Not Miami</i>	ANZ	Michael Gaeb
Morrissey, John	<i>Autoc</i>	World	Author
Morrissey, John	<i>Bird Deity Alpha</i>	World	Author
Salasc, Emmanuelle	<i>Hors Gel / Alarm</i>	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Editions P.O.L.
Sidnam, Emma	<i>Backwaters</i>	World	High Spot Literary
Thaker, Lenora	<i>The Pearl of Shantytown</i>	World	Author
Tokarczuk, Olga	<i>Empuzjon / Symposium</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Wilson, Kevin	<i>Now Is Not the Time to Panic and untitled novel</i>	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein in assoc. with The Book Group

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Arnold, David	<i>The Electric Kingdom</i>	Writers House USA
Dabos, Christelle	<i>The Storm of Echoes: The Mirror Visitor, Book Four</i>	Gallimard Jeunesse
Emery, Kate	<i>The Not So Chosen One</i>	Author
Gale, Emily	<i>The Goodbye Year</i>	Author
He, Joan	<i>Strike the Zither</i>	Rights People in assoc. with Folio Literary Management
Kenwood, Nina	<i>Unnecessary Drama</i>	Author
Meyer, Marissa	<i>Gilded</i>	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Meyer, Marissa (editor)	<i>Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed</i>	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Obama, Barack	<i>Dreams From My Father: Adapted for Young Adults</i>	Abner Stein
Smith, Mark	<i>If Not Us</i>	Author

Adult

Cave, Nick and O'Hagan, Seán	<i>Faith, Hope and Carnage</i>	Canongate Books
Cole, Jessie	<i>Desire: A Reckoning</i>	Jenny Darling & Associates
Disher, Garry	<i>The Way It Is Now</i>	Jenny Darling & Associates
Durastanti, Claudia	<i>La Straniera / Strangers I Know</i>	Casanovas & Lynch Literary Agency
Fenster, Gigi	<i>A Good Winter</i>	High Spot Literary
Garner, Helen	<i>How to End a Story: Diaries Volume 3</i>	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Lim, Louisa	<i>Indelible City: Dispossession and Defiance in Hong Kong</i>	Penguin Random House USA
Ma, Ling	<i>Bliss Montage</i>	The Wylie Agency
Macrae Burnet, Graeme	<i>Case Study</i>	Blake Friedmann Literary Agency Ltd
Melchor, Fernanda	<i>Páradais / Paradais</i>	Literarische Agentur Michael Gaeb
Ozeki, Ruth	<i>The Book of Form and Emptiness</i>	Abner Stein in assoc. with The Friedrich Agency
Peck, Loraine	<i>The Second Son</i>	Curtis Brown Australia
Prior, Sian	<i>Childless: A Story of Freedom and Longing</i>	Jenny Darling & Associates
Schwartz, Selby Wynn	<i>After Sappho</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Tokarczuk, Olga	<i>Księgi Jakubowe / The Books of Jacob</i>	RCW Literary Agency
Woodland, Greg	<i>The Carnival Is Over</i>	Melanie Ostell Literary

House of Longing by Tara Calaby

Charlotte has always known she is different. Where other young women see their destiny in marriage and motherhood, the reclusive Charlotte wants only to continue working with her father in his stationery business. Then Flora Dalton bursts through the shop door and into Charlotte's life—and a new world of baffling desires and aching possibility seems to open up to her.

But Melbourne society of the 1890s is not built to embrace unorthodoxy. When tragedy strikes and Charlotte is unmoored by grief, she finds herself admitted to Kew Lunatic Asylum 'for her own safety'.

There she learns that women enter the big white house on the hill for many reasons, not all of them to do with lunacy. That her capacity for love, loyalty and friendship is greater than she had ever understood. And that it will take all of these things—along with an unexpected talent for guile—to extract herself from the care of men and make her way back to her heart's desire.

A compulsively readable historical romance, *House of Longing* combines an effortless instinct for narrative with impeccable research, lightly worn. *House of Longing* is the debut of a major talent.

Tara Calaby is an author of historical and speculative fiction, currently living in West Gippsland. She is also a PhD candidate at La Trobe University, researching community among female patients of Victorian lunatic asylums.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

July 2023

Manuscript available
February 2023

Day's End by Garry Disher

Hirsch's rural beat is wide. Daybreak to day's end, dirt roads and dust. Every problem that besets small towns and isolated properties, from unlicensed driving to arson. In the time of the virus, Hirsch is seeing stresses heightened and social divisions cracking wide open. His own tolerance under strain; people getting close to the edge.

Today he's driving an international visitor around: Janne Van Sant, whose backpacker son went missing while the borders were closed. They're checking out his last photo site, his last employer. A feeling that the stories don't quite add up.

Then a call comes in: a roadside fire. Nothing much—a suitcase soaked in diesel and set alight. But two noteworthy facts emerge. Janne knows more than Hirsch about forensic evidence. And the body in the suitcase is not her son's.

