

The Pilkington Agency

Rights Catalogue

Frankfurt Book Fair 2026

Contents

Fiction

3-17

Non-fiction

19-21

Co-agents

22

Contact

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FICTION

Old Wounds

Michael Brissenden

CRIME AND THRILLER



September 2027

85,000 words

Unedited MS available

The new novel from a #1 bestseller

When fishermen brothers Shep and Denny Ford pull a drifting trawler off the coast and find four dead men, a box of cash and kilos of cocaine, they make the only decision two broke men with nothing to lose can make.

They take it and run.

Shep's girlfriend Liv sees the danger before they do. She always has. Raised by father who is haunted by a past he refuses to discuss, Liv has spent her life reading rooms, reading people, and trying to outrun a history that was never really hers. When men start asking questions in town, she knows exactly what kind of men they are.

Detective Martin Kravets came to the South Coast to disappear. Medical leave. Doctor's orders. When the trawler is found with the dead men on board, Kravets and his younger partner, Constable Fiona Weldon, are brought back together to investigate. What begins as a drug case soon pulls them both toward old loyalties and buried violence.

Three lives. Three histories. One reckoning.

Old Wounds is a novel that combines a gripping plot with real moral weight, emotional depth and a strong sense of place. It's a story of loyalty, belonging and the debts that pass between generations, set against the rugged beauty of the Australian South Coast.

Michael Brissenden is an author and journalist. He has covered politics, national security issues and spent many years working as a foreign correspondent. He now writes fiction and has published four novels: *The List*, *Dead Letters*, *Smoke* and *Dust*.

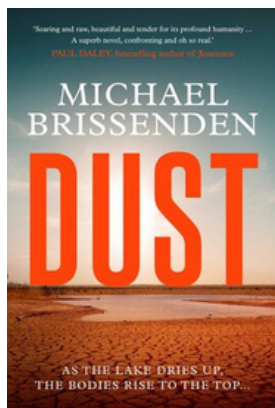
Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Summit Books, Simon & Schuster - pre-empt)

Dust

Michael Brissenden

CRIME AND THRILLER



September 2025
320pp
Final text available

The #1 Bestseller

As the lake dries up, the bodies rise to the top.

Lake Herrod, a once-thriving community, now lies in the shadow of a nearly dry lake. The town, like the water, is evaporating and its residents are left clinging to what little remains.

When Aaron Love discovers a fresh corpse near the cracked lakebed – along with evidence his missing father is alive and linked to a web of organised crime – he is thrust into a world of deception, injustice and betrayal. With the town on the brink of collapse, Aaron and a haunted detective, Martyn Kravets, uncover a web of conspiracy that reaches far beyond the small community.

Dust is a dark, gripping thriller that explores the complexities of identity, a search for truth, and the unyielding forces of corruption in a world where lives are lived on the fringe and nothing is as it seems.

‘Atmospheric, dark. Brissenden takes us to dangerous worlds we never want to escape.’ – Candice Fox

‘Masterful. A new classic of Australian crime fiction.’ – Chris Hammer

‘Dust is a story about what we leave behind, how far we’ll go, and what it takes to rise up. Brissenden always reaches for just the right detail. This is smart, thoughtful, raw: rural crime done right. Brissenden is a must-read!’ – Hayley Scrivenor

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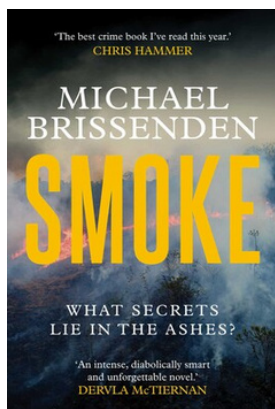
Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Affirm Press, Simon & Schuster), Russian (Azbooka-Atticus)

Smoke

Michael Brissenden

CRIME AND THRILLER



June 2024
320pp
Final text available

What secrets lie in the ashes?

After a brutal wildfire tears through the town of Jasper in the Californian sierras, a body is discovered in a shed. It looks like an open-and-shut case of accidental death - until further investigation reveals that the victim was locked in from the outside.

