

The Text Publishing Company



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Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Bowe, Steph	<i>Sunny at the End of the World</i>	World English	Ginger Clark Literary
Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly	<i>The Night War</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	PRH USA
Crozier, Lauren	<i>The Best Witch in Paris</i>	World	Author
He, Joan	<i>Sound the Gong</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Rights People
Laguna, Ingrid	<i>Kasia and Come On, Otto</i>	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Luby, Miranda	<i>The Edge of Everything</i>	World	Author
Timms, Jade	<i>Golden</i>	World	Author

Adult

Boehme, Jacob	<i>Dancing Back to My People</i>	World	Author
Ísberg, Fríða	<i>Merking / The Mark</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Islington, James	<i>The Will of the Many</i>	ANZ	Simon & Schuster US
Jennings, Karen	<i>Crooked Seeds</i>	ANZ	C&W
Karam, Balsam	<i>Singulariteten / The Singularity</i>	ANZ	Norstedts Agency
Lamprell, Mark	<i>Things I Need You to Know</i>	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Latronico, Vincenzo	<i>Le Perfezioni / Perfection</i>	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Martel, Yann	<i>The Son of Nobody</i>	ANZ	Westwood Creative Artists
Richardson, Raeden	<i>The Degenerates</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Writers House USA
Rothenberg, Ben	<i>Naomi Osaka</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	PRH USA
Salasc, Emmanuelle	<i>Hors Gel / My Sister</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Éditions P.O.L.
Shaw, Tina	<i>A House Built on Sand</i>	World	Author
Thaker, Lenora	<i>The Pearl of Shantytown</i>	World	Author
Tokarczuk, Olga	<i>Empuzjon / Symposium</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Wilson, Kevin	<i>untitled novel</i>	UK & Comm. (ex. Canada)	Abner Stein in assoc. with The Book Group

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Arnold, David	<i>The Electric Kingdom</i>	Writers House USA
Dabos, Christelle	<i>The Storm of Echoes: The Mirror Visitor, Book Four</i>	Gallimard Jeunesse
Emery, Kate	<i>The Not So Chosen One</i>	Author
Higgins, Jane	<i>Glimpse</i>	Author
Kenwood, Nina	<i>Unnecessary Drama</i>	Author
Levithan, David	<i>Answers in the Pages</i>	United Agents
Luby, Miranda	<i>Sadie Starr's Guide to Starting Over</i>	Author
Meyer, Marissa	<i>Gilded, Cursed and Serendipity</i> [ed.]	Jill Grinberg Literary Management
Miller, Jessica	<i>The Hotel Witch</i>	InkWell Management
Shepard, Sara	<i>Penny Draws</i> series	PRH USA

Adult

Calaby, Tara	<i>House of Longing</i>	Author
Christian, Claire	<i>West Side Honey</i>	RGM Artists
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>The Pole and Other Stories</i>	David Higham Associates
Darriussecq, Marie	<i>Pas Dormir / Sleepless</i>	Éditions P.O.L.
Halloran, Jacinta	<i>Resistance</i>	Curtis Brown Australia
Langbein, Julia	<i>American Mermaid</i>	Abner Stein in assoc. with Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency
Lianke, Yan	<i>Heart Sutra</i>	The Susijn Agency
Lim, Louisa	<i>Indelible City</i>	PRH USA
Ma, Ling	<i>Bliss Montage</i>	The Wylie Agency
Macrae Burnet, Graeme	<i>Case Study</i>	Blake Friedmann Literary Agency Ltd
Melchor, Fernanda	<i>Páradais / Paradais</i>	Literarische Agentur Gaeb & Eggers
Schwartz, Selby Wynn	<i>After Sappho</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Simsion, Graeme	<i>Creative Differences and Other Stories</i>	Author

The Burrow by Melanie Cheng

For sale: nine-week-old fawn-coloured male Mini Lop in search of his forever home.

Amy, Jin and Lucie are leading isolated lives in their partially renovated inner-city home. They are not happy, but they are also terrified of change.

When they buy a pet rabbit for Lucie, and then Amy's mother, Pauline, comes to stay, the family is forced to confront long-buried secrets.

Will opening their hearts to the rabbit help them to heal or only invite further tragedy?

The Burrow tells an unforgettable story about grief and hope. With her characteristic compassion and eye for detail, Melanie Cheng reveals the lives of others—even of a small rabbit.

