

The Text Publishing Company



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Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

Adult

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Astley, Thea | A Kindness Cup, Reaching Tin River, Drylands <i>and</i> The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow | World | Curtis Brown Australia |
| Darrieussecq, Marie | Zoo <i>and</i> Notre vie dans les forêts | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Editions POL |
| Emcke, Carolin | How We Desire | World English | S. Fischer Verlag |
| Gary, Romain | The Kites | ANZ | New Directions |
| Hendrick, Kate | The Finder | World | Author |
| Hertmans, Stefan | The Convert | ANZ | De Bezige Bij |
| Jerusalmy, Raphaël | Evacuation | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Actes Sud |
| Koch, Herman | The Ditch | ANZ | Ambo Anthos |
| Klein, Daniel and Thomas Cathcart | I Think Therefore I Draw | ANZ | Penguin Random House USA |
| Kneen, Krissy | Half Light | World | Jane Novak Literary Agency |
| Kurbjuweit, Dirk | Emma Herwegh's Freedom | World English | Hanser Verlag |
| Laguna, Ingrid | Songbird | World | Curtis Brown Australia |
| Lindqvist, John Ajvide | I Always Find You | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Copenhagen Literary Agency |
| McPhee, John | Draft No. 4 | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | FSG |
| Nordbo, Mads Peder | The Girl Without Skin | World English | Politiken Literary Agency |
| Ripley, Nathan | Find You in the Dark | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Transatlantic Literary Agency |
| Righetto, Matteo | The Soul of the Frontier | ANZ | Piergiorgio Nicolazzini |
| Salzmann, Sasha Marianna | Beside Yourself | World English | Suhrkamp Verlag |
| Serong, Jock | Preservation | World | Author |
| Szablowski, Witold | Dancing Bears | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Penguin Random House USA |
| Zafón, Carlos Ruiz | The Labyrinth of the Spirits | ANZ | Tom Colchie |

Young Adult

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beckett, Bernard | AS Normal and the Tunnel of Dreams | World | Author |
| Dabos, Christelle | La Passe-Miroir series | ANZ | Gallimard Jeunesse |
| King, A.S. | Please Ignore Vera Dietz | UK & Comm. (excl. Canada) | Penguin Random House USA |
| Mass, Wendy and Rebecca Stead | Bob | ANZ | Curtis Brown USA |
| Wakefield, Vikki | Youth <i>and</i> Untitled novel | World | Drummond Agency |

Recent Adult and YA Publications

Adult

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Aman, Claire | Bird Country | Author |
| Burdick, Alan | Why Time Flies | Sterling Lord Literistic |
| Burnet, Graeme Macrae | The Accident on the A35 | Saraband |
| Chambers, Jeremy | Suburbia | Author |
| Coetzee, J. M. | The Schooldays of Jesus | David Higham Associates |
| Disher, Garry | Under the Cold Bright Lights | Jenny Darling Associates |
| Down, Jennifer | Pulse Points | Author |
| Garner, Helen | Stories <i>and</i> True Stories | Jane Novak Literary Agency |
| Hampson, Sebastian | The Benefactor | Author |
| Herrera, Yuri | The Transmigration of Bodies <i>and</i> Signs Preceding the End of the World | And Other Stories |
| Kells, Stuart | The Library | Drummond Agency |
| Krasnostein, Sarah | The Trauma Cleaner | Curtis Brown |
| Kurbjuweit, Dirk | Twins | Hanser Verlag |
| Presser, Bram | The Book of Dirt | Author |
| Raabe, Melanie | The Stranger | Random House GmbH |
| Rachman, Tom | Basket of Deplorables | Rogers, Coleridge & White |
| Serong, Jock | On the Java Ridge | Author |
| Simsion, Graeme and Anne Buist | Two Steps Forward | Authors |
| Sloan, Robin | Sourdough | Abner Stein |
| Striano, Salvatore | Set Me Free | Alferj e Prestia |
| Tokarczuk, Olga | Flights | Fitzcarraldo Editions |
| Wu, Ming-Yi | The Stolen Bicycle | Georgina Capel Associates in association with Grayhawk Agency |

Young Adult

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly | The War I Finally Won | Penguin Random House USA |
| Christian, Claire | Beautiful Mess | Author |
| Griffin, Paul | Saving Marty | Penguin Random House USA |
| Levithan, David and Nina LaCour | You Know Me Well | United Agents |
| Smith, Mark | Wilder Country | Author |
| Weston, Paula | The Undercurrent | Australian Literary Management |

Flames by Robbie Arnott

Our mother returned to us two days after we spread her ashes over Notley Fern Gorge. She was definitely our mother—but, at the same time, she was not our mother at all. Since her dispersal among the fronds of Notley, she had changed. Now her skin was carpeted by spongy, verdant moss and thin tendrils of common filmy fern. Six large fronds of tree fern had sprouted from her back and extended past her waist in a layered peacock tail of vegetation. And her hair had been replaced by cascading fronds of lawn-coloured maidenhair—perhaps the most delicate fern of all.

From its opening sentence—‘Our mother returned to us two days after we spread her ashes over Notley Fern Gorge’—Robbie Arnott’s debut novel reveals a world as old as storytelling itself.

A young man named Levi McAllister decides to build a coffin for his twenty-three-year-old sister, Charlotte—who promptly runs for her life. A water rat swims upriver in quest of the cloud god. A fisherman named Karl hunts for tuna in partnership with a seal. And a father takes form from fire.

The drumbeat of this tale about grief and love and the bonds of family connects these stories, tracing a journey that takes us full circle.

Set on the island of Tasmania, from Hawley in the north to Cradle Mountain and the southern wilderness, *Flames* sings out with joy and sadness.

Utterly original in its conception, spellbinding in its descriptions of nature and its celebration of the power of language, this first book by twenty-seven-year-old Tasmanian writer Robbie Arnott announces the arrival of a thrilling new voice in contemporary fiction.

Robbie Arnott was born in Launceston in 1989. He is a sixth-generation Tasmanian who now lives in Hobart where his day job is writing advertising copy. He won the Scribe Nonfiction Prize in 2014 and the Tasmanian Young Writer’s Fellowship in 2015.

Rights Held: World

Fiction | May 2018 | Manuscript available

The Cage by Lloyd Jones

At the front of a little hotel in a country town, a flickering sign says, 'All welcome'. The dining room and guest rooms are upstairs, the kitchen below. There is a broken swing under the willow in the garden.

