

# The Text Publishing Company

## Frankfurt Rights Guide 2018



<b>Recent Acquisitions</b> .....	3
<b>Recent Publications</b> .....	4
<b>Fiction</b> .....	5–17
<i>The Rosie Result</i> by Graeme Simsion.....	5
<i>A Season on Earth</i> by Gerald Murnane.....	6
<i>Preservation</i> by Jock Serong.....	7
<i>The Fragments</i> by Toni Jordan.....	8
<i>World Shadow</i> by Nir Baram.....	9
<i>At Night's End</i> by Nir Baram.....	10
<i>Kill Shot</i> by Garry Disher.....	11
<i>Attraction</i> by Ruby Porter.....	12
<i>The Helpline</i> by Katherine Collette.....	13
<i>Simpson Returns</i> by Wayne Macauley.....	14
<i>Songwoman</i> by Ilka Tampke.....	15
<i>Room for a Stranger</i> by Melanie Cheng.....	16
<i>Monkey Grip</i> and <i>The Children's Bach</i> by Helen Garner.....	17
<b>Non-fiction</b> .....	18–23
<i>Promise Me You'll Shoot Yourself</i> by Florian Huber.....	18
<i>Europe</i> by Tim Flannery.....	19
<i>City of Trees</i> by Sophie Cunningham.....	20
<i>You Daughters of Freedom</i> by Clare Wright.....	21
<i>Books that Saved My Life</i> by Michael McGirr.....	22
<i>Shakespeare's Library</i> by Stuart Kells.....	23
<b>Children and Young Adult</b> .....	24–29
<i>It Sounded Better in My Head</i> by Nina Kenwood.....	24
<i>Lizard's Tale</i> by Weng Wai Chan.....	25
<i>Devil's Ballast</i> by Meg Caddy.....	26
<i>Songbird</i> by Ingrid Laguna.....	27
<i>The Huggabie Falls</i> trilogy by Adam Cece.....	28
<i>The Road to Winter, Wilder Country</i> and <i>Land of Fences</i> by Mark Smith.....	29
<b>Text Classics</b> .....	30–31
<b>Text Publishing Agents</b> .....	32–33

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# Recent Acquisitions

## Children and Young Adult

Anderson, Laurie Halse	Shout	ANZ	Writers House
Bell, Davina	The End of the World Is Bigger than Love	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Laguna, Ingrid	Songbird	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Kerr, Kay	Please Don't Hug Me	World	Jacinta di Mase
King, A. S.	Dig	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Penguin Random House US
Nugent, Carly	Sugar	World	Author
Wakefield, Vikki	Youth <i>and</i> Untitled novel	World	Drummond Agency
Zable, Arnold and Ron Brooks	The Glass Horse of Venice	World	Authors

## Adult

Best, Gillian	The Last Wave	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	House of Anansi
Bishop, Alice	A Constant Hum	World	Author
Biss, Eula	Having and Being Had <i>and</i> Ownership	ANZ	David Grossman
Brown, Jeremy	Influenza	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Simon and Schuster
Darriussecq, Marie	The Baby	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Éditions P.O.L.
Hertmans, Stefan	The Convert	ANZ	De Bezige Bij
Hopkins, Sarah	Untitled novel	World	Lyn Tranter
Jinks, Catherine	Shepherd	World	Margaret Connolly
Koch, Herman	The Ditch	ANZ	Ambo Anthos
Luna, Louisa	Two Girls Down	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Penguin Random House US
Malonowska, Kaja	Fog	World English	Barbara Zitwer
McPhee-Browne, Laura	Untitled stories	World	Author
Murnane, Gerald	A Season on Earth	World	Golvan Arts Management
Nordbo, Mads Peder	The Girl without Skin <i>and</i> Cold Fear	World English	Politiken Literary Agency
Righetto, Matteo	The Soul of the Frontier	ANZ	Piergiorgio Nicolazzini
Savage, Ellena	Blueberries	World (ex. UK)	Lutyens and Rubinstein
Tiffany, Carrie	Exploded View	ANZ	Lutyens and Rubinstein
Thornton, Sarah	Lapse	World	Gaby Naher
Vann, David	Woman, Desiring	ANZ	Rogers, Coleridge & White
Widder, Edie	Below the Edge of Darkness	ANZ	Abner Stein UK
Woodfox, Albert	Solitary	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Grove Atlantic

# Recent Publications

## Children and Young Adult

Cece, Adam	The Extremely Scary Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls	Blacklock Literary Management
Dabos, Christelle	A Winter's Promise	Gallimard Jeunesse
Hendrick, Kate	The Finder	Author
Kernot, Sharon	The Art of Taxidermy	Author
Levithan, David	Someday	United Agents
Nugent, Carly	The Peacock Detectives	Author
Saeed, Aisha	Amal Unbound	Penguin Random House USA

## Adult

Collette, Katherine	The Helpline	Jacinta di Mase
Flannery, Tim	Europe	Author
Garner, Helen	The Children's Bach <i>and</i> Monkey Grip	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Hillman, Robert	The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted	Jacinta di Mase
Jones, Lloyd	The Cage	Author
Jordan, Toni	The Fragments	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Kim, Un-su	The Plotters	Barbara Zitwer
Kneen, Krissy	Wintering	Jane Novak Literary Agent
Lianke, Yan	The Day the Sun Died	The Susjin Agency
Lindqvist, John Ajvide	I Always Find You	Copenhagen Literary Agency
Ma, Ling	Severance	Wylie Agency
McGirr, Michael	Books that Saved My Life	Curtis Brown Australia
McPhee, John	The Patch	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Msimang, Sisonke	Always Another Country	Blake Friedmann
Selecky, Sarah	Radiant Shimmering Light	Transatlantic Agency
Serong, Jock	Preservation	Author
St John, Madeleine	Ladies in Black	Lutyens and Rubinstein
Tampke, Ilka	Songwoman	Author
Tokarczuk, Olga	Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Wright, Clare	You Daughters of Freedom	Jacinta di Mase
Zafón, Carlos Ruiz	The Labyrinth of Spirits	Tom Colchie

## *The Rosie Result* by Graeme Simsion

Don and Rosie are back in Melbourne after a decade in New York, and they're about to face their most important challenge.

Their son, Hudson, is struggling at school: he's socially awkward and not fitting in. Don's spent a lifetime trying to fit in—so who better to teach Hudson the skills he needs?

The Hudson Project will require the help of friends old and new, force Don to decide how much to guide Hudson and how much to let him be himself, and raise some important questions about his own identity.

