## **The Text Publishing Company**



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## **Recent Acquisitions**

## Children and Young Adult

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

## Adult

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

## **Recent Publications**

## Children and Young Adult

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

### Adult

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

## The Burrow by Melanie Cheng

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

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

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

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

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

Praise for Australia Day and Room for a Stranger by Melanie Cheng:

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

'An astonishingly deft and incisive writer. With economy and elegance, she creates a dazzling mosaic of contemporary life, of how we live now. Hers is a compelling new voice in Australian literature.' Christos Tsiolkas, author of *The Slap* 

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

Fiction September 2024 Manuscript available

One Another by Gail Jones

At Cambridge University, in the summer of 1992, Australian student Helen is completing her

thesis on Joseph Conrad. But she is distracted by a charming and dangerous lover, Justin, and

by a ghost manuscript, her anti-thesis, which she has left on a train.

Haunted by this loss and others, by Justin's destructive tendencies and by details of Conrad's

life, Helen is unmoored. And then the drama of the lost manuscript sets in motion a series of

events—with possibly fatal consequences.

In her masterly new novel, Gail Jones traverses the borders between art and life, between life

and death, in a journey through literary history and emotional landscapes. Elegantly written,

deftly crafted, One Another covers new territories of grief, memory and narrative.

Praise for Gail Jones and Salonika Burning:

'Gail Jones has to be one of Australia's most consistently impressive writers. Her prose

is evocative, her plots meaningful and her characters drawn with considerable care.'

Guardian

'For decades, Gail Jones has been writing with more intelligence, verve and sensuous

delight in the world than most of her peers.' Saturday Paper

'In her exquisite ninth novel, Gail Jones demonstrates, once again, why she is widely

regarded as one of Australia's finest novelists working today.' West Australian

Gail Jones is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. She is the author of two short-story

collections and nine novels, and her work has been translated into several languages and has

received numerous literary awards. Originally from Western Australia, she now lives in

Sydney.

**Rights Held:** World

Rights Sold: ANZ Audio—Bolinda

Fiction

March 2024

Manuscript available

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

Sanctuary by Garry Disher

A thrilling new standalone from one of Australia's most esteemed crime authors

Grace is good at theft. She was taught by experts and she's been practising since she was a kid. She specialises in small, high value items—stamps, watches—and she knows her *Jaeger*-

*LeCoultres* from her *Patek Philippes*. But it's not the life she wants.

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

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

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

Praise for Garry Disher:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rights Held:** World excl North America **Other Rights:** Jenny Darling & Associates

Option Publishers: ANZ Audio—Wavesound; Germany—Unionsverlag; UK & Comm (excl

ANZ & Canada)—Viper

Fiction April 2024 Manuscript available Dec

The Opposite of Success by Eleanor Elliott Thomas

Lorrie Hope has a steady job, a partner she adores and two wonderful kids. All she wants is to get

promoted, love her body and end global warming. By Friday. What could possibly go wrong?

Council employee Lorrie Hope has a great partner, two adorable kids and absolutely no idea

what to do with her life. This Friday, she's hoping for change: it's launch day for her big work

project, and she's applied for a promotion she's not entirely sure she wants. Meanwhile, her

best friend, Alex, is stuck in a mess involving Lorrie's rakish ex, Ruben—or, more accurately,

his wife. Oh, and Ruben's boss happens to be the mining magnate Sebastian Glup, who is

sponsoring Lorrie's project...

As the day spirals from bad to worse to frankly unhinged, Lorrie and Alex must reconsider

what they can expect from life, love and middle management. The Opposite of Success is a

riotously funny debut novel about work, motherhood, friendship—and the meaning of failure

itself.

'Like a brilliant conversation, The Opposite of Success is witty, honest and full of natural

charisma.' Jessica Au, author of Cold Enough for Snow

'The Opposite of Success is full of the riches of life: joy, hilarity, intelligence, stupidity

and bad behaviour. I loved it.' Sophie Cunningham, author of This Devastating Fever

'Raucously funny and gloriously, painfully real. Think Fleabag as an Australian mum.

