

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 (excl. Canada)	PRH USA
Crozier, Lauren	<i>The Best Witch in Paris</i>	World	Author
He, Joan	<i>Sound the Gong</i>	UK & Comm (excl. 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

Berns, Gregory	<i>Cowpuppy: An unexpected friendship and a scientist's journey into the secret world of cows</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	Tessler Literary Agency
Carlyle, Rose	<i>No One Will Know</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	Jenny Meyer Literary Agency
Darrieussecq, Marie	<i>Fabriquer une femme</i>	ANZ	Editions P. O. L.
de Kretser, Michelle	<i>Theory & Practice</i>	ANZ	Lutyens & Rubinstein
Latronico, Vincenzo	<i>Perfection / Le perfezioni</i>	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo
Martel, Yann	<i>The Son of Nobody</i>	ANZ	Westwood Creative Artists
Richardson, Raeden	<i>The Degenerates</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	Writers House
Salasc, Emmanuelle	<i>My Sister / Hors Gel</i>	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Editions P.O.L.
Smee, Sebastian	<i>Paris in Ruins: The siege, the Commune, and the birth of Impressionism</i>	ANZ	Zoë Pagnamenta Literary Agency
Stewart, Amy	<i>The Tree Collectors: Tales of arboreal obsession</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	Tessler Literary Agency
Tokarczuk, Olga	<i>The Empusium / Empuzjon</i>	ANZ	RCW Literary Agency
Wilson, Kevin	<i>untitled novel</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein in assoc. with The Book Group
Winegard, Timothy	<i>The Horse: A galloping history of humanity</i>	UK & Comm (excl. Canada)	PRH USA

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Dabos, Christelle	<i>The Storm of Echoes: The Mirror Visitor, book four</i>	Gallimard Jeunesse
Gale, Emily and Weetman, Nova	<i>Outlaw Girls</i>	Authors
Kernot, Sharon	<i>Birdy</i>	Author
Miller, Jessica	<i>The Hotel Witch</i>	InkWell Management
Shepard, Sara	<i>Penny Draws series</i>	PRH USA
Stead, Rebecca and Mass, Wendy	<i>The Lost Library</i>	Macmillan USA

Adult

Cave, Nick and O'Hagan, Seán	<i>Faith, Hope and Carnage</i>	Canongate Books
Christian, Claire	<i>West Side Honey</i>	RGM Artists
Dabos, Christelle	<i>Here, and Only Here / Ici et Seulement Ici</i>	Curtis Brown UK
Coetzee, J. M.	<i>The Pole and Other Stories</i>	David Higham Assoc.
Darrieussecq, Marie	<i>Sleepless / Pas Dormir</i>	Éditions P.O.L.
Everett, Percival	<i>The Trees and Dr. No</i>	Graywolf Press
Islington, James	<i>The Will of the Many</i>	Simon & Schuster USA
Kurbjuweit, Dirk	<i>The Freedom of Emma Herwegh / Die Freiheit der Emma Herwegh</i>	Carl Hanser Verlag
Lianke, Yan	<i>Heart Sutra</i>	Susijn Agency
Lim, Louisa	<i>Indelible City: Dispossession and defiance in Hong Kong</i>	Penguin Random House 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>Paradais / Páradais</i>	Literarische Agentur Michael Gaeb
Rothenberg, Ben	<i>Naomi Osaka</i>	PRH USA
Schwartz, Selby Wynn	<i>After Sappho</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Shibli, Adania	<i>Minor Detail</i>	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Spurr, Emily	<i>Beatrix & Fred</i>	Author
Suiter Clarke, Amy	<i>Lay Your Body Down</i>	Abner Stein in assoc. with Dystel, Goderich & Bourret

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.

'How rare, this delicacy—this calm, sweet, desolated wisdom.' Helen Garner

'Stupendously good.' Christos Tsiolkas, author of *The Slap*

'A small pet rabbit takes on greater meaning in this tight, elegant story of a family quartet reckoning with grief. Melanie Cheng captures the claustrophobic, revelatory strangeness of the early days of the COVID lockdown while bravely mining complexities of human emotion—fear, guilt, anger, and love—in lovely, lucid prose that glitters throughout with cut stones of wisdom.' Lauren Acampora, author of *The Paper Wasp*

'*The Burrow's* restrained prose and heartbreaking honesty capture the paradox of living with trauma, where the smallest of daily interactions are often the most debilitating. Yet despite dealing with such weighty material, *The Burrow* is an engrossing, compulsive, and uplifting read—a testimony to Cheng's mastery of style and keen insight into human nature.' Rajia Hassib, author of *In the Language of Miracles*

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

Rights Sold: North America—Tin House

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.