Meanwhile, there are multiple distractions to deal with: the Genetics Lecture Outrage, Rosie's betrayal at work, estrangement from his best friend Gene.

And opening a cocktail bar.

Hilarious and thought-provoking, *The Rosie Result* is the tremendous final instalment of the internationally bestselling series that began with *The Rosie Project*.

### Praise for Graeme Simsion

'An extraordinarily clever, funny, and moving book.' Bill Gates

'Funny, endearing, and pure, wonderful escapism.' *Independent*

'Charming and absorbing.' *Daily Mail*

'Funny and heartwarming, a gem of a book.' Marian Keyes

**Graeme Simsion** is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are international bestsellers with combined worldwide sales of more than four million copies. Graeme's screenplay for *The Rosie Project* is in development with Sony Pictures and *The Best of Adam Sharp* is in development with Toni Collette's Vocab Films. Graeme's previous novel, *Two Steps Forward*, co-written with his wife, Anne Buist, has been optioned for film by Ellen DeGeneres.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Israel—Achuzat Bayit; Netherlands—Luitingh Sijthoff; Poland—Media Rozina; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin.

**Option Publishers:** Brazil—Record; Czech Republic—Mlada Fronta; Italy—Longanesi; Ukraine—Vivat.

Fiction

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February 2019

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Manuscript available

# *A Season on Earth* by Gerald Murnane

Lost to the world for more than four decades, *A Season on Earth* is the essential link between two acknowledged masterpieces by Gerald Murnane: his debut novel, *Tamarisk Row*, a lyrical account of boyhood, and the revolutionary prose of *The Plains*.

*A Season on Earth* is Murnane's second novel as it was intended to be, bringing together all of its four sections—the first two of which were published as *A Lifetime on Clouds* in 1976 and the last two of which have never been in print.

A hilarious tale of a lustful teenager in 1950s Melbourne, *A Lifetime on Clouds* has been considered an outlier in Murnane's fiction. That is because, as Murnane writes in his foreword, it is 'only half a book and Adrian Sherd only half a character'.

Here, at last, is young Adrian's journey in full, from fantasies about orgies with American film stars and idealised visions of suburban marital bliss to his struggles as a Catholic student-priest, and finally a burgeoning sense of the boundless imaginative possibilities to be found in literature and landscape.

Adrian Sherd is one of the great comic creations in Australian writing, and *A Season on Earth* a revelatory portrait of the artist as a young man.

## Praise for Gerald Murnane

'Murnane's books are strange and wonderful.' *New York Times*

'Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' Teju Cole, *Guardian*

'*The Plains* is a bizarre masterpiece that can feel less like something you've read than something you've dreamed.' Ben Lerner, *New Yorker*

'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' *Australian*

**Gerald Murnane** was born in Melbourne in 1939. He is the author of thirteen works of fiction, a memoir and a collection of essays. His prizes include the Melbourne Prize for Literature and a Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Murnane lives in western Victoria.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Catalan—Miniscula; France—Éditions P.O.L.; Germany—Suhrkamp; Hungary—Libri Kiado; Spain—Miniscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag.

Fiction

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February 2019

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Manuscript available

## *Preservation* by Jock Serong

Seventeen men survived the shipwreck of the rum-smuggling *Sydney Cove*—but only three are picked up on a beach near the isolated settlement of Sydney in 1797.

The three men have walked hundreds of miles across a landscape they have no way of comprehending. They are distressed and injured. Their accounts of the ordeal are evasive—and conflicting.

Tasked with investigating their stories, Lieutenant Joshua Grayling comes to realise that there might be something—or someone—behind the fourteen missing men. And as the full horror of the journey emerges, Grayling begins to wonder whether his own family is also in danger.

Based on the true story of the wreck of the *Sydney Cove*, *Preservation* is a thrilling historical narrative from master storyteller Jock Serong.

### Praise for Jock Serong

‘Taut and impressive.’ *Age*

‘Serong is a talented storyteller.’ *Booklist*

‘Terrifying, compelling.’ *Australian Book Review*

‘Jock Serong creates a sense of foreboding from the very start of his third novel, and then constantly ratchets up the tension with a keen sense of pacing.’ *Books+Publishing*

‘*The Rules of Backyard Cricket*...is a compelling literary novel dissecting toxic sporting culture and its fallout.’ Paddy O’Reilly

‘A literary crime novel that qualifies as genuine Australian noir.’ Angela Savage

**Jock Serong’s** debut novel *Quota* won the 2015 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Crime Novel. His second novel, *The Rules of Backyard Cricket*, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier’s Literary Award, the Dagger Awards and the MWA Edgar Awards in 2017. His third novel, *On the Java Ridge* was shortlisted for the 2018 Indie Awards and the Melbourne Prize for Literature. Jock lives with his wife and four children in Port Fairy, Victoria.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publisher:** Germany—Polar Verlag

Fiction | November 2018 | Finished copies available

# *The Fragments* by Toni Jordan

Inga Karlson died in a fire in New York in the 1930s, leaving behind three things: a phenomenally successful first novel, the scorched fragments of a second book—and a literary mystery that has captivated generations of readers.

Nearly fifty years later, Brisbane bookseller Caddie Walker is waiting in line to see a Karlson exhibition featuring the famous fragments when a charismatic older woman quotes a phrase from the Karlson fragments that Caddie knows does not exist.

Caddie is electrified. Jolted her from her sleepy, no-worries life in torpid 1980s Brisbane she is driven to investigate: to find the clues that will unlock the greatest literary mystery of the twentieth century.

From the award-winning, bestselling author of *Addition* and *Nine Days*, a superbly crafted and captivating literary mystery about a lost book and a secret love.

## Praise for Toni Jordan

‘Bringing a quirky humour and a sympathetic view of diversity to his story, the author sustains the momentum to the end of this engaging romantic comedy.’ *The Times*

‘A wonderful, witty treat of a novel: cutting and clever, and yet so very romantic.’ Liane Moriarty

‘A diverting read that will appeal to fans of sophisticated historical fiction and book club members.’ *Library Journal*

‘The suspense is frequently nail-biting...Jordan has a fine line in wit too, not to mention the natural storyteller’s ability to keep us guessing.’ *Daily Mail*

**Toni Jordan** is the author of five novels. The international bestseller *Addition* was a Richard and Judy Bookclub pick and was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. *Fall Girl* was published internationally and has been optioned for film, and *Nine Days* was named in Kirkus Review’s top 10 Historical Novels of 2013. *Our Tiny, Useless Hearts* was shortlisted for the Voss Literary Prize 2017. Toni lives in Melbourne.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Italy—Marsilio

Fiction | November 2018 | Finished copies available



# *World Shadow* by Nir Baram

TRANSLATED FROM THE HEBREW BY JESSICA COHEN

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

Cut to the present. A group of young Londoners—homeless, unemployed and angry—is organising a worldwide strike to protest globalisation and inequality.