It's utterly endearing, I never wanted it to end!' Emily Bitto, author of Wild Abandon

'Enjoyable fun...Perfectly encapsulates the anxieties of modern and

motherhood...Definitely a page turner.' Ramona Magazine

**Eleanor Elliott Thomas** worked for many years as a lawyer before devoting herself to writing

full-time. She is a graduate of the Faber Writing Academy's 'Writing a Novel' course, in which

she was taught by Sophie Cunningham and Emily Bitto. She lives with her partner and two

daughters in Naarm/Melbourne. *The Opposite of Success* is her first novel.

eleanorelliottthomas.substack.com

Rights Held: World

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

Fiction

October 2023

Finished copies available

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

Restless Dolly Maunder by Kate Grenville

Dolly Maunder was born at the end of the nineteenth century, when society's long-locked

doors were starting to creak ajar for women. Growing up in a poor farming family in country

New South Wales but clever, energetic and determined, Dolly spent her restless life pushing

at those doors.

Most women like her have disappeared from view, remembered only in family photo albums

as remote figures in impossible clothes, or maybe for a lemon-pudding recipe handed down

through the generations. Restless Dolly Maunder brings one of these women to life as

someone we can recognise and whose struggles we can empathise with.

In this compelling new novel, Kate Grenville uses family memories to imagine her way into

the life of her grandmother. This is the story of a woman, working her way through a world

of limits and obstacles, who was able—if at a cost—to make a life she could call her own. Her

battles and triumphs helped to open doors for the women who came after.

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

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

'Nobody writes historical fiction like Kate Grenville. Again and again she has brought

history—both the official records and the messy tensions in the margins—to

life...Women like Dolly Maunder rarely make it into the history books. Here, she's

honoured by one of our best.' Qantas Magazine

Kate Grenville is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her international bestseller The

Secret River was awarded local and overseas prizes, has been adapted for the stage and as an

acclaimed television miniseries, and is now a much-loved classic. Grenville's other novels

include Sarah Thornhill, The Lieutenant, Dark Places and the Orange Prize winner The Idea of

Perfection. Her recent non-fiction includes One Life: My Mother's Story, The Case Against

Fragrance and Elizabeth Macarthur's Letters. Her most recent novel is the bestselling A Room

*Made of Leaves.* She has also written three books about the writing process. In 2017 Grenville

was awarded the Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature.

kategrenville.com.au

**Rights Held:** World

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

**Fiction** July 2023 Finished copies available The Conversion by Amanda Lohrey

The conversion was Nick's idea.

Nick: so persuasive, ever the optimist, still boyishly handsome. Always on a quest to design

the perfect environment, convinced it could heal a wounded soul.

The conversion was Nick's idea, but it's Zoe who's here now, in a valley of old coalmines and

new vineyards, working out how to live in a deconsecrated church.

What to do with all that vertical space, those oppressive stained-glass windows? Can a church

become a home or, even with all its vestiges removed, will it remain forever what it was

intended to be?

For Zoe, alone and troubled by a ghost from the recent past, the little church seems empty of

the possibilities Nick is enthused about. She is stuck in purgatory—until a determined young

teacher pushes her way into Zoe's life, convinced of her own peculiar mission for the building.

Melanie has something of Nick's unquenchable zeal about her. And it's clear to Zoe that she

won't take no for an answer.

The Conversion is a startling novel about the homes we live in: how we shape them, and how

they shape us. Like Amanda Lohrey's bestselling and multi-award-winning The Labyrinth, it

is distinguished by its deep intelligence, eye for human drama and effortless readability.

Praise for *The Labyrinth*:

'Lohrey's writing is excellent, and she mixes pastoral and gothic tropes beautifully.'

Books+Publishing

'My novel of the year, full stop...A story told without a syllable of excess sentiment or

false feeling, yet which sails full square into the mystic.' Australian

Amanda Lohrey lives in Tasmania and writes fiction and non-fiction. She has taught at the

University of Tasmania, the University of Technology Sydney and the University of

Queensland. Amanda is a regular contributor to the *Monthly* magazine and a former senior

fellow of the Australia Council's Literature Board. She received the 2012 Patrick White Award.