Praise for *Australia Day* and *Room for a Stranger*:

'Melanie Cheng's unaffected wisdom is just delightful. You never feel she has an axe to grind or an agenda to push. She may not set out to change the world but the warmth of her affection...will help to do just that.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'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, author of *The Slap*

'Melanie Cheng is doing the most difficult, most unfashionable thing: writing about the ordinary lives of ordinary people. Her accomplishment is catching the tremors of their uniqueness and, by underlining this, insisting that everyone is interesting.' *Monthly*

'*Room for a Stranger* explores the high stakes of quiet moments, reveals the beauty of unlikely connections and shows how the antidote to shame is always compassion...Melanie Cheng is quickly becoming my favourite Australian writer.' Benjamin Law

Melanie Cheng is a writer and general practitioner. She was born in Adelaide, grew up in Hong Kong and now lives in Melbourne. Her debut collection of short stories, *Australia Day*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript in 2016 and the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction in 2018. *Room for a Stranger*, her highly acclaimed first novel, was published in 2019.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

September 2024

Manuscript available

One Another by Gail Jones

At Cambridge University, in the summer of 1992, Australian student Helen is completing her thesis on Joseph Conrad. But she is distracted by a charming and dangerous lover, Justin, and by a ghost manuscript, her anti-thesis, which she has left on a train.

Haunted by this loss and others, by Justin's destructive tendencies and by details of Conrad's life, Helen is unmoored. And then the drama of the lost manuscript sets in motion a series of events—with possibly fatal consequences.

In her masterly new novel, Gail Jones traverses the borders between art and life, between life and death, in a journey through literary history and emotional landscapes. Elegantly written, deftly crafted, *One Another* covers new territories of grief, memory and narrative.

Praise for Gail Jones and *Salonika Burning*:

'One of Australia's most consistently impressive writers. Her prose is evocative, her plots meaningful and her characters drawn with considerable care.' *Guardian*

'For decades, Gail Jones has been writing with more intelligence, verve and sensuous delight in the world than most of her peers.' *Saturday Paper*

'In her exquisite ninth novel, Gail Jones demonstrates, once again, why she is widely regarded as one of Australia's finest novelists working today.' *West Australian*

Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. She is the author of two short-story collections and nine novels, and her work has been translated into several languages and has received numerous literary awards. Originally from Western Australia, she now lives in Sydney.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ Audio—Bolinda

Fiction

March 2024

Manuscript available

Sanctuary by Garry Disher

A THRILLING NEW STANDALONE FROM ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST ESTEEMED CRIME AUTHORS

Grace is good at theft. She was taught by experts and she's been practising since she was a kid. She specialises in small, high-value items—stamps, watches—and she knows her Jaeger-LeCoultres from her Patek Philippes. But it's not the life she wants.

Then, lying low after a run-in with an old associate, Grace walks into Erin Mandel's rural antiques shop and sees a chance for something different. A normal job. A place to call home.

But someone is looking for Grace. And someone's looking for Erin, too.

And they are both, in their own ways, very dangerous men.

Praise for Garry Disher:

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

'Disher is the gold standard for rural noir.' Chris Hammer, author of *Scrublands*

'Smooth, assured mastery.' *New York Times Book Review* on *Bitter Wash Road*

'Peter Temple and Garry Disher will be identified as the crime writers who redefined Australian crime fiction in terms of its form, content and style.' *Sydney Morning Herald* on *Peace*

'Disher is one the foremost proponents of rural noir.' *Sunday Times* on *Consolation*

Garry Disher has published more than fifty titles across multiple genres. With a growing international reputation for his best-selling crime novels, he has won four German and three Australian awards for best crime novel of the year, and has been longlisted twice for a British CWA Dagger Award. In 2018 he received the Ned Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rights Held: World ex. North America

Other Rights: Jenny Darling & Associates

Option Publishers: ANZ Audio—Wavesound; Germany—Unionsverlag; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Serpent's Tail

Fiction

| April 2024

| Manuscript available Dec

The Opposite of Success by Eleanor Elliott Thomas

All Lorrie wants is to get promoted, love her body and end global warming. By Friday.

What could possibly go wrong?

Council employee Lorrie Hope has a great partner, two adorable kids and absolutely no idea what to do with her life. This Friday, she's hoping for change: it's launch day for her big work project, and she's applied for a promotion she's not entirely sure she wants. Meanwhile, her best friend, Alex, is stuck in a mess involving Lorrie's rakish ex, Ruben—or, more accurately, his wife. Oh, and Ruben's boss happens to be the mining magnate Sebastian Glup, who is sponsoring Lorrie's project...

As the day spirals from bad to worse to frankly unhinged, Lorrie and Alex must reconsider what they can expect from life, love and middle management. *The Opposite of Success* is a riotously funny debut novel about work, motherhood, friendship—and the meaning of failure itself.