Years after leaving Jasper, Detective Alex Markov has been sent back under the shadow of an LAPD corruption investigation. She is convinced that the man, a family friend, was murdered opportunistically under the cover of the fire. As the smoke clears, Alex reveals a town corrupt to its core - but exposing that corruption could destroy her and the people she loves. Will she ignore the crookedness and deceit, or face the consequences of pursuing an inconvenient truth?

'Trenchant, vivid and densely plotted, this is Brissenden's best book so far'. - The Age/The Sydney Morning Herald

'An engrossing read that I just could not put down....intense, diabolically smart and unforgettable' - Dervla McTiernan

'Powerful, haunting and exceptionally well written' - Don Winslow

'Atmospheric, fast-paced, and almost unbearably tense - I was deeply immersed in Alex Markov's dangerous, unpredictable world. Brissenden has created characters you'll care about and a page-turner that'll keep you guessing. This is a cracking crime novel and his best book yet.' - Mark Brandi

Michael Brissenden is an author and journalist. He has covered politics, national security issues and spent many years working as a foreign correspondent. He now writes fiction and has published four novels: *The List*, *Dead Letters*, *Smoke* and *Dust*.

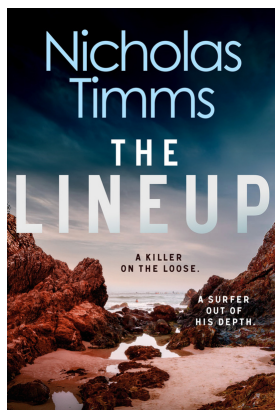
Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand
(Affirm Press, Simon & Schuster)

The Lineup

Nicholas Timms

CRIME AND THRILLER



August 2026

352pp

Final text available

Point Break meets Rear Window in this heart-pounding, suspenseful thriller set in Byron Bay.

A killer on the loose. A surfer out of his depth...

Bo Curren was once a champion surfer. Now, at twenty-eight, he's all washed up – unable even to set foot near the ocean.

Instead, he spends his days alone in his apartment, drowning his sorrows in whiskey and watching surfers on his laptop via the 24-hour surf webcam.

Then one day he sees something he shouldn't. A camera trained on a deserted Byron Bay beach picks up a murder right there on the sand.

The police dismiss his report, and no bodies are found. Yet Bo knows what he saw.

And he has a clue: the murderer's distinctive surfboard. If he can track that down, he'll catch the killer.

But is he ready to dive back into a world where the rules are unspoken, outsiders aren't welcome, and where secrets can be as dangerous as the waves?

'Crashes into the Australian crime scene with the force of a perfect wave — a tense debut that drags you under and doesn't let you surface until it's done.' R.W.R. McDonald

'The Lineup reads like a riptide. Once you're in it it won't let you go.' Michael Brissenden, author of *Dust*

Nicholas Timms is a writer and former competitive surfer based in Sydney. Now working as a copywriter for a globally recognised advertising agency, he has been the creative mind behind several award-winning campaigns for the likes of AAMI, Arnott's Biscuits and Bundaberg Rum.

Rights held: World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Penguin Random House Australia), Arabic (Dar Al Rewaq), German (Heyne - sold at auction), TV option (Universal Studio Group).

Sins of the Father

Tim Ayliffe

CRIME AND THRILLER



Publication January 2028
Extent TBC
Manuscript available in
January 2027

Detective Kit McCarthy has barely settled into her new role in Drugs and Firearms when a body washes up on the beach. The victim is a diver, his leg torn away, presumed dead in a shark attack, until a closer inspection reveals a bullet wound in his shoulder and a bag of cocaine strapped to his back.

The dead man worked for Brightmore Constructions, one of Sydney's most powerful property dynasties. As Kit begins to dig, she uncovers irregularities in shipping containers moving through the Port of Newcastle, suggesting the Brightmores have expanded beyond property into large-scale drug importation.

Behind the façade of wealth and influence, the Brightmores are fractured, with debts mounting, alliances shifting, and dangerous promises being made to the wrong people. But when Kit pushes too close, she is abruptly pulled off the case and seconded to the Joint Counter Terrorism Team. There, she learns the investigation is far bigger than drugs.

Malcolm McCarthy, Kit's father, a former soldier and convicted murderer, was reported killed in a Supermax Prison six months earlier. Now, he's resurfaced as a high-value informant, and he is refusing to speak to anyone but Kit.

