

Let's Never Speak of This Again by Megan Williams

Winner of the 2022 Text Prize

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 *Let's Never Speak of This Again* is a tender, moving, often funny celebration of female friendship, about the things that test it, and about what matters most.

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

Manuscript available

***Blind Spot* by Robyn Dennison**

Shortlisted for the 2021 Text Prize

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.

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

Manuscript 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.

Tully is soon hardly aware that her long-time bestie, Kira, exists, as she shapes her own interests and cares to be the 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 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.' Anneliese Gates, *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* and *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 Brink by Holden Sheppard

Winner, *Young Adult, Indie Book Award*, 2023

Shortlisted, *Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature, NSW Premier's Literary Awards*, 2023

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

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

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

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

Whoever survives the week will never be the same again.

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

Holden Sheppard is an award-winning author born in Geraldton, Western Australia. His debut novel, *Invisible Boys* (Fremantle Press, 2019), was published to both critical and commercial success. It won the WA Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. *Invisible Boys* is currently in production as a television series. Holden is currently writing a novel for adults.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound

Young Adult Fiction

August 2022

Finished copies available

***The Hotel Witch* by Jessica Miller**

Sometimes the simplest spells are the most powerful.

Sibyl is the apprentice hotel witch at the splendid Grand Mirror Hotel.

She is busy each day drawing useful spell patterns to keep the hotel guests happy: spells to shine shoes, spells to remove dust and spells to return lost belongings like hats and gloves to their owners.

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

When Grandma gets stuck in last Tuesday, somewhere on the hotel's thirteenth floor, Sibyl is left to take charge of all the hotel magic—and to solve a mysterious and perplexing problem.

Can she find a way to open the *Book of Advanced and Dangerous Magic*?

And will it contain the spell she needs?

The Hotel Witch is a magical tale of courage, love and the power of imagining possibilities.

'This story crackles with clever magic and page-turning escapades, but it also contains an artful wisdom about self-belief and a giant heart. Book yourself a room in the Grand Mirror Hotel as soon as possible.' Emily Gale, author of *The Goodbye Year*

'This magical novel for primary years students will no doubt become a favourite.'
CBCA VIC

'[*The Hotel Witch*] is a magical, fun tale with exciting imagery that allows the story to come alive.' *Readings*

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

Rights Held: World excl. North America

Other Rights: InkWell Management

Middle Grade Fiction

March 2023

Finished copies available