'Like a brilliant conversation, *The Opposite of Success* is witty, honest and full of natural charisma.' Jessica Au, author of *Cold Enough for Snow*

'*The Opposite of Success* is full of the riches of life: joy, hilarity, intelligence, stupidity and bad behaviour. I loved it.' Sophie Cunningham, author of *This Devastating Fever*

'Raucously funny and gloriously, painfully real. Think Fleabag as an Australian mum. It's utterly endearing—I never wanted it to end!' Emily Bitto, author of *Wild Abandon*

'Enjoyable and fun...Perfectly encapsulates the anxieties of modern motherhood.'
Ramona Magazine

Eleanor Elliott Thomas worked for many years as a lawyer before devoting herself to writing full-time. She is a graduate of the Faber Writing Academy's 'Writing a Novel' course. She lives with her partner and two daughters in Naarm/Melbourne. *The Opposite of Success* is her first novel.

eleanorelliottthomas.substack.com

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—W. F. Howes; Germany—DuMont Buchverlag

Fiction

October 2023

Finished copies available

***Restless Dolly Maunder* by Kate Grenville**

Dolly Maunder was born at the end of the nineteenth century, when society's long-locked doors were starting to creak ajar for women. Growing up in a poor farming family in country New South Wales but clever, energetic and determined, Dolly spent her restless life pushing at those doors.

Most women like her have disappeared from view, remembered only in family photo albums as remote figures in impossible clothes, or maybe for a lemon-pudding recipe handed down through the generations. *Restless Dolly Maunder* brings one of these women to life as someone we can recognise and whose struggles we can empathise with.

In this compelling new novel, Kate Grenville uses family memories to imagine her way into the life of her grandmother. This is the story of a woman, working her way through a world of limits and obstacles, who was able—if at a cost—to make a life she could call her own. Her battles and triumphs helped to open doors for the women who came after.

'There is no doubt Grenville is one of our greatest writers.' *Sunday Mail*

'[Grenville] is a gift of a writer.' *Age*

'Nobody writes historical fiction like Kate Grenville. Again and again she has brought history—both the official records and the messy tensions in the margins—to life...Women like Dolly Maunder rarely make it into the history books. Here, she's honoured by one of our best.' *Qantas Magazine*

'A novel that suggests the great potential of literary art as redeemer, healer and pathway to understanding.' *Guardian*

Kate Grenville is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller *The Secret River* was awarded local and overseas prizes, has been adapted for the stage and as an acclaimed television miniseries, and is now a much-loved classic. Grenville's other novels include *Sarah Thornhill*, *The Lieutenant*, *Dark Places* and the Orange Prize winner *The Idea of Perfection*. Her recent non-fiction includes *One Life: My Mother's Story*, *The Case Against Fragrance* and *Elizabeth Macarthur's Letters*. Her most recent novel is the bestselling *A Room Made of Leaves*. She has also written three books about the writing process. In 2017 Grenville was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature.

kategrenville.com.au

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: World English (ex. ANZ)—Canongate Books

Fiction

July 2023

Finished copies available

The Conversion by Amanda Lohrey

THE NEW NOVEL BY THE 2021 WINNER OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY PRIZE

The conversion was Nick's idea.

Nick: so persuasive, ever the optimist, still boyishly handsome. Always on a quest to design the perfect environment, convinced it could heal a wounded soul.

The conversion was Nick's idea, but it's Zoe who's here now, in a valley of old coalmines and new vineyards, working out how to live in a deconsecrated church.

What to do with all that vertical space, those oppressive stained-glass windows? Can a church become a home or, even with all its vestiges removed, will it remain forever what it was intended to be?

For Zoe, alone and troubled by a ghost from the recent past, the little church seems empty of the possibilities Nick is enthused about. She is stuck in purgatory—until a determined young teacher pushes her way into Zoe's life, convinced of her own peculiar mission for the building.

Melanie has something of Nick's unquenchable zeal about her. And it's clear to Zoe that she won't take no for an answer.

The Conversion is a startling novel about the homes we live in: how we shape them, and how they shape us. Like Amanda Lohrey's bestselling and multi-award-winning *The Labyrinth*, it is distinguished by its deep intelligence, eye for human drama and effortless readability.