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

*World Shadow* is a fast-paced novel about politics, money, power and corruption that holds a mirror up to the present day. With its masterly interwoven narrative strands and its global perspective, it confirms Nir Baram as a major contemporary writer.

Praise for Nir Baram

'Maybe the most impressive novel about our time.' *El Mundo*

'A pacey, plot-heavy novel of dramatic events and big ideas.' *Economist* on *Good People*

'Quite possibly, Dostoevsky would write like this if he lived in Israel today.' *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on *Good People*

'Chillingly captures the terrors and tensions of life under Stalin and Hitler.' *Times Literary Supplement* on *Good People*

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

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

**Rights Held:** World English

**Other Rights:** Liepmann Agency

Fiction

September 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

# *At Night's End* by Nir Baram

TRANSLATED FROM THE HEBREW BY JESSICA COHEN

Yonatan wakes in a hotel room in an unfamiliar city. He knows he came to participate in a literary festival that is long over, so why is he still there, and how long has he been in this bed? As he attempts to reconstruct his lost days, he learns that he told people at the festival that his best friend Yoel has died—but he knows that his friend is still alive.

As Yonatan roams the city streets in a fevered daze, he thinks back on his friendship with Yoel. As children, the boys made up stories together; as adolescents, they fell in love with the same girl. But when the fantasy worlds they created invaded real life, and a peculiar yellow fog engulfed the neighborhood, their childhood is overwhelmed by tragedy. And as their journeys diverge over the decades, Yonatan comes to realise that the imaginary world of their early days may fade, but it never vanishes.

A bestseller in Israel, *At Night's End* is a compelling story of family and love, friendship and fatherhood.

'One of the most beautiful bildungsroman books I have read. A novel about a profound and moving friendship, about pain and about life.' *Saloon*

'A rare book in Israel's literary landscape...Depicts the past in the most profound way without a shred of romanticizing.' *Maariv*

'A spectacular accomplishment by one of the most wonderful Hebrew writers.' *Israel Today*

'An impressive, profound book that touches the nerve-endings of emotion.' *Ha'aretz*

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

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

**Rights Held:** World (ex. Israel)

Fiction

January 2020

Manuscript available  
March 2019

## ***Kill Shot* by Garry Disher**

Some people just work better alone. Wyatt's one of them. He's been getting by on nice quiet little burglaries—one-man jobs—when he gets wind of something bigger. A corporate crook, notorious Ponzi schemer, set to face court and certain jail time. He's about to skip bail the old-fashioned way: on a luxury yacht with a million dollars in cash.

Wyatt thinks it sounds like something he should get into.

There's just one problem—he's not alone.

The latest gripping story in the Wyatt thriller series kicks off in Sydney and unfolds on the beaches of Newcastle.

### Praise for Garry Disher

'For the connoisseur of crime the Wyatt series represents Disher at his stylish best...wicked and wonderful. Welcome back, Wyatt.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Smooth, assured mastery.' *New York Times Book Review*

'A top-class writer.' *Times*

'Garry Disher has been giving us highly intelligent literary thrillers for decades and he gets better and better.' *Australian*

'Crime fiction king Garry Disher is a literary machine...Bring on the next case.' *Herald Sun*

'Disher turns out to be a superb chronicler of macho pop culture.' *Sunday Times*

'Garry Disher's crime fiction is as prolific as it is highly decorated.' *Guardian*

**Garry Disher** grew up in South Australia and now lives on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. He is the author of more than forty titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, and the Wyatt thrillers. Garry Disher has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Fiction in 2007 and 2010. In 2018, he won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ned Kelly Awards.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Pulp Master

**Option Publisher:** North America—Soho

Fiction | December 2018 | Manuscript available

# *Attraction* by Ruby Porter

WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL MICHAEL GIFKINS PRIZE FOR AN UNPUBLISHED NOVEL

*A third of our genes aren't fixed. They get coded—in the womb, in life. You can pass them on, those genes. You can pass on your fuck-ups, your hang-ups, your heartbreaks. You can pass on trauma. You can pass on guilt.*

*I made that up. I don't know if it was a third, or a quarter. But I imagine it like the sea and its salt, infinite. Floating, mixing, rearranging. Churning up bits of the past, bringing them to the surface. Or pushing them deeper.*

The present reckons with the past in *Attraction*, Ruby Porter's atmospheric debut novel.

Porter's unnamed narrator is on a road trip between Auckland, Whāngārā and Levin with her friends Ashi and Ilana, haunted by the spectre of her emotionally abusive ex-boyfriend, her complicated family background and New Zealand's colonial history. Jealousies intensify as the young women work out who they are and who they might become.

*'Attraction peels back the landscape to reveal deeper truths. The book is a slow-burning fuse that brims with intensely felt experience. Porter is an exciting new talent.'* Lloyd Jones (judge's comment)

*'This gifted new writer reveals character and progresses story by use of sharp imagery, intergenerational relationships, and the natural, historic and domestic environments of modern New Zealand.'* Patricia Grace (judge's comment)

**Ruby Porter** is a tutor of creative writing at the University of Auckland. She has been published in *Geometry Journal*, *Aotearotica*, the *Spinoff* and the *Wireless*, and a selection of her poetry is available on NZEPC. In 2018, she also won the Wallace Foundation Short Fiction Contest.

**The Michael Gifkins Prize for an Unpublished Novel** was made possible by generous sponsorship from Ann Hatherly and André Gifkins, partner and son of the late Michael Gifkins, and Text Publishing. It pays tribute to the support and encouragement Michael Gifkins gave to New Zealand writers throughout his career. The competition is open to previously published authors and new writers who are New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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May 2019

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Manuscript available

## *The Helpline* by Katherine Collette

Germaine Johnson may not be all that good with people but she's *great* with numbers. Unfortunately, as she discovers after the incident at Wallace Insurance (and the subsequent disputed allegations), there are very few openings these days for senior mathematicians.

Then her cousin gets her a job at the local council. On the Senior Citizens Helpline.

It's not the résumé entry Germaine wanted—but it turns out Mayor Verity Bainbridge has something more interesting in mind for her. A secret project involving the troublemakers at the senior citizens centre and their feud with the golf club next door. Which is run by the strangely attractive Don Thomas.