'Carefully crafted prose that will delight and assure you of an expert at work...Jones has delved into literary history again and pieced the real and the imaginary into an artful new construction...Highly recommended for those interested in literature, history or biographies.' *Books+Publishing*

'Reading and writing—two great acts of literary citizenship—are at the heart of this novel. Five stars.' *ArtsHub*

'As in all Jones's work, the lyricism and precision of the writing rewards patient reading. This is her most beautifully paced novel... eloquent and profound.' *ABR*

'Layer upon layer, Gail Jones has skilfully woven multiple narratives into a tightly held novel that will undo the reader with its poignancy...Of course, you will love this novel if you enjoyed Anna Funder's *Wifedom*, or Richard Flanagan's *Question 7*; all these authors show us the links and the losses...Gail Jones is one of Australia's finest authors and I know her stories grant compassion and grace our collective imagination.' *Readings*

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

Finished copies available

Here's to Happiness by Nina Kenwood

Anna has just turned thirty, left her career as a teacher and broken up with her partner of eight years, Joel, because he was adamant he didn't want to be a father. And now she's on her way to her best friend's wedding, where she is the bridesmaid and Joel is the best man. She's bracing herself for an emotional weekend thrust into Joel's company and meeting his new partner.

What she doesn't know is that Joel's new partner, Bianca, is pregnant—and Joel is thrilled.

Anna hadn't braced herself for that, and her fragile self-composure shatters. But the wedding presents a new romantic prospect. Patrick, everyone has decided, is perfect for her. And Patrick, Anna decides, could definitely be the one.

But then Luke's friend Mac, a somewhat-famous New York actor, flies in for the wedding—and the perfect plan is derailed.

Nina Kenwood moves seamlessly from much-loved YA rom-com queen to master of adult romantic comedy. Her new novel is filled with engaging characters, sparkling dialogue, warm humour and, of course, a delightfully complicated romance.

Praise for Nina Kenwood and *It Sounded Better in My Head*:

'I am all-caps OBSESSED with this achingly insightful, utterly charming, beautiful heart-punch of a book. Instant favourite.' Becky Albertalli, bestselling author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

Nina Kenwood is an award-winning author living in Melbourne. Her debut YA novel, *It Sounded Better in My Head*, won the Text Prize. It was a finalist for the American Library Association's William C. Morris Award and a CBCA notable book, as well as being shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, the Queensland Literary Awards and the Russell Prize for Humour Writing. Both *It Sounded Better in My Head* and *Unnecessary Drama* were shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards and the Australian Book Industry Awards. They have been published in eight languages, and *It Sounded Better in My Head* has been optioned for film.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

October 2024

Manuscript available
May

Edenhope by Louise Le Nay

Marnie is sixty-three and downwardly mobile. Her middle-class marriage is long gone, her only child more or less estranged. She's living in a granny flat behind a stranger's house.

Still, things could be worse. She likes her new boss, Trinh, and her flat has a leadlight window depicting a galleon in full sail. Also, her daughter Lenny has just brought Marnie's adored grandchildren to stay.

She's also brought her repellent boyfriend and raging drug habit, so nothing new there. But this time it's different. This time Marnie can see with absolute clarity the danger the children are in.

And this time—she's going to do something about it.

This is the revelatory story of an ordinary woman who will let nothing, not even the law, stand in the way of her grandchildren's safety. Simply, elegantly told and utterly compelling, *Edenhope* is an adventure for those who believe adventure can come from anywhere. And it is a love story for those who understand that love can be found everywhere.

Praise for *Edenhope*:

'A moving story about one woman's unconditional love, the kindness of strangers, and what's right as well as what's wrong with the way we live now.' Amanda Lohrey, author of *The Labyrinth* and *The Conversion*

Louise Le Nay has worked in theatre, film and TV, in both acting and screenwriting. She is the author of a previous novel, *The Hero*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

June 2024

Manuscript available

Things I Need You To Know by Mark Lamprell

You don't know what you've got till it's gone.