Praise for *The Labyrinth*:

'Summary does scant justice to the subtlety and power of Lohrey's writing...Every page of this densely populated novel, with its incised landscape, shimmers.' *Australian Book Review*

'My novel of the year, full stop...A story told without a syllable of excess sentiment or false feeling, yet which sails full square into the mystic.' *Australian*

Amanda Lohrey lives in Tasmania and writes fiction and non-fiction. She has taught at the University of Tasmania, the University of Technology Sydney and the University of Queensland. Amanda is a regular contributor to the *Monthly* magazine and a former senior fellow of the Australia Council's Literature Board. She received the 2012 Patrick White Award. *The Labyrinth* (2021), her eighth work of fiction, won the Miles Franklin Literary Award, a Prime Minister's Literary Award, a Tasmanian Literary Award and the Voss Literary Prize.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

November 2023

Manuscript available

Firelight by John Morrissey

An imprisoned man with strange visions writes letters to his sister.

A controversial business tycoon leaves his daughter a mysterious inheritance.

A child is haunted by a green man with a message about the origins of their planet.

In this striking collection of stories, the award-winning John Morrissey investigates colonialism and identity without ever losing sight of his characters' humanity. Brilliantly imagined and masterfully observed, *Firelight* marks the debut of a writer we will be reading for decades to come.

'Firelight introduces us to a young writer with a dedication to the craft of short fiction. Each of John Morrissey's stories is a gem, while the collection as a whole is superb.'
Tony Birch, author of *The White Girl*

'Here is a sharp and compelling new voice in Australian fiction. Morrissey honours his characters, and his writing is at once lucid and poetic, meticulous and economical. I read Firelight breathlessly.'
Jennifer Down, author of *Bodies of Light*

'Brilliant...This clever, genre-bending book constantly challenges the reader's expectations...Prisoners, ghosts, strange green men, and mining tycoons populate the pages.' *Writing NSW*

'A beguiling, evocative delight...I would be happy to recommend this collection to any curious reader—regardless of their usual position as a speculative fiction lover or hater.'
Readings

'John Morrissey has produced a suite of short stories...that investigate colonialism and identity with a keen eye and uninhibited imagination...An elegant and unpretentious narrative style allows Morrissey to reach for outlandish or bizarre elements with the irreducible impact of a lucid dream. It's a fable-like and well-crafted collection.' *Age*

John Morrissey is a Melbourne writer of Kalkadoon descent. His work has been published in *Overland*, *Voiceworks*, *Meanjin* and the anthology *This All Come Back Now*. He was the winner of the 2020 Boundless Mentorship and the runner-up for the 2018 Nakata Brophy Prize.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

August 2023

Finished copies available

***Backwaters* by Emma Ling Sidnam**

WINNER, MICHAEL GIFKINS PRIZE, 2022

Laura is tired of being asked where she's *really* from. Her family has lived in Aotearoa New Zealand for four generations, and she's ambivalent at best about her Chinese heritage. But when she's asked to write about the Chinese New Zealander experience for a work project, Laura finds herself drawn to the diary of her great-great-grandfather Ken, a market gardener in the early years of the British colony.

With the help of her beloved grandpa, Laura begins to write a version of Ken's story. She imagines his youth in Guangzhou and his journey to a new land—unaware that soon, spurred on by a family secret that comes to light, she will go on her own journey of self-discovery, sexuality and reckoning with the past.

A tender, nuanced novel about the bittersweet search for belonging, *Backwaters* marks the arrival of a brilliant new talent.

'The past and present carry out intimate conversations in this compelling and beautiful work...Sidnam's magnificent novel shows us that the past is living, evolving and all around us. It is an absolute joy to read.' Pip Adam, author of *Nothing to See*

'Sidnam weaves the stories of Laura and Ken with aching delicacy and tenderness, with humour and wit. Every one of us will find comfort and familiarity in this book, from the very beginning until the bittersweet end.' Khadro Mohamed, author of *We're All Made of Lightning*

'A warm and funny novel about disappearance, discovery and learning how to live, as well as an intriguing exploration of love, family and secret histories in Asia and New Zealand.' Paula Morris, author of *Rangatira*

Emma Ling Sidnam is a Wellington-based writer and lawyer. As a fourth-generation Asian New Zealander, she is passionate about representation and ensuring that all voices are heard. She is an award-winning slam poet and her work has been published in the *Spinoff*, *Capital*, *Newsroom* and the anthologies *A Clear Dawn* and *Middle Distance*. In 2022, she was awarded the prestigious Michael Gifkins Prize for *Backwaters*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

October 2023

Finished copies available

To the River by Vikki Wakefield

How long can you hide the truth?

The Kelly family has always been trouble. When a fire in a remote caravan community kills nine people, including 17-year-old Sabine Kelly's mother and sister, Sabine confesses to the murders. Shortly after, she escapes custody and disappears.