'Hirsch is one of my favourite characters. *Day's End* is unmissable.' Hayley Scrivenor, author of *Dirt Town*

'One of this country's finest writers.' Tony Birch, author of *The White Girl*

'A master of crime.' Mark Rubbo, *Readings*

Garry Disher has published more than fifty titles across multiple genres. He has won the German Crime Prize three times, most recently in 2016 for his standalone novel *Bitter Wash Road*. In 2018 he received the Ned Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Serpent's Tail; UK & Comm. audio (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Howes

Option Publishers: Germany—Unionsverlag; Taiwan (Complex Chinese)—Ecus

Fiction

November 2022

Finished copies available

After You Were Gone by Vikki Wakefield

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?

'Elegantly written and utterly chilling. A dark and twisting novel of psychological suspense that will have you turning pages and checking your locks.' Emma Viskic, author of *Those Who Perish*

'Gripping, propulsive, and unbearably tense—the best psychological thriller I've read in years.' Mark Brandi, author of *The Others*

'An original thriller full of empathy. Flawed and vulnerable, Abbie is so real. I was with her all the way.' Sarah Bailey, author of *The Housemate*

'An elegant, powerful and utterly compelling thriller. The best book I have read all year.' Lucy Christopher, author of *Release*

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* was named Book of the Year: Older Readers in the 2020 Children's Book Council Awards. *After You Were Gone*, a psychological thriller, is her first novel for adults. She is working on her second one.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

October 2022

Finished copies available

Little Plum by Laura McPhee-Browne

On the cusp of thirty, Coral learns that a thing is growing inside her body. It is not necessarily a complete disaster, she tells herself. I'm okay, she tells herself.

Soon the thing inside her is the size of a plum. 'Little Plum,' she says, 'Little Plum, I love you.'

And she wants to love it, the little plum. It's just that she can't yet think of it as what it is becoming: a baby, and not just a fruity morsel.

Coral is tapping and shrugging more than usual. She is trying to stop the creature in her head from taking hold.

Coral might not be okay—or she might be seeing more clearly than anyone.

Bold, dark and sensuous, *Little Plum* is the stunning follow-up to the award-winning debut *Cherry Beach*. With skill and sensitivity, Laura McPhee-Browne takes us inside the mind of an expectant mother.

Praise for Laura McPhee-Browne and *Cherry Beach*:

'For Rooney-lovers who are looking for something tender and heartfelt, *Cherry Beach* is the book for you.' *Readings*

'*Cherry Beach* is both a coming-of-age story and a tender depiction of what it means to grow apart...Highly engaging as well as skilfully put together...It's sure to be a favourite among those who enjoy novels centred around complex friendships.' *ArtsHub*

'A breathtaking debut by a gifted new voice in Australian fiction.' Ellena Savage, author of *Blueberries*

'At its core, *Cherry Beach* is a compelling examination of love and loss in all their guises.' *Australian Book Review*

'A melancholy exploration of mental health, female friendship and desire, delicately portraying the deep ache of losing the person you're closest to...A promising debut.' *Books+Publishing*

Laura McPhee-Browne is a writer and social worker living in Melbourne, on Wurundjeri land. Her short stories have been published widely in Australia. *Cherry Beach* (2020), her first novel, won a NSW Premier's Literary Award.

Rights Held: World

Fiction | February 2023 | Manuscript available

Limberlost by Robbie Arnott

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

In the heat of a long summer Ned hunts rabbits in a river valley, hoping the pelts will earn him enough money to buy a small boat.

His two brothers are away at war, their whereabouts unknown. His father and older sister struggle to hold things together on the family orchard, *Limberlost*.

Desperate to ignore it all—to avoid the future rushing towards him—Ned dreams of open water.

As his story unfolds over the following decades, we see how Ned's choices that summer come to shape the course of his life, the fate of his family and the future of the valley, with its seasons of death and rebirth.

The third novel by the award-winning author of *Flames* and *The Rain Heron*, *Limberlost* is an extraordinary chronicle of life and land: of carnage and kindness, blood ties and love.

'A Conrad-like storyteller whose tales always tremble on the edge of the mythic and legendary...A splendid narrator of tales...He writes beautifully! May his readers and his rewards abound!' Thomas Keneally, author of *Schindler's Ark*

'*Limberlost* is as close to flawless as any book I have read in years. The poise and precision of Arnott's writing lends restraint to the fury at *Limberlost's* heart.' Jessie Greengrass, author of *The High House*

'Spectacular and stunning...Deeply moving.' Nick Bradley, author of *The Cat and the City*

'Another astonishing book from one of Australia's most electrifying young authors.'
Books+Publishing

Robbie Arnott's acclaimed debut, *Flames* (2018), won a *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Novelist award and a Tasmanian Premier's Literary Prize, and 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 the Not the Booker Prize. His follow-up, *The Rain Heron* (2020), won the *Age* Book of the Year award, and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the ALS Gold Medal, the Voss Literary Prize and an Adelaide Festival Award. He lives in Hobart.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; Germany—Berlin Verlag; Italy—NN; Norway—Cappelen Damm; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Atlantic

Fiction | October 2022 | Finished copies available

Paper Cage by Tom Baragwanath

WINNER, MICHAEL GIFKINS PRIZE, 2021

Masterton isn't a big town. The community's tight, if not always harmonious. So when a child goes missing it's a big deal for everyone. And when a second kid disappears, the whole town's holding their own children that little bit tighter.

