

# The Text Publishing Company



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# Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

## Adult

Axat, Federico	Kill the Next One	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Pontas Agency
Bornstein, Michael	The Survivor's Club	ANZ	Rights People
Burnet, Graeme Macrae	His Bloody Project <i>and</i> The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau	ANZ	Saraband
Cheng, Melanie	Australia Day <i>and</i> untitled novel	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Evenson, Brian	A Collapse of Horses	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	David Grossman Literary Agency
Grenville, Kate	The Case Against Fragrance	World	Barbara Mobbs
Haynes, Elizabeth	Never Alone	ANZ	Myriad Editions
Herrera, Yuri	The Transmigration of Bodies, Signs Preceding the End of the World <i>and</i> Trabajos del Reino	ANZ	And Other Stories
Hornung, Eva	The Last Garden	ANZ	Jenny Darling Assoc.
Kurniawan, Eka	Love and Vengeance	ANZ	Pontas Agency
Lianke, Yan	Rixi	ANZ	Susijn Agency
Lovett, Charlie	The Lost Book of the Grail	ANZ	Abner Stein
Macauley, Wayne	Some Tests	World	Melanie Ostel
Ming-Yi, Wu	The Stolen Bicycle	World English	Georgina Capel Assoc.
Simson, Graeme and Anne Buist	<i>Untitled novel</i>	World	Authors
Striano, Salvatore	La Tempesta Di Sasa	World English	Alferje Prestia
Un-su, Kim	The Plotters	World English	Barbara J Zitwer Agency
Weinstein, Alexander	Children of the New World	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Farrar, Straus and Giroux

## Young Adult

Bowe, Steph	Lonely Town	ANZ	Curtis Brown USA
Griffin, Paul	When Friendship Followed Me Home	ANZ	Penguin Random House US
Levithan, David	Someday <i>and</i> Yesterday	ANZ	United Agents
Levithan, David and Nina LaCour	You Know Me Well	ANZ	United Agents
Reyl, Hilary	Martin's Way	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein
Weston, Paula	The Undercurrent	World	Australian Literary Management

# Recent Adult and YA Publications

## Adult

Alexievich, Svetlana	Secondhand Time	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Baram, Nir	Good People	Liepman Agency
Barbery, Muriel	The Life of Elves	Gallimard
Cave, Nick	The Sick Bag Song	Canongate Books
Coetzee, J. M.	The Schooldays of Jesus	David Higham Assoc.
Cook, Kenneth	Fear Is the Rider	Curtis Brown Australia
Gárdos, Péter	Fever at Dawn	Libri
Garner, Helen	Everywhere I Look	Barbara Mobbs
Harrower, Elizabeth	A Few Days in the Country	Author
Jordan, Toni	Our Tiny, Useless Hearts	Author
Klein, Daniel	Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It	Penguin Random House US
Marani, Diego	The Interpreter	Dedalus Books
Marchant, Jo	Cure	Canongate Books
Martel, Yann	The High Mountains of Portugal	Westwood Creative Artists
McBride, Eimear	The Lesser Bohemians	The Wylie Agency
Raabe, Melanie	The Trap	Random House Germany
Spiegelman, Nadja	I'm Supposed to Protect You from All This	The Wylie Agency

## Young Adult

Caddy, Meg	Waer	Author
Cohen-Scali, Sarah	Max	Gallimard
Currie, Christopher	Clancy of the Undertow	Author
Hall, Leanne	Iris and the Tiger	Author
Levithan, David	Another Day	Penguin Random House US
Murray, Martine	Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars	Author
Wakefield, Vikki	Inbetween Days	The Drummond Agency

# *Fear* by Dirk Kurbjuweit

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

*I had always believed my father capable of a massacre. Whenever I heard on the news that there had been a killing spree, I would hold my breath, unable to relax until it was clear that it couldn't have been him. That's paranoid, I know, but it's inevitable if you grew up the way I did.*

Randolph Tiefenthaler insists he had a normal childhood, though his father kept thirty loaded guns in the house. He lives with his wife and children in a beautiful home in Berlin—and his father is in prison for killing the man who lived in the flat below them.

Dieter Tiberius seemed strange but friendly when they first moved in, but soon begins spying on them, accusing them of child abuse, and filing police reports against them. The authorities seem powerless to stop his harassment, even taking Tiberius's side against the law-abiding Tiefenthalers. Randolph feels impotent. A pacifist since childhood, he has no idea how to confront the threat. That's when his father steps in.