Birdie McBride seems to have it all: a fulfilling and lucrative job, five healthy daughters and a doting husband, Ned, at home keeping the family machine running smoothly.

But then Ned dies. He leaves behind a document for Birdie—'Things I Need You To Know'—full of guidance on everything from household maintenance to the intimate details of each daughter's emotional landscape. Composed in his dying days, it's his last act of fatherly devotion. Reading Ned's manual, Birdie falls for her husband in a way she never did when he was alive. Yet the presence of his best friend Marcello, complicates things. As well as having been Ned's doctor, Marcello is Birdie's ex-lover—though not as 'ex' as most people would think. And his feelings for Birdie are as strong as ever.

When more calamities rock her family, Birdie starts to wonder: how much trust can you put in feelings? And in old friends? Can the legacy of 'Things I Need You To Know' save her family from the catastrophic end barreling towards them?

Praise for Mark Lamprell:

'A staggeringly beautiful book.' *Australian Women's Weekly* on *The Secret Wife*

'*The Secret Wife* is a clever, funny and charming read that will whisk you off to another era entirely.' *Better Reading*

'A stunning debut.' *Courier-Mail* on *The Full Ridiculous*

'A very funny and truthful novel.' *Kirkus Reviews* on *The Full Ridiculous*

Mark Lamprell is a writer of novels and children's books, including *The Full Ridiculous* and *The Secret Wife*. He also works internationally as a writer and director in film, with movie credits including *Babe: Pig in the City*, *My Mother Frank*, *Goddess*, *A Few Less Men* and *Never Too Late*.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

June 2024

Manuscript available

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

Longlisted, Women's Prize for Fiction, 2024.

Longlisted, Indie Book Awards, Fiction, 2024.

A Daily Mail Novel of the Year.

Dolly Maunder is born at the end of the nineteenth century, when society's long-locked doors are just starting to creak ajar for women. Growing up in a poor farming family in rural New South Wales, she spends her life pushing at those doors. A husband and two children do not deter her from searching for love and independence. *Restless Dolly Maunder* is a subversive, triumphant tale of a pioneering woman determined to make a life to call her own.

'A powerful novel about a woman determined to rise above her station...It feels like a privilege to share in Grenville's indomitable grandmother's journey.' *The Times*

'A work of history, biography, story and memoir, all fused into a novel that suggests the great potential of literary art as redeemer, healer and pathway to understanding...the writing sparkles with Grenville's gift for transcendently clear imagery.' *Guardian*

'One of our greatest writers.' *Sunday Mail*

'Offers us the ambivalence and complex textures of experience without losing the rhythm and pace of realist fiction...Vivid and memorable.' Sarah Moss, *Times Literary Supplement*

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 most recent books are two works of non-fiction, *One Life: My Mother's Story* and *The Case Against Fragrance*. She has also written three books about the writing process. In 2017 Grenville was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature.

Rights Held: World

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

Fiction

July 2023

Finished copies available

A Better Place by Stephen Daisley

Longlisted, Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, 2024.

Shortlisted, Ockham New Zealand Book Award, Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction, 2024.

The old people in the district would often say that Roy was not quite the same after he came back. There was a brother. A twin brother, Tony. Tony Mitchell, different boy but a good rugby player. Bit of a mental case, they said, but Roy would have none of it. He always stayed close to Tony when they were growing up. They both went off to fight, must have been 1940. Only the one came back, though.

Crete, they thought. We lost Tony over there.

From Stephen Daisley, winner of the Prime Minister's Award for *Traitor* and the New Zealand Ockham Prize for *Coming Rain*, a new novel about brothers at war. Beautifully written, brutal, tender and visceral, *A Better Place* is about love in its many forms.

