



The Text Publishing Company



Bologna Rights Guide 2021

The Text Publishing Company	1
Recent Acquisitions	3
Recent Publications	4
Children and Young Adult	5-10
<i>The Hotel Witch</i> by Jessica Miller	5
<i>Bailey Finch Takes a Stand</i> by Ingrid Laguna	6
<i>The Gaps</i> by Leanne Hall.....	7
<i>If Not Us</i> by Mark Smith	8
<i>The Brink</i> by Holden Sheppard.....	9
<i>Social Queue</i> by Kay Kerr	10
Young Text Classics	11-12
Ivan Southall	11
Robin Klein.....	12
Text Publishing Agents	13-14

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Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Archbold, Charlie	Red Bottomed Boat	World	Author
Arnold, David	The Electric Kingdom	ANZ	Writers House USA
Draper, Lauren	The Museum of Broken Things	World	Author
Emery, Kate	The Not So Chosen One	World	Author
Gale, Emily	If You Could See Me Now	World	Author
Laguna, Ingrid	Bailey Finch Takes a Stand	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Luby, Miranda	Therefore I Am	World	Author
McEwen, Karys	Bertie	World	Author
Miller, Jessica	The Hotel Witch	World (ex. NA)	InkWell Management
Sheppard, Holden	The Brink	World	Left Bank Literary
Webster, Allayne	Selfie	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency

Adult

Angel, Libby	Where I Slept	World	Author
Fenster, Gigi	A Good Winter	World	High Spot Literary
Garner, Helen	How to End a Story: Diaries Volume 3	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Holbe, Julia	Our Happy Days	World English	Penguin Random House Germany
Malcolm, Janet	Pictures	ANZ	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Melchor, Fernanda	Páradais	ANZ	Literarische Agentur Michael Gaeb
Ozeki, Ruth	The Book of Form and Emptiness	ANZ	Abner Stein in association with The Friedrich Agency
Prior, Sian	A Terrible Freedom	World	Jenny Darling & Associates
Rothwell, Nicolas	Red Heaven	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Ruiz Zafón, Carlos	The City of Mist	ANZ	The Colchie Agency
Sheppard, Holden	Nullarbor Brothers	World	Left Bank Literary
Wilson, Ashleigh	Conversations with Wendy	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Wilson, Kevin	Tunneling to the Centre of the Earth	UK & Comm (ex. Canada)	Abner Stein in association with The Book Group

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Bell, Davina	The End of the World is Bigger than Love	Curtis Brown Australia
Brubaker Bradley, Kimberley	Fighting Words	Penguin Random House USA
Kerr, Kay	Please Don't Hug Me	Jacinta di Mase Management
Moore, Cath	Metal Fish, Falling Snow	Author
Stead, Rebecca	The List of Things that Will Not Change	Penguin Random House USA

Adult

Arnott, Robbie	The Rain Heron	Author
Bail, Murray	He.	Author
Bedford, Kavita	Friends & Dark Shapes	Sterling Lord Literistic
Carofiglio, Gianrico	Three O'Clock in the Morning	Rosaria Carpinelli Consulenze Editoriali
Cotter, Andrew	Olive, Mabel & Me	Black and White Publishing
Disher, Garry	Consolation	Jenny Darling & Associates
Döblin, Alfred	Two Women and a Poisoning	S. Fischer Verlag
Garner, Helen	One Day I'll Remember This	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Grenville, Kate	A Room Made of Leaves	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Hall, Steven	Maxwell's Demon	Canongate
Jinks, Catherine	Shelter	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Jones, Gail	Our Shadows	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Koval, Ramona	A Letter to Layla	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Believer	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Kurbjuweit, Dirk	The Missing	Penguin Random House Germany
Malanowska, Kaja	Fog	Barbara J. Zitwer Agency
Maslen, Kylie	Show Me Where It Hurts	Author
Murphy, Fiona	The Shape of Sound	Author
Peck, Loraine	The Second Son	Curtis Brown Australia
Savage, Ellena	Blueberries	Lutyens & Rubinstein
Serong, Jock	The Burning Island	Author
Sligar, Sarah	Take Me Apart	Curtis Brown UK
Spurr, Emily	A Million Things	Author
Watson, S. J.	Final Cut	C&W

The Hotel Witch by Jessica Miller

Sibyl loves possibilities, and at the Grand Mirror Hotel everything seems possible. It might even be possible that one day her grandmother will let her open the *Book of Advanced and Dangerous Magic*.