Lorraine doesn't have kids, but she has a nephew. She's holding him a bit tighter, too, because she works for the police, and she knows they don't have any idea.

Lo's not a cop, she's a records clerk. She sits out back among the piles of paper, making connections, remembering things. Working things out that the actual cops don't want to hear about.

Until the new investigator, Hayes, arrives from Wellington, and realises Lo's the only person there with answers to any of his questions. Which is just as well—because the clock is running down for the children of the town.

Both a nail-biting thriller and a beautifully written, acutely observed portrait of a community, *Paper Cage* is the prize-winning debut from young New Zealand novelist Tom Baragwanath.

'I really enjoyed *Paper Cage*. Its world feels real and its characters and relationships drew me in. Lorraine Henry is a refreshingly different crime fiction protagonist.' Shelley Burr, author of *Wake*

'Expansive in its reach, and stunningly singular in its detail, this literary thriller heralds the arrival of an exciting new voice in New Zealand storytelling.' Fiona Sussman, author of *Shifting Colours*

'*Paper Cage* has all the sharp points of a great crime story and all the tragedy of ordinary lives hit hard. I couldn't put it down.' Gigi Fenster, author of *A Good Winter*

'Thrilling...Lorraine is a perfect heroine: she's tough, unflinching and gets the job done...A gritty crime novel that has all the fun literary techniques of a thriller with an added layer of feminist commentary.' *Books+Publishing*

Tom Baragwanath is a writer originally from Masterton, New Zealand, currently living in Paris. His short fiction has been widely published. He completed an MA in Creative Writing at Kent University in 2020.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America—Anchor/Penguin Random House USA; UK & Comm (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Baskerville/John Murray

Fiction

September 2022

Finished copies available

Bodies of Light by Jennifer Down

WINNER, MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD, 2022

SHORTLISTED, AGE BOOK OF THE YEAR, 2022

SHORTLISTED, FICTION, VICTORIAN PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS, 2022

SHORTLISTED, STELLA PRIZE, 2022

SHORTLISTED, ADULT CRIME NOVEL, SISTERS IN CRIME DAVITT AWARDS, 2022

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.

A quiet, small-town existence. An unexpected Facebook message, jolting her back to the past. A history she's reluctant to revisit: dark memories and unspoken trauma, warning knocks on bedroom walls, unfathomable loss.

She became a new person a long time ago. What happens when buried stories are dragged into the light?

This epic novel from the two-time *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year is a masterwork of tragedy and heartbreak—the story of a life in full. Sublimely wrought in devastating detail, *Bodies of Light* confirms Jennifer Down as one of the writers defining her generation.

'A novel of affirmation, resilience and survival, told through an astonishing voice that reinvents itself from age six to sixty.' Miles Franklin Literary Award judges' comments

'A remarkably empathic book...A life that the reader cannot deny.' *Guardian*

Jennifer Down is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in the *Age*, *Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review* and *Literary Hub*. She was named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year consecutively in 2017 and 2018. *Our Magic Hour*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. Her second book, *Pulse Points*, was the winner of the 2018 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and the 2018 Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection in the Queensland Literary Awards, and was shortlisted for a 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Award. She lives in Naarm/Melbourne.

Rights Held: World; film/tv

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; Germany—Ullstein; North American audio—Recorded Books; Russia—Exmo; Spain—Navona

Fiction

October 2021

Finished copies available

West Side Honey by Claire Christian

Cleo has a few things going on. Two beautiful kids and a less beautiful ex-husband, a share house arrangement with her long-term bestie Jude (complete with a third child, also beautiful) and an underperforming florist business. Actually, the shop could be beautiful too, it's just that Cleo hasn't got time to think about it.

Her new week-on week-off custody schedule is about to change all that. She can put her own needs first for once—take a dance class, fix up the shop, even think about dating. Not that she's looking for anything serious, but she's open to exploring what she wants.

Which, it turns out, is a lot. Maybe too much?

But how can you work out what you really, really want unless you try a bit of everything?

Praise for Claire Christian's debut adult novel, *It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake*:

'Delightful...A celebration of pleasure and a dissection of the restrictions people place on their own lives, this is sure to capture readers' hearts.' *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

'Pure pleasure...sexy and joyful.' *BookPage*, starred review

'This book's amazing. This is hilarious...If you thought Bridget Jones needed more smut, this is for you.' 3RRR

'Funny, refreshing and empowering.' Lindsey Kelk, author of *In Case You Missed It*

'The perfect rom-com book to carry with you as you take your mind off 2020. It is so comforting to read a story about a queer, single woman in her 30s, seeking out whatever makes her feel good. I laughed out loud countless times.' Jessie Tu, author of *A Lonely Girl Is a Dangerous Thing*

Claire Christian tells stories. She is a writer, theatre-maker and facilitator based in Meanjin. She has had four plays published by Playlab, including *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames*, which debuted at La Boite in 2018. She had the great joy of directing Michelle Law's smash-hit comedy *Single Asian Female*. Claire's debut novel, *Beautiful Mess*, won the Text Prize in 2016. Her second novel, *It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake*, was released in 2020.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Netherlands—De Fontein; North America—MIRA/Harlequin; World English audio (excl. NA)—Wavesound

Fiction

April 2023

Manuscript available
November

Creative Differences and Other Stories by Graeme Simsion

If not for money, then maybe for love.