Don and the mayor want the seniors closed down. Germaine wants what Don and the mayor want. But when she's forced to get to know the 'troublemakers'—things get more complicated.

A sharp, witty, big-hearted comedy from a hilarious new Australian writer, Katherine Collette's *The Helpline* is about people power and brain power—and how hard it is getting them to work together.

'Delightful feelgood fun.' Toni Jordan

'Many readers today are searching for light but clever comic writing with a bit of a punch; they will happily find it in Katherine Collette's debut.' *Books+Publishing*

'Wonderfully quirky.' *Good Reading*

'An endearing story about power, ambition, greed and friendship.' *Readings*

**Katherine Collette** is a writer and environmental engineer. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and two children. *The Helpline* is her first novel.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Italy—Garzanti; North America—Touchstone; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Simon & Schuster.

Fiction

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September 2018

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Finished copies available

# *Simpson Returns* by Wayne Macauley

*My name is Jack Simpson, and that there is my donkey, Murphy. We made our names in the Great War, at Gallipoli, against the Turks. The country needed a martyr. Now I crisscross the countryside, doing good.*

Ninety years after they were thought to have died heroically in the Great War, the stretcher-bearer Simpson and his donkey journey through country Victoria, performing minor miracles and surviving on offerings left at war memorials. They are making their twenty-ninth, and perhaps final, attempt to find the country's famed Inland Sea.

On the road north from Melbourne, Simpson and his weary donkey encounter a broke single mother, a suicidal Vietnam veteran, a refugee who has lost everything, an abused teenager and a deranged ex-teacher. These are society's downtrodden, whom Simpson believes can be renewed by the healing waters of the sea.

In *Simpson Returns*, Wayne Macauley sticks a pin in the balloon of the Australian national myth. A concise satire of platitudes about fairness and egalitarianism, it is timely, devastating and witheringly funny.

## Praise for Wayne Macauley

'Macauley has published some of the most memorable fiction going in this country.' *Age*

'Macauley's eclectic new novel, *Some Tests*, tackles the topic of death in a surreal way.' *Guardian*

'Irresistible—*The Cook* reminds us just how exciting it is to read a wonderful and original novel.' Lloyd Jones

'Gripping and subversive.' Nick Cave

'A marvellous experiment in voice.' *Financial Times*

**Wayne Macauley** is the author of the acclaimed novels *Blueprints for a Barbed-Wire Canoe*, *Caravan Story*, *The Cook* and *Demons*. *The Cook* was shortlisted for a Western Australian Premier's Book Award, a Victorian Premier's Literary Award and the Melbourne Prize Best Writing Award. *Some Tests* was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

April 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

# *Songwoman* by Ilka Tampke

The long-awaited new novel by the acclaimed author of *Skin*. In 47AD, Rome has colonised southeast Britain. Tortured by her part in the Roman attack that destroyed her township, Ailia has been living alone in a remote Welsh forest.

She returns to a world that has been turned upside down. The tribespeople cling to what little land remains to them, investing all their hope in the charismatic war-king, Caradog, who has been leading a guerrilla campaign against the encroaching army.

As the fighting escalates, Ailia proves herself an indispensable advisor to the war-king—but she must overcome a fellow tribesman who has resolved to sabotage her efforts, and subdue her passionate attraction to Caradog. The soul of her country will only survive if Ailia succeeds in becoming a Songwoman.

Set in Iron-Age Britain during the turmoil of Roman invasion, *Songwoman* explores one woman's quest to defend her culture.

## Praise for Ilka Tampke

'*Songwoman* is a sparkling piece of writing...Fine-tuned historical research blends seamlessly into this gripping story of a young woman fighting to stop the destruction of her home.' Jane Rawson, author of *From the Wreck*

'Fantasy lovers will enjoy the mysticism and world building, and historical fiction readers will appreciate the Roman invasion story line.' *Booklist on Skin*

'Tampke has created a visceral tale of ritual, magic and violence.' *Sunday Times on Skin*

**Ilka Tampke** lives in Woodend, Australia. *Songwoman* can be read as a standalone, or as the sequel to Ilka's first novel, *Skin*, published in 2015. *Skin* was shortlisted for the Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel in 2015 and longlisted for the Voss Literary Prize in 2016.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Denmark—Rosinante & Co.; Germany—Blanvalet; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Hodder.

**Option Publishers:** Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Sweden—Forum; Vietnam—The Women's Publishing House.

Fiction | October 2018 | Finished copies available

## *Room for a Stranger* by Melanie Cheng

*The boy who greeted her on the doorstep was holding a large cardboard box. There were a duffel bag and another box at his feet. Today was only a first meeting, and yet the young man standing before her looked ready to move in. Helpless, Meg introduced herself and ushered the boy inside.*

Since her sister died, Meg has been on her own. She doesn't mind, not really—not with Atticus, her African grey parrot, to keep her company—but after her house is broken into by a knife-wielding intruder, she decides it might be good to have some company after all.

Andy's father has lost his job, and his parents' savings are barely enough to cover his university tuition in Melbourne. If he loses his student visa, he'll have to go home to Hong Kong—and that's just not an option he wants to consider. If Andy wants to graduate, he'll have to give up his student flat and find a homeshare.

Living with an elderly Australian woman is harder than Andy has expected, and soon he's struggling with more than his studies.

*Room for a Stranger* is a story about difference and compassion, a moving and complex portrayal of an improbable friendship.

### Praise for Melanie Cheng

'A sumptuous collection.' *Herald Sun*

'The author's empathetic eye and easy facility with dialogue make *Australia Day* a strong debut.' *Big Issue*

'What a wonderful book...These stories are complex without being contrived, humanising, but never sentimental or cloying—and, ultimately, very moving.' Alice Pung

'Melanie Cheng is an astonishingly deft and incisive writer. With economy and elegance, she creates a dazzling mosaic of contemporary life, of how we live now. Hers is a compelling new voice in Australian literature.' Christos Tsiolkas

**Melanie Cheng** is a writer and general practitioner. She was born in Adelaide, grew up in Hong Kong and now lives in Melbourne. In 2016 she won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript for her collection of stories, *Australia Day*, which also won the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

|

May 2019

|

Manuscript available



## ***Monkey Grip* by Helen Garner, introduced by Charlotte Wood**

*I rolled and rolled in the water, deafening my ears while I thought of, and discarded, all the reasons why I shouldn't go. I popped up, hanging on to the rail, hair streaming on my neck.*

*'OK. I'll come.'*

*Javo was looking at me.*

*So, afterwards, it is possible to see the beginning of things, the point at which you had already plunged in, while at the time you thought you were only testing the water with your toe.*

When Nora falls in love with Javo, she is caught in the web of his addiction; and as he moves between loving her and leaving, between his need for her and promises broken, Nora's life becomes an intense dance of loving and trying to let go.