The Labyrinth (2021), her eighth work of fiction, won the Miles Franklin Literary Award, a

Prime Minister's Literary Award, a Tasmanian Literary Award and the Voss Literary Prize.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction November 2023 Finished copies available

Firelight by John Morrissey

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

A controversial business tycoon leaves his daughter a mysterious inheritance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

Fiction August 2023 Finished copies available

Backwaters by Emma Ling Sidnam

Winner, Michael Gifkins Prize, New Zealand, 2022

Laura is tired of being asked where she's really from. Her family has lived in Aotearoa New

Zealand for four generations, and she's ambivalent at best about her Chinese heritage. But

when she's asked to write about the Chinese New Zealander experience for a work project,

Laura finds herself drawn to the diary of her great-great-grandfather Ken, a market gardener

in the early years of the British colony.

With the help of her beloved grandpa, Laura begins to write a version of Ken's story. She

 $imagines\ his\ youth\ in\ Guangzhou\ and\ his\ journey\ to\ a\ new\ land-unaware\ that\ soon,\ spurred$ 

on by a family secret that comes to light, she will go on her own journey of self-discovery,

sexuality and reckoning with the past.

A tender, nuanced novel about the bittersweet search for belonging, Backwaters marks the

arrival of a brilliant new talent.

'The past and present carry out intimate conversations in this compelling and beautiful

work. The rhythms of modern city life speak with the deep histories of Chinese lives in

Aotearoa in ways that give a sense of walking backwards into the future. Sidnam's

magnificent novel shows us that the past is living, evolving and all around us. It is an

absolute joy to read.' Pip Adam, author of Nothing to See

'Backwaters is a brilliant book that encompasses the often forgotten and trivialised

immigrant experience. Sidnam weaves the stories of Laura and Ken with aching

delicacy and tenderness, with humour and wit. Every one of us will find comfort and

familiarity in this book, from the very beginning until the bittersweet end.' Khadro

Mohamed, author of We're All Made of Lightning

Emma Ling Sidnam is a Wellington-based writer and lawyer. As a fourth-generation Asian

New Zealander, she is passionate about representation and ensuring that all voices are heard.

She is an award-winning slam poet and her work has been published in the Spinoff, Capital,

Newsroom and the anthologies A Clear Dawn and Middle Distance. In 2022, she was awarded

the prestigious Michael Gifkins Prize for *Backwaters*.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction October 2023 Finished copies available

To the River by Vikki Wakefield

How long can you hide the truth?

The Kelly family has always been trouble. When a fire in a remote caravan community kills nine people, including 17-year-old Sabine Kelly's mother and sister, Sabine confesses to the murders. Shortly after, she escapes custody and disappears. Recently made redundant from marriage, motherhood and her career, journalist Rachel Weidermann 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.

Praise for After You Were Gone:

'Gripping, propulsive, and unbearably tense – the best psychological thriller I've read

in years.' Mark Brandi, author of The Others

'Beautifully written and superbly unnerving, *After You Were Gone* is the very best kind of thriller: tender and wise as well as pulse-poundingly tense, with characters so real you want to linger with them even as you race through the pages, desperate to find out

what happens. Absolutely wonderful, I could not have loved or admired it more.' Anna

Downes, author of *The Safe Place* 

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

**Rights Sold:** World English (excl ANZ)—Bedford Square Publishers

Fiction March 2024 Manuscript available

Addition by Toni Jordan

Now a major motion picture starring Teresa Palmer and Joe Dempsie, produced by Made Up Stories

Pty Ltd & Buon Giorno Productions Pty Ltd

Grace Lisa Vandenburg counts. The letters in her name (19). The steps she takes every

morning to the local café (920); the number of poppy seeds on her slice of orange cake, which

dictates the number of bites she'll take to finish it. Grace counts everything, because numbers

hold the world together. And she needs to keep an eye on how they're doing.