Fleeing a catastrophe they cannot describe, two strangers stagger into town, scarecrows in rags. At the hotel, Uncle Warwick, Dawn and the Trustees nickname them Doctor and Mole, and offer them shelter.

No one knows where they've come from, including the young man who takes it upon himself to make a note of everything they do.

The Cage is a fable about trust and fear, blindness and sight, what it means to bear witness, what it means to have nothing.

Praise for Lloyd Jones:

'Lloyd Jones has plotted a fine and moving story with enormous compassion, emotional depth and tender insight into humanity.' *Sunday Telegraph*

'As compelling as a fairytale—beautiful, shocking and profound.' Helen Garner

'Jones is a daring writer who can be relied on to ignore expectation, and is becoming one of the most interesting, honest and thought-provoking novelists working today.' *Guardian*

'Superbly disconcerting...A masterful, prismatic piece of storytelling.' *Independent*

'It reads like the effortless soar and dip of a grand piece of music, thrilling singular voices, the darker, moving chorus, the blend of the light and shade, the thread of grief urgent in every beat and the occasional faint, lingering note of hope.' *Age*

'Lloyd Jones brings to life the transformative power of fiction.' *Sunday Times*

Lloyd Jones is the bestselling author of *Mister Pip*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His other books include *Hand Me Down World*, *The Book of Fame* and *A History of Silence*. He lives in Wellington.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: New Zealand—Penguin Random House New Zealand

Option Publishers: Brazil—Rocco; Canada—Knopf Canada; Germany—Rowohlt Verlag.

Fiction

| February 2018

| Manuscript available

The Death of Noah Glass by Gail Jones

At the age of sixty-seven, having just returned from a trip to Sicily, the art historian Noah Glass is discovered floating face down in the swimming pool at his Sydney apartment block.

His grieving children Martin and Evie must come to terms not only with the shock of their father's death, but also with his involvement in a sculpture missing from a museum in Palermo. Noah is a suspect and the police are investigating.

None of it makes any sense. Martin sets off to Palermo in search of answers about his father's activities, while Evie moves into Noah's apartment in Elizabeth Bay, waiting to learn where her life might take her.

Retracing their father's steps in their own way, neither of his children can see the path ahead.

Gail Jones's mesmerising new novel tells a story about parents and children, and explores the overlapping patterns of life. *The Death of Noah Glass* is about love and art, grief and happiness. It is about memory and the mystery of time.

Praise for Gail Jones:

'A significant presence in contemporary Australian fiction. Thoughtful, intelligent and intensely lyrical.' *Guardian*

'The power of Jones's refracting images is cumulative and there is an intelligence and honesty to her writing that brings the characters powerfully to life. Its meanings are prismatic in their possibilities, its human dimensions deeply and perhaps unexpectedly affecting.' *Age*

Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated fiction writers. Her work has been translated into nine languages, and has been longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. It has been shortlisted for the IMPAC Award, and the Prix Femina Etranger. In addition, Gail Jones has been shortlisted three times for the Miles Franklin Award. She lives in Sydney.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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April 2018

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Manuscript available

Two Steps Forward by Graeme Simsion and Anne Buist

Zoe, a sometime artist, is from California. Martin, an engineer, is from Yorkshire. Both have ended up in picturesque Cluny, in central France. Both are struggling to come to terms with their recent past—for Zoe, the death of her husband; for Martin, a messy divorce.

Unsure of what the future holds, each sets out alone to walk hundreds of kilometres along the Camino: the Way, the centuries-old pilgrim route to Santiago, in northern Spain. Walking the Camino changes you, it's said. It's a chance to find a new version of yourself.

But can these two very different people find each other?

Two Steps Forward is about the challenge of walking a great distance and working out who you really are. It's about the people you meet along the way, and those left behind. Most of all, it's about taking chances and learning to love again.

'The leisurely paced novel explores themes of forgiveness and self-discovery with gentle humour...A feel-good, mature romance that explores what we need to let go of to move forward.' *Books+Publishing*

'I enjoyed every moment of this informative, funny and sweet novel.' *Readings*

Graeme Simsion is a Melbourne-based novelist and screenwriter. The combined sales of *The Rosie Project* and *The Rosie Effect* are over four million copies worldwide. His most recent novel is *The Best of Adam Sharp*.

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and has twenty-five years of clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry. She is the author of three Natalie King mysteries, and has published ten erotic romance-suspense novels under the pseudonym Simone Sinna.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Brazil—Record; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Czech Republic—Mladá Fronta; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Israel—Steimatzky; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Two Roads/Hachette; US—Morrow/HarperCollins.

Film Rights: Ellen DeGeneres/Fox Searchlight

Fiction

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October 2017

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Finished copies available

The Book of Dirt by Bram Presser

We were too young to understand. We thought them immortal—our grandparents, our great uncles and aunts, their friends. They chose not to speak and now they are gone. And we cannot find the pieces of the puzzle that make up those few years of their life, for they too are gone.

What's left to fill the silence is no longer theirs. This is my story, woven from the threads of rumour and legend, post-memory.

The Book of Dirt is a love story, a riveting survivors' tale, and a grandson's quest to learn about his grandparents' extraordinary lives.

Bram Presser brilliantly imagines the fate of Jakub Rand, who is deported to Theresienstadt to sort through the thousands of Jewish texts that have been confiscated from across occupied Europe for use in the Nazis' bizarre Museum of the Extinct Race. It is also the story of how teenaged Daša miraculously survives the same camp.

But Jakub and Daša never spoke of their experiences. The family built myths around them: he was a teacher in the camps, keeping the children busy until it was their turn to be killed; she was uneducated but capable of lifting the railway sleepers used to build the tracks that brought her fellow Jews to their deaths. When they died, their stories went with them.

Then came the cracks. Everything the family thought they knew was wrong.

'An immense work of love and anger, a book Bram Presser was born to write.' Joan London

'A beautiful literary mind.' A.S. Patrić

'A gripping tale about survival, memory and love.' Leah Kaminsky

'Presser brilliantly shows how fresh facts can derail old truths, how fiction can amplify memory. A smart and tender meditation on who we become when we attempt to survive survival.' Mireille Juchau

Bram Presser was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1976. His stories have appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Award Winning Australian Writing*, *The Sleepers Almanac* and *Higher Arc*. In 2011, he won the Age Short Story Award. When not writing fiction, Bram also pens the literary blog 'Bait For Bookworms', occasionally works as a criminal lawyer and is one of the founders of Melbourne Jewish Book Week.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

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September 2017

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Finished copies available

The Plotters by Un-su Kim

TRANSLATED FROM THE KOREAN BY SORA KIM-RUSSELL

Behind assassinations that change the course of history, there are masterminds working in the shadows. Raised by Old Raccoon in The Library of Dogs, Reseng has always been surrounded by assassination plots—and by books that no one ever reads—and he was always destined to become an assassin.