Sibyl is the apprentice hotel witch. Under the watchful care of her grandmother she is memorising spell patterns to keep the hotel staff and guests happy. But the spells don't always go exactly as planned: sometimes the spell to make the cakes rise works a little too well and eclairs and chocolate cakes float up to the ceiling.

When Sibyl's grandmother goes missing, other things mysteriously disappear from the Grand Mirror Hotel. At first, the harp doesn't sound quite so 'harp-y', then the grandfather clock loses its 'boooong' and the Golden Nightingale, the world's most wonderful soprano, loses her voice. When Sibyl discovers that something or someone is stealing their shadows, she knows it's up to her to find the right spell to return them before the magic of the Grand Mirror Hotel is lost.

The Hotel Witch is a spellbinding tale of determination and love. Its characters sparkle and delight. It's a brilliantly rich magical tale that young readers will fall in love with.

Praise for Jessica Miller:

'By the time I reached the end of the book my heart was racing and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough...a simple, good-old-fashioned scary manor mystery.' *Books+Publishing* on *Elizabeth and Zenobia*

'A truly spellbinding tale...This latest offering from a magnificently talented author is sure to delight any reader who loves getting lost in magical landscapes full of wonder, adventure and enchantment.' Children's Book Council of Australia on *The Republic of Birds*

Jessica Miller is a children's writer from Brisbane, currently living in Berlin. She has written for a variety of publications including *Kill Your Darlings* and *Stilts*. Her first novel, *Elizabeth and Zenobia*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize, the Readings Prize and was a CBCA Notable Book, as was her second book, *The Republic of Birds*.

Rights Held: World (ex. North America)

Other rights: Inkwell Management

Middle-grade fiction

September 2022

Manuscript available May
2021

Bailey Finch Takes a Stand by Ingrid Laguna

Bailey's mum had always said that being by the creek with Bailey and her dad was as good as it gets. She had shown Bailey sap glistening on tree trunks. They had crouched together to nudge a beetle onto a leaf. They had sat on the creek's edge with their bare feet in the water.

Bailey Finch Takes a Stand is a moving story about love and loss, about caring for the environment and standing up to make change happen.

It's one year since Bailey's mum died. And her dad doesn't seem to care much about anything. But Bailey still spends afternoons by the creek with her dog, Sheba.

Until Sheba gets sick—very sick—from something she must have swallowed while swimming in the creek. And Bailey notices all the rubbish polluting the waterway.

Between visits to Sheba in the vet hospital, Bailey tries to find a way to make the creek safe for Sheba and other animals. And through her unexpected friendship with Israel, a quiet boy who knows about endangered species, Bailey Finch finds the courage to take a stand.

Praise for Ingrid Laguna:

'A beautiful story full of hope, heartache and love.' Zana Fraillon on *Songbird*

'A big-hearted novel...full of hope and humour.' *Books+Publishing* on *Sunflower*

Ingrid Laguna is a writer and teacher. *Bailey Finch Takes a Stand* is her fourth book. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Middle-grade fiction

August 2021

Manuscript available May
2021

The Gaps by Leanne Hall

When sixteen-year-old Yin Mitchell is abducted, the news reverberates through the whole Year Ten class at Balmoral Ladies College. As the hours tick by, the girls know the chance of Yin being found alive is becoming smaller and smaller.

Everyone is affected by Yin's disappearance—even scholarship student Chloe, who usually stays out of Balmoral dramas, is drawn into the maelstrom. And when she begins to form an uneasy alliance with Natalia, the queen of Year Ten, things get even more complicated.

A tribute to friendship in all its guises, *The Gaps* is a moving examination of vulnerability and strength, safety and danger, and the particular uncertainties young women face in the world.

Praise for *The Gaps*:

'Hall's writing is breathtakingly good. *The Gaps* is a lightning bolt of a novel about power, privilege, race, art and identity.' Nina Kenwood, author of *It Sounded Better in my Head*

'Leanne Hall is without a doubt one of Australia's best young-adult writers. Hall's work is full of the fear and risk of adolescence, but also the strength and friendships that define it.' *Saturday Paper*

'*The Gaps* may well be the best Australian YA of 2021...perfectly composed and paced.' *Australian*

Leanne Hall is an author of young adult and children's fiction. Her debut novel, *This Is Shyness*, won the Text Prize for Children's and Young Adult Writing, and was followed by a sequel, *Queen of the Night*. Her novel for younger readers, *Iris and the Tiger*, won the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature at the 2017 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Leanne works as a children's and YA specialist at an independent bookshop.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

March 2021

Finished copies available

If Not Us by Mark Smith

Hesse lives in a small coastal town, where a coalmine and power station are a part of the scenery, and a part of the ever-growing problem of climate change.