Seamus Joseph O'Reilly (also a 19, with the sexiest hands Grace has ever seen) thinks she

might be better off without the counting. If she could hold down a job, say. Or open her

kitchen cupboards without conducting an inventory, or make a sandwich containing an

unknown number of sprouts.

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

Her other problem is...he does.

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

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

Beatrix & Fred by Emily Spurr

A bizarre and beautiful tale of an unlikely friendship that questions what it means to be truly human

Beatrix is a loner. She has a love-hate relationship with her one friend, Ray, a hate-hate relationship with everyone else in her office and a genuine attachment to a stuffed canary named Horatio. She drinks alone far too much. Lately she's been finding the edge of the

railway platform dangerously seductive.

Her life needs to change. Then she crosses paths with an old woman who seems to be stalking her, and that's exactly what happens. Eighty-something Fred is smart, earthy, funny and not the harmless elderly lady she appears to be. She is, in fact, quite literally something else. But

what?

When something happens to Ray, Fred decides to reveal herself. And Beatrix realises she has

some agonising choices to make.

Ideal for fans of Ruth Ozeki and Scarlett Thomas, Beatrix & Fred is an off-kilter love story wrapped in a satisfying layer of moral complexity and tied up with a ribbon of sheer fun. Warm, witty, more than slightly weird—it takes the age-old question of what it is to be human

beyond humanity itself.

'A luminous, wise and blackly funny triumph. I adored it.' Toni Jordan, author of

Addition

'A weird and quite wonderful novel...Throughout, Spurr's writing is vivid and energetic...the sense of possibility, grace and hope that the novel ends on brings its

own splendid rewards.' NZ Listener

Originally from Tasmania, Emily Spurr lives in Melbourne with her partner, their twins and the ghost of a deaf, geriatric cat. Emily's first novel A Million Things was shortlisted for the prestigious Victorian Premier's Unpublished Manuscript Prize, voted BookBrowse Best Debut Novel of 2021, longlisted for the 2022 Margaret and Colin Roderick Literary Award and Highly Commended for the 2022 Barbara Jefferis Award. Beatrix & Fred is Emily's second novel.

**Rights Held:** World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—W. F. Howes

**Option Publishers:** Chinese (Complex)—Star East; Chinese (Simplified)—CTPH;

Netherlands—Uitgeverij Mozaiek; Turkey—Konu Kitap

Fiction

September 2023

Finished copies available

# Voyagers: Our Journey into the Anthropocene by Lauren Fuge

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

Come home.

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

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

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

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

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction	August 2024	Manuscript available November
	August 2024	

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

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

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

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

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

'Fabulously entertaining, insanely readable.' Stephen Fry

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

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

Jimmy Barnes

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Wavesound; ANZ large print—Ulverscroft; Czech Republic—Dobrovsky; Estonia—Uhinenud Kirjastus; North American audio—Recorded Books; UK & Comm (excl ANZ & Canada) large print—Ulverscroft; UK & Comm (excl ANZ & Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin Random House UK

Non-Fiction April 2023 Finished copies available

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

thelastdaughter.com.au

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Rights Sold: World English Audio—Bolinda
Other Rights: Omundo Media GmbH Germany

Non-Fiction April 2023 Finished copies available

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

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

Right Story, Wrong Story extends 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
Non-fiction | October 2023 | Finished copies available

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

Its name means giant tooth but everything about it is gigantic, including its pull on the human imagination. Tim and Emma Flannery's *Big Meg* tells the story of the megalodon—what we know about where and how it lived, bred, hunted and became extinct—a shark whose size and ferocity are the stuff of nightmares and whose teeth are probably the most sought after fossils in the world.

The great shark, aka *Otodus megalodon*, the big meg, was the largest predator that ever stalked the planet, weighing somewhere between fifty and 100 tonnes. We know that this leviathan was warm-blooded, that it had the most powerful bite of any animal ever to have lived and that it could open that mighty jaw to a gape of three metres, wide enough to take a killer whale whole.