Three years ago, Emily was a struggling literary author when she met Scott, a struggling screenwriter. Combining her elegant writing with his gripping story, the pair crafted a novel that became an international bestseller—and fell in love along the way.

Now her latest manuscript is stuck, his solo novel has flopped, and their relationship is on the rocks. The situation is made even messier when an eager aspiring writer gets involved. Can Emily and Scott come together and produce another hit?

Creative Differences is a wry and incisive study of partnerships—in love, in writing—and creativity, from internationally bestselling author Graeme Simsion. It's paired with a selection of stories from across his career, including the first appearance of Don Tillman.

Praise for Graeme Simsion:

'Funny and heartwarming, a gem of a book.' Marian Keyes on *The Rosie Project*

'An extraordinarily clever, funny, and moving book.' Bill Gates on *The Rosie Project*

'Oscillates between profound emotional depths and absolute hilarity...So much fun!' Toni Collette on *The Best of Adam Sharp*

Graeme Simsion is the internationally bestselling author of *The Rosie Project*, *The Rosie Effect*, *The Rosie Result* and *The Best of Adam Sharp*, as well as *The Novel Project*, *Don Tillman's Standardized Meal System* and *Data Modeling Essentials*. He and Anne Buist, co-authors of *Two Steps Forward* and *Two Steps Onward*, live together in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World (excluding audio)

First Published: Audible Originals

Short-story collection

January 2023

Manuscript available
November

Resistance by Jacinta Halloran

As a family therapist, Nina is the ultimate listener. Yet this is of little use with her latest clients, the Agostinos, who have been mandated to see her after stealing a car and disappearing into the outback.

For support with the case, Nina meets with a supervising therapist, Erin. What they unearth in their sessions goes beyond the Agostino story into confronting personal territory for Nina. Meanwhile, despite her efforts, the Agostinos remain unwilling to speak—so how can Nina be sure that the two children are safe with their parents?

In the tradition of Rachel Cusk's *Outline* trilogy, *Resistance* is an elegant, hypnotic novel of stories within stories. Examining the unfathomable mysteries within our families, it also questions how we retell our history, both personal and collective.

Dissection by Jacinta Halloran

Dr Anna McBride's life is starting to unravel. The mother of two boys and a dedicated GP, she is being sued for medical negligence—a case of delayed diagnosis. Anna's day-to-day work becomes increasingly difficult as she starts to scrutinise her every action and question her worth. Deeply ashamed of her mistake, she retreats into family life, only to find that her husband seems preoccupied with a younger colleague. As the date for mediation draws closer and the lawyers' demands become ever more pressing, Anna also senses someone else's cries for attention—someone who wishes her harm.

Dissection is an original and confronting portrayal of a woman facing personal and professional crises. It examines an extended moment of inner turmoil, after which nothing will ever be the same again.

Jacinta Halloran is the author of the novels *Dissection*, shortlisted for the 2007 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript; *Pilgrimage*, shortlisted for the 2014 Barbara Jefferis Award; and *The Science of Appearances*. She is a former board member of the Stella Prize, and was a doctor for many years. Her new novel, *Resistance*, will be published in March 2023.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

| *Resistance*: March 2023
| *Dissection*: February 2023

| Manuscripts available
| November

Salonika Burning by Gail Jones

How he wished to paint it. The razed city. The human drama. He saw the old forms broken, shaped in new alignments, the destructible world abstracted in splendid innovations...Already he understood the power of derangement, and how a single window might contain an entire fate.

Macedonia, 1917. The great city of Salonika is engulfed by fire as all of Europe is ravaged by war.

Amid the destruction are those who have come to the frontlines to heal: surgeons, ambulance drivers, nurses, orderlies and other volunteers. Four of them—Stella, Olive, Grace and Stanley—are at the centre of Gail Jones's extraordinary new novel, which takes its inspiration from the wartime experiences of Australians Miles Franklin and Olive King, the British surgeon Grace Pailthorpe and the artist Stanley Spencer. In Jones's imagination these four lives intertwine and change, each compelled by the desire to create something meaningful in the ruins of a broken world.

Immersive and gripping, *Salonika Burning* illuminates not only the devastation of war but also the vast social upheaval of the times. It shows Gail Jones to be at the height of her powers.

Praise for Gail Jones:

'[A] virtuoso performance...Poetic and beautifully crafted.' *Australian Book Review* on *Our Shadows*

'Jones's writing is magnificent...A book to be read again and again and again.' *AU Review* on *Our Shadows*

Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. She is the author of two short-story collections and nine novels, and her work has been translated into several languages. She has received numerous literary awards, including the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the *Age* Book of the Year, the South Australian Premier's Award, the ALS Gold Medal and the Kibble Award, and has been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the International Dublin Literary Award and the Prix Femina Étranger. Originally from Western Australia, she now lives in Sydney.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

November 2022

Finished copies available

The Settlement by Jock Serong

On the windswept point of an island at the edge of Van Diemen's Land, the Commandant huddles with a small force of white men and women.