'[Daisley] has the sure touch of a highly gifted storyteller.' *Otago Daily Times*

'Daisley's phrasing is often spare, staccato, clunky and tuned to give you goosebumps...The power of this very good book is synthesising and restoring a fading knowledge we once carried, almost innately, at only a generation's remove.' *NZ Listener*

'Daisley's depiction of a battle...is a shocking passage of sustained brilliance and depth...[But] the story is more compelling for its engagement with the actions and emotions of the characters than for its examination of the historical facts of war. As in *Traitor*, tenderness and brutality collide repeatedly.' *Australian Book Review*

'Daisley writes fiction with the economy and clarity of a poet and with deep empathy for the impact of violence. *A Better Place* contrasts brisk and often confronting accounts of military action and experience during wartime with elegy for a personal aftermath ghosted by trauma and loss.' *Age*

Stephen Daisley was born in 1955 and grew up in the North Island of New Zealand. He has worked on sheep and cattle stations, on oil and gas construction sites and as a truck driver, among many other jobs. His first novel, *Traitor*, won the 2011 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction. *Coming Rain* won the Ockham Prize in 2015. Stephen lives in Western Australia.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

July 2023

Finished copies 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.

'Disher cleverly weaves tension throughout the story and builds suspense...Readers who enjoy Hayley Scrivenor, Shelley Burr and Jane Harper should enjoy the thrilling *Sanctuary*.' *Books+Publishing*

Praise for Garry Disher:

'Arguably Australia's greatest living crime writer.' *Canberra Times*

'A giant not only of crime fiction but of Australian letters.' Ned Kelly Awards

'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*

Garry Disher has published sixty 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 excl. North America

Other Rights: Jenny Darling & Associates

Rights Sold: ANZ Audio—Wavesound; Germany—Unionsverlag; UK & Comm (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Viper; UK & Comm (excl. ANZ & Canada) audio—W. F. Howes

Fiction

April 2024

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. Recently made redundant from marriage, motherhood and her career, journalist Rachel Weidemann has long suspected Sabine made her way back to the river—now, twelve years after the 'Caravan Murders', 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.

'Vikki Wakefield's *To the River* gets under your skin. Two very different women are brought together in the search for the truth and something like justice. Covered in dog hair and splattered with river mud, this taut, muscular thriller absolutely delivers.'

Hayley Scrivenor, author of *Dirt Town*

'A completely gripping story, with two brave, tough and damaged women at its heart. Vikki Wakefield is a brilliant writer.' Shelley Burr, author of *Wake and Ripper*

'A rollicking, fast-paced ride that builds to the perfect climax, with twists and turns along the way...Vikki Wakefield is a masterful writer with complete control over her characters...*To the River* will be one of 2024's sure-fire hits, perfect for fans of Jane Harper and Gillian Flynn. I cannot recommend it highly enough.'

'Emotionally charged, yet tough and matter-of-fact...A really interesting, engaging and thought provoking novel.'

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 great acclaim. *To the River* is her second psychological thriller for adults. Vikki lives in Adelaide, South Australia.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; World English (excl ANZ)—Bedford Square Publishers

Fiction

March 2024

Finished copies available

***A Woman in Sardinia (La rinnegata)* by Valeria Usala translated by Katherine Gregor**

A story of three generations of women, their courage and search for independence in the face of superstition and prejudice, in the spirit of Natalia Ginzburg and Elena Ferrante. In this striking debut, based on a true story, Valeria Usala bears witness to an age-old story of violence against women and takes us into the heart of rural Sardinia, where superstitions and cruelty coexist with the joys and companionship of a tight-knit community.

Teresa runs a shop and a tavern. But not even the family she has created with the man she loves can protect her from the malicious gossip of jealous locals, who are threatened by her independence. Her own mother, Maria, was made an outcast, and now Teresa is in turn forsaken by the villagers. Will she pay for her success with her life? Is she like a character in Greek tragedy, whose destiny is inevitable? Valeria Usala gives voice to the forgotten women of Sardinia—and to the courage of women everywhere.

Praise for *La rinnegata*:

'*La rinnegata* hits straight to the heart. Valeria Usala returns history and memory to a female character that you will never forget.' Nadia Terranova

'A novel that fights against ancestral rules. But it does it with a silent, obstinate force, which coincides with the indomitable character of the protagonist. You will like it.'
Francisco Piccolo

'In a world where if you don't have a man you are nothing, *La rinnegata* says how much two rebels can be everything, but paying for each choice.' *La Stampa*

Valeria Usala was born in Cagliari, Sardinia, in 1993. After a degree in Languages and Communication, she studied filmmaking in Rome and then moved to Turin to study writing at the Holden School. Published by Garzanti in 2021, (*La rinnegata*) *A Woman in Sardinia* is her first novel. She lives in Cagliari.

Katherine Gregor is a writer who also translates from Italian and French.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: 2 Seas Agency

Fiction

May 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.