Journalist Rachel Weidemann has long suspected Sabine made her way back to the river. Now, twelve years after the 'Caravan Murders', and having recently been made redundant from her marriage, motherhood and career, she has the time and the tenacity to corner a fugitive and land the story of the year.

Rachel's ambition lights the fuse leading to a brutal chain of events, and the web Sabine weaves will force Rachel to question everything she believes. Vikki Wakefield's compelling psychological thriller is about class, corruption, love, loyalty, and the vindication of truth and justice. And a brave dog called Blue.

Praise for *After You Were Gone*:

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

'Beautifully written and superbly unnerving, *After You Were Gone* is the very best kind of thriller: tender and wise as well as pulse-poundingly tense, with characters so real you want to linger with them even as you race through the pages, desperate to find out what happens. Absolutely wonderful, I could not have loved or admired it more.' Anna Downes, author of *The Safe Place*

'Chilling and laced with dark suspense.' *Australian Women's Weekly*

'A riveting read...Breathtaking.' *Sisters in Crime*

Vikki Wakefield writes fiction for adults and young adults. Her novels have been shortlisted for numerous awards. *After You Were Gone*, a psychological thriller, was her first novel for adults and was published in 2022 to much acclaim. *To the River* is her second psychological thriller for adults. Vikki lives in Adelaide, South Australia.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: World English (ex. ANZ)—Bedford Square Publishers

Fiction

March 2024

Manuscript available

Addition by Toni Jordan

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING TERESA PALMER AND JOE DEMPSIE, PRODUCED BY
MADE UP STORIES PTY LTD & BUON GIORNO PRODUCTIONS PTY LTD

Grace Lisa Vandenburg counts. The letters in her name (19). The steps she takes every morning to the local café (920); the number of poppy seeds on her slice of orange cake, which dictates the number of bites she'll take to finish it. Grace counts everything, because numbers hold the world together. And she needs to keep an eye on how they're doing.

Seamus Joseph O'Reilly (also a 19, with the sexiest hands Grace has ever seen) thinks she might be better off without the counting. If she could hold down a job, say. Or open her kitchen cupboards without conducting an inventory, or make a sandwich containing an unknown number of sprouts.

Grace's problem is that Seamus doesn't count.

Her other problem is...he does.

'A stylish, witty and moving love story.' Sigrid Thornton

'This tremendously enjoyable novel is a romantic comedy with a light touch and a quirky and unforgettable central character.' *Adelaide Advertiser*

'Jordan's voice is distinctive, refreshing and very Australian. Her debut novel is juicy and funny...This is a gem.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

Toni Jordan's international bestseller *Addition* won the Indie Award for Best Debut Fiction in 2008, was a Richard and Judy Bookclub pick and was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. International sales and distribution in the forthcoming feature film are handled by WME Independent.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ Audio—Bolinda; Germany—Thiele & Brandstatter Verlag; Netherlands—Saga; North America—HarperCollins USA; UK—Sceptre

Fiction

May 2024 (tie-in)

Finished copies available

Voyagers: Our Journey into the Anthropocene by Lauren Fuge

At night, as I stargazed from my tiny tent, I'd hear the primal whalesong roll up along the ocean floor and onto the beach where I lay. The ethereal melodies seeped through my shivering skin, like a relic of an ancient time. I felt as if I was eavesdropping across millennia, the sound stirring some faint genetic memory deep inside me.

Come home.

Since the beginning of human history, we have been wanderers. Modern humans left Africa by 150,000 years ago, heading first to Asia and Europe, then Australia, the Americas and finally—in an incredible feat of innovation and imagination—across the Pacific. Our explorations yielded great rewards: land and resources, food and knowledge.

In every landscape we have explored, we have become a force of change. Humans are the dominant influence on the environment. And our surging population and insatiable industrial metabolism are outgunning the planet's own forces: the sea is sucking at our doorsteps; the forests fall too quickly for us to hear. Still, we seek new seas to fish, new oil deposits to drill, new land to develop.

A compelling blend of natural history, science and memoir, journeying from the dramatic fjords of British Columbia to the ancient geology of outback Australia to the shifting coastlines of Norway, *Voyagers* asks: what drives our urge to explore? How has it influenced our relationship with the planet? And, in the face of imminent environmental collapse, can we find in our voyaging history the tools to reimagine our future?

