



# Titles List

## The London Book Fair

### 10 – 12 April 2018

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Melanie Ostell has worked in trade publishing as an editor, publisher, educator and literary agent. In 2002, as a Churchill Fellowship recipient, she spent three months in-house in London and New York. A senior editor at Text Publishing for ten years, Melanie has since freelanced with all major Australian publishers and held publisher positions at UWA Publishing in Perth and Murdoch Books in Sydney. She has led writing workshops across the country, taught at several universities and is a registered mentor with the Australian Society of Authors. Melanie's current focus is on building her client list.

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**THE WOLF HOUR****Sarah Myles**

Thirty-year-old Tessa Lowell has a PhD in psychology and travels to Uganda to research the effects of PTSD and war on child soldiers. She joins a delegation and travels across the Congolese border, deep into the jungle, for peace talks with Joseph Kony, notorious leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. At the camp Tessa meets thirteen-year-old Francis, already an experienced soldier. The camp is attacked by other rebels who kidnap Tessa believing she is a medical doctor who can treat a dying major's gunshot wound. She fails and her life is at risk. In Melbourne, parents Leigh and Neil are notified of the abduction but learn there is little government agencies can do. Desperate, they contact Tessa's brother, Stephen, an astute if unethical businessman based in Cape Town. He agrees to search for his sister.

Francis tells Tessa he has killed people. He gives her a handgun for protection and on the night Stephen reaches her, she kills one of her captors. Tessa, Stephen and Francis flee. Days later, back at the rehabilitation centre, a traumatised Tessa suspects that Stephen made an arms deal to secure her escape. The two argue and Stephen accuses Tessa of advancing her own career at the expense of the people she claims to help. Then Leigh and Neil arrive, causing the family to split apart completely. Stephen flees and Neil exposes his son's nefarious business deals. Tessa still wants to help Francis, but like Stephen he knows that once innocence is lost everything changes.

*About the author*

Sarah Myles has worked as a nurse and travelled extensively throughout Europe, The Americas and Africa. Her first novel, *Transplanted*, was published by Sceptre in 2002. She lives in Melbourne.

Edited manuscript available end April • 80,000 words • Literary thriller  
Rights: World ex ANZ; ANZ, Allen & Unwin, publication September 2018.

**FROM HERE ON, MONSTERS****Elizabeth Bryer**

Cameron Raybould is a young assessor of antiquarian books who has been unable to get on with life since her brother died. She took over his bookshop a year earlier, and when conceptual artist Maddison Worthington visits and offers Cameron a job on her latest art project, 'Excise Our Hearts', she accepts. Cameron is unaware that the government has generously funded the project, seeing it as a propaganda device to control all asylum-seeker discussions. Soon after she starts with Maddison, Cameron discovers an illegal immigrant sleeping in the bookshop. Jhon Dikuasa Mba asks to stay in exchange for organising the shelves, but Cameron instead asks him to translate one of her commissions, which appears to be a sixteenth-century codex made from palm leaf.

As 'Excise Our Hearts' progresses, words start to disappear from politicians' speeches, the press, and even private conversations while those that don't vanish entirely are substituted by euphemisms. And from Jhon's translation of the codex, Cameron learns that the colonial legacy of her home country has a much firmer grip on the present than she had ever suspected. Once Cameron starts to uncover the truth – about the real purpose of 'Excise Our Hearts' and that the codex was in fact written by an eccentric university professor who then mysteriously disappeared – she finally decides to act. And her audacious plan might just stop the monsters, at least for a while.

This novel of ideas, set in the land at the bottom of the world, features universal and timeless themes – grief, identity, belonging, empathy, art, culture – but as the knotty tension increases the overriding cautionary note is that nothing is as it seems.



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*About the author*

Elizabeth Bryer is a writer and Spanish translator. Her essays and short fiction have been published widely in Australian literary journals and she is the translations editor of *The Lifted Brow* and Brow Books. Her latest work of translation is Melba Escobar's *House of Beauty*, to be published by Fourth Estate UK, 2018. This is her first novel. She lives in Melbourne.