But when Reseng steps out of line on his latest job, things soon spiral out of control. Will he be next on the kill list? Who will look after his cats, Desk and Lampshade? Who planted the bomb in his toilet? And when Reseng meets a trio of young women with an extraordinary plot of their own, he can see that all hell is about to break loose.

Un-su Kim's writing has been compared to Murakami's; he has been hailed as a rising star of Korean literature. *The Plotters* is a classy noir thriller and a complex, fascinating tale about the changing of the guard in a corrupt underworld, where people live with an entirely different code of honour.

Praise for *The Plotters* and Un-su Kim:

'This second novel by Un-su Kim demands to be read for its incredible cast of characters...a first-rate thriller.' *Le Monde*

'A rich, funny, cynical Korean roman noir...A delicious surprise.' *La Croix*

'Like a veteran killer...quickly, coolly, and without hesitation, Un-su Kim commands sentences and stories that stab the reader between the ribs. We've been waiting for this storyteller and his story.' Park Min-gyu, novelist

Un-su Kim was born in 1972 in Busan and is the author of several highly praised novels. He has won the Munhakdongne Novel Prize, Korea's most prestigious literary prize, and was nominated for the 2016 Grand Prix de la Littéraire Policière. He lives in Jinhae-gu, South Korea.

Sora Kim-Russell is a Korean-American living in Seoul, where she teaches translation. She has translated works by Hwang Sok-yong, Jeon Sungtae, Pyun Hye-young and Shin Kyung-sook, among others.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Barbara J. Zitwer Agency

Fiction

September 2018

Manuscript available
November 2017

***This I Would Kill For* by Anne Buist**

Forensic psychiatrist Natalie King works with victims and perpetrators of violent crime. Women with a history of abuse, mainly. When she is hired to do a psychiatric evaluation for the children's court in a custody dispute, it's not her usual territory, but now that she's pregnant she's happy to do a simple consult.

Turns out Jenna and Malik's break-up is anything but simple. He claims she's crazy and compulsive; she claims he's been abusing their daughter, Chelsea.

But what if *all* the claims are true? Or none? How can Natalie protect the child? And how does she work out where her concerns for Chelsea slide into her growing obsession with her own lost father?

More urgently: with both parents saying they're desperate to keep their daughter safe—what if one of them is desperate enough to kill?

Praise for Anne Buist:

'Full of authenticity and gravitas.' *Daily Telegraph*

'A thrilling read that will have you on the edge of your seat.' *Buzzfeed*

'Crime novels and thrillers depend on strong investigators whose idiosyncrasies make them distinctive and attractively flawed. Melbourne's Anne Buist has ticked these boxes with her creation, Natalie King.' *Herald Sun*

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne. She has over twenty-five years' clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry, and works with protective services and the legal system in cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder. Her novels featuring forensic psychiatrist Natalie King are *Medea's Curse*, shortlisted for both Best Debut Novel and Best Adult Novel in the 2016 Davitt Awards, and *Dangerous to Know*. Most recently, she co-authored *Two Steps Forward* with Graeme Simson.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: UK—Legend Press

Fiction

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February 2018

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Manuscript available

Look at Me by Mareike Krügel

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

I have always thought it would be useful if we knew the cause of our own death. It would be an unbeatable method of treating phobias. At this moment, for instance, I know I ought to be upset and at the same time deeply relieved—after all, something terrible could have happened—but instead I just sit here and feel myself shrug inwardly, because I know what my own end will look like and it has nothing to do with a car accident. I have known for two weeks.

That's when I discovered the something.

It's Friday. This weekend will be like any other. Katharina's husband, Kostas, will be in Berlin, where his new job keeps him for most of the time. Their sixteen-year-old son Alex has a new girlfriend—perhaps Katharina will finally be allowed to meet her. Meanwhile, Helli, the moody eleven-year-old, has a nosebleed, and Katharina has to dash off to school to pick her up.

Wasn't there supposed to be more to the whole deal of marriage and children, and of being a housewife and music teacher?

But Katharina has not factored in a severed thumb in the backyard, a clothes dryer that catches fire, or the visit of an old friend from university whom she hasn't seen in years. And there's something else—the lump in her breast that she's just discovered.

Look at Me is a wise and sparkling novel about an ordinary woman doing extraordinary things to hold her life—and herself—together.

'This is a masterstroke. Although the book covers only forty-eight hours in the life of a woman, it captures a whole life.' *Freie Presse*

'A book like a rollercoaster ride: fast, unsettling, funny.' *NDR*

Mareike Krügel was born in 1977 in Kiel and lives in Schleswig-Holstein with her husband, author Jan Christopherson, and their two children. She has received numerous literary awards, including the Friedrich Hebel Prize. This is her fourth novel, and the first to be translated into English.

Imogen Taylor is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango, *The Trap* by Melanie Raabe and *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Piper Verlag

Fiction

|

April 2018

|

Manuscript available

Off the Record: A Novel by Craig Sherborne

I have knocked on flyscreens and said to mothers of kidnapped toddlers, 'Don't you feel guilty for leaving your child in the front yard alone?' I have shamed them to tears for the photographer. I have gatecrashed funerals, linked innocent corpses to local crime syndicates. Or feigned empathy to the grief-stricken to make copy from their hard-luck stories. I enjoyed the kudos of my name beneath headlines on front pages and became used to the heartlessness as if blank inside. I was doing it for my family—it was worth the cruelty.

Callum Smith—Wordsmith, Words for short—is a newspaper journalist of the old school. He knows how to write a story that sings, knows all the tricks of the tabloid trade. And he likes to drink with his colleagues, sometimes to flirt dangerously with young women.

When his marriage blows up after a night of drinking goes too far, Words is forced to leave the family home. Desperate to impress his estranged wife and teenage son, he quits his job, taking a pay cut to work with a new online publication covering local crime. There the plum role of editor will soon be his, he reasons. To Words, 'Honesty is a thief—it steals your life.' Better to do whatever it takes to get back in someone's good books. And that is what he sets out to do, in a series of ever more calamitous, destructive and amoral adventures.