As Randolph ponders questions about masculinity, violence and the rule of law, his reliability is slowly but irrevocably called into doubt. The result is an uncomfortable meditation on middle-class privilege—with a shocking conclusion—comparable to sophisticated works of psychological suspense such as Herman Koch's *The Dinner* and Lionel Shriver's *We Need to Talk About Kevin*.

**Dirk Kurbjuweit** was born in 1962 in Wiesbaden, and is head of *Der Spiegel's* Berlin office. He has written seven acclaimed novels, three of which have been turned into film scripts, including *Schussangst* and *Zweier Ohne*. Kurbjuweit has twice received the Egon Erwin Kirsch Award for his journalistic work.

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

**Rights Held:** World (excl. Germany & Hungary)

**Rights Sold:** Canada—House of Anansi; Israel—Kinneret; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ and Canada)—Orion; USA—HarperCollins.

**Other Rights:** Rowohlt Verlag

Fiction

| February 2017

| Manuscript available

# *The Best of Adam Sharp* by Graeme Simsion

A NEW NOVEL FROM THE AUTHOR OF INTERNATIONAL SMASH HIT *THE ROSIE PROJECT*

On the cusp of turning fifty, Adam Sharp likes his life—he's happy with his partner, Claire, he stars in music trivia at quiz night at the pub, he does the occasional IT consulting job—but there's something he can never quite shake off.

And that's his nostalgia for what might have been: his blazing affair more than twenty years before with Angelina Brown, an intelligent and strong-willed actress who teaches him for the first time, as he plays piano and she sings, what it means to find—and then lose—love. How different might his life have been if he hadn't let her walk away?

And then, out of nowhere, Angelina gets in touch. What does she want? Adam has no idea, but this might be his only chance to rekindle his great lost love. Does he dare to live dangerously? Can a song turn out to be true?

*The Best of Adam Sharp* is about happy times and sad memories. It's about playing games for keeps. And it's about the power of the songs we sing when we fall in love.

'[A] poignant glimpse into human relationships—what it is to love and to be loved... how far would you go for a second chance?' *Books+Publishing*

**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.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; France—Editions Robert Laffont; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Hungary—Libri Kiado; Italy—Longanesi; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Poland—Bukowy Las; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—St Martin's Press.

**Option Publishers:** Brazil—Record; Finland—Otava; Indonesia—Gramedia Pustaka Utama; Portugal—Presença; Russia—Sindbad Books; Slovenia—Mladinska Knjiga Založba; Sweden—Forum; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; Thailand—Earnest Publishing; Vietnam—Women's Publishing House.

Fiction | September 2016 | Finished copies available

# *Winter Traffic* by Stephen Greenall

*When it was over, Shark lay dead and Bison was convulsing on the carpet like something beached or epileptic. Sutton was upright but he was breathing like sex, letting adrenaline drain as he had long ago been taught. Bison died and Sutton's breathing went back to normal.*

*Whit he ignored. He left the lounge and rifled fast through the house, searching for the place where Kristy was stashed. She was high in a room set aside for special guests / Sutton knew in an instant she was gagged too tight.*

Sutton doesn't like the three a.m. phone calls. He should change his number—that way Rawson wouldn't have it. Sutton's best mate is a hero cop, but strife flows through him like a highway.

He was supposed to die young. Maybe Millar will do it for him: she's the hot young detective from Internal who still thinks intellect and integrity will take her places. If she doesn't watch her step, she might find out what they are...

This is the story of good dogs living in a bad-news town—a fragrant harbour city where the judges are dead, the vendettas lively and every glittering fortune hides a sin.

An epic novel of corruption, murder and the true nature of justice, *Winter Traffic* announces the arrival of a compelling new voice in literary crime.

**Stephen Greenall** was born in Moree, New South Wales, in 1976. His writing has appeared in *Overland* and he won the 2014 NSW Writers Centre Varuna Fellowship. *Winter Traffic* is his first novel and was commended in the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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February 2017

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Bound proof available

# *The Dyehouse* by Mena Calthorpe

*Only an engine racing past on the nearby railway lines broke the silence. A blast, and then a prolonged cock-a-doodle-doo, cock-a-doodle-doo. To Miss Merton, hesitating at the Dyehouse door, it sounded like victory, or defiance.*

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.

‘In this unforgettable novel, work and workers’ lives are portrayed with visceral, Zola-like clarity.’ Gabrielle Carey

‘[*The Dyehouse*] is executed with a singular combination of charm, grace and tough-mindedness.’ *Meanjin*

‘*The Dyehouse* is an extraordinary book—a true ensemble novel, written with astonishing control and animated by compassionate intelligence. With its indelible Sydney setting, it deserves—more than deserves—to take its place among the great Australian novels about work, and to be celebrated as the 100th Text Classic.’