Helen Garner's gritty, lyrical first novel divided the critics on its publication in 1977. Today, *Monkey Grip* is regarded as a masterpiece—the novel that shines a light on a time and a place and a way of living never before presented in Australian literature: communal households, music, friendships, children, love, drugs, and sex.

## ***The Children's Bach* by Helen Garner, introduced by Ben Lerner**

*There was a piano in the kitchen and during the day Athena would shut herself in there under the portrait of Dexter's father and pick away at Bartok's Mikrokosmos or the easiest of Bach's Small Preludes. Preludes to what? Even under her ignorant fingers those simple chords rang out like a shout of triumph, and she would run to stick her hot face out of the window.*

Athena and Dexter live a happy but insular life, bound by routine and the care of their young sons. When Elizabeth, an old friend from Dexter's university days, turns up with her much younger sister, Vicki, and her lover, Philip, she brings an enticing world into their doorstep. And Athena finds herself straining at the confines of her life.

Helen Garner portrays her characters with a clear eye for their dreams, their insecurities and their deep humanity in this intimate and engaging short novel, which was first published in 1984. *The Children's Bach* is 'a jewel,' in Ben Lerner's description, 'beautiful, lapidary, rare.'

**Helen Garner** is one of Australia's greatest living writers. In 2006 she received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature, and in 2016 she won the prestigious Windham–Campbell Prize for non-fiction. She lives in Melbourne.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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November 2018

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Finished copies available

# *Promise Me You'll Shoot Yourself: The Mass Suicide of Ordinary Germans in 1945* by Florian Huber

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

*Twenty-three-year-old Irene Bröker was fleeing the town. Only little Holger, her two-year-old son, was still with her. She was careful not to let him stray from her side. She knew that difficulties lay ahead; she had even provided for a time when she might no longer want to live. On a string around her neck, Irene carried a small, watertight pouch.*

In 1945, as Nazi defences crumbled, the German people were surrendered to the enemy with no means of defence. A wave of suicides rolled across the country as thousands chose death—for themselves and their children—rather than face the defeat of the Third Reich and what they feared might follow.

Drawing on eyewitness accounts, historian Florian Huber tells the compelling story of the largest mass suicide in German history and its suppression by the survivors—a fascinating insight into the feelings of ordinary people caught in the tide of history who saw no other way out.

'Huber acquaints us with a chapter of German history largely unknown until now, and likely repressed.' *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

**Florian Huber** was born in 1967 and wrote his PhD on British policy regarding the postwar occupation of Germany. He is the author of several works of history and has also produced award-winning documentaries on contemporary subjects, including the fall of the Wall, the mysterious end of the poet Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and the 1936 Olympic Games.

**Imogen Taylor** is a literary translator based in Berlin. Her translations include *Fear* and *Twins* by Dirk Kurbjuweit, Sascha Arango's *The Truth and Other Lies* and Melanie Raabe's *The Trap* and *The Stranger*.

**Rights Held:** World (ex. Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway)

**Other Rights:** Piper Verlag

Non-fiction

| June 2019

| Manuscript available

## *Europe: A Natural History* by Tim Flannery

About 100 million years ago, the interaction of three continents—Asia, North America and Africa—formed the tropical island archipelago that would become the Europe of today, a place of exceptional diversity, rapid change, and high energy.

*Europe: A Natural History* is full of surprises. Over the millennia Europe has received countless immigrant species and transformed them. It is where the first coral reefs formed. It was once home to some of the world's largest elephants. And it played a vital role in the evolution of our own species.

When the first modern humans arrived in Europe 40,000 years ago, they began to exert an astonishing influence on the continent's flora and fauna, and now, Europeans lead the way in wildlife restoration—there are more wolves in Europe today than in the USA.

This enthralling ecological history is more than the story of Europe and the Europeans. It will change our understanding of life itself.

Praise for Tim Flannery

'This man is a national treasure, and we should heed his every word.' *Sunday Telegraph*

'Flannery is a writer who sneezes at political correctness and charges into the densely land-mined territory of the biological determinants of human behaviour.' *Washington Post*

'No one tells it better than Tim Flannery.' David Suzuki

'Flannery synthesises a vast range of scientific studies and a decent selection of historical and cultural writings, leavening those with his own forceful ideas.' *New York Times Book Review*

**Tim Flannery** is a paleontologist, explorer and conservationist, a leading writer on climate change and the 2007 Australian of the Year. His books include the award-winning international bestseller *The Weather Makers, Here on Earth* and *Atmosphere of Hope*. He is currently chief councillor of the Climate Council.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** China—United Sky; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; North America—Grove Atlantic; Slovenia—Modrijan; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Penguin Press.

**Option Publishers:** France—Buchet/Chastel; Italy—Corbaccio; Romania—Seneca.

Non-fiction

| October 2018

| Finished copies available

# *City of Trees: Essays on Life, Death and the Need for a Forest*

## by Sophie Cunningham

*I watched Dad try and perform for the doctors. He was valiant. He was given a revised diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. Similar to Alzheimer's but different.*

*'He'll live with it longer,' the doctor told me, 'and he'll know what's happening for longer than is fair.' I had to hand it to this guy. He was a straight shooter.*

How do we take in the beauty of our planet while comprehending the losses? What trees can survive in the city? Which animals can survive in the wild? How do any of us—humans, animals, trees—find a forest we can call home?

In these moving, thought-provoking essays Sophie Cunningham considers, among other things, the meaning of trees: how we love them and live with them, walk among them and around them. She chronicles her father's death from dementia and contemplates the loneliness of Rane, Australia's first elephant; she celebrates the iconic eucalyptus—and explores its international status as an invasive species.

*City of Trees* is a powerful collection of nature, travel and memoir writing set in the context of global climate change and the pressures being placed on both the natural and urban worlds to survive. It meanders through, circles around and sometimes faces head on the most pressing issues of the day. It never loses sight of the trees.