As the operation closes in, Kit must decide how far she is willing to trust her father and how much of herself she is prepared to sacrifice to uncover the truth. Because this time, the danger is not just coming from criminals or extremists. It is coming from within her own family.

Tim Ayliffe's thriller novels have been informed by his 25-year career as a journalist. He has been the Managing Editor of Television and Video for ABC News and also Executive Producer of News Breakfast. His books are in development for TV, with John Bailey set to air globally in 2027.

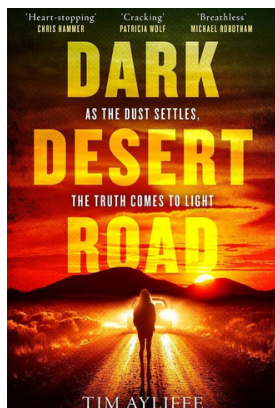
Rights held: World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Allen & Unwin), World English excl. ANZ (Firefinch)

Dark Desert Road

Tim Ayliffe

CRIME AND THRILLER



Published January 2026
400pp
Final pages available

A tense, gritty thriller that cuts straight to the heart of our chaotic age.

Kit McCarthy hasn't seen her identical twin sister, Billie, in more than a decade. The sisters don't see eye to eye, which is understandable, considering Kit's a police officer and Billie followed their violent father into a life of crime.

Kit is no angel. Burnt out by years working in child protection, she has been accused of using excessive force in the arrest of a violent drunk. Kit has just been ordered to take time off work when she gets a frantic message from Billie, telling her she has a young son and that somebody is trying to kill her. And then Billie disappears.

Determined to find her estranged sister, Kit's only lead comes after visiting their father in prison. Malcolm McCarthy claims Billie married a former US Marine and has been living with a group of sovereign citizens in Australia's desert country.

Kit's journey to find Billie takes her through shuttered towns destroyed by drought, where everybody owns guns, nobody talks to cops, and people get lost for a reason. Out here a war is brewing between a ruthless gang and a separatist community that is re-engaging with society in the most violent way.

'Ayliffe works headline-grabbing social problems into the tried-and-true blueprint of a thriller, delivered with maximum dust and derangement.' Sydney Morning Herald

'Heart-stopping action, impossible to put down.' Chris Hammer

Tim Ayliffe's thriller novels have been informed by his 25-year career as a journalist. He has been the Managing Editor of Television and Video for ABC News and also Executive Producer of News Breakfast. His books are in development for TV, with John Bailey set to air globally in 2027.

Rights held: World All Languages

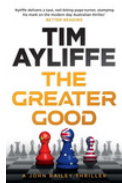
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Bonnier), World English excl. ANZ (Firefinch), Spanish (Trini Vergana)

John Bailey series

Tim Aycliffe

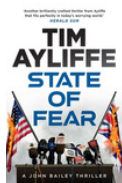
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Simon & Schuster), Czech (Euromedia), Slovak (IKAR), World English excl. ANZ (Firefinch)

Like Michael Connelly's Bosch, John Bailey will risk everything to get to the truth – and expose a deadly enemy. Screen adaptation set for global release in 2027!



The Greater Good

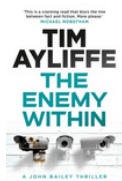
Battered war correspondent John Bailey is a man living on the edge. He's haunted by nightmares of being kidnapped and tortured in Iraq and he's drinking too much to drown the memories. As he battles to get his life back together, a story breaks that will force him back into the spotlight – and into the crosshairs of a deadly international player.



State of Fear

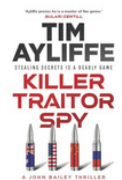
Catching the world's most wanted terrorist was supposed to be someone else's job... John Bailey is finally living something that resembles a normal life. But all that changes when a terrorist murders a woman in front of Bailey in London.

The mastermind behind the attack is Mustafa al-Baghdadi – No.1 on the FBI's most wanted list – and the man who tortured Bailey in Fallujah a decade ago.



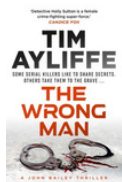
The Enemy Within

Now a journalist investigating the rise of a white supremacist group, Bailey is doing his best to turn his life around after losing the woman he loved. When the body of one of his key sources washes up on a nearby beach, it's clear Bailey and anyone helping him have become targets. Bailey reaches out to a ruthless old friend – CIA veteran, Ronnie Johnson – to lure the enemy from the shadows.