Lauren Fuge is an award-winning science writer. She has been a science journalist for *Cosmos* magazine and was awarded the 2022 UNSW Bragg Prize for Science Writing; her writing features regularly in the *Best Australian Science Writing* anthology. She is undertaking a PhD exploring creative forms of climate communication.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

August 2024

Manuscript available
November

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

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

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

'Just wonderful, so funny and charming and sharp. Sam Neill's lively, lovely book made me laugh out loud.' Meryl Streep

'Sam Neill is a legend, and in this magnificent book he shares his stories of family, friends and film with delicious irreverence, compassion and grace.' Laura Dern

'Fabulously entertaining, insanely readable.' Stephen Fry

'*Did I Ever Tell You This?* is tender, funny and emotional, modest and generous, both unbearably sad and deliciously companionable.' Jane Campion

'Sam Neill is one of my favourite people in the world, and a great entertainer. *Did I Ever Tell You This?* is full of warm, funny and sometimes heartbreaking stories. It will make you feel like you have just sat down under a tree to chat with a dear friend.'

Jimmy Barnes

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; ANZ large print—Ulverscroft; Czech Republic—Dobrovský; Estonia—Ühinenu Kirjastus; North American audio—Recorded Books; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada) large print—Ulverscroft; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Michael Joseph/PRH UK

Non-Fiction

March 2023

Finished copies available

***The Last Daughter: A True Story of Love, Loss and Reconnection* by Brenda Matthews**

'I share this story out of love and forgiveness.' Brenda Matthews

When she was two years old, Brenda and her siblings were taken from their parents.

For the next five years Brenda was a much-loved daughter in a white family, a happy child in a country town on the outskirts of Sydney, unaware of the existence of her Aboriginal family or how hard her parents were fighting for her return—unaware of her Aboriginal identity.

Then, suddenly, she was reunited with her birth family, the last daughter to come home.

Decades later, Brenda searches for her foster family and her beloved white sister. Along the way she uncovers long-buried secrets and government bungling, and finds a deep connection to her Aboriginal culture.

The Last Daughter is an account of Brenda's journey to discover the truth about her past—and to unite her two families. It's a story of heartbreak, love and hope, one that shows a way forward for all divided communities.

'Powerful and inspirational—a must-read.' Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt

'The Last Daughter might be one of the most important books an Australian could read.' *Books+Publishing*

'The book is a project of love and reconnection. Keeping everyone inside the warmth of that fire cannot have been easy. That fire and warmth are offered with immense grace to readers of Brenda's story. It is up to us to step inside that embrace and bear witness.' *Conversation*

Brenda Matthews is a proud Wiradjuri woman. She lives with her husband, Mark, in Bundjalung country, Queensland. Brenda is a mother, a grandmother, a sister, a daughter, an aunty, a storyteller, a speaker and co-director of the feature film, *The Last Daughter*, a feature documentary of her life, available to watch on *Netflix*.

thelastdaughter.com.au

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Non-Fiction

April 2023

Finished copies available

***Right Story, Wrong Story: Adventures in Indigenous Thinking* by Tyson Yunkaporta**

When Tyson Yunkaporta's *Sand Talk* was published in 2019, the American writer Tommy Orange commented that it 'shows how vital and alive and essential Indigenous ways of being and thinking are.' *Sand Talk* examined global systems from an Indigenous point of view. It was, as Miles Franklin-winning author Melissa Lukashenko remarked, 'an extraordinary invitation into the world of the Dreaming'.

Right Story, Wrong Story extends Yunkaporta's explorations of how we can think and act and speak by combining an analysis of Indigenous thinking and living with an equally revelatory critique of post-industrial society. Like *Sand Talk*, this new book is a formidably original essay. It describes how the ways that we relate to each other are inseparable from how we relate to the environments we live in. It is about how we talk to each other, or yarn: how we teach and learn. Along the way, Tyson talks to a range of people: liberal economists, performance and memorisation experts, Nordic stone carvers, Frisian ecologists, and Indigenous Australian thought-leaders, mathematicians and storytellers.

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

Praise for *Sand Talk*:

'Thought-provoking.' *New York Times*

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

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Audible; Germany—Mattes & Seitz; North America—Harper One

Non-fiction

October 2023

Finished copies available

***Big Meg: The Story of the Largest and Most Mysterious Predator that Ever Lived* by Tim and Emma Flannery**

When Tim Flannery was a boy he found a fossilised tooth of the giant shark megalodon at a Port Philip Bay beach near his home. This remarkable find—the tooth was large enough to cover his palm—sparked an interest in palaeontology that was to inform his life’s work and a lifelong quest to uncover the secrets of the world’s largest ever predator, the great shark *Otodus megalodon*.

Tim passed on his love of the natural world and interest in the fossil record to his daughter, Emma, a scientist and writer. And now, together, they have written a fascinating account of this ancient marine creature.