Addition is a fabulous debut novel. Grace is witty, flirtatious and headstrong. She's not a bit sentimental but even so, she may be about to lose track of the number of ways she can fall in love.

'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 & 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

Firelight by John Morrissey

Shortlisted, Victorian Premier's Literary Award, Fiction, 2024.

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

'Firelight is a mastery of craft.'
Kill Your Darlings

'A highly original and compelling collection.' *Conversation*

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

The Season by Helen Garner

I pull up at the kerb. I love this park they train in. I must have walked the figure-of-eight around its ovals hundreds of times, at dawn, winter and summer, to throw the ball for Dozer, our red heeler, but he's buried now, in the backyard, under the crepe myrtle near the chook pen.

The boy jumps out with his footy and trots away, bouncing it. Boy? Look at him. He's five foot eleven. The last of my three grandkids. This year he's in the Under 16s.

It's footy season in Melbourne, and Helen Garner is following her grandson's suburban team. She turns up not only at every game (give or take), but at every training session, shivering on the sidelines in the dark, fascinated by the spectacle.

She's a passionate Western Bulldogs supporter (with a rather shaky grasp of the rules) and a great admirer of the players and the epic theatre of the game. But this is something more than that. It is a chance to connect with her youngest grandchild, to be close to him in his last moments as a child and in his headlong rush into manhood. To witness his triumphs and defeats, to fear for his safety in battle, to gasp and to cheer for the team as it fights its way towards the finals.

Garner's sharp eye, wit and warm humour bring the team and the season to life, as she documents this pivotal moment, both as part of the story and as silent witness. It's a reflection on masculinity, on the nobility, grace and grit of team spirit and the game's power to enthrall.

Helen Garner writes novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction. In 2006 she received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature, and in 2016 she won the prestigious Windham–Campbell Prize for non-fiction. In 2019 she was honoured with the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. And in 2023 she was awarded the ASA Medal for her outstanding contribution to Australian literature. Her works include *Monkey Grip*, *The Children's Bach*, *The First Stone*, *The Spare Room*, *This House of Grief* and three volumes of her diaries. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: North America—Pantheon

Option Publishers: ANZ audio—Bolinda; UK & Comm (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Non-Fiction

December 2024

Manuscript available
April

Suddenly Single at Sixty by Jo Peck

Dumped by her husband of twenty-five years, Jo Peck—smart, successful and sixty—is totally floored.

There's the complete bombshell of the news, the cliché of a younger woman—a much younger woman—there's the disappointment of cancelled retirement travel plans, and there's the foundation-rocking loss of her sense of identity—if she's no longer Rex's wife, who the hell is she?

She's lost and angry and hurt and confused.

But not for long!

There's the comfort and support of excellent friends and newly forged connections with extended family, there's therapy. And there's internet dating.

This inspiring, witty and at times hilarious memoir tells the story of the road from shock and despair to an unexpected new life, of friendship, romance and racy sex—proof that being suddenly single at sixty is not the end, it's an opportunity for a fabulous new beginning.

'In the world rife with ageism, Jo Peck's defiant memoir shows that turning sixty has nothing to do with turning your back on sex, love, or any other passions. The vitality, wit and sheer exuberance of this emotionally honest and compelling book is infectious; it's a nourishing work.' Lee Kofman

'Fresh and funny—best-friend material.' Hannie Rayson

Jo Peck grew up in Healesville, Victoria. She worked in advertising for thirty-five years, co-running her own ad agency, Working Girls Advertising, for twenty of those years. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

May 2024

Manuscript 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 had 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

***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 his 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, 'crowd-sourced 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; Spain—Herder Editorial

Non-fiction

October 2023

Finished copies available

The Best Witch in Paris by Lauren Crozier

Winner of the 2023 Text Prize.

Luna rides a battered old broom that keeps crashing itself into the school pond. She has a witch's hat and wand and sometimes she's quite good at magic, but she isn't completely sure that she's a real witch. She doesn't have a familiar for one, and she doesn't know where she came from—only that she was found by three witches who she now calls her aunts.

When she swaps her moonstone ring for an Australian boobook owl in the Lost Forest, the mysterious bird seller makes her promise to keep the bird hidden for as long as she can.