Killer Traitor Spy

Someone wants Russian millionaire Dmitry Lebedev dead. After years flying under the radar, he's just had a narrow escape when a sex worker is poisoned in his hotel room. In desperation, he offers to expose a traitor inside the government in return for CIA protection. From Canberra to Moscow to Beijing, *Killer Traitor Spy* uncovers the new lines of espionage in the 21st century.



The Wrong Man

John Bailey is trying to solve two murders, ten years apart – unfinished business from his former flame Sharon Dexter. But will it cost him his life?

'A fast-paced tale of corruption, murder and salvation. Page-turning Aussie noir at its best.' – Michael Brissenden

Dirty City

Andrew Nette

CRIME AND THRILLER



August 2027
90,000 words
Unedited MS available

Melbourne, 1969.

While the world celebrates the moon landing, a colder story is unfolding on the streets below.

When an illegal abortion clinic is destroyed by fire and its operator found executed, the Homicide Squad moves quickly to contain the damage. The case is sensitive and the orders are clear: keep it quiet.

Detective Senior Constable Peter Brophy understands how the city works. He's built his career on it. Do the job. Don't look too closely. Know which truths matter, and which ones don't. His new partner, a rookie, still has a lot to learn.

Constable Terrence Aveling is young, ambitious, and untested. To some, he's a promising recruit. To others, he's there to watch, to listen, and to report on a squad already under suspicion.

What begins as a straightforward investigation soon fractures. A second body surfaces. Old connections resurface with it. And beneath the surface, something larger is taking shape—a new drug trade, new money, and new players pushing into a city already compromised.

The deeper Brophy and Aveling go, the clearer it becomes that the case was never meant to be solved. And they were put on this case for a reason.

Dirty City is a powerful, atmospheric crime novel about loyalty, ambition, and the price of truth.

Andrew Nette is an award-winning writer of fiction and non-fiction. He is the author of three novels, *Ghost Money*, *Gunshine State* and *Orphan Road*. His short fiction has appeared in various print and online publications. He writes a regular newsletter under his own name on Substack.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand
(Penguin Random House)

King Tide

Luke Johnson

CRIME AND THRILLER



August 2025

320pp

Final PDF available

A storm batters the seaside town of Lagunes Bay, unleashing a king tide across the wintry beach. As the water recedes, it reveals a long-buried secret: a body, framed and exposed in the sand.

When the body is identified as a young woman who vanished years ago - with little effort ever made to find her - the entire community comes under suspicion. How did she meet such a gruesome end? What did those closest to her know? Was Tate, the town's golden boy, her final boyfriend? And why has the return of an Anglican priest and his daughter left everyone so tense?

This isn't the first disappearance to rock this small town, but the local families aren't giving much away. As Detective Harper Lewis investigates this insular world, the mystery deepens with every uncovered clue. In Lagunes Bay, everyone has something to hide and every shadow tells a story.

King Tide is a stunning, exhilarating debut: a beautifully crafted, intricately plotted tale that is as emotionally raw as it is gripping.

'Dark and powerful' - Mark Brandi

'Gripping, atmospheric and raw. Friendship, love and loyalty drive this brilliant debut set in a small-town coastal community where secrets are tightly held, but eventually find their way to the surface.' - Inga Simpson

'Taut, sharp and compelling, King Tide announces the arrival of a major new talent in crime fiction.' - Mark Smith

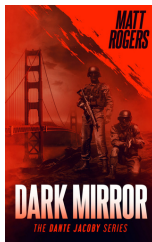
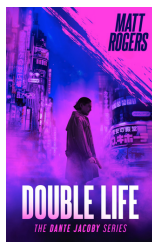
Luke Johnson is from Ocean Grove, Victoria and is a Senior Physiotherapist. He won the 2021 Bellarine Short Story Competition and was the equal Second Prize Winner of the Sorrento Creative Writer Prize.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand
(Affirm Press, Simon & Schuster)

Brand Author: Matt Rogers

ACTION THRILLERS



From million-copy bestselling author Matt Rogers, a mind-bending series of 5 books featuring Dante Jacoby

Dante Jacoby is a slave to the trappings of the modern world. Twenty-six years old and hopelessly addicted to booze, cigarettes, and procrastination, he's squandered every ounce of his potential. His corporate raider father, Dorian, reaches the end of his tether and cuts Dante off as heir to the Jacoby family fortune. His mother, Fiona, is smarter than her husband: she hasn't spoken to Dante in months.