### Praise for Sophie Cunningham

*'Completely engrossing...The overall effect is a kind of collage of an ever-changing city, a carefully compiled album of snapshots.'* *Readings Monthly* on *Melbourne*

*'It celebrates the obvious but generously cherishes the secret and sublime.'* Kate Holden, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *Melbourne*

*'A compelling journey through an intriguing interior landscape.'* *Sunday Telegraph* on *Geography*

**Sophie Cunningham** is the author of four books: *Geography*, *Bird*, *Melbourne*, and *Warning: The Story of Cyclone Tracy*. She is a former publisher and editor, was a co-founder of The Stella Prize and is now an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University's Non/fiction Lab. Her novel *Geography* was shortlisted for the 2004 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

**Rights Held:** World (ex. North America)

**Other Rights:** Author

Non-fiction

April 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

# *You Daughters of Freedom: The Australians Who Won the Vote and Inspired the World* by Clare Wright

For the ten years from 1902, when Australia's suffrage campaigners won the vote for white women, the world looked to this trailblazing young democracy for inspiration.

Clare Wright's epic new history tells the story of that victory—and of Australia's role in the subsequent international struggle—through the eyes of five remarkable players: the redoubtable Vida Goldstein, the flamboyant Nellie Martel, indomitable Dora Montefiore, daring Muriel Matters, and artist Dora Meeson Coates, who painted the controversial Australian banner carried in the British suffragettes' monster marches of 1908 and 1911.

Clare Wright's Stella Prize-winning *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* retold one of Australia's foundation stories from a fresh new perspective. With *You Daughters of Freedom* she brings to life a time when Australian democracy was the envy of the world—and the standard bearer for progress in a shining new century.

## Praise for Clare Wright

'A rare achievement. Grand, bold and brilliantly written.' Mark McKenna on *You Daughters of Freedom*

'A thrilling tale, superbly told.' Judith Brett on *You Daughters of Freedom*

'Immediately entrancing.' *Guardian* on *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*

'A refreshing new look at Eureka, that champions the female role in the development of Australian democracy.'  
*Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*

**Dr Clare Wright** is an award-winning historian and author who has worked as an academic, political speechwriter, historical consultant and radio and television broadcaster. Her most recent book, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, won the 2014 Stella Prize and the 2014 NIB Award for Literature and was shortlisted for many other awards.

## Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

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November 2018

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Finished copies available

# *Books that Saved My Life: Reading for Wisdom, Solace and Pleasure* by Michael McGirr

Here are forty texts to read at some stage in your life: forty texts that can enrich you in all manner of ways. Some are recent, like *Harry Potter*; some ancient, like works by Homer and Lao Tzu. There are memoirs (Nelson Mandela), poetry (Les Murray) and many of the world's great novels, from George Eliot's *Middlemarch* to Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

Our guide, in entertaining short essays about each of these works, is Michael McGirr: schoolteacher and former priest, reviewer of more than a thousand novels and lifelong lover of literature. His humour and wisdom shine through in anecdotes that connect the texts he has selected with each other, and connect us to them.

Never prescriptive, and often very funny, this book is an invitation to reflect on—and share with others—the extraordinary gift of reading. 'It is a gift that is taking me a lifetime to unwrap,' McGirr writes. 'The excitement has never worn off.'

## Praise for Michael McGirr

'For those of us similarly saved by, shaped by, the books we have loved, McGirr's beautiful essays will be deeply fortifying. The sensibility that ties them all together is both edifying and intimate; this, too, is a book that will save.' Sarah Krasnostein, author of *The Trauma Cleaner*

'His anecdotes will make you laugh out loud. If you haven't read any books by him before, seek them out.' *Good Reading*

'Readers will come for the humour, but they'll stay for McGirr's haunting memories...brimming with lyrical insight and earthy humour, this debut is a rare treat.' *Publishers Weekly* on *Things You Get For Free*

**Michael McGirr** is the bestselling author of *Snooze*, *Things You Get For Free* and *Bypass: The Story of a Road*. He has reviewed books for the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Canberra Times*; his short fiction has appeared in numerous publications in Australia and overseas; and he has been the publisher of *Eureka Street* and fiction editor of *Meanjin*. He is a schoolteacher in Melbourne.

**Rights Held:** World (ex. North America)

**Option Publisher:** Korea—Hyeonamsa

**Other Rights:** Curtis Brown Australia

Non-fiction

| November 2018

| Finished copies available

# *Shakespeare's Library: Unlocking the Greatest Mystery in Literature* by Stuart Kells

Millions of words of scholarship have been expended on the world's most famous author and his work. And yet a critical part of the puzzle, Shakespeare's library, is a mystery. For four centuries people have searched for it: in mansions, palaces and libraries; in riverbeds, sheep pens and partridge coops; and in the corridors of the mind. Yet no trace of the bard's manuscripts, books or letters has ever been found.

The search for Shakespeare's library is much more than a treasure hunt. The library's fate has profound implications for literature, for national and cultural identity, and for the global Shakespeare industry.

Unfolding the search like the mystery story that it is, acclaimed author Stuart Kells follows the trail of the hunters, taking us through different conceptions of the library and of the man himself. Entertaining and enlightening, *Shakespeare's Library* is a captivating exploration of one of literature's most enduring enigmas.

## Praise for Stuart Kells

'Fascinating tales of lost codices and found manuscripts, and the sometimes unscrupulous schemes by which people have conspired to obtain or amass valuable volumes.' *New York Times* on *The Library*

'If you think you know what a library is, this marvellously idiosyncratic book will make you think again...An enchanting compendium of well-told tales and musings both on the physical and metaphysical dimensions of these multi-storied places.' *Age* on *The Library*

'Kells's reflections are wonderfully romantic, wryly funny...There's no doubt we can all learn a lot from the magnificently obsessive and eloquent Kells.' *Australian* on *The Library*

**Stuart Kells** is an author and book-trade historian. His 2015 book *Penguin and the Lane Brothers* won the Ashurst Business Literature Prize. An authority on rare books, he has written and published on many aspects of print culture and the book world. Stuart lives in Melbourne with his family.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** North America—Counterpoint

**Option Publishers:** Italy—Mondadori Libri; Japan—Hayakawa Publishing; Korea—Hyeonamsa; UK and Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Duckworth Overlook.