Praise for Craig Sherborne and *The Amateur Science of Love*:

'All women with lingering illusions about the way men think should read this fast-moving, sharply focused, fantasy-shattering little thunderclap of a book.' Helen Garner

'A riveting piece of writing that is liable to transfix any reader...This is an engulfing, heart-stopping book—a performance that dazzles the eyes and leaves the reader gasping for air.' *Age*

Craig Sherborne's memoir *Hoi Polloi* (2005) was shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's and Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. The follow-up, *Muck* (2007), won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction. Craig's first novel, *The Amateur Science of Love* (2011), won the Melbourne Prize for Literature's Best Writing Award, and was shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award and a NSW Premier's Literary Award. His second novel, *Tree Palace* (2014), was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

|

February 2018

|

Manuscript available

Under the Cold Bright Lights by Garry Disher

Liz had urged him to take the job. 'You're made for it, darling heart.' She still called him that from time to time. Out of habit, probably. She reminded him what he'd been like back in his Homicide days, a case dragging on. 'Obsessive—in a good way.' Meaning he'd agonise that he'd missed something. That a liar had sucked him in. That among the dozens of names he'd collected during an investigation, one was the killer's.

The young detectives call Alan Auhl a retread, but that doesn't faze him. He does things his own way—and gets results. He still lives with his ex-wife, off and on, in a big house full of random boarders and hard-luck stories.

And he's still a cop, though he retired from Homicide some years ago. He works cold cases now. Like the death of John Elphick—his daughters still convinced he was murdered, the coroner not so sure. Or the skeleton that's just been found under a concrete slab. Or the doctor who killed two wives and a girlfriend, and left no evidence at all. Auhl will stick with these cases until justice is done. One way or another.

Praise for Garry Disher:

'A top-class writer.' *The Times*

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

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

'Exceptional crime fiction.' *Courier-Mail*

'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.' *Age*

Garry Disher has published fifty titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, the Wyatt thrillers and the Peninsula Crimes series. His previous standalone novel, *Bitter Wash Road*, won the German Crime Prize in 2016 and was shortlisted in the Ned Kelly Award for Best Crime Novel.

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Germany—Unionsverlag; North America—Soho.

Fiction

|

October 2017

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Finished copies available

Songwoman by Ilka Tampke

47AD: Rome has colonised southeast Britain. Tortured by her part in the Roman attack that destroyed her township, Ailia has been living alone in a remote Welsh forest for a year.

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

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

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

Praise for *Skin*:

'*Skin* is a beautiful and brilliant book, a masterpiece.' John Marsden

'Conjuring up a wholly alien world with impressive imagination, Tampke has created a visceral tale of ritual, magic and violence.' *Sunday Times*

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

'In *Skin*, Tampke has taken the fragments and woven them into a convincing world.' *Times*

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Denmark—Rosinante & Co.; Germany—Blanvalet; North America—Thomas Dunne; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Hodder.

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

Fiction

April 2018

Manuscript available
December 2017

The Bookshop of the Brokenhearted by Robert Hillman

Tom Hope doesn't think he's much of a farmer, but he's doing his best. He can't have been much of a husband, either, judging by the sudden departure of his young bride Trudy, though he loved her with all his heart.

When Trudy returns, pregnant with someone else's baby, Tom discovers an unexpected talent: as a father to the child Trudy doesn't want. So when Trudy finds Jesus and takes little Peter away to join a religious community, Tom's heart breaks all over again.

Enter Hannah Babel, quixotic small-town bookseller: the second Jew—and the most vivid person—Tom has ever met. He dares to believe that they could make each other happy.

But it is 1967, which makes it twenty-three years since Hannah and her own little boy arrived at Auschwitz. And Tom Hope is about to take on a battle with heartbreak he can barely begin to imagine.

Praise for Robert Hillman:

'This calamitous work, brassy with the vigour of life in a specifically Australian, specifically contemporary way, singles Hillman out from the crowd.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'There might be a fine line between love and insanity, and Hillman's characters travel a dark road, but this is a story about redemption and negotiating a place of peace inside despair.' *Saturday Paper*

Robert Hillman has written a number of books including his 2004 memoir *The Boy in the Green Suit*, which won the National Biography Award. He lives in Warburton in Victoria's Yarra Valley.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

April 2018

Manuscript available
December 2017

The Stranger by Melanie Raabe

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

I stare at the man before me — stare into his face, looking for a sign of recognition — but find nothing. It isn't that Phillip was tall and strong, while this man is hardly bigger than me — nor is it the beard that covers his cheeks so I have no way of knowing whether he has dimples like Phillip. It isn't even the strange way in which this man moves.

It is his eyes, which not only lack all warmth, but are also much darker than the eyes I fell in love with all those years ago. The hair on my neck stands on end.

That. Is. Not. Phillip.

Phillip Petersen, a wealthy businessman, disappears without trace on a trip to South America. His wife, Sarah, is left to bring up their son on her own.

Seven years later, out of the blue, Sarah receives news that Phillip is still alive. But the man who greets her before a crowd of journalists at the airport is not her husband. He is a stranger—but he knows Sarah, and knows something about her that threatens to destroy her. If she exposes him, she will lose everything: her house, her job, her son...her whole beautiful life.

Reviewers have compared Melanie Raabe to writers of suspense including Gillian Flynn, Paula Hawkins, S.J. Watson and Harlan Coben.

Melanie Raabe began her working life as a journalist but secretly wrote books by night. Her first novel, *The Trap*, was a bestseller in Germany. First published in English by Text in 2016, it has now appeared in many other territories, and the film rights have been acquired by TriStar Pictures. *The Stranger* is Raabe's second book. Published in Germany in 2016, it was an immediate bestseller, and remained on *Der Spiegel's* bestseller list for almost six months.

Imogen Taylor is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Trap* by Melanie Raabe, *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango and *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

Rights Held: World English

Rights Sold: Canada—House of Anansi Press; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Pan Macmillan.

Other Rights: Verlagsgruppe Random House GmbH

Fiction

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October 2017

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Finished copies available

Land at the Crossroads by Tim Flannery

Around 100 million years ago, the interaction of three continents—Asia, North America and Africa—formed the tropical island archipelago that would become the Europe of today, a place of exceptional diversity, rapid change, and high energy. Over the millennia the continent has taken in countless immigrant species and transformed them.