Big Meg charts the evolution of megalodon, its super-predator status for about fifteen million years and its decline and extinction. It delves into the fossil record to answer questions about its behaviour and role in shaping marine ecosystems as well as its impact on the human psyche. It contains stories of the scientist and amateur fossil hunters who have scoured the seas, and land, for fossil remains, drawn to the beauty and mystique of the great shark, sometimes meeting their death in the process.

Like the fossil record itself, this enthralling story is a piece of the great natural history of our planet.

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

Emma Flannery is a scientist and writer. She has explored caves, forests and oceans across most of the globe’s continents in search of elusive fossils, animals and plants. Her research and writing on geology, chemistry and palaeontology has been published in scientific journals, children’s books and a number of museum-based adult-education tours.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Bolinda; North America—Grove Atlantic; Netherlands—Uitgeverij Noordboek; Spain—GeoPlaneta; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Transworld

Non-fiction

August 2023

Finished copies available

Let's Never Speak of This Again by Megan Williams

WINNER OF THE TEXT PRIZE, 2022

Ella and I have been best friends since grade one. We can spend hours talking about everything and nothing. We know each other's greatest fears, things that irrationally annoy us, and ideal career if money and skill weren't an issue. If there was only one Hartford Bakery brownie left in the whole world and it was somehow in my possession, Ella is the only person I'd consider sharing it with.

Life is pretty good for sixteen-year-old Abby. Okay, her grandma doesn't remember things anymore, her relationship with her mum is increasingly strained and she accidentally kissed her cousin's cousin on the weekend, so things aren't exactly perfect. But everything is manageable with her best friend, Ella, by her side.

And with Ella's brother, Will—interesting and attentive—on the sidelines.

When new girl Chloe arrives, Abby is pleased to be the one to show her around, to welcome her to the group. But Abby doesn't imagine Chloe fitting in so well or quite so quickly. And before long Abby is feeling just a little left out, a little unsure of Ella's friendship. In a moment of anger and confusion she wishes something bad would happen.

When it does—with tragic consequences—everything shifts again. And Abby has to face her own feelings and work out what friendship really means.

Megan Williams' brilliant debut novel is a tender, moving, often funny celebration of female friendship, about the things that test it, and about what matters most.

'A must-read for teens struggling with self-doubt.' *Books+Publishing*

'An authentic, gorgeously written story...A bittersweet eulogy to growing older, people changing, friendships growing and breaking apart...This is not a book you'll be able to say goodbye to easily.' *Readings Monthly*

Megan Williams won the 2022 Text Prize for her debut YA novel, *Let's Never Speak of This Again*. She lives in Brisbane with her husband and their three children.

Rights Held: World

Young Adult Fiction

September 2023

Finished copies available

***Blind Spot* by Robyn Dennison**

SHORTLISTED FOR THE TEXT PRIZE, 2021

Dale is grappling with guilt and intense regret after stumbling in on what looked like a rape in a bedroom at a party. In his drunken confusion, he froze—and then bolted. Why didn't he do anything? Why didn't he tell someone? He can't stop thinking about what happened. He wants to make things right—but he doesn't know how.

There's no way he can talk to his dad. His mum walked out four months ago. And his best friend, Kieran, wouldn't understand. Dale's not even sure Kieran would see a problem with what happened. Kieran is so casual about sex. And drugs. And life in general. The opposite of Dale.

Then Max arrives, Dale's cousin. She's older, smart, cool—with her own perspective on Dale's problem. But she's also suffering from an eating disorder, and Dale once again is powerless to help.

Meanwhile, Dale meets Brent: he's a year older, and hot. And they hook up. It's intense and intimate and seems destined to become the perfect relationship. And Dale holds on tight—too tight.

Blind Spot is a nuanced and insightful exploration of the responsibility that comes with being a witness, the culpability of inaction and the complex nature of friendship—from a vibrant and exciting new voice in Australian young-adult literature.

'A raw and honest depiction of adolescence.' Holden Sheppard, author of *The Brink*

'Vulnerable and compelling.' *Writing NSW*

Robyn Dennison's fiction has appeared in Australian literary journals, including as a runner-up for the *Overland* VU Short Story Prize. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, where she teaches creative writing. *Blind Spot*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Text Prize.

Rights Held: World

Young Adult Fiction

July 2023

Finished copies available

Selfie by Allayne L. Webster

AN EXPLORATION OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF TEEN FRIENDSHIPS AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA IN A CAPTIVATING NOVEL FOR YOUNGER YA READERS

Dene Walker picked me to be her best friend. She had the whole of Tonsley High's year eight to choose from—and she chose me. Me!