Non-fiction

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August 2018

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Finished copies available

# *It Sounded Better in My Head* by Nina Kenwood

WINNER, 2018 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

*It's Christmas Day, and we've just finished playing our annual post-lunch game of Scrabble when Dad says we need to talk. He's using his Bad News voice, and I figure he's either going to give me another lecture about getting my driver's license or tell me he's reactivated his Twitter account.*

*'Natalie, this is really hard to tell you, but we're, uh, we're separating,' he says.*

*'You're breaking up?' My tone is friendly, giving them the space to say 'just kidding!' in case it's an elaborate prank, even though we are not a household that is open to pranks of any kind, most especially unfunny, emotionally scarring ones like this.*

*'No one is at fault here,' Dad says, which is exactly what someone at fault would say. 'We love you.'*

*This is no comfort. I'm their only child. They have to love me.*

When her parents announce their impending separation, Natalie can't understand why no one is fighting, or seems at least mildly upset. Then Zach and Lucy, her two best friends, hook up, leaving Natalie feeling slightly miffed and decidedly awkward.

It's not the version of her life she'd always imagined—the version that played out like a TV show, with just the right amount of playful banter and meaningful looks.

Now, everything has changed. Nothing quite makes sense.

And then Zach's older brother Alex arrives, shaking things up even further.

*It Sounded Better in My Head* is a warm and humorous novel about longing, misunderstanding, feeling left out, and working out how to muddle on through.

**Nina Kenwood** is the marketing manager at Readings bookshop in Melbourne. She has worked in the book industry for ten years, but has been writing, secretly, for much longer. *It Sounded Better in My Head* is her first novel.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Catalan—Planeta; France—Pocket Jeunesse; Germany—Carlsen Verlag; Italy—DeAgostini; North America—Flatiron Books/Macmillan; Spain—Planeta.

Young adult fiction

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August 2019

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Manuscript available



## *Lizard's Tale* by Weng Wai Chan

*That was easy. Maybe too easy. Something nagged at him, telling him things weren't quite right. Best to get out quick then. He shoved the box into his satchel and closed the secret drawer. Time to leave.*

*He slipped out from under the desk and looked to the open window. Then he realised what was wrong. Why would the ceiling fans be on in the bedroom if no one was in?*

*He didn't see the girl standing in the doorway watching him.*

In Singapore in 1940, war is just around the corner—but twelve-year-old Lizard doesn't know that. He lives in Chinatown above a tailor's shop, surviving on his wits and hustling for odd jobs.

When he steals a small teak box from a Raffles Hotel suite, he finds himself trapped in a dangerous world of double cross and spies. Lizard doesn't know who to trust.

What is the mysterious book inside the box? How is it connected to his friend Lili, a girl full of secrets and unexpected fighting skills? Can he trust her, or will she betray him in the end?

*Lizard's Tale* is an action-packed adventure for middle-grade readers, set in a British colony in Asia as the Japanese invasion of World War II looms.

**Weng Wai Chan** was born and grew up in Singapore. She now lives in Auckland with her husband and three children.

**Rights Held:** World

Children's fiction

June 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

## *Devil's Ballast* by Meg Caddy

*I counted fifteen dead men working the deck of the Kingston. Well, they weren't dead yet; but the day was young, and I had a full belt of shot.*

Anne Bonny was eighteen when she ran away from her violent husband, James, and into the arms of pirate captain Calico Jack Rackham. Now she's ensconced aboard Jack's ship *Ranger*, passing as a cabin boy and playing her ruthless part in a crew that is raining down mayhem and murder on the ships of the Caribbean.

But James Bonny is willing to pay to get his 'property' back. And pirate-hunter Captain Barnet is happy to take his money.

The *Ranger's* a fast ship: Anne might just be able to outrun Barnet. But can she outrun the consequences of her relationship with Calico Jack?

Action-packed yet nuanced, culturally relevant and sharp as a cutlass, this new novel by the remarkable Meg Caddy brings to life one of history's most fascinating anti-heroines.

### Praise for Meg Caddy

'A new world of shape-shifters and a time-honored battle between good and evil come alive in Caddy's debut fantasy for teens.' *Kirkus* on *Waer*

'This is a tale of, among other things, righteous revenge, told in alienating chapters by the two main characters, whose perspectives convey the impact of the difficult circumstances on even the most gentle people...Love wins out in this well-constructed world, mapped literally and figuratively by the author.' *Booklist* on *Waer*

'An astonishing debut...The writing is assured, the action is swift and the characters ring as true as Caddy's psychological insights.' *West Australian* on *Waer*

**Meg Caddy** is a bookseller by day and a boarding-school tutor by night. Her first book, *Waer*, was shortlisted for the 2013 Text Prize and the 2017 CBCA Children's Book Awards. She lives with two rescue cats and an ever-expanding bookshelf.

**Rights Held:** World

Young adult fiction

May 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

# *Songbird* by Ingrid Laguna

*What was Mina doing now? Jamila squeezed her eyes shut tight to send her thoughts to her friend. Mina, are you okay?*

*Jamila wanted to tell the class about Mina, but how could she tell people she had only known for a few weeks that she had been wrenched away from her best friend in the world? How could she explain that her father was not here and that she didn't know when she would see him again?*

Jamila has left her friends, her school and her home in Iraq, and now she has a new home. It's safe in Australia, but Jamila is finding it hard to settle in. She misses her best friend and worries for her dad's safety back in Iraq. It's hard to speak and write in English all day. And Jamila has a secret she wants to keep hidden.

When she joins the choir, Jamila begins to feel happy. Singing helps take her worries away. And singing will help her find her place in her new life, a place where she can finally shine.

*Songbird* is a tender story about belonging, about the importance of friendship and of asking for help, and about the parts of our lives we keep concealed.

**Ingrid Laguna** is a writer, teacher and musician. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and daughter and teaches English to children and adults from all over the world, many of whom have refugee backgrounds. *Songbird* is her second book.

**Rights Held:** World

Children's fiction

May 2019

Manuscript available  
November 2018

## The Huggabie Falls trilogy by Adam Cece, illustrated by Andrew Weldon

WINNER, 2017 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

Kipp Kindle and his friends Tobias Treachery and Cymphany Chan live in Huggabie Falls, the weirdest town on Earth. It's home to Dutch werewolves, vegetarian piranhas, a bottomless lake and a topless hill. And weird things happen all the time—that's normal.

### *The Extremely Weird Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls*

WINNER, 2017 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

When an *extremely* weird thing happens one day in Huggabie Falls, Kipp and his friends must battle the evil Felonious Dark in order to foil a sinister plot and save their families—and their town.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Bayard; Italy—Salani; Netherlands—Lannoo; Portugal—Castor de Papel; Spain—Duomo.

Children's fiction

April 2018

Finished copies available

### *The Unbelievably Scary Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls*

Just when Kipp and his friends think they can relax after saving Huggabie Falls, unbelievably scary things start happening. The trio must discover who is creating the mysterious and terrifying 'scare balls' and save the residents of Huggabie Falls from their worst fears.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Bayard; Netherlands—Lannoo.