This is not easy when you live with very inquisitive aunts. And it's not easy when you find out that the fearsome Madame Valadon, the Best Witch in Paris, is missing her boobook owl and she's sure that Luna knows something about it.

Could it be that Luna has Madame Valadon's boobook? Why then did the mysterious bird seller give it to Luna? Why did she say the bird belonged to her? A familiar can only belong to one witch, after all.

Luna has lots of questions—the biggest one of all is who she really is.

Fun and funny and full of life, *The Best Witch in Paris* is a delightful story of courage and self-belief, with colourful characters, fabulous magic and a puzzling mystery to solve.

Lauren Crozier won the 2023 Text Prize for her debut novel *The Best Witch in Paris*. She lives in Sydney with her partner and their two children.

Rights Held: World

Middle Grade Fiction

September 2023

Manuscript available
May

***Let's Never Speak of This Again* by Megan Williams**

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Book, Book of the year: Older readers, 2024.
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.

'This is a delightful book.' *Magpies*

'A bittersweet and relatable portrait of adolescence.' *Age*

'For the person who loves it when friendships are front and centre.' *#LoveOzYA*

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**

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Book, Book of the year: Older readers, 2024. 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.

'A sophisticated, challenging novel that explores themes of personal responsibility alongside a duty of care for others. A compelling, important novel for young people.'

Books+Publishing

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.

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 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.*
Longlisted, *Children's Novel, Davitt Awards, 2023.*

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 her five pets, vast collection of old trinkets and very different expectations.

Just as Harper is getting used to Lolly, the pandemic arrives, and her goodbye year is nothing like she'd hoped it would be. Strange things are happening: she wakes in the night in odd places, fixates on an old army badge that seems to have a mind of its own, and on a visit to the school library during lockdown 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 deeply relatable story, with a hint of the supernatural, and a lot of heart.' *BookPeople*

'A moving and uplifting story.' *Age*

Emily Gale's books include *The Other Side of Summer* and its companion novel *I Am Out with Lanterns*, the Eliza Boom diaries series, *Steal My Sunshine* and *Girl, Aloud*, as well as her recent middle-grade collaboration with friend and fellow author Nova Weetman, *Elsewhere Girls* and *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; Winner—Adult Fiction Book of the Year, BookPeople Book of the Year Awards 2023; Longlisted—Dublin Literary Prize, 2024
Shortlisted—Miles Franklin Literary Award 2023; Shortlisted—Literary Fiction Book of the Year, Australian Book Industry Awards 2023; Shortlisted—Dylan Thomas Prize 2023;
Shortlisted—Fiction, Indie Book Awards 2023; Shortlisted—ALS Gold Medal 2023
Longlisted—ARA Historical Novel Prize 2023; Booktopia Favourite Australian Book Award, Fiction 2022

Highly Commended—Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Fiction 2023

Rights Held: World

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

***Paper Cage* by Tom Baragwanath**

Rights Held: World

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

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

Winner—Miles Franklin Literary Award 2022

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

Longlisted—Dublin Literary Award 2023

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; Catalan—Editorial Navona; Germany—Ullstein Verlag; North American audio—Recorded Books; Poland—Foksal; Spain—Editorial Navona; Russia—Eksmo; UK & Comm (excl ANZ & Canada) audio—W. F. Howes

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

Winner, Windham-Campbell Prize 2016

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Bolinda; Brazil—Todavia; France—Christian Bourgois; Germany—Berlin Verlag in der Piper Verlag; Greece—Dardanos; Italy—Nottetempo; North America—Pantheon; Poland—Wydawnictwo Cyranka; Turkey—Yapi Kredi Kultur Sanat; UK & Comm (excl ANZ & Canada)—Weidenfeld & Nicolson

***The Plains* by Gerald Murnane**

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Brazil—Todavia; Catalan—Miniscula; China—Ginkgo (Shanghai) Book Co. Ltd; Denmark—THP; Finland—Lurra Editions; Germany—Suhrkamp Verlag; Greece—Kastaniotis Editions; Israel—Carmel Publishing House; Italy—Safara Editore; Korea—EunHaeng NaMu; Netherlands—Uitgeverij Signatuur; Norway—Det Norske Samlaget; Poland—Wydawnictwo Czarne; Portugal—Bazarov; Romania—Litera; Serbia—Mali vrt; Slovenia—Litera; Spain—Miniscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag; Turkey—Harfa

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