He has gathered together, under varying degrees of coercion and duress, the last of the Tasmanians, or so he believes. His purpose is to save them—from a number of things, but most pressingly from the murderous intent of the pastoral settlers on their country.

The orphans Whelk and Pipi, fighting for their survival against the malevolent old man they know as the Catechist, watch as almost everything about this situation proves resistant to the Commandant's will. The wind, the spread of disease, the strange black dog that floats in on the prow of a wrecked ship...

But above all the Chief, the leader of the exiles, before whom the Commandant performs a perverse, intimate dance of violence and betrayal.

In *The Settlement*, Jock Serong reimagines in urgent, compelling prose the ill-fated exploits of George Augustus Robinson at the settlement of Wybalenna—a venture whose blinkered, self-interested cruelty might stand for the colonial enterprise itself.

'Serong's prose is evocative, his dialogue convincing.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'An extraordinarily vivid imagining of one of the most significant encounters in Australian history.' Amanda Lohrey, Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *The Labyrinth*

'Grips from the first page. It's unsentimental, truthful and profound—all in a milieu effortlessly imagined.' Don Watson

'There is some kind of magic in the way Jock Serong conjures places and times and people.'
Lucy Treloar, author of *Salt Creek*

Jock Serong's novels have received the Ned Kelly Award for First Fiction, the Colin Roderick Award and the inaugural Staunch Prize (UK). He lives with his family on Victoria's far west coast.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: World English audio—Wavesound

Fiction

September 2022

Finished copies available

The Labyrinth by Amanda Lohrey

WINNER, MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD, 2021

WINNER, FICTION, PRIME MINISTER'S LITERARY AWARDS, 2021

WINNER, VOSS LITERARY PRIZE, 2021

SHORTLISTED, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND FICTION BOOK AWARD, QUEENSLAND LITERARY AWARDS, 2021

SHORTLISTED, AGE BOOK OF THE YEAR, 2021

LONGLISTED, ALS GOLD MEDAL, 2021

LONGLISTED, DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD, 2022

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, that is also a meditation on how art can both be ruthlessly destructive and restore sanity. It shows Amanda Lohrey to be at the peak of her powers..

'A deeply meditative book...[Amanda Lohrey's] writing here is beautifully layered, rich in imagery and meaning, without ever being laboured...*The Labyrinth* offers a pull towards the unknown and a comfort in solitude. 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*

'A work of considerable literary artistry.' Prime Minister's Literary Awards judges' comments

'*The Labyrinth* is an elegiac novel, soaked in sadness. It is a beautifully written reflection on the conflicts between parents and children, men and women, and the value and purpose of creative work.' Miles Franklin Literary Award judges' comments

Amanda Lohrey lives in Tasmania and writes fiction and non-fiction. She has taught at the University of Tasmania, the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Queensland. Amanda is a regular contributor to the *Monthly* magazine and a former senior fellow of the Australia Council's Literature Board. *The Labyrinth* is her eighth work of fiction.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Bolinda

Fiction

August 2020

Finished copies available

Did I Ever Tell You This? A Memoir by Sam Neill

In this unexpected memoir, written in a creative burst of just a few months in 2022, Sam Neill tells the story of how he became one of the world's most celebrated actors, who has worked with everyone from Meryl Streep to Isabel Adjani, from Jeff Goldblum to Sean Connery, from Steven Spielberg to Jane Campion.

By his own account, his career has been a series of unpredictable turns of fortune. Born in 1947 in Northern Ireland, he emigrated to New Zealand at the age of seven. His family settled in Dunedin on the South Island, but young Sam was sent away to boarding school in Christchurch, where he was hopeless at sports and discovered he enjoyed acting.

But how did you become an actor in New Zealand in the 1960 and 1970s where there was no film industry? After university he made documentary films while also appearing in occasional amateur productions of Shakespeare. In 1977 he took the lead in *Sleeping Dogs*, the first feature made in New Zealand in more than a decade, a project that led to a major role in Gillian Armstrong's celebrated *My Brilliant Career*.

And after that Sam Neill found his way, sometimes by accident, into his own brilliant career. He has worked around the world, an actor who has moved effortlessly from blockbuster to art house to TV, from Dr Alan Grant in the *Jurassic Park* movies to *The Piano* and *Peaky Blinders*.

Did I Ever Tell You This? is a joy to read, a marvellous and often very funny book, the work of a natural storyteller who is a superb observer of other people, and who writes with love and warmth about his family. It is also his account of his life outside film, especially in Central Otago where he established Two Paddocks, his vineyard famous for its pinot noir.

There is a grand tradition of unputdownable memoirs by great actors, which now includes Sam Neill's *Did I Ever Tell You This?*

Sam Neill was born in 1947. He has appeared in almost 100 feature films and dozens of TV series in a career spanning half a century.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

TBC 2023

Manuscript available TBC
2023

***Big Meg* by Tim and Emma Flannery**

The Story of the Rise and Fall of the Largest and Most Mysterious Predator that Ever Lived.