Land at the Crossroads is full of surprises. Europe is where the first coral reefs were formed. It played a vital role in the evolution of our own tribe, the hominins. It was once home to some of the world's largest elephants. While dinosaurs, crocodiles and giant sharks have come and gone, Europe's extraordinary midwife toad has endured.

When the first modern humans arrived 40,000 years ago, hybridised with the Neanderthals, they began to exert an astonishing influence on the continent's flora and fauna. The Europeans have led the world in the great arc of human population trends, from rapid increase to stabilisation. And now, they lead the way in wildlife restoration—there are more wolves in Europe today than in the USA.

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

Praise for Tim Flannery:

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

'In lucid and authoritative prose...his book becomes a hymn to life.' *The Times*

'The eloquent clarity of this book is a delight. It makes a grim subject exciting.' *Australian Book Review*

'A wonderful book...Flannery's erudite, engaging text...is a must for optimists and pessimists alike.' *New Scientist*

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

Rights Held: World

Option Publishers: Canada—HarperCollins Canada; France—Buchet/Chastel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Corbaccio; Romania—Seneca; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Penguin Press; USA—Grove Atlantic.

Non-Fiction

October 2018

Manuscript available
March 2018

Sunlight and Seaweed: An Argument for How to Feed, Power and Clean Up the World by Tim Flannery

Life in 2050 can be much better than it is today, and the state of our biodiversity and ecosystems much improved. But hope is not enough. We need a coherent vision of the future that is capable of guiding investments in clean technologies so that hope can be turned into concrete reality.

Acclaimed scientist Tim Flannery investigates technologies being developed to address our most pressing environmental threats in a book that presents a positive future for us and our planet. Climate change, food production and toxic pollution are huge challenges, but, as Flannery shows, we already have innovative, practical and inspiring solutions.

Solar energy has, until now, been limited to supplying power only when the sun is shining. But new technology using concentrated sunlight to produce intense heat energy that can be effectively stored overcomes this problem, providing clean renewable power around the clock. Further, the large amounts of power produced can be used beyond our current power demands to tackle the issue of feeding the world's growing population—by enabling energy-intense methods of cleaning up polluted land for agricultural production.

With accessible and engaging explanations of the fascinating science behind these technologies, as well as accounts of the systems already in operation around the world, *Sunlight and Seaweed* is an enlightening and uplifting view of the future.

'Wonderfully thought provoking...Well informed and sobering.' *Australian*

'Accessible and engaging...An enlightening and uplifting view of the future.' *Readings*

'Sunlight and Seaweed offers an excellent model for how best to communicate the challenges posed by climate change without turning readers off with unrelieved messages of doom.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

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

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

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August 2017

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Finished copies available

How We Desire by Carolin Emcke

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

How We Desire is an enthralling essay about gender, sexuality and love by one of Germany's most admired journalists. It's about growing up, about discovering the contours of desire and difference, about coming to understand that we 'slip into norms the way we slip into clothes, putting them on because they're laid out ready for us'.

For Emcke, adolescence was about discovering that sex was not discussable. There was no conversation about different forms of touch, different kinds of love. In telling her own story, Emcke draws back the veil on how we experience desire, no matter what our sexual orientation.

Asking questions about our willingness to acknowledge the shifting sands of sexual identity, Emcke examines how prejudice against homosexuality has survived its decriminalization in the west. And she tells the story of her own joyous discovery of a language in which she can articulate her sense of difference.

How We Desire covers some of the same terrain as Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*, and is an homage to the radical magic and liberating tenderness of desire itself.

'Delicate and vulnerable, angry, passionate, clever and thoughtful. An amazing work.'

Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

Carolin Emcke was born in 1967. She studied philosophy, politics and history in London, Frankfurt and at Harvard. From 1998 to 2013 she reported from war and crisis zones including Kosovo, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Gaza and Haiti, mainly writing for *Die Zeit*. She is the author of a number of books, and has won the Theodor Wolff Prize, the Otto Brenner Prize for critical journalism, and the German Reporter Prize. In 2016 she received the German Book Trade's Peace Prize, which has also been won by Svetlana Alexievich, Orhan Pamuk and Susan Sontag.

Imogen Taylor is a freelance literary translator based in Berlin. She is the translator of *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango, *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit and *The Trap* by Melanie Raabe.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: S. Fischer Verlag

Non-Fiction

June 2018

Manuscript available
November 2017

The Story of Shit by Midas Dekkers

TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH BY NANCY FOREST-FLIER

If shit is dirty, I'm a dirty old man. All day long, hour after hour, year in and year out, I walk around with shit in my belly, warm and swaying like a foetus in a womb. And so do you. You and I, we're walking barrels of shit, chamber pots on legs. And under their tweed skirts and pleated trousers, the classiest ladies and gentlemen also carry intestines full of shit with them. No big deal.

We're very discreet. We disappear into a small room, perform the task, flush, wash and reappear as if nothing happened. Of course, hygiene is necessary—some faecal bacteria, if re-ingested, can cause very serious problems—and unpleasant aromas are best kept at bay.

But in all this hygienic discretion have we lost touch with an integral part of ourselves—something as much a part of living as breathing, eating and sleeping? Something enriching, creative and even enjoyable.

In *The Story of Shit*, Dutch biologist Midas Dekkers presents a personal, cultural, scientific, historical and environmental account of shit, from the digestive process and the fascinating workings of the gut, to the act of defecation and toilet etiquette. With irreverent humour and a compelling narrative style, Dekkers brings a refreshing, entertaining and illuminating perspective to a once taboo subject.

'A masterful writing style that is not only unique in biology but without equal in the whole of Dutch literature. *The Story of Shit* shows Dekkers once again to be in possession of a golden pen.' *New Scientist*

'For those who aren't aware: we are not our brain, we are our gut. There is always that unmistakable Midas touch: his brilliant, sharp style makes it hard to suppress a laugh or a smile.' *Medisch Contact*

Midas Dekkers is a bestselling Dutch writer and biologist. His books include *Physical Exercise*, *The Way of All Flesh*, *Dearest Pet* and *The Larva*.

Nancy Forest-Flier is a Dutch-to-English translator. She was educated in the USA and now lives in the Netherlands.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Shared Stories, Netherlands

Non-Fiction

| February 2018

| Manuscript available

The Dead Still Cry Out by Helen Lewis

Helen Lewis was just a child when she found an old suitcase hidden in a cupboard at home. Inside it were the most horrifying photographs she'd ever seen. She put them back, shut the suitcase and never told anyone.