Fiona McFarlane, author of *The Night Guest*

**Mena Calthorpe** was born in country New South Wales in 1905. After marrying, Calthorpe moved to Sydney and lived for most of her life in the Sutherland Shire. Working in office jobs and writing in her spare time, she was active in literary groups and in the Labor Party, and for some years she was a member of the Communist Party. She wrote three novels, of which *The Dyehouse* was her first. She died in 1996.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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September 2016

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Finished copies available



# Signal Loss by Garry Disher

*'Ask yourself this: here's a meth head, and we're getting fifty grand to waste him. Makes you think, right? All that money?'*

*'Think what?'*

*'Whatever this Valentine character did to piss off Hector's mate, it must have been big. I mean, fifty grand.'*

*'So?'*

*'So he knows something.'*

A small bushfire, but nasty enough for ice cooks to abandon their lab. Fatal, too. But when the bodies in the burnt-out Mercedes prove to be a pair of Sydney hitmen, Inspector Hall Challis's inquiries into a local ice epidemic take a darker turn. Meanwhile, Ellen Destry, head of the new sex-crimes unit, finds herself not only juggling the personalities of her team but also hunting a serial rapist who leaves no evidence behind.

The seventh instalment in Garry Disher's celebrated Peninsula Crimes series sets up new challenges, both professional and personal, for Challis and Destry. And Disher delivers with all the suspense and human complexity for which readers love him.

Praise for Garry Disher:

*'One of my absolute favourite Australian authors...This series is getting better and better.'* Sue Turnbull, ABC Radio

*'Disher cares about [his] interlinked worlds as much as he does about labyrinth plots, fetishised violence and the showy brainwork of his coppers.'* *Australian*

**Garry Disher** has published more than fifty titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, the Wyatt thrillers and the Peninsula Crimes series. He has won awards including the German Crime Prize (twice) and two Ned Kelly Best Crime Novel Awards.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** USA—Soho Press

Fiction

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November 2016

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Finished copies available

# *The Trapeze Act* by Libby Angel

*My mother, whose name was Leda, never shied from telling stories about the Dutch circus pedigree from which she'd sprung. If her ancestors were revealed to be a little unhinged in the process, so be it.*

*I am not being fey when I say some of my ancestors could fly. My middle name, Maartje, comes from Flying Maartje May, the first woman in the world to successfully complete a triple somersault to catch on the flying trapeze, a woman of such reckless grace and beauty that during an 1851 tour of the goldfields, men emerged from the mines to shower her in gold dust.*

Loretta's mother was a trapeze artist in Europe, the star of the famed Rodzirkus Circus, before she walked out on her drunken husband and his debts while on tour in Australia. But a life in 1960s suburban Adelaide was always going to be difficult, even if she does land herself the most handsome young barrister of the town, and Leda's behaviour raises more than a few eyebrows.

Loretta's father, Gilbert Lord, has no interest in his past, but hidden in a wardrobe are the journals of his ivory merchant great-great-grandfather, who led an expedition to Australia's desert interior to search for elephants.

For Loretta, growing up in her mother's flamboyant and often outrageous shadow, life is stifling and at times brutal. But the harder she tries to separate herself from her mother, the more she longs for her attention and love—and the more she finds that the past is inextricably woven into her own life and who she is.

*The Trapeze Act* combines stories of the circus and the doomed ivory expedition through a novel that is at once a heartbreaking tale of the search for acceptance and a celebration of the lustre and magic of life.

**Libby Angel** is an Australian poet whose work has appeared in several journals. *The Trapeze Act* is her first novel.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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January 2017

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Manuscript available

## *The Restorer* by Michael Sala

*Her brother's face was slack, the way it went when something caught his attention, the tip of his tongue resting against his upper lip. He leaned forward and peered down through the hole in the floor. He looked as if he might topple into it with the slightest push.*

After a year apart, Maryanne returns to her husband, Roy, bringing their seven-year-old son Daniel and his teenage sister Freya with her. The family move north from Sydney to Newcastle, where Roy plans to restore a derelict house on the coast.

Roy is happiest when he is busy, working with his hands. As he painstakingly patches the holes in the floorboards and plasters over cracks in the walls, Maryanne believes, for a while, that they can shore up their relationship and rebuild a life together.

But Freya doesn't want a fresh start—she just wants out—and Daniel drifts around the sprawling, run-down house in a dream, infuriating his father, who soon forgets the promises he has made. Some cracks can never be smoothed over, and tension grows between Roy and Maryanne until their uneasy peace is ruptured—with devastating consequences.