But Dante's no victim. He knows he brought this on himself.

Dragged to the gym by a well-intentioned friend in a last-ditch attempt to get him in gear, Dante is used as a guinea pig for a new state-of-the-art machine. He couldn't care less about "Flash Reflex Training," but does what he's told, and heads home to drink himself into oblivion. Hours later he's on the run, hunted ruthlessly by mercenaries, kept alive by a CIA spook who reveals he tested close to the fastest reaction speed on earth. Square in the crosshairs of foreign agents who don't want the government utilising his genetic talents, he finds himself sucked into the brutal world of covert operations.

At least, that's what he thinks. It doesn't take long to stumble upon a deeper conspiracy and discover nothing is what it seemed...

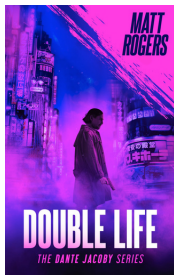
Million-copy bestselling author **Matt Rogers** writes relentlessly-paced thrillers with acclaimed character depth. With praise from titans of the genre like Kathy Reichs and Kyle Mills, Matt has also received almost 100,000 five-star ratings from his Amazon readers across all his books.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: German (Ronin Verlag), US Audio (Podium)

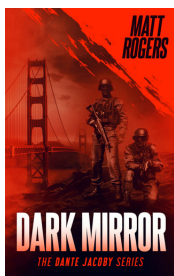
Dante Jacoby series continued

Matt Rogers



Double Life

After the explosive, life-changing events of *Be Somebody*, Dante is chasing danger wherever he can find it, and ends up at war with the yakuza in Japan. But he's sidetracked when Stefani Pilecki, his de facto sister, is kidnapped in Romania. Dante and Stefani soon realise all this carnage ties back to the geneticist who created Dante's embryo. Dark secrets are brought to the light.



Dark Mirror

Reeling from revelations about his past, Dante winds up in San Francisco and gets to work making a name for himself. He starts and grows a successful nightclub, earning millions in the process, which destroys his anonymity brings him to the attention of dark government forces who have connections to Obelisk, the rogue geneticist who created Dante.



The Marauder

Given the green light from the government to be a vigilante, Dante sets to work looking for injustice. He finds it when his paramedic girlfriend, Sarah, responds to an emergency call at a wealthy rural property and uncovers a pipeline of "fake caregiving" where scammers rob the most vulnerable elderly of all they're worth. Dante destroys the operation and uncovers dark truths in the process.



Rogue State

Dante discovers he has a personal connection to Ogon Group and is forced to sneak into Russia to uncover revelations about his personal history that are tied to the shadowy private military company. He learns that they have been targeting him with cyberwarfare for years, trying to prevent him from becoming a vigilante assassin, and terrible secrets about cyberwarfare between countries are uncovered in the process.

Prophet

James McKenzie Watson

CRIME AND THRILLER



March 2028
90,000 words
MS available early 2027

A new novel about family responsibility, guilt, sacrifice, fate and fear from the winner of the Penguin Literary Prize

The future is built on the sacrifices we make today.

On a bankrupt farm in central New South Wales, sixteen-year-old Eliza is barely holding her family together. Her brother Jon is volatile, unpredictable and increasingly convinced his dreams can show him what is coming.

Eliza thinks he is delusional. Until the dreams start coming true.

At first, Jon's visions seem like a way out. A warning. A chance to save the family from ruin. But each dream asks more of him, and each instruction pulls Eliza deeper into a world where love and fear have become impossible to tell apart.

As Jon's prophecies grow darker, Eliza must decide how far she is willing to go to protect her brother, and whether saving the people we love can become its own kind of violence.

For fans of *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* by Holly Ringland and *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* by Iain Reid, *Prophet* is a haunting thriller about guilt, family and the terrifying price of believing the future can be changed.