The photographs—a record of the atrocities committed at Bergen-Belsen—belonged to her father, combat cameraman Mike Lewis. Many years after her parents had died, when uncomfortable memories of her childhood began to surface, Helen dug out the suitcase and began to piece together the story of her father's life.

Michael Weisenberg grew up in London's East End, the child of Jewish refugees who had fled the pogroms in Poland. In his late teens, as the tide of antisemitism rose everywhere in Europe—including England—Mike changed his surname to Lewis. When war was declared, he enlisted, and volunteered for the newly formed parachute brigade. He filmed the battle for Arnhem in 1944, and in the following year documented the liberation of the camp at Bergen-Belsen, where 60,000 starving prisoners were discovered—along with 13,000 unburied corpses. Those first images shot by Mike Lewis and others like him shocked the world.

In *The Dead Still Cry Out* Helen uses photographs and film stills to reconstruct her father's life, while exploring broader questions too: what it means to belong; how history and memory are shaped—and how anyone can deny the Holocaust in the face of such powerful evidence.

Helen Lewis is a writer, editor and researcher who was born in the UK and moved to Australia when she was twenty-one. She lives in the hinterland of Eden, New South Wales, where she indulges her other love, gardening. She holds a doctorate from the University of Technology Sydney for her work on her father's role as a combat cameraman at Bergen-Belsen.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

June 2018

Manuscript available
December 2017

Staying: A Memoir by Jessie Cole

Jessie Cole grew up in paradise, a magical place of her father's making. Free to roam as they pleased, Jessie and her brother, Jake, felt at one with the plants and animals whose rainforest home they shared. They had each other, and parents who adored them, and two mysterious, beautiful, clever half-sisters, Billie and Zoe, who came to visit every holidays. But when Jessie was on the cusp of adolescence, tragedy struck.

The suicide of her sister Zoe exposed the cracks in the facade of their happy, loving family. Jessie's father—a psychiatrist—slowly went mad, becoming increasingly erratic and violent, until Jessie, Jake and their mother had no choice but to leave. When her father killed himself too, in the rainforest home they had shared, Jessie was devastated. It was only when she returned there, with children of her own, that her wounds began to heal.

This beautifully written, heartbreaking memoir asks the question: *What happens to those who are left behind when someone takes their own life?* It's about the importance of home, and family, and forgiveness—and finding peace in a place where we've suffered pain.

Praise for Jessie Cole's fiction:

'A compelling and satisfying read; its sensuality and earthiness give a mythical quality to the regional Australian landscape.' *Readings*

'*Deeper Water* delivers on its title's promise of immersion, sensuality, and the liminal...a compelling examination of our relationship with nature.' *Australian Book Review*

'It's exquisite writing. Graceful, revealing, pitch perfect. Cole is an author who pays sharp attention to the world around her.' *Australian*

Jessie Cole grew up in an isolated valley in northern New South Wales and lived a bush childhood of creek swimming and barefoot free-range adventuring. Her first novel, *Darkness on the Edge of Town*, was shortlisted for the 2013 ALS Gold Medal and longlisted for the Dobbie Literary Award. Her second novel, *Deeper Water*, was released in 2014 to much critical acclaim.

Rights Held: ANZ and US

Other Rights: Jenny Darling Associates

Non-Fiction

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May 2018

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Manuscript available

The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders by Stuart Kells

Libraries are much more than mere collections of books. The best are magical, fabled places. This book explores the libraries, real and fictitious, whose fame has become part of the cultural wealth they are designed to preserve.

Some still exist today, such as the Bodleian, the Folger and the Smithsonian; some are lost, such as Aristotle's library, and those of Herculaneum and Alexandria; some have been sold or dispersed, such as the Cottonian, Roxburghe and Ashley libraries; and some never existed, such as the libraries of Middle-earth, Umberto Eco's mediaeval library labyrinth in *The Name of the Rose* and libraries imagined by John Donne, François Rabelais and Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

Stuart Kells tells the stories of these and other libraries—their creators, their prizes, their secrets and their fate. Ancient libraries, grand baroque libraries, scientific libraries, memorial libraries, personal libraries, clandestine libraries.

The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders is a fascinating and engaging exploration of libraries as places of beauty and wonder; a celebration of books as objects and of bookish spaces; and an account of how the idea of the library continues to possess our imagination.

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

'Almost like poetry, a rich ode to all things books and everything we love about them. The enjoyment and engagement is so palpable you can almost taste it and Kells proves to be the perfect guide through the subject matter and history.' *AU Review*

Stuart Kells is an author, bibliophile and book-trade historian. His 2015 book, *Penguin and the Lane Brothers*, was shortlisted for the Ashurst Business Literature Prize. An authority on rare books, he has written and published on many aspects of print culture and the book world. Stuart lives in Melbourne with his family. He is writing a book about Shakespeare's library.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Italy—Mondadori Libri; Japan—Hayakawa Publishing; Korea—Hyeonamsa; North America—Counterpoint.

Non-Fiction

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September 2017

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Finished copies available

Snooze: The Lost Art of Sleep by Michael McGirr

From the bestselling author of *Things You Get for Free* and *Bypass* comes *Snooze*, a revised edition of the entertaining and enlightening *The Lost Art of Sleep* (2009).

Michael McGirr always had trouble sleeping, but the arrival of twins made him realise he'd never known true exhaustion. While he celebrated these small children who brought him so much joy, he also found himself desperately searching for a few extra winks a night.

In *Snooze*, McGirr delves into the mysterious world of sleep: its many benefits, its stubborn elusiveness and what our brains get up to while we're in bed. He takes readers on a tour through the odd sleep patterns of some of history's greatest figures, including Plato and Homer, Shakespeare and Dickens, Florence Nightingale (who slept a great deal) and Thomas Edison (who hardly slept at all). He looks at the demise of sleep in our ever more fragmented world, and what that means for everyone from average sleepers to those with serious sleep disorders.

A profound and humorous exploration of the precious resource of sleep—and the causes and consequences of getting too little of it—*Snooze* is the perfect book for sleepless nights.