His mother is a member of a local environmental group campaigning to close the mine and shut down the power station. It's a no-brainer, of course, but Hesse is more interested in surfing—and in Fenna, the new exchange student from the Netherlands. But when someone seems to be trying to derail the campaign, and his friends' families face losing their jobs, Hesse begins to realise that things are complex.

Even though he's reluctant to step into the spotlight, with Fenna's encouragement he decides it's time to make a stand. Because some things are too important to leave to everyone else. And even one small, nervous voice can make a difference.

When Hesse agrees to speak at a protest meeting he has no idea of the storm he is about to unleash.

If Not Us is Mark Smith's first standalone young adult novel following his hugely successful Winter trilogy. *If Not Us* is an impassioned plea for climate change action that will inspire and empower.

Praise for Mark Smith:

'A riveting story of survival that questions the prices of freedom and safety as well as the value of an individual life...A breakout new series full of romance, danger, and a surprisingly engaging world.' *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review of *The Road to Winter*

'Tense and atmospheric...Mark Smith's debut is assured, gripping and leaves you wanting more.' Best Books for Younger Readers 2016, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Road to Winter*

'Mark Smith writes in a taut style that keeps the pages turning...Absorbing entertainment, this is what most young folk would look for in reading.' *Magpies* on *Wilder Country*

Mark Smith is an award-winning author. He lives, works and surfs on Victoria's Surf Coast. The first book in his acclaimed Winter trilogy, *The Road to Winter*, is widely taught in secondary schools and loved by readers of all ages, and *Wilder Country*, the second book of the trilogy, won the 2018 Indie Book of the Year for Young Adults.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

October 2021

Manuscript available June
2021

The Brink by Holden Sheppard

The new novel by an emerging star of young adult fiction.

When Leonardo Kontos' friends cancel celebrating the end of school together, his absent father arranges for him to make the trip with another group of kids from his school. Geeky, asthmatic, shy and suffering from a serious panic disorder, Leonardo feels very out of place among the cool crowd.

Celebrating on a remote island, the teenagers quickly turn to drugs and alcohol to get the party started. When a local turns up dead, things quickly get out of hand. Scared that they will be blamed, they leave the body on the beach. As morning breaks and the body is discovered, blame and fear set in.

Caught up in a messy situation the teenagers quickly turn on each other and their secrets threaten to come out.

The Brink is a dark and gritty young adult novel that delves into masculinity, sexuality, mental health, drug and alcohol use, relationships and sex.

Praise for *Invisible Boys*:

'The characters leap off the page, warts and all, and Sheppard writes with complexity and realism about sexual discovery, family and social rejection, coming of age (and coming out). A galvanising read for adolescent readers, and frank about the issues raised by queer teens in a way they'll appreciate.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Sheppard writes with unflinching honesty and an eye for authentic detail. It all makes for an impressive debut that's thoroughly deserving of the accolades it has received.' *Weekend West*

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. *Invisible Boys* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. The novel is currently in development as a television series.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

2022

Manuscript available August
2021

Social Queue by Kay Kerr

Maia waves me over to her desk. It's one of the plush ones in the corner, and it's decorated as though she knows she is secure in her position here. Lots of photos, stacks of nice stationery. With her staggering ability to break exclusive news on the regular, it's no wonder.

'So it turns out you're a bit of a heartbreaker, Zoe Kelly,' she says, opening up a document filled with what look like web comments and links.

Zoe has just finished school and started an internship at a local newspaper. Her first assignment is to write about romance, but where to begin? Zoe hasn't been in love. She doesn't think anyone has ever even liked her. So when her article is published and she's contacted by a number of friends who were interested in her in their schooldays, Zoe realises that somehow she had missed the social cues.

Social Queue is a funny-serious own-voices story about being a young autistic woman navigating the dating scene and sorting out complex and often confusing feelings on the road to finding love.

Kay Kerr's debut novel, *Please Don't Hug Me*, was beloved by readers for its portrayal of the life of an autistic teenager. Her second novel, *Social Queue*, is another heartwarming contemporary young adult novel with huge appeal for neuro-diverse and neuro-typical readers alike.