James McKenzie Watson's debut novel *Denizen* won the 2021 Penguin Literary Prize, was shortlisted for the 2022 Australian Shadows Awards and 2023 Ned Kelly Awards, and was named a best book of 2022 by multiple Australian publications. James has written for *The Guardian* and *Meanjin*.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Allen & Unwin)

In Spite of Time

Ben Cooke

SPECULATIVE FICTION



Early 2027
85,000 words
Edited MS available

A high-concept, character-driven time travel narrative with an emotional throughline and a bittersweet resolution.

Set in the US and told across two timelines, one past and one present, *In Spite of Time* follows retired physicist, Arthur Wells, as he cares for his terminally ill wife, Lucy. Due to the unforeseen costs of her treatment, they are only days away from having the mountain home he promised they would retire to repossessed. A dilemma that Arthur has reluctantly kept a secret from his wife.

When Arthur unearths a strangely familiar device in the forest behind his home, one that grants him the ability to rewind a little less than five minutes per day, he decides to act in the hopes of keeping his promise to Lucy. This decision will thrust him into a web of moral ambiguity and disastrous unforeseen consequences, before eventually returning him to Lucy to discover that all throughout their life together, she too was keeping a secret. One that will completely rewrite his understanding of their enduring love for one another.

'A compelling time travel story with enormous heart. It's a story that will keep you guessing right to the very end.' – Pip Williams, author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

'Ben Cooke has masterfully crafted a spellbinding debut novel of hope, choice and love across time, perfect for readers of Gabrielle Zevin.' – Alex Lloyd, Publisher at Pan Macmillan Australia

Ben Cooke is a freelance journalist and photographer from Melbourne, now based in Tokyo. He has writing and photography credits with several international publications including the BBC, *Escape*, and *Tokyo Weekender*. *In Spite of Time* is his debut novel.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Pan Macmillan Australia)

Pillar of Ink

Claire Benson

ROMANTASY



Publication February 2027

95,000 words

Copypedited MS available

The first book in the Sigils of Starlight trilogy

In a world ruled by the Truthseeker Order, magic is tightly bound, every spell sanctioned, every power controlled. The Eight Pillar Sigils are sacred, bestowed only upon the worthy to preserve order.

For Estella Vestas, stepdaughter of a ruthless Mindswayer matriarch, that order is nothing but a cage. Born to charm the elite, groomed for obedience, she yearns for freedom - and for the chance to create. On the eve of her twenty-first birthday, she dares the ultimate defiance: she carves a forbidden sigil into her skin. But the mark she claims does not glow with sanctioned silver. It burns crimson. Bloodfire. A volatile magic tied to the nine exiled goddesses, wild and hungry, bending to her rage, her longing, her heart.

Branded a heretic, Estella is suddenly the most hunted fugitive in the realm. The Council's sinister head believes she is the key to an ancient prophecy. A rebel faction hails her as their messiah. And shadowing her every step is Captain Grey Astrophel - an Orion enforcer sworn to capture her, even as a pull he cannot fight threatens to unravel his oath.

Forced into an uneasy alliance with a rebel whose secrets could undo her, Estella must navigate a world of treachery, passion, and shifting loyalties. Her magic could save everything - or ignite a fire that consumes it all.

Pillar of Ink is set to be the breakout romantasy debut of 2027.

Claire Benson is a Sydney-based fine-line tattoo artist, author, and founder of Everywhere Studios, the city's first dedicated fine-line tattoo and art space. Raised in the North West of England, she began tattooing at nineteen. You can find her at [@claire.everywhere](https://www.instagram.com/claire.everywhere).

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Allen & Unwin - 3-book deal), German (Lago)

NON-FICTION

The Buried Tea Chests

Annika Blau

NARRATIVE NON-FICTION



October 2027

90,000 words

Unedited MS available now

An extraordinary true story of family secrets, scandal, and survival.

The Buried Tea Chests follows journalist Annika Blau's journey after she stumbles upon a secret family legacy. What follows is a remarkable investigation into a family who rose to prominence as purveyors of the famous 4711 cologne, only to be brought down by scandal, internment, and erasure.

A few years ago, Annika discovered that two teachefts of mail collected by her great-grandfather had been found during a demolition and auctioned off for a small fortune by strangers. They were lauded as one of the most significant hauls of military mail in Commonwealth history, containing rare correspondence from Sydney's WW1 prisoner of war camp. But for Annika, they revealed family secrets, silences and shame.