Its name means giant tooth but everything about it is gigantic, including its pull on the human imagination. Tim and Emma Flannery's *Big Meg* will not only tell the story of the Megalodon, the Great Shark itself—what we know about where and how it lived, bred, hunted and died, a shark whose size and ferocity are the stuff of nightmares and whose teeth are probably the most sought after fossils in the world—but also how it continues to fascinate us.

The great shark, aka *Otodus megalodon*, the big meg, was the largest predator that ever stalked the planet weighing somewhere between fifty and 100 tonnes. We know that this leviathan was warm blooded, that it had the most powerful bite of any animal ever to have lived and that it could open that mighty jaw to a gape of three metres, wide enough to take a killer whale whole.

Big Meg will be not only the biography of a phenomenal animal, but a compelling exploration of the role it plays in the popular imagination. The Megalodon might have been extinct for more than three million years but it flourishes in the stories we tell about it, in our hunt for its relics, and our quest to uncover more of the mystery surrounding it.

Professor Tim Flannery, and his daughter, Emma Flannery, bring the Megalodon to life in this fascinating and engaging natural history.

Tim Flannery is a scientist, an explorer, a conservationist and a leading writer on climate change. He has held various academic positions including visiting Professor in Evolutionary and Organismic Biology at Harvard University, Director of the South Australian Museum, Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum, Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne, and Panasonic Professor of Environmental Sustainability, Macquarie University. His books include the award-winning international bestseller *The Weather Makers, Here on Earth, Atmosphere of Hope* and *Europe: The First 100 Million Years*.

Emma Flannery is a scientist and writer. She has explored caves, forests and oceans across most of the globe's continents in search of the elusive fossils, animals and plants. With postgraduate experience in geology, chemistry and palaeontology, Emma's research and writing has been published in scientific journals, children's books and a number of museum-based adult education tours. She has worked for and with universities, government agencies and museums.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America—Grove Atlantic; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Transworld

Non-fiction

August 2023

Manuscript available April
2023

Untitled by Tyson Yunkaporta

When Tyson Yunkaporta's *Sand Talk* was published in 2018, the American writer Tommy Orange commented that it 'shows how vital and alive and essential Indigenous ways of being and thinking are.' *Sand Talk* examined global systems from an Indigenous point view. It was, as Miles Franklin-winning author Melissa Lukashenko remarked, 'an extraordinary invitation into the world of the Dreaming'.

Tyson Yunkaporta's new book extends his explorations of how we can think and act and speak by combining an analysis of indigenous thinking and living with an equally revelatory critique of post-industrial society. Like *Sand Talk*, this new book is a formidably original essay.

It describes how the ways that we relate to each other are inseparable from how we relate to the environments we live in. It is about how we talk to each other, or yarn: how we teach and learn. Along the way, Tyson talks to a range of people: liberal economists, performance and memorisation experts, Nordic stone carvers, Frisian ecologists, and Indigenous Australian thought-leaders, mathematicians, and storytellers.

This book is a sequence of thought experiments, which are, as Yunkaporta writes, 'crowd-sourced narratives where everybody's contribution to the story, no matter how contradictory, is honoured and included...the closest thing I can find in the world to the Aboriginal collective process of what we call "yarning".'

Praise for *Sand Talk*:

'Thought-provoking.' *New York Times*

'*Sand Talk* is an important book. Tyson Yunkaporta is an important and original thinker and writer. This book shows how vital and alive and essential Indigenous ways of being and thinking are.' Tommy Orange, author of *There There*

Tyson Yunkaporta is an Aboriginal scholar, and founder of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Lab at Deakin University in Melbourne. His work focuses on applying Indigenous methods of inquiry to resolve complex issues and explore global issues. His first book, *Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World*, was published in 2019 and won the Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards and the Ansari Institute's Randa and Sherif Nasr Book Prize on Religion & the World.

Rights Held: World

Option publishers: France—Editions la Maisnie/Tredaniel; North America—Harper One; Russia—Ad Marginem Press; Spain—Herder Editorial

Non-fiction

October 2023

Manuscript available
March 2023

Fat Girl Dancing by Kris Kneen

How does a person come to know that they are different from the children around them? To measure themselves against a set normal and find themselves lacking?

When did I know that I was plump, and then fat

Fat child, self-denying adolescent, hungry young woman; a body now burgeoning uncontrolled into middle age. Kris Kneen has borne the usual indignities: the confrontations with clothes that won't fasten, with mirrors that defame, with strangers whose gaze judges and dismisses. This is the story of how Kris learned to look unblinkingly at their recalcitrant body, and ultimately found the courage to carry it to freedom.

Fat Girl Dancing is a frank, beautiful and triumphant ode to self-respect from one of Australia's most original and acclaimed writers.

Praise for Kris Kneen:

'One of Australia's most accomplished sex writers.' *Books+Publishing*

'One of the most radical and insightful writers working in Australian letters today.' *Overland*

'[Kneen's] books are filled with passionate and lush language.' *Tasmanian Times*

'An author who writes with generosity and truth.' Favel Parrett, author of *Past the Shallows*

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

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

May 2023

Manuscript available
December

Childhood by Shannon Burns

In this arresting memoir, Shannon Burns recalls a childhood spent bouncing between dysfunctional homes in impoverished suburbs, between families unwilling or unable to care for him. Aged nine, he beats his head against the pillow to get himself to sleep. Aged ten, he knows his mother will never be able to look after 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 eventually offers a way out, a path to a life utterly unlike the one he was born into.