Haunting and unforgettable, *The Restorer* is an extraordinary novel from a gifted writer, the winner of the 2013 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. It explores the insufficiency of love, the way trauma shapes identity and the frightening power parents have over the lives of their children.

Praise for Michael Sala:

'Michael Sala has a rare gift: in prose that takes your breath away, he tells a story of heart-rending sorrow without a trace of sentimentality.' Raimond Gaita

**Michael Sala** was born in the Netherlands in 1975 to a Greek father and a Dutch mother, and first came to Australia in the 1980s. He lives in Newcastle on the New South Wales north coast, the former mining town in which *The Restorer* is set. His critically acclaimed debut, *The Last Thread*, a blend of memoir and fiction, was compared to J. M. Coetzee's *Scenes From Provincial Life* and Michael Ondaatje's *Running in the Family*. It won the 2013 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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March 2017

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Manuscript available

## *An Uncertain Grace* by Krissy Kneen

*I know him. I recognise him from the other world, the real world. It is me of course, this man. In the other world I see him smiling at me in the mirror, catch glimpses of him as I walk past shop windows, see him in photographs.*

*Me. Of course it is me.*

*And I am her. I am Liv. And this is my room and it is his room and he, I, put my hand up my, her, skirt. I push the cotton aside with his finger and it hurts.*

Some time in the near future, university lecturer Caspar receives a gift from a former student called Liv: a memory stick containing a virtual narrative. Hooked up to a VR bodysuit, it immerses him once more in the experience of their sexual relationship. But this time it is *her* experience. What was for him an erotic interlude, resonant with the thrill of seduction, was very different for her—and when he has lived it, he will understand how.

Later...A convicted paedophile recruited to Liv's experiment in collective consciousness discovers a way to escape from his own desolation. A synthetic boy, designed by Liv's team to 'love' men who desire adolescents, begins to question the terms of his existence. L, in transition to a state beyond gender, befriends Liv, in transition to a state beyond age. And Liv herself has finally transcended the corporeal—but there is still the problem of love.

*An Uncertain Grace* is a novel in five parts by one of Australia's most inventive and provocative writers. Moving, thoughtful, sometimes playful, it is about who we are—our best and worst selves, our innermost selves—and who we might become.

'An author to be read because of the promise, sensual or otherwise, signified by her name on the spine.' *Australian*

**Krissy Kneen** lives in Brisbane with her husband. Her previous books are *Affection: A Memoir of Love, Sex and Intimacy*; *Triptych*; *Steeplechase* and *The Adventures of Holly White and the Incredible Sex Machine*.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

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March 2017

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Manuscript available

## *The Starlings* by Vivienne Kelly

*It was only later that I understood that my parents were locked in a deadly battle for my soul. On my fifth birthday my father presented me with a Hawthorn footy jumper, my mother with Lambs' Tales from Shakespeare. As far as I was concerned it was no contest...I'd rather have my mother reading to me. I'd look at the richly coloured illustrations on their satiny paper—Juliet leaning over her balcony, Hamlet contemplating Yorick's skull, Lear on the blasted heath. Everyone wore robes, except for Hamlet, who wore black tights. I wanted to wear robes too: I wanted the rush of silk or the swing of velvet around my feet.*

This wonderful novel, which is both funny and sad, is a hugely readable account of a year in the life of a family with a football-mad father and a mother who seems to be mad about something—or someone?—else. It's 1985, and Nicky Starling is eight years old. Life is complex for Nicky: his sister is behaving strangely and his mother seems to be drifting from the family. His father is obsessed, as always, with the fortunes of the Hawthorn Football Club. Nicky is required to show interest in footy, but his heart lies with the tales of King Arthur and children's tales from Shakespeare, which his mother reads to him. Nicky uses these stories to navigate his way through a year which, for the Starling family, is beset by death, infidelity, betrayal and love.

Like Kelly's debut novel, *Cooee*, this is a book driven by its wit, its dark humour, its memorable characters and its masterly storytelling. It tells an irresistible and always entertaining story about childhood and family and the secrets of the past.

Praise for *Cooee*:

'A tantalising story of denial, delusion and suspense by a wonderfully fresh and confident new voice.' Cate Kennedy

'I absolutely loved *Cooee*...It's sort of a dark and elegant literary mystery.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Vivienne Kelly's** fiction has appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, and in 2008 she won the *Australian Women's Weekly*/Penguin short-story competition. Her first novel, *Cooee*, was shortlisted for the *Age Book of the Year* in 2009.