Using the mail as clues, Annika uncovers the riches to rags tale of the relatives who collected it. Charting a path through two world wars and the Great Depression, it's a story about the family's rise to Sydney's high society and their fall to years behind bars as British "war trophies". At the heart of the story is a mystery: why did Annika's great-grandfather collect this historic haul only to hide it under some floorboards? Ultimately, she discovers he buried not just the teachests, but the truth of who the family were and where they came from.

At once memoir and investigation, *The Buried Tea Chests* sits alongside *Wifedom* by Anna Funder and *The Hare with Amber Eyes* as a powerful exploration of identity, loss, and the truths families bury to endure.

Annika Blau is an award-winning journalist, editor and podcaster. She is a reporter for ABC Radio National's flagship investigative program, Background Briefing. In 2023, she wrote, produced and presented *The Buried Teachests*: a two-part podcast series for RN's History Listen program.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages
Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand
(HarperCollins Australia)

Female Frontwoman

Amber Horsburgh

CULTURAL COMMENTARY



Publication early 2028

Extent TBC

**Sample chapters available
in September 2026**

Ten women who made masterpieces in a culture that taught us to hate them - and ourselves

Female Frontwoman is a book about the masterpieces made by women who the public ridiculed. Each chapter revisits an album made in the eye of a storm: Britney Spears' *Blackout*, Lana Del Rey's *Born to Die*, Amy Winehouse's *Back to Black*, Janet Jackson's *The Velvet Rope*. It examines how, even as they were mocked or vilified, they created art that redefined music and culture.

Blending memoir, music criticism, and cultural commentary, this book exposes the systems that taught us to mistake women's defiance for dysfunction and their creativity for chaos. It invites readers to reconsider not just how we talk about female artists, but how we talk to ourselves. Because the inner voice calling you "too difficult" or "too much" isn't yours, it's the echo of what the world said about them.

Female Frontwoman sits at the intersection of feminist cultural criticism and personal storytelling. For fans of *Bad Feminist*, *Monsters* and *Girl on Girl*, *Female Frontwoman* re-examines the stories we told about women and what those stories taught us to believe about ourselves.

This is not a book about music; it's a book through music: using the lives and albums of female artists to reveal the hidden curriculum of womanhood that shaped an entire generation.

Amber Horsburgh is a Melbourne-born, Lisbon based music and brand marketing strategist. She was the former SVP of Strategy at Downtown Records and has worked with Spotify, YouTube Music, Mura Masa, Chet Faker, Miike Snow, Smino, Atlantic, and Interscope Records.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand
(HarperCollins Australia)

Who Told You That?

Aslan Pahari

POPULAR HISTORY



Publication November 2027
Extent TBC
Manuscript available in February 2027

A funny, sharp and deeply informative book about the historical myths that shape race, religion and belonging.

From racial purity and ancient civilisation to migration, borders, ancestry claims and religious origin stories, this book takes the arguments people have online and asks one simple question: who told you that?

In an age of TikTok explainers, YouTube rabbit holes, weaponised ancestry tests, misleading maps, fake archaeology and viral “just asking questions” bigotry, history is being twisted into misinformation at extraordinary speed. *Who Told You That?* shows how these myths spread, why they feel persuasive, and what the past tells us.

Aslan Pahari has a huge social audience (5.7 million followers on TikTok) built on making history and culture accessible, funny and surprising. He understands not only the history itself, but the way historical misinformation travels online. He knows the shape of the viral claim, the bad-faith argument, the family WhatsApp myth, the comment-section fight and the half-remembered “fact” that suddenly becomes someone’s worldview.

Using history to dismantle the stories people tell about who belongs, who came first, who built what, who stole what and whose version of the past gets treated as truth, *Who Told You That?* is a book about identity, misinformation and the myths we inherit revealing that the truth is usually far more interesting than the stories people cling to.

Perfect for fans of Adam Rutherford and Greg Jenner.

Aslan Pahari is a content creator and researcher known for his explorations of anthropology, religion, languages, and history. With an academic background in International Relations and Anthropology, Aslan blends scholarly insights with accessible storytelling.

Rights held: Film, World All Languages

Rights sold: Australia & New Zealand (Allen & Unwin)

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