Unedited manuscript available • 70,000 words • Literary fiction Rights: World, ex ANZ; ANZ, Picador, publication mid 2019.

**THE WHISTLER CALLED****Greg Woodland**

In 1967 disgraced ex-Detective Mick Goodenough and 12-year-old Hal Humphries have both unwillingly moved to Willow Town in regional New South Wales from Sydney. Their paths cross near an abandoned caravan outside town where Hal and his brother discover a murdered dog in a rusty oil drum; Mick then stumbles on the makeshift grave of his missing German shepherd, Charlie. When Hal's dad goes away on business, leaving family friend Doug in charge, his mother Corrie starts receiving menacing phone calls from someone who whistles a love song and says he'll kill for her. She fights back as the Whistler's terror campaign escalates, but except for Constable Goodenough the police seem uninterested. Hal, now helped by the fearless Allie, launches his own investigation and finds a slain cat in the backyard, killed the same way as the dog. Mick warns his colleagues the pet-killer is honing his craft for humans but he's laughed at and hindered at every step by Sergeant Bradley.

When Mick travels to Sydney for help from a friend in forensics, he leaves Hal to look after his dogs. While walking them near the caravan Hal discovers the murdered body of Jenny, his father's Aboriginal mistress. Sergeant Bradley arrests Jenny's husband who is quickly convicted. When Allie tells Hal she saw his dad with Jenny one night before the murder, Hal's heated denial tears their friendship apart. But he becomes suspicious of his father when he suddenly returns home to stop the Whistler and 'accidentally' shoots Doug. Then the real Whistler abducts Hal. Mick knows that time is running out: he must find the psychopath, bring down the corrupt police protecting him and restore justice to the town.

*About the author*

Greg Woodland has worked in the film industry for many years as a scriptwriter and director. He is also a script developer and consultant. *The Whistler Called* is his first novel. He lives in Sydney.

Unedited manuscript available • 105,000 words • Crime  
Rights: World, ex ANZ; currently on submission with ANZ publishers.

## SHELFLIFE

**Barrie Seppings**

'I see potential in the drummer in Belgium, the gardener on Maui, the tea taster in Sri Lanka, maybe the stockbroker in Chicago and also the woman in fashion publishing in New York,' said Gavin, running his finger down the list.

Twenty-somethings Trent, Shanti and Gavin launch a start-up that lets people rent a different life for a week at a time, almost anywhere across the globe. The trio are confident it will become the Airbnb of lifestyles, though they are about to learn all their lessons the hard way. None of them is prepared for the double-crosses and the chaos that comes as they chase fame, change lives and provoke a civil uprising in Central Europe. And this is all in between appeasing their respective parents.

This dialogue-driven novel explores the rise of the new kings of western capitalism – the startup founder. It pokes fun at bureaucrats, venture capitalists, self-important academics and bored, greedy westerners. It's part office novel and part travelogue (variously set in Vietnam, Bali and Singapore and central Europe). And just like the very best sort of lad lit – bringing to mind Ben Elton's *Stark* and Max Barry's *Company* – although *Shelflife* might not always be politically correct, there is no shortage of charm and it has a big, beating heart.

*About the Author*

Barrie Seppings worked for Ogilvy & Mather for twelve years, three of those as creative director in Singapore. He lives in Sydney. This is his first novel.

Manuscript available • 82,000 words • Comic novel •  
Rights available: World.