**Rights Held:** World

Fiction

|

April 2017

|

Manuscript available

## Various titles by Elizabeth Harrower

**Elizabeth Harrower** is the author of the novels *Down in the City*, *The Long Prospect*, *The Catherine Wheel* and *The Watch Tower*—all of which have been republished as Text Classics—and *In Certain Circles*, which was published in 2014 and shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction in 2015. Elizabeth lives in Sydney.

### *A Few Days in the Country and Other Stories*

Internationally acclaimed for her five brilliant novels, Elizabeth Harrower is also the author of a small body of short fiction. *A Few Days in the Country* brings together for the first time her stories published in Australian journals in the 1960s and 1970s, along with those from her archives—including ‘Alice’, published for the first time in 2015 in the *New Yorker*. Essential reading for Harrower fans, these finely tuned pieces show a broader scope than the novels, ranging from caustic satires to gentler explorations of friendship.

**Rights Held:** World

### *In Certain Circles*

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, ‘a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel’. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful. Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other’s shadow. *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

‘Harrower evokes the waste and futility of a decadent class with all the bite and poignancy of F Scott Fitzgerald.’ Eimear McBride

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Finland—Fabriikki; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau-Verlag; Greece—Dardanos; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Turkey—Metis.

### *The Watch Tower* introduced by Joan London

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit in his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control. Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

‘It is a brilliant achievement.’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau-Verlag; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.

### ***The Catherine Wheel* introduced by Ramona Koval**

Twenty-five-year-old Clemency James has moved from Sydney to a chilly bedsit on the other side of the world. When she meets Christian, a charismatic would-be actor, she can see he's trouble—not least because he's involved with an older woman who has children. She is drawn to him nonetheless: drawn into his world of unpayable debts and wild promises. First published in 1960, *The Catherine Wheel* is Elizabeth Harrower's third novel and the only one of her books not set in Australia.

**Rights Held:** World

### ***Down in the City* introduced by Debra Falconer**

Esther Prescott has seen little of life outside her wealthy family's Rose Bay mansion—until flashy Stan Peterson comes roaring up the drive in his huge American car and barges into her life. Within a fortnight they are living in his Kings Cross flat. Moody and erratic, proud of his well-bred wife yet bitterly resentful of her privilege, Stan is involved with his former girlfriend and a series of shady business deals. Esther, innocent and desperate to please him, must endure his controlling ways.

**Rights Held:** World

### ***The Long Prospect* 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.

**Rights Held:** World

Praise for Elizabeth Harrower:

'A novelist who deserves as wide an audience as possible.' *Sunday Age*

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

## Various titles by Helen Garner

**Helen Garner** is an award-winning author of novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction. Her novel *The Spare Room* won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Barbara Jefferis Award. Her recent non-fiction book, *This House of Grief*, won the Ned Kelly Award for Best True Crime.

### Non-Fiction

#### *Everywhere I Look*

**WINNER OF THE 2016 WINDHAM–CAMPBELL PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION**

*Everywhere I Look* is a book full of unexpected moments, sudden shafts of light, piercing intuition, flashes of anger and incidental humour. *Everywhere I Look* includes Garner's famous and controversial essay on the insults of age, her deeply moving tribute to her mother and extracts from her diaries. *Everywhere I Look* glows with insight. It is filled with the wisdom of life.

'Like strolling around in an idiosyncratic, surprising, and informative museum.' *Kirkus Reviews*

'Captivating...Garner is a charming and courageous writer whose distinctive voice exemplifies the range of what is possible in persona writing.' *Publishers Weekly*

**Rights Held:** World

#### *This House of Grief*

Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother when his car left the road and plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession.

'*This House of Grief* has all the trademark Helen Garner touches: harrowing scenes recorded without restraint or censorship; touching observations of characters' weaknesses; wry moments of humour.' *Guardian*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Berlin Verlag; Japan—Gendaikikakushio Publishers.

#### *True Stories*

Helen Garner visits the morgue, and goes cruising on a Russian ship. She sees women giving birth, and gets the sack for teaching her students about sex. She attends a school dance and a gun show. She writes about dreaming, about turning fifty, and the storm caused by *The First Stone*.