Tully can't believe her luck. Dene is famous. Everyone loves her. She has thousands of followers online and hundreds of sponsorship deals. Being best friends with Dene Walker is a dream come true.

Before long, Tully is hardly aware of the existence of her long-time bestie, Kira, as she shapes herself into a person worthy of Dene's attention. And she's not prepared for the heartache and confusion when Dene's friendship is not all she imagined it to be.

Selfie is an engaging and very real exploration of social media and the trickiness of separating what's real from the glossiness of the online world. It's a tender story about friendship and staying true to yourself.

'Social media, teenage fame, and a girl trying to work out where she fits. Loved it.'
Nova Weetman, author of *The Age of Thirteen*

'Webster's characters, major and minor, are entirely believable.' *Sunday Age*

'Webster takes her readers on an authentic teenage journey in *Selfie*... Young adults can learn a lot about miscommunications, as well as what is truly important in a friendship, from this contemporary story that understands the importance placed upon an online presence in today's world.' *Books+Publishing*

Allayne L. Webster grew up in rural South Australia and now lives in Adelaide. Her books include the CBCA notable novel *Paper Planes, A Cardboard Palace, Our Little Secret, The Centre of My Everything, That Thing I Did* and *Sensitive*, which has been selected for the 2023 IBBY catalogue.

Rights Held: World

Young Adult Fiction

April 2023

Finished copies available

The Goodbye Year by Emily Gale

WINNER, YOUNG PEOPLE'S HISTORY PRIZE, NSW PREMIER'S HISTORY AWARDS, 2023

SHORTLISTED, EDUCATIONAL CHAPTER BOOK, EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING AWARDS, 2023

SHORTLISTED, BEST CHILDREN'S FICTION, AUREALIS AWARDS, 2022

It's the start of 2020 and Harper is filled with anticipation about being in the final year of Riverlark Primary. She wants a leadership role, the comfort of her friendship group, and to fly under the radar of Riverlark's mean-boy.

But one by one things go wrong. When Harper's best friends are made school captains they are consumed by their roles, while her own role—library captain—is considered second-rate. Then something major throws life off course: her parents take overseas jobs as nurses in a war zone. Harper moves in with Lolly, a grandmother she barely knows—and Lolly's five pets, vast collection of old trinkets and very different expectations.

And then strange things start to happen: Harper wakes in the night in odd places; an old army badge seems to have a mind of its own; and on a visit to the school library she's convinced she's seen a ghost.

Who is haunting her? Can she get through the anxiety of the pandemic without her mum and dad? And will Harper find a way to be happy with her goodbye year?

The Goodbye Year explores all the trickiness and confusion of the end of primary school and a new stage of life that looms with all its uncertainties and possibilities.

'A moving and uplifting story.' *Age*

'A deeply relatable story, with a hint of the supernatural, and a lot of heart.' *BookPeople*

Emily Gale's books include *The Other Side of Summer* and its companion novel *I Am Out with Lanterns*, the *Eliza Boom Diaries*, *Steal My Sunshine* and *Girl, Aloud*, as well as her recent middle-grade collaboration with friend and fellow author Nova Weetman, *Elsewhere Girls*, and the upcoming *Outlaw Girls*.

Rights Held: World

Middle Grade Fiction

September 2022

Finished copies available

Backlist Highlights

***Limberlost* by Robbie Arnott**

WINNER—Fiction, *Age* Book of the Year 2023; Adult Fiction Book of the Year, BookPeople Book of the Year Awards 2023

SHORTLISTED—Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023; Literary Fiction Book of the Year, Australian Book Industry Awards 2023; Dylan Thomas Prize 2023; Fiction, Indie Book Awards 2023; ALS Gold Medal 2023

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Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; France—Actes Sud; Germany—Berlin Verlag; Italy—NN Editore; Norway—Cappelen Damm; Russia—Foliant; Spain—Editorial Mapa; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—Atlantic Books

***Paper Cage* by Tom Baragwanath**

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Bolinda; North America—PRH USA; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ & Canada)—John Murray

***Bodies of Light* by Jennifer Down**

WINNER—Miles Franklin Literary Award 2022

SHORTLISTED—Fiction, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2022; Stella Prize 2022; Fiction, *Age* Book of the Year 2022; Voss Literary Prize 2022; Barbara Jefferis Award 2022; Adult Crime Novel, Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards 2022

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***The Children's Bach* by Helen Garner**

WINNER—Windham-Campbell Prize 2016

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***The Plains* by Gerald Murnane**

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