'A shrewd and warm deliberation on a fascinating and underappreciated topic.' *Age*

'He successfully integrates autobiography, literary criticism, historical anecdote, popular science, low-key theology, and lucid social commentary...There are many quiet joys in this book.' *Australian*

'An eyes-wide-open look at the penumbral world of sleep, where we spend so much of our time without quite knowing why...A good book to curl up with while pondering the mysteries of Morpheus.' *Kirkus*

'A former priest examines the way shut-eye—or lack thereof it—affects us on and off the pillow. If you're among the flock who count sheep most nights, these pages reassure.' *O, The Oprah Magazine*

Michael McGirr is the bestselling author of *Things You Get for Free* and *Bypass: The Story of a Road*. He has reviewed more than nine hundred books for the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Canberra Times*; his short fiction has appeared in numerous publications in Australia and overseas; and he has been the publisher of *Eureka Street* and fiction editor of *Meanjin*. Michael's expertise in the area of sleep derives not only from having several sleep disorders but also from having three children.

Rights Held: World (excl. North America)

Rights Sold: Korea—Hyeonamsa

Non-Fiction

| June 2017

| Finished copies available

***Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love* by Mark Raphael Baker**

Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love is a moving memoir of Mark's wife of thirty-two years, Kerry Baker, who died ten months after her diagnosis, aged fifty-five, from stomach cancer. It is a portrait of grief, of a marriage and of a family.

As Mark sifts through photos and home movies, his wife gets sicker, and his search for clues about their relationship grows more desperate. In her last days Kerry reveals her traumatic childhood to Mark for the first time. She emerges as the rock of the family, a brave and wise woman, clear-eyed about her treatment, focused on finding the path to a peaceful death. Paradoxically, her dying brings the couple back to the intensity of their first love. In the tradition of Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air* and Cory Taylor's remarkable memoir, *Dying*, Mark Baker's *Thirty Days* is an inspirational book about death and dying.

'A lament, a wail, a raw confession of suffering and regret, but most of all, of love.' Ramona Koval

***The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey through Memory* by Mark Raphael Baker**

WINNER, NSW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARD

A love story and a detective story, a study of history and of memory, this spellbinding work explores a son's confrontation with the terror of his parents' childhood during the Holocaust. Baker's father, Yossel, was imprisoned in some of the most notorious concentration camps while his mother, Genia, was forced to hide for several years once the Jews of her village had been murdered. When the family revisits the villages and death camps familiar to his parents, the emotional pressure for Genia and Yossel becomes intense and Baker's probing of their past arouses profound reactions.

Inspired by Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi, *The Fiftieth Gate* is a journey from despair and death towards hope and life.

'Baker does with memory, what Rembrandt does with light. He uses it to model, to imagine, to illuminate, to astonish.' Phillip Adams, ABC Radio National

Mark Raphael Baker is Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the School at Monash University, Melbourne. As well as *The Fiftieth Gate: A Journey Through Memory*, a seminal book on his parents' experience during the Holocaust, Mark has written a compelling memoir, *Thirty Days: A Journey to the End of Love*, about the recent death of his wife.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

|

August 2017

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Finished copies available

Stories: The Collected Short Fiction by Helen Garner

This handsome hardback edition celebrates the seventy-fifth birthday of one of Australia's most loved authors. *Stories* brings Helen Garner's short fiction together into one volume. Her most loved stories are here: 'Postcards from Surfers', 'My Hard Heart', 'A Happy Story'.

Garner's focus is on love and longing, on the pain, darkness and joy of life, on the unexpected events, no matter how small, that transform us.

Her mastery of the story is revealed in the sharpness of her observation, her honesty and humour, her ear for speech and the rhythm of her prose.

'Garner is a natural storyteller.' James Wood, *New Yorker*

Fiction | October 2017 | Finished copies available

True Stories: The Collected Short Non-fiction by Helen Garner

True Stories collects Helen Garner's short non-fiction written over a period of almost fifty years.

This marvellous book traverses the whole landscape of her writing life. It includes her most famous essays about family, about love and sex and death, about growing up and growing old, about birth and marriage and separation, about travel and staying home.

Garner's command of the form is extraordinary. Her direct gaze, her honesty, humility and humour, her instinct for the right word and for the shape of a sentence, reveal themselves in essay after essay.

'Garner's prose is so very pleasant to read—dry, relaxed sentences that calmly reach out towards loveliness...[Her] willingness to look at and truly see the failures of human behaviour, in herself no less than in others, that lends her work its power.' *Guardian*

Non-Fiction | October 2017 | Finished copies available

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 and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award. Her most recent book, *Everywhere I Look*, won the 2017 Indie Book Award for Non-Fiction. She lives in Melbourne.

The Extremely Weird Thing That Happened In Huggabie Falls

by Adam Cece

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

Kipp Kindle always knew his family wasn't like other families. It was just as well they lived in the town of Huggabie Falls, because Huggabie Falls was the weirdest place on earth. On top of all the regular weird things that happened in Huggabie Falls, one day an extremely weird thing happened. It was by far the weirdest thing that has ever happened anywhere. It was so weird that someone should write a book about it, and somebody has, and you are reading it.

Kipp Kindle's family is a bit different, so they fit in well in the weirdest place on earth. The town of Huggabie Falls is also home to Dutch werewolves, vegetarian piranhas, a bottomless river and a topless hill—and all of the streets have the same name.

But when an *extremely* weird thing happens one day, Kipp and his friends must battle with a creepy scientist, a Portuguese lab-rat and far too much strawberry jam in order to foil an evil plot and save their families—and their town.

The winner of the 2017 Text Prize is a laugh-out-loud madcap adventure that turns weirdness upside down.

Adam Cece published his first children's book, *Wesley Booth Super Sleuth*, in 2015, and he has another book due for release in 2018. He is a member of a number of writing organisations and is a manuscript assessor for the SA Writers Centre.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Italy—Salani; Spain—Duomo.

Children's Fiction

| April 2018

| Manuscript available

The Text Prize has unearthed extraordinary, multi-award-winning novels for children and young adults and launched international publishing careers.

Praise for the Text Prize:

'The Text Prize is going from strength to strength...Winners that push the boundaries of young-adult fiction.' *Books+Publishing*

'Quickly building a glowing reputation.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

Beautiful Mess by Claire Christian

WINNER, 2016 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

Since Ava lost Kelly, things haven't been going so well. Even before she gets thrown out of school for shouting at the principal, there's the simmering rage and all the weird destructive choices. The only thing going right for Ava is her job at Magic Kebab.

Which is where she meets Gideon. Skinny, shy, anxious Gideon. A poet and collector of vinyl records with an aversion to social media. He lives in his head. She lives in her grief. The only people who can help them move on with their lives are each other.