'Garner is a storyteller, an observer...Her style is beautifully simple, a mixture of plain English, a dash of local idiom, a shock word.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Rights Held:** World



## Fiction

### *Monkey Grip*

'A new kind of novel; not just a random accretion of information but a thoughtfully observed, deeply felt work of art.' *Australian*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ, France & Germany)

### *The Children's Bach*

'[Garner has] an ear for the lyricism and complex drama of life's second-rate warblers, and to weave them, with the lightest of touches, into elaborate harmonies.' *Age*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ & Germany)

### *Honour and Other People's Children*

'How do you throw out the bathwater of civilization and still keep hold of the slippery baby? Garner bravely takes hold of the problem.' *New York Times*

**Rights Held:** World (excl. ANZ & Germany)

### *Cosmo Cosmolino* introduced by Ramona Koval

Janet is a skeptic, a journalist; Maxine revels in New Age fantasies; and Ray, a drifter, is a born-again Christian. The common ground is the house they share. But their fragile domestic balance is about to explode.

**Rights held:** World

### *The Last Days of Chez Nous & Two Friends* afterword by Laura Jones

'Exceptional...Garner's polished script believes in the power and relevance of small domestic moments.' *LA Times*

**Rights Held:** World

### *The Spare Room*

'A perfect novel, imbued with all Garner's usual clear-eyed grace but with some other magnificent dimension that hides between the lines of her simple conversational voice.'

Peter Carey

**Rights held:** World

**Rights sold:** Albania—Dritan Editions; Brazil—Objetiva; Canada—House of Anansi Press; China—Shanghai Gaotan Culture; Finland—Atena; France—Editions Philippe Rey; Galician—Rinoceronte; German—Berlin Verlag; India/Marathi—Mehta Publishing House; Italy—Mondadori; Netherlands—De Bezige Bij; Norway—Pax Forlag; Portugal—ASA; Romania—SC Leda Editserv; Spain—Salamandra; Taiwan—Business Weekly; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Canongate; USA—Holt.

# *Dying: A Memoir* by Cory Taylor

SHORTLISTED, 2016 COURIER-MAIL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR QLD BOOK OF THE YEAR

*But I'm used to dying now. It's become ordinary and unremarkable, something everybody, without exception, does at one time or another. If I'm afraid of anything it's of dying badly, of getting caught up in some process that prolongs my life unnecessarily. I've put all the safeguards in place. I've completed an advanced health directive and given a copy to my palliative care specialist. I've made it clear in my conversations, both with him and with my family, that I want no life-saving interventions at the end, nothing designed to delay the inevitable. My doctor has promised to honour my wishes, but I can't help worrying. I haven't died before.*

Cory Taylor wrote this remarkable book in the space of a few weeks before her death from melanoma-related cancer. *Dying: A Memoir* is a clear-eyed account of the tangle of her feelings, her reflections on her life, her memories of the lives and deaths of her parents. It is a deeply affecting meditation on dying, but it is also a funny and wise tribute to life.

'This small, powerful book offers a clean engagement with life's conclusion: with clarity and courage, the author finds words to escort us towards silence.' Hilary Mantel

'A precise and moving memoir about the randomness of family, and an admirable intellectual response to the randomness of life and death. We should all hope for as vivid a looking-back, and as cogent a looking-forward, when we reach the end ourselves.' Julian Barnes

'A powerful, poignant and lucid last testament, at once an eloquent plea for autonomy in death, and an evocation of the joys, sorrows and precariousness of life.'

Margaret Drabble

**Cory Taylor** was an award-winning novelist and screenwriter who also published short fiction and children's books. Her first novel, *Me and Mr Booker*, won the Commonwealth Book Prize (Pacific Region) in 2012 and her second novel, *My Beautiful Enemy*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award in 2014. She died in July 2016.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Czech—Triton; Germany—Allegria; Greece—ROPI; Netherlands—Nijh & van Ditmar; Taiwan—Gusa Press; UK & Comm (excl ANZ & Canada)—Canongate Books; USA—Tin House.

Non-Fiction

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May 2016

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Finished copies available

## Quicksilver by Nicolas Rothwell

*The sacred is always receding in our world. It is always present, like the background shell of radiation from the day the universe began. It is constantly coming into being extinguished. Its essence is to be beyond reach, beyond stable form, a gleam, a fire in the bush, a mirage of water on the horizon's edge.*

In six reveries, the acclaimed writer Nicolas Rothwell ranges between subjects near and far, old worlds and new, the sacred and the sublime. He takes us on travels to the north—to Alpine valleys; to the high Czech mountains; to the Russia of Tolstoy and Gorky, and Tarkovsky. But his chief subject is always outback Australia, the inland, and the secrets that it holds: the mystic Kurangara cult that flourished in the Kimberley; the story of the Western Desert artists, their works and their eventual fate; the tracks across the wilderness of Colonel Warburton and George Grey; the bush dreams and intuitions of D. H. Lawrence; the landscape world-portraits left behind by the great biographer of nature Eric Rolls. *Quicksilver* is Rothwell at his entrancing, masterly best.