**THE LAST TRILOGY: THE LAST GIRL, THE LAST SHOT, THE LAST PLACE**  
**Michael Adams**

‘Brings class to teen-lit.’ *Rolling Stone*

‘Doesn’t skimp on smart intrigue or sharp menace.’ *Empire*

‘*The Last Girl* has the potential to be for a new generation of readers what John Marsden’s *Tomorrow* series was in the 1990s.’ *Australian Book Review*

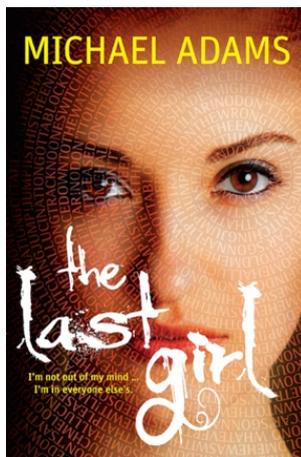
‘Think John Marsden meets *Psycho* ... suspenseful as hell.’ Cuddlebugger.com

‘Wow...grab a copy of this epic book as soon as possible. It’s richly detailed, emotionally charged, and all the characters are amazing.’ Speconspecific.com

‘Fast-paced and reading like the script of a movie you really want to see, this is the perfect gift for the 14+ reader in your life – but this 42+ reader was just as engrossed.’ *Herald-Sun*

‘An explosive sci-fi thriller, with an original premise and a plot that reads like an action movie.’ *New Zealand Herald*

When *The Snap* hits, everyone can hear what everyone else is thinking. In the chaos that erupts, Sydney teenager Danby finds she has a chance against the violence exploding around her because *her* thoughts remain private. She sets off for her mother’s safe, remote Blue Mountains retreat one hundred kilometres away and confronts new, unknown enemies while caring for her helpless younger brother Evan. And Danby also discovers that the plans of some who have survived, especially those of the charismatic Jack, may result in a fate worse than death.

*About the Author*

Michael Adams is an author, journalist, TV producer and screenwriter. He has published two series for younger readers, a memoir and several works on cinema. A biography on actress Mary Maguire will be published by Hachette in 2019.

All three final manuscripts available, 85–95,000 words • sophisticated YA/dystopian  
Rights: World, exc. ANZ. Published in ANZ by Allen & Unwin.

**DETOURS****Tim Rogers**

'*Detours* is an authentic, beautiful, unusual and brave book that stands up on its own as a strong work of literature.' *The Guardian*

'Rogers is a beautiful writer, both literate and lyrical. *Detours* makes most rock memoirs look like *How to Hypnotise Chooks*. A heartbreaking work of staggering honesty.' *Weekend West*

'The compulsive intensity of Rogers' writing conspires with his unguarded honesty to paint a true profile at odds with the cocksure dandy that Oz rock mythology finds convenient to perpetuate.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

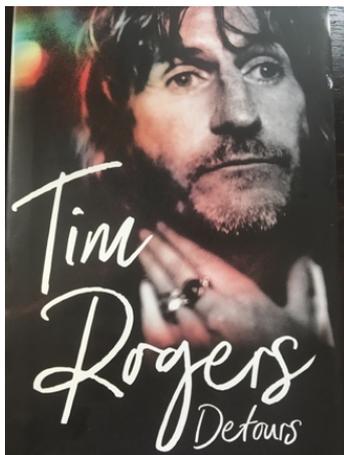
'Honest and raw, sometimes heartbreakingly so, and occasionally very funny at the same time.' *Saturday Paper*

'In a year when rock biography promised much but fell a little short, along came You Am I front man Rogers with his tender, funny, heartbreaking and raw tale that's a little bit about the music, a lot about the man, and utterly readable. Not just for lovers of rock, it's also for lovers of good writing.' *Hobart Mercury*

'Insightful and anecdote-rich prose.' *Herald Sun*

'A beautiful writer.' Robert Forster (The Go-Betweens)

'Every sentence trails a floaty scarf. A few of them have a floppy hat over one eye.' Don Walker (Cold Chisel)

*About the Author*

Tim Rogers is the songwriter and front man of You Am I, whose albums have sold more than a million copies worldwide. He is also an actor, theatre composer and a regular presence on Australian television and regularly tours the UK and the US.