*Big Meg* is not only the biography of a phenomenal animal, but a compelling exploration of the role it plays in the popular imagination. The megalodon might have been extinct for more than three million years but it flourishes in the stories we tell about it, in our hunt for its relics, and our quest to uncover more of the mystery surrounding it.

Professor Tim Flannery, and his daughter, Emma Flannery, bring the ancient megalodon to life in this fascinating and engaging natural history.

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

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: ANZ audio—Bolinda; North America—Grove Atlantic; Netherlands—Uitgeverij

Noordboek; Spain—GeoPlaneta; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Transworld

Non-fiction August 2023 Finished copies available

Let's Never Speak of This Again by Megan Williams

Winner of the 2022 Text Prize

Ella and I have been best friends since grade one. We can spend hours talking about everything and

nothing. We know each other's greatest fears, things that irrationally annoy us, and ideal career if

money and skill weren't an issue. If there was only one Hartford Bakery brownie left in the whole

world and it was somehow in my possession, Ella is the only person I'd consider sharing it with.

Life is pretty good for sixteen-year-old Abby. Okay, her grandma doesn't remember things

anymore, her relationship with her mum is increasingly strained and she accidently kissed

her cousin's cousin on the weekend, so things aren't exactly perfect. But everything is

manageable with her best friend, Ella, by her side.

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

When new girl Chloe arrives, Abby is pleased to be the one to show her around, to welcome

her to the group. But Abby doesn't imagine Chloe fitting in so well or quite so quickly. And

before long Abby is feeling just a little left out, a little unsure of Ella's friendship. In a moment

of anger and confusion she wishes something bad would happen.

When it does—with tragic consequences—everything shifts again. And Abby has to face her

own feelings and work out what friendship really means.

Megan Williams' brilliant debut novel Let's Never Speak of This Again is a tender, moving, often

funny celebration of female friendship, about the things that test it, and about what matters

most.

Megan Williams won the 2022 Text Prize for her debut YA novel Let's Never Speak of This

*Again.* She lives in Brisbane with her husband and their three children.

**Rights Held:** World

Young Adult Fiction

September 2023

Finished copies available

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

Blind Spot by Robyn Dennison

Shortlisted for the 2021 Text Prize

Dale is grappling with guilt and intense regret after stumbling in on what looked like a rape

in a bedroom at a party. In his drunken confusion, he froze—and then bolted. Why didn't he

do anything? Why didn't he tell someone? He can't stop thinking about what happened. He

wants to make things right—but he doesn't know how.

There's no way he can talk to his dad. His mum walked out four months ago. And his best

friend, Kieran, wouldn't understand. Dale's not even sure Kieran would see a problem with

what happened. Kieran is so casual about sex. And drugs. And life in general. The opposite

of Dale.

Then Max arrives, Dale's cousin. She's older, smart, cool—with her own perspective on Dale's

problem. But she's also suffering from an eating disorder, and Dale once again is powerless

to help.

Meanwhile, Dale meets Brent: he's a year older, and hot. And they hook up. It's intense and

intimate and seems destined to become the perfect relationship. And Dale holds on tight—too

tight.

Blind Spot is a nuanced and insightful exploration of the responsibility that comes with being

a witness, the culpability of inaction and the complex nature of friendship—from a vibrant

and exciting new voice in Australian young adult literature.

Robyn Dennison's fiction has appeared in Australian literary journals, including as a runner-

up for the Overland VU Short Story Prize. She is a PhD candidate at the University of

Melbourne, where she teaches creative writing. Blind Spot, her first novel, was shortlisted for

the Text Prize.

Rights Held: World

Young Adult Fiction

July 2023

Finished copies available

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

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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 Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

23

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.

Emily Gale's books include The Other Side of Summer and its companion novel I Am Out with

Lanterns, the Eliza Boom Diaries, Steal My Sunshine and Girl, Aloud, as well as her recent middle-

grade collaboration with friend and fellow author Nova Weetman, Elsewhere Girls and the

forthcoming Outlaw Girls.

**Rights Held:** World

Middle Grade Fiction

September 2022

Finished copies available

The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, Australia Frankfurt Rights Guide 2023

## **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

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; 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; 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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