Praise for Nicholas Rothwell and *Belomor*:

'Hugely impressive...Magpie brilliance.' *Guardian*

'The sentences flow gracefully like smoke from a cigarette...The work runs in a wholly absorbing way, where discursive style and fiction mingle to become indistinguishable...Remarkable.' *Sunday Age*

'I found myself completely captured by the lucid detachment and uncanny atmosphere...The potency and oddness of the prose constantly slow you down; you feel as if imbibing too much at once might be awfully dangerous.' *Times Literary Supplement*

'A peculiar and bewitching work of Australian literature...a hymn of praise to the north and its inhabitants.' *Herald Sun*

**Nicolas Rothwell** is the award-winning author of *Heaven & Earth*, *Wings of the Kite-Hawk*, *Another Country*, *The Red Highway*, *Journeys to the Interior* and *Belomor*. He is a senior writer for the *Australian*.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

| November 2016

| Finished copies available

## *The Case Against Fragrance* by Kate Grenville

*When I was little, my mother had a tiny, precious bottle of perfume on her dressing table and on special occasions she'd put a dab behind her ears. The smell was always linked in my mind with excitement and pleasure—Mum with her hair done, wearing her best dress and her pearls, off for a night out with Dad.*

*When I got old enough to have my own special occasions I also had my favourite perfume. I loved the bottles: those sensuous shapes. I loved the names and the labels, so evocative of all things glamorous.*

Kate Grenville had always associated perfume with elegance and beauty. Then the headaches started.

Like perhaps a quarter of the population, Grenville reacts badly to the artificial fragrances around us: other people's perfumes, and all those scented cosmetics, cleaning products and air fresheners. On a book tour in 2015, dogged by ill health, she started wondering: what's in fragrance? Who tests it for safety? What does it do to people?

The more Grenville investigated, the more she felt this was a story that should be told. The chemicals in fragrance can be linked not only to short-term problems like headaches and asthma, but also to long-term ones like hormone disruption and cancer. Yet products can be released onto the market without testing. They're regulated only by the same people who make and sell them. And the ingredients don't even have to be named on the label.

This book is based on careful research into the science of scent and the power of the fragrance industry. But, as you'd expect from an acclaimed novelist, it's also accessible and personal. *The Case Against Fragrance* will make you see—and smell—the world differently.

**Kate Grenville** is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her bestselling novel *The Secret River* received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award. Grenville's other novels include *The Idea of Perfection*, *Sarah Thornhill*, *The Lieutenant*, *Lilian's Story*, *Dark Places* and *Joan Makes History*. Her most recent work is *One Life: My Mother's Story*.

**Rights Held:** World

Non-Fiction

| February 2017

| Manuscript available

# *Anaesthesia: The Gift of Oblivion and the Mystery of Consciousness* by Kate Cole-Adams

*What really happens to us when we are anaesthetised? By this I mean not what happens to the pinging, crackling apparatus of our nerves and spinal cords and brains, but what happens to us—to the person who is me or the person who is you—as doctors go about the messy business of slicing and delving within us?*

This extraordinary non-fiction work illuminates a crucial element of modern medicine that works in practice for reasons barely understood even by expert practitioners.

A hundred and fifty years ago, many people would have died rather than undergo what we now consider to be relatively trivial operations. From the quintuple bypass through to the caesarian section and the facelift, anaesthesia has made surgical intervention not just possible but routine.

But how much do we really know about what happens when we go under? Can we hear and retain what's going on around us? Is pain still pain if we are not awake to feel it, or don't remember it afterwards? How does the unconscious mind deal with the body's experience of being hewn open and ransacked?

The scientific research into such questions, fascinating in its own right, is interwoven with personal accounts—of patients waking up under the knife, of subsequent traumatic reactions, of hallucinations and submerged memories—along with passages of memoir that evoke the complexities of memory and dreaming, and the nature of self-hood.

Haunting, lyrical, sometimes shattering—*Anaesthesia* leavens science with a sense of mystery: the mystery of human consciousness and of the means by which, for the benefit of us all, the medical profession seeks to interrupt it.

**Kate Cole-Adams** is a journalist and novelist. Her debut novel, *Walking to the Moon*, was published in 2008. She lives in Melbourne with her family.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publisher:** UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Quercus

Non-Fiction

June 2017

Manuscript available  
November 2016

# *Libraries of Wonder* by Stuart Kells

*How much of themselves did Shakespeare, Donne, Hemingway and Woolf leave behind in their libraries? And how much of their personalities is discernible from their books? Creating a library is a psychically loaded enterprise. In gathering their bounty, booklovers have displayed anxiety, avarice, envy, fastidiousness, obsession, lust, pride, pretension, narcissism and agoraphobia—indeed every Biblical sin and most of the pathologies from the American Psychiatric Association manual.*

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, Jorge Luis Borges, 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.