Praise for *Please Don't Hug Me*:

'This book is beautifully intimate, and so authentic. You're going to love getting to know its central character, Erin. I'm so thrilled this book exists.' Claire Christian, author of *Beautiful Mess*

'A moving and insightful story about finding your place in the world.' Nina Kenwood, author of *It Sounded Better in My Head*

'This own-voices Australian debut about a young woman who is shaped—but not defined—by her autism, balances its funny and serious sides perfectly, and is a heartwarming read about self-acceptance and authenticity.' Leanne Hall, author of *Iris and the Tiger* and *This Is Shyness*

Kay Kerr lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and daughter, and works as a freelance writer. Kay was writing the first draft of *Please Don't Hug Me*, her first novel, when she received her own autism-spectrum diagnosis.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

October 2021

Manuscript available May
2021

Young Text Classics: Ivan Southall

Ivan Southall was the first Australian author to receive the Carnegie Medal, and was awarded the Australian Children's Book Council Book of the Year on three occasions. An icon of Australian children's literature, he wrote over sixty books in his lifetime and has been published in twenty-three countries. He died in 2008.

Ash Road

The bestselling *Ash Road* is an action-packed adventure story, so evocative of rural Australia you can taste the Eucalyptus. It's hot, dry and sweaty on *Ash Road*, where Graham, Harry and Wallace are getting their first taste of independence, camping, just the three of them. When they accidentally light a bushfire no one would have guessed how far it would go. All along *Ash Road* fathers go off to fight the fires and mothers help in the first aid centres. The children of Prescott are left alone, presumed safe, until it's the fire itself that reaches them. These children are forced to face a major crisis with only each other and the two old men left in their care.

'The novel is a chronicle of fire and panic, of intense and remarkable perception, and of almost inexhaustibly vivid descriptive language...unforgettable.' *Wall Street Journal*

Reading age: 12+

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Russia—Melik-Pashaev Publishing

Hills End

On a fateful day in Hills End, a timber-milling town in the mountains of Victoria, seven children and their teacher set off to explore caves in the nearby mountains said to contain ancient Aboriginal rock art. While they are deep inside the mountain caves a storm of tremendous violence all but sweeps the town away and threatens to leave them stranded on the mountain.

Tackling flooded creeks and washed-out paths and fallen trees, the children make their way back to Hills End injured and exhausted, only to face a new battle to survive in the denuded town.

'The author has the power to get inside his characters, and through them express his faith in human nature in the goodness of man...a solid work, strong in action, mood and discipline.' *New York Times*

Reading age: 12+

Rights Held: World

To the Wild Sky

When a pilot dies suddenly mid-flight six teenagers, the only passengers on board, face a terrifying situation. Gerald has had some flying lessons, but he has never flown alone, and he has never landed a plane. Lost and afraid, they fly on as the fuel gauge drops and night closes in. Will they find a clear landing place? Could they land in the sea? If they do somehow land safely how will they find their way back to civilisation?

Reading age: 12+

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Russia—Melik-Pashaev Publishing

Young Text Classics: Robin Klein

Robin Klein was born 28 February 1936 in Kempsey, New South Wales into a family of nine children. Leaving school at age 15, Klein worked several jobs before becoming established as a writer, having her first story published at age 16. Klein's books are hugely celebrated, having won the CBCA Children's Book of the Year Award in both the Younger Readers and the Older Readers categories, as well as a Human Rights Award for Literature in 1989 for *Came Back to Show You I Could Fly*. Klein is widely considered one of Australia's most prolific and beloved YA authors.

Came Back to Show You I Could Fly

Came Back to Show You I Could Fly is a heartwarming account of an unlikely friendship that shows a very human side of drug addiction. Seymour is bored and lonely, and running from a gang of kids when he opens a back-lane gate. And there is Angie. She is older than Seymour, confident, cool and alluring, and she treats him with the affection of an older sister. Seymour is captivated—through Angie he is awakened to the fun and adventure in life. But Angie has a dark side—a secret that threatens to destroy her. And as Seymour begins to understand that all is not well he knows he has to help her.

Reading age: 12+

Rights Held: World

All in the Blue Unclouded Weather

All in the Blue Unclouded Weather begins the story of the Melling sisters, four girls growing up in an Australian country town in the post war years. Vivienne is the youngest, always the last to wear the hand-me-down clothes—after Grace and Heather and Cathy—and always longing for something new and special. But although life is hard for the Melling family and the sisters have their tiffs, this is a heartwarming and often humorous story of loyalty and affection—under blue unclouded skies.

'Funny, thoughtful, sometimes painfully sad, this is a book that lingers long in the memory.'

Books+Publisher

Reading age: 12+

Rights Held: World

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