With its clarity of purpose and vividness of expression, *Childhood* is a powerful act of remembering that is destined to be a classic.

'Childhood is about more than reliving trauma—it shows us how literature can offer a pathway to survival, if not redemption. Shannon Burns demonstrates how to soldier on when all hope and dignity are lost.' Tyson Yunkaporta, author of *Sand Talk*

'Childhood is raw and authentic. It tells a truth that can only come from being lived.' Justin Kurzel, film director and screenwriter

'Childhood is honest, confronting and lovely. We don't hear enough from the hearts of poor children, and rarely like this. Shannon's demonstration of the power of words is inspiring. And it reminds us all that we should never underestimate a boy with a fire inside.' Paul Kennedy, journalist and author of *Funkytown*

'Childhood reads like Gorky and Tolstoy—not nudging but shoving the reader headfirst towards hard-won epiphanies with a brutal yet transcendent urgency.' Alice Pung, OAM, author of *One Hundred Days*

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

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

October 2022

Finished copies available

Unnecessary Drama by Nina Kenwood

From the author of the much-loved *It Sounded Better in My Head* comes a deliciously entertaining new rom-com, set in a run-down student share house in Melbourne.

Eighteen-year-old Brooke is the kind of friend who not only remembers everyone's birthdays, but also organises the group present, pays for it, and politely chases others for their share. She's the helper, the doer, the guarder-of-drinks, the minder-of-bags, the maker-of-spreadsheets. She's the responsible one who always follows the rules—and she plans to keep it that way during her first year of university.

Her new share house is rules-lite. But 'no unnecessary drama' means no fights, tension, or romance between housemates. When one of her housemates turns out to be Jesse, her high-school nemesis, Brooke is nervously confident she can handle it. They'll simply silently endure living together and stay out of each other's way. But it turns out Jesse isn't so easy to ignore...

Channelling the screwball comedy of *New Girl* with an enemies-to-lovers twist, *Unnecessary Drama* is a joyful story about leaving home, dealing with the unexpected complications of life, and somehow finding exactly what you need.

'I laughed out loud several times and fell in love with flawed protagonist Brooke... Completely charming from start to finish.' Karys McEwen, author of *All the Little Tricky Things*

'Takes readers through the tumultuous uncertainty that exists on the cusp of transitioning out of high school into adulthood.' *Books+Publishing*

'Adorable, this book made us laugh, cry and feel all the warm and fuzzies. We just loved every single page.' Ali Berg and Michelle Kalus, authors of *The Book Ninja*

Nina Kenwood is an award-winning author living in Melbourne. Her debut YA novel, *It Sounded Better in My Head*, won the Text Prize and was a finalist for the American Library Association's William C. Morris Award, as well as being shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Queensland Literary Awards, Russell Prize for Humour Writing, Indie Book Awards and Australian Book Industry Awards. *It Sounded Better in My Head* has been published in seven languages and optioned to be adapted for the screen.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; North America—Flatiron Books

Young-adult fiction

October 2022

Finished copies available

Dancing Barefoot by Alice Boyle

WINNER, TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING, 2021

Evie Vanhoutte is a teachers' pet, a basketball star and the most beautiful girl in the year level. Evie Vanhoutte is tall, has long dark hair, a great smile, and for the past four years, Evie Vanhoutte has been the object of my most ardent, heartfelt, and passionate affection. Unrequited affection, of course.

Patch is out of place at Mountford College: she wears the wrong clothes, she's not sporty or popular, she lives in a small flat above her dad's record shop a world away from the leafy suburb where she goes to school. And she has a secret long-term crush on basketball star Evie Vanhoutte. Evie barely knows Patch exists until an accident involving a bottle of ink and Patch's school uniform sparks a friendship that's equal parts exhilarating and terrifying, and very, very confusing.

As if that weren't enough, Patch is also trying to deal with a jealous school bully, forgetting to be supportive of her transitioning best friend, Edwin, and worrying about how a potential new stepmother could throw everything off course.

Dancing Barefoot is a feel-good romance about growing up queer, figuring out your place in the world, staying true to yourself and your friends, finding love, and learning to embrace the obstacles life throws in your path.

'I loved everything about *Dancing Barefoot*—its strong characters, its laugh-out-loud moments and its irresistible narrative voice that engaged me from the first page.' Erin Gough, author of *Amelia Westlake*

'If you're ever in the need for a feel-good, heartfelt romance, or simply a book to cosy up to like a warm, fuzzy blanket by the fireside, I recommend *Dancing Barefoot*...Beautifully written with a natural laugh-out-loud humour, [it] encapsulates the angst and seemingly apocalyptic emotions teenagers feel towards love.' *Readings*

Alice Boyle is an English teacher and author living in Naarm/Melbourne. She has written for SBS Voices and the Stella Prize, and her short story 'The Exchange' was published in the Black Inc. anthology *Growing Up Queer in Australia*. In 2019 she was highly commended for the Wheeler Centre's Next Chapter program, and in 2021 she won the Text Prize for her debut novel, *Dancing Barefoot*.