The winner of the 2016 Text Prize, *Beautiful Mess* is funny and sad and a bit screwed up and romantic and absolutely real. In other words, a lot like life.

'Beautiful Mess is a stunning read. Claire Christian has delivered a raw and moving debut with beautifully flawed, well-drawn characters who you can't help but fall in love with.' Gabrielle Tozer, award-winning author of *The Intern*, *Faking It* and *Remind Me How This Ends*

'A raw, affecting coming-of-age story that starts a conversation about mental health.' *Readings*

'An honest and searing depiction of the flow-on effects of grief...A book with a lot of heart and hope and a useful compass for teens facing similar issues.' *Kids' Book Review*

'Bittersweet and funny...A beautiful book with important words to say about mental health, love and brokenness.' *Paper Fury*

Claire Christian is a writer, podcaster and theatre maker from Brisbane. In 2013 she was named one of Queensland's 125 Leading Women by YWCA Queensland. She has several plays available through Playlab Press, including her solo work *Talking to Brick Walls*, as well as *Hedonism's Second Album* and *The Landmine is Me*, both co-written with the winner of the 2014 Text Prize, David Burton.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Netherlands—Lemniscaat

Young-Adult Fiction | September 2017 | Finished copies available

The Road to Winter by Mark Smith

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

But Finn’s isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose is a Siley—an asylum seeker—and she has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her sister, Kas. Rose is desperate, sick, and needs Finn’s help. Kas is still missing somewhere out in the bush.

And Ramage wants the girls back—at any cost.

Rights Held: World

Young-Adult Fiction | July 2016 | Finished copies available

Wilder Country by Mark Smith

Kas, Willow and Finn have survived a brutal winter on limited food stores, shellfish gathered from the reef, and the occasional trapped rabbit. But although spring brings new opportunities, the three friends are no longer safe at Angowrie. Ramage will be back: he has an old score to settle with Finn and, as far as he is concerned, Kas is his property.

Storm damage has left roads and tracks blocked, but that’s the least of the difficulties Finn, Kas and Willow face as they set out for the valley, where they hope to find support to confront the tyrannical Ramage and his gang of Wilders.

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

Rights Held: World

Young-Adult Fiction | September 2017 | Finished copies available

Mark Smith works with teenage boys in his job running an outdoor-education residential campus on the west coast of Victoria. His writing has won a number of awards and has appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Review of Australian Fiction* and the *Big Issue*.

The Boy from Earth by Darrell Pitt

'No child from Earth has ever been chosen to attend the Galactic Space Academy.' The hologram's eyes narrowed on Bobby. 'Until now.'

'Why me?' Bobby's voice went up a notch.

'It's a mystery to me,' the hologram assured him.

'What if I don't want to go?'

'You may reject our offer,' the hologram said. 'But it would reflect badly on Earth. Not that people are thinking Earth is backward and primitive,' he hastened to add. 'But if they were thinking it, well, they would be thinking it even more. If you know what I mean.'

Twelve-year-old Bobby Baxter's not the bravest kid on Earth. His list of things that scare him is up to number 689, and includes lightning, crowds, spiders, alien abductions, crocodiles, falling from great heights, falling from small heights and eggs. Bobby hasn't even left the building he lives in since he went to Pluto on a holiday with his mum and dad and their ship was attacked by Skarians. So when he learns that he's the first Earthling ever chosen to attend the Galactic Space Academy—light years away from home—he's terrified.

The training program at the GSA is tough. If you pass, you're accepted into the Space League—the greatest force for good the universe has ever seen. If you don't, you're flushed out of the airlock as space garbage. But that's not Bobby's only worry. Someone at the GSA is trying to get rid of him—and that's only the first step in a much bigger, more sinister plot. With the future of the universe at stake, it's time for Bobby to face his fears.

Praise for Darrell Pitt and *A Toaster on Mars*:

'This pseudo-science-fiction book provides laughs of all types: readers will progress from snickers to giggles to, finally, belly laughs and shouts of outrage.' *Kirkus Reviews*

*'This satirical, quirky sci-fi adventure might appeal to fans of Douglas Adams' well-loved *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.'* *Booklist*

Darrell Pitt is the author of *A Toaster on Mars* and the Jack Mason Adventures, a series of five novels including *The Firebird Mystery* (a Notable book in the 2015 CBCA awards) and, most recently, *The Lost Sword*. He lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Children's Fiction

March 2018

Manuscript available
October 2017

Australian Classics

We launched the Text Classics series in May 2012. Since then we have brought some extraordinary writers from Australia and New Zealand to international attention, including Elizabeth Harrower, Kenneth Cook, Kenneth Mackenzie, Gerald Murnane and Madeleine St John.

***The Dyehouse* by Mena Calthorpe introduced by Fiona McFarlane**

First published in 1961, *The Dyehouse* is a devastating novel set in an era when work was being radically transformed by new industrial technologies. Mena Calthorpe—who herself worked in a textile factory—takes us inside this world of underlings, middlemen and bosses. She has a tragic apprehension of its harsh sexual politics, and an intimate understanding of the price her characters will pay for the rewards of their labour.

Rights Held: World

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

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback mining town of Bundanyabba, planning to stay overnight before catching the plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five and he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original and the greatest outback horror story. It was made into a film in 1971, arguably the greatest film ever made in Australia. Lost for many years, the restored film was re-released to acclaim in 2009.

‘A true dark classic of Australian literature.’ J. M. Coetzee

Rights Held: World

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

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

***The Long Prospect* by Elizabeth Harrower introduced by Fiona McGregor**

Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, twelve-year-old Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

‘I can’t recommend this brilliant, austere writer strongly enough...Harrower is funny and elegant and devastating.’ James Wood, *New Yorker*

Rights Held: World

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Germany—Hanser Verlag

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

WINNER, 1990 BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD

This was life: no sooner had you built yourself your little raft and felt secure than it came to pieces under you and you were swimming again.

Born into a world without welcome, Isobel observes it as warily as an alien trying to pass for a native. Her collection of imaginary friends includes the Virgin Mary and Sherlock Holmes. Later she meets Byron, W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot. Isobel is not so much at ease with the flesh-and-blood people she meets, and least of all with herself, until a lucky encounter and a little detective work reveal her identity and her true situation in life.

I for Isobel, a modern-day Australian classic, was followed by *Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop*, winner of the *Age* Book of the Year Award.

Rights Held: World

To view the full list, visit www.textpublishing.com.au