Mss available • 80,000 words • Literary memoir

Rights: World, exc. ANZ. Published in ANZ by Fourth Estate, September 2017.

**MACHINES FOR THINKING:  
ESSAYS IN POSTWAR LITERATURE 1952–2015****James Ley**

The critic I. A. Richards once observed a book is ‘a machine to think with’. Any literary work of consequence will provide us with a means of thinking about the world and our place within it. And it is this intellectual dimension that hints that we might understand literature not only as an art that speaks to us on a personal level, but as a vital form of cultural history. James Ley’s essays are based around ten notable books from the post-World War II period:

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison (1952)  
*The Passion According to G.H.* by Clarice Lispector (1964)  
*Roland Barthes* by Roland Barthes (1975)  
*Extinction* by Thomas Bernhard (1986)  
*Lipstick Traces* by Greil Marcus (1989)  
*The Journalist and the Murderer* by Janet Malcolm (1990)  
*Blindness* by José Saramago (1995)  
*Infinite Jest* by David Foster Wallace (1996)  
*Carpentaria* by Alexis Wright (2006)  
*The Argonauts* by Maggie Nelson (2015)

These books share an irascibility, a sense of disquiet or dissatisfaction with the world as they find it. They are books that seek to expose contradictions and hypocrisies; they are impatient with superficialities and falsehoods and received definitions. They suggest new ideas and insist upon uncomfortable truths. Their ambition is to reorient our perceptions. These essays seek to understand individual works as instances of culture being made.

*About the Author*

James Ley was the founding editor and is now contributing editor of the Sydney Review of Books. His essays and reviews regularly appear in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *Australian Book Review* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. In 2014, he was awarded the Geraldine Pascall Prize for Australian Critic of the Year. He is the author of *The Critic in the Modern World* (2014) and co-editor with Catriona Menzies-Pike of *The Australian Face* (2017).

Proposal available (inc. outline, sample essay) • 80–90,000 words • Literary criticism  
Rights: World; currently on limited submission in ANZ.

**A MIDDLE ORDER, THE MAHARAJA AND ME:  
THE 1935–36 AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TOUR OF INDIA**  
**Megan Ponsford**

For any Australian cricket fan, the family name Ponsford conjures up images of the burly Bill Ponsford, who broke innumerable batting records and was succeeded only by Bradman as a sporting hero. Megan Ponsford, grand-daughter of Bill, shares his passion for sport. While working at the Melbourne Cricket Club, Megan was handed a box of memorabilia that belonged to her great-uncle Tom. He was also a cricketer and participated in a little-known, rebel Australian tour to India in 1935–36.

This maverick tour and its major players helped improve relations between these two outposts of Empire just a decade before India declared its Independence. There is the twinkle-eyed tour manager, Frank Tarrant, an opportunistic, P. T. Barnum-type and ex-cricketer; there is the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh, at the time one of the wealthiest rulers on the planet; and there is the ragtag Australian team comprising the superannuated – Jack Ryder and Charlie Macartney – and the adolescent – Megan’s great uncle Tom.

The tour was hard yakka, with months of travelling the vast continent in rickety rail transport to play the ‘Tests’. It also exposed this team to all manner of strange and new customs, protocols and world views. From the hardships of Calcutta to the palaces of Rajs; from strict rituals to learning of concubines, these players were transformed by this remarkable experience. Megan draws from their own accounts, newspapers and following in their footsteps to re-create this fascinating story.



*About the author*

Megan Ponsford completed her PhD on this topic in 2016. She is also co-author of *Managing Expectations and Policy Responses to Racism in Sport* (Routledge, 2015) and author of *Home Ground* (Hardie Grant, 2003), a photographic monologue of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. She lives in Melbourne.

Proposal available (inc. outline, sample chapters + illus.) • 75,000 words • Cricket history  
Rights: World; currently on submission with ANZ publishers.