Rights Held: World

Young-adult fiction

September 2022

Finished copies available

The Brink by Holden Sheppard

A group of school-leavers: free at last, ready to party, expectations high.

A remote island on the Western Australian coast wasn't exactly the plan, but they're not going to let that hold them back.

Leonardo, geeky, asthmatic, shy and prone to anxiety, has landed with them. He's terrified—he's definitely not part of this cool gang. Super high-achiever Kaiya is trying to forget her frustration with her drug-addicted sister as well as dealing with pressure from the popular girls to lose her virginity. Mason, footy jock with the physique to match, is coming to terms with his secret desire for his best mate, Jared. And Jared wants a week off from his relationship with Val so he can have sex with as many girls as possible.

But the party takes a dangerous turn when Val is drugged and a man is later found dead on the beach. Blame, fear, mistrust, coverups, power plays and dark secrets tear the group apart and expose the deadly tensions beneath the surface. And each teen is forced to confront demons that will lead them either to devastating tragedy or transformative triumph.

Whoever survives the week will never be the same again.

The Brink is a raw, powerful novel that pulls no punches in its authentic exploration of masculinity, sexuality, mental health, drug and alcohol use, relationships and sex. Holden Sheppard takes the teenage experience to the next level.

'Raw, exhilarating and emotionally charged, an absolute must-read!' Gary Lonesborough, author of *The Boy from the Mish*

'*The Brink* succeeds in establishing Sheppard as a young writer with huge potential in the Australian literary scene...It is frank, fresh and unapologetic...There is so much to admire about this novel—the plotting and structure are impeccable, the tropes run thick and fast. All this is underpinned by beautifully drawn characters.' *Newtown Review of Books*

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. It won the WA Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. *Invisible Boys* is currently in production as a television series.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound

Young-adult fiction

August 2022

Finished copies available

The Museum of Broken Things by Lauren Draper

SHORTLISTED, THE READINGS YOUNG ADULT BOOK PRIZE, 2022
SHORTLISTED, TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING, 2020

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 forward: nothing feels right anymore. Not that she's trying very hard—she hasn't even unpacked yet, and the only new friend she's made is a middle-aged barista.

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

'A clear-eyed, absorbing and atmospheric story of loss (and love) that pulls you in, then warmly holds you there.' Rhiannon Wilde, author of *Henry Hamlet's Heart*

'A warm, heartfelt debut that masterfully explores the lingering pain of grief and the power of love, family and friendship.' Gabrielle Tozer, author of *Remind Me How This Ends*

'[A] well-crafted story dealing with teenage friendship and romance as well as a psychological journey into grief and the struggle of dealing with trauma.' *Read Plus*

Lauren Draper is a Melbourne-based writer and marketing professional. She is a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing program and now works in children's publishing—she loves nothing more than a story infused with magic, hijinks and a touch of nostalgia. *The Museum of Broken Things*, her debut novel, was shortlisted in the 2020 Text Prize. Her work has also been longlisted in the 2019 Richell Prize and has appeared in various non-fiction publications. She grew up in Western Australia, mostly on land but often in water. She now lives in Melbourne with one struggling coffee machine, a moderately behaved golden retriever and her partner.

Rights Held: World

Young-adult fiction

June 2022

Finished copies available

The Hotel Witch by Jessica Miller

Sometimes the simplest spells are the most powerful.

Sibyl is the apprentice hotel witch at the splendid Grand Mirror Hotel. She is busy each day, under the watchful eye of her grandmother, drawing useful spell patterns to keep the hotel guests happy: spells to shine shoes, spells to make the pastry chef's cakes rise, spells to remove dust and spells to return lost things like hats and gloves to their owners.

But Sibyl dreams of other possibilities—possibilities like her mother returning from the Black Mountains, and like Grandma letting her draw spell patterns from the *Book of Advanced and Dangerous Magic*.

When Grandma gets stuck in last Tuesday, somewhere on the hotel's thirteenth floor, Sibyl must perform all the magic herself. Just when a very mysterious and perplexing problem arises and a very important guest must be taken care of.

With the help of her friend Ahmed, the lift attendant, an aloof cat called Alfonso and Dora the concierge, Sibyl must solve the mystery of the missing shadows and find the right spell pattern to get them back.

Will she open the *Book of Advanced and Dangerous Magic*? And will it contain the answers she needs?

The Hotel Witch is a magical tale of determination, love and the power of imagination, filled with quirky characters who sparkle and delight.

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

'Miller crafts a Russian folklore-infused tale, augmented by excerpts from mythical history books...The theme—"If you feel you don't fit somewhere, change it until it fits you"—is movingly portrayed.' *Publishers Weekly* on *The Republic of Birds*

Jessica Miller is a children's writer from Brisbane, currently living in London. Her first novel, *Elizabeth and Zenobia*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Readings Prize and was a CBCA Notable Book, as was her second book, *The Republic of Birds*.

Rights Held: World excl. North America

Other Rights: InkWell Management

Middle-grade fiction

March 2023

Manuscript available

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