**Option Publishers:** Italy—Salani; Portugal—Castor de Papel; Spain—Duomo.

Children's fiction

October 2018

Finished copies available

### *The Utterly Indescribable Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls*

It's no surprise to Kipp and his friends that weird things happen all the time. But when something utterly indescribable happens, the three friends are confused. How can they work out what is going on when no one in the town can describe what it is?

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Bayard; Netherlands—Lannoo.

**Option Publishers:** Italy—Salani; Portugal—Castor de Papel; Spain—Duomo.

Children's fiction

April 2019

Manuscript available  
December 2018

**Adam Cece** won the Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing for *The Extremely Weird Thing that Happened in Huggabie Falls*, the first book in the Huggabie Falls trilogy. Adam lives in Adelaide.

# The bestselling Road to Winter trilogy by Mark Smith

## *The Road to Winter*

Since a deadly virus and the violence that followed wiped out his parents and most of his community, Finn has lived alone on the rugged coast with only his loyal dog Rowdy for company. He has stayed alive for two winters—hunting and fishing and keeping out of sight of the Wilders, the dangerous gang that controls the north, led by a ruthless man named Ramage.

But Finn's isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her sister, Kas. Rose is desperate, sick, and she needs Finn's help. Kas is still missing somewhere out in the bush. And Ramage wants the girls back—at any cost.

**Rights Held:** World

Young adult fiction | July 2016 | Finished copies available

## *Wilder Country*

The sequel to Mark Smith's acclaimed debut *The Road to Winter* is a fast-paced adventure that explores friendship, loyalty and, above all, questions of morality in the face of desperate survival.

Kas, Willow and Finn have survived a brutal winter, but although spring brings new opportunities, the three friends are no longer safe at Angowrie. Storm damage has left roads and tracks blocked, but that's the least of the difficulties Finn, Kas and Willow face as they set out for the valley, where they will have to confront the tyrannical Ramage and fulfil a promise they made to Rose.

**Rights Held:** World

Young adult fiction | September 2017 | Finished copies available

## *Land of Fences*

*Land of Fences* is the compelling finale in Mark Smith's acclaimed action-packed series. Finn and Kas are surviving on the coast—and now, the lights of Wentworth mean life could soon be back to normal. Finn is cautiously optimistic, but for asylum-seeker Kas, the return of civilisation means a return to slavery is a very real possibility. She's nervous. And it turns out she's right to be.

When Kas is captured and taken inside the fences, Finn faces his greatest challenge yet.

**Rights Held:** World

Young adult fiction | June 2019 | Manuscript available  
January 2019

**Mark Smith** lives on Victoria's Surf Coast where he writes novels and stories, and runs outdoor education programs for young adults. His second novel, *Wilder Country*, won the 2018 Indie Book Award for Young Adults.

## Text Classics

### ***A Kindness Cup* by Thea Astley, introduced by Kate Grenville**

Two decades after a massacre of local Aboriginal people, the former residents of a Queensland town have reunited to celebrate the progress and prosperity of their community—Tom Dorahy, recently returned to his hometown, wants those responsible to own up to their actions. A reckoning with oppression, guilt and the weight of the past, *A Kindness Cup* is one of Thea Astley's greatest achievements.

'Smart, compassionate.' *New York Times*

**Rights Held:** World

### ***Wake in Fright* by Kenneth Cook, introduced by Peter Temple**

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback town of Bundanyabba planning to stay overnight before catching a plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five as he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original greatest outback horror story.

'A true dark classic of Australian literature.' J. M. Coetzee

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Grua Livros; France—Autrement; Netherlands—Podium; Spain—Seix Barral; Turkey—Ayrinti.

### ***Honour & Other People's Children* by Helen Garner, introduced by Michael Sala**

Two novellas about the deep connections we forge with the people we love, and the pain of breaking those connections. These gem-like compositions are classic Garner, set against a backdrop of messy domestic life, and illuminated by her spare and affecting style.

'Garner is a natural storyteller: her unillusioned eye makes her clarity compulsive.' James Wood, *New Yorker*

**Rights Held:** World

### ***The Quiet Earth* by Craig Harrison, introduced by Bernard Beckett**

John Hobson, a geneticist, wakes one morning to find his watch stopped at 6.12. The streets are deserted, there are no signs of life or death anywhere, and every clock he finds has stopped: at 6.12. Is Hobson the last person left on the planet? Inventive and suspenseful, *The Quiet Earth* is a confronting journey into the future—and a dark past.

'Excellent...The inevitability of the horror has a Hitchcock quality.' *Listener*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Film—Triptych Pictures; Turkey—Ayrinti.

## ***The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower, introduced by Joan London**

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help—even to marry Laura, if she will have him. Little by little, the two sisters grow complicit in his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control. Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

‘A brilliant achievement.’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau-Verlag; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.

## ***The Brush-Off* by Shane Maloney, introduced by Michael Robotham**

The second adventure in Shane Maloney’s series brilliantly mixes high art with low blows. Murray Whelan, hero of *Stiff*, is back at his richly futile best in *The Brush-Off*. When the body of an artist is fished from the moat outside the National Gallery, Murray—political minder, brushed-off lover and art buff on the make—goes looking for the big picture. Winner of the 1996 Ned Kelly Award for Crime Fiction.

‘*The Brush-Off* brilliantly mixes the comic and the tragic.’ *Rolling Stone*

**Rights Held:** World

## ***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie, introduced by David Malouf**

Fifteen-year-old Charles Fox is sent away to boarding school, innocent and afraid. There, one of his masters develops an intense attachment to him. But when Charles meets Margaret, a girl staying at a nearby farm for the holidays, he is besotted, and a passionate, unforgettable romance begins. Published in London in 1937 to wide acclaim, *The Young Desire It* is a stunning novel about coming of age: an intimate and lyrical account of first love, and a rich evocation of rural Australia.

‘Why isn’t this stunning novel famous?’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Hanser Verlag

## ***I for Isobel* by Amy Witting, introduced by Charlotte Wood**

Born into a world without welcome, Isobel observes it as warily as an alien trying to pass for a native. Her collection of imaginary friends includes the Virgin Mary and Sherlock Holmes. Later she meets Byron, W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot. *I for Isobel*, a modern-day Australian classic, was followed by *Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop*, winner of the Age Book of the Year Award.

‘Amy Witting is comparable to Jean Rhys, but she has more starch, or vinegar. The effect is bracing.’ *New Yorker*

**Rights Held:** World

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