*Libraries of Wonder* 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.

**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

Non-Fiction

July 2017

Manuscript available  
November 2016

# *The Road to Winter* by Mark Smith

*When I get closer I see he's as small as me, thin as a whippet. Rangy. Hair long and ropey right down his back and falling across his face. He's got an old pair of shorts on and a jumper way too big for him.*

*Then he starts talking and it hits me. He's a girl. Voice real high and panicky.*

*'You gotta help me,' she says. 'They're coming. They're tracking me.'*

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.

*The Road to Winter* is an unforgettable novel about survival, honour, friendship and love. It announces an extraordinary new talent in young adult fiction.

*'Mark Smith spins an enthralling tale of survival...Finn was painted as intelligent, likable, and most importantly, realistic.'* *YA Wonders*

*'This post-apocalyptic tale has heroes and villains, humour and heartache, and plenty of excitement...A brilliant debut from an author to watch.'* *BookMooch*

**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 Road to Winter* is his first book.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction

| July 2016

| Finished copies available

# *The Book of Whispers* by Kimberley Starr

WINNER, 2015 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

*I imagine the rumour already. Through the kitchens, through the sheds where the olives are aged in barrels of brine, through the stable, the words would flow as steadily as that trickle of blood down my father's cheek. People's whispers like rustling poplar leaves.*

Master Luca is having those dreams again. His demon is back.

*I can't let that happen. I can't let people lock me up and exorcise me again. I can't let my father leave on the pilgrimage without me. I have to save him.*

Tuscany, 1096 AD. Luca, young heir to the title of Conte de Falconi, sees demons. Since no one else can see them, Luca must keep quiet about what he sees, or risk another exorcism by the nefarious priest Ramberti.

Luca also has dreams—dreams that sometimes predict the future. Night after night Luca sees his father murdered, and vows to stop it coming true. Even if he has to go against his father's wishes and follow him on the great pilgrimage to capture the Holy Lands.

Far away in Cappadocia, Suzan has dreams too. Consigned with her mute mother to a life in an underground convent, she has a vision of a brown-haired boy riding through the desert. A boy with an ancient book that holds some inscrutable power. A boy who will take her on an adventure that will lead to places beyond both their understanding.

Together, Luca and Suzan will realise their true quest: to defeat the forces of man and demon that wish to destroy the world.

**Kimberley Starr** is a teacher and author based in Melbourne. Her debut novel, *The Kingdom Where Nobody Dies*, won the 2003 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best Emerging Author.

**Rights Held:** World

Young-Adult Fiction | September 2016 | Finished copies 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*



## *Elizabeth and Zenobia* by Jessica Miller

*Witheringe House. I tried it in my mind and found I couldn't like it. The sound of it was too much—*

*'Like a withered limb.' Zenobia finished the sentence for me. 'Like an apple left in the sun so long it turns soft and small.'*

*'I wish you wouldn't do that,' I told her.*

*'I can't help it,' she said.*

Timid Elizabeth and her unusual and fearless friend Zenobia arrive at Witheringe House, the old manor where Elizabeth's father and his beloved sister, Tourmaline, lived as children.

Zenobia loves it—she's convinced it's haunted and is eager to make contact with a spirit presence. Elizabeth is relieved when her efforts seem to come to nothing.

But odd things begin to happen at Witheringe House, especially in the East Wing, where Elizabeth and Zenobia have been forbidden to explore. Flowers and vines on wallpaper in the nursery seem to be alive. A strange book tells a different story after midnight. Could they have anything to do with what happened to Tourmaline all those years ago?

*Elizabeth and Zenobia* is a wonderfully mysterious middle-grade gothic fairytale about friendship and courage and the power of imagination.

*'A lonely girl, a creepy house, spirit presences and long-ago mysteries—I'm completely in love with this novel.'* Karen Foxlee

*'There is a lot in Elizabeth and Zenobia that recalls the classic The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett...By the time I reached the end of the book my heart was racing and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. I loved Elizabeth and Zenobia. It's the perfect book for twelve-year-old readers (and maybe some very brave eleven-year-olds) who are looking for a simple, good-old-fashioned scary manor mystery.'* Books+Publishing

**Jessica Miller** is a Brisbane writer currently living in Berlin. *Elizabeth and Zenobia* is her first novel. It was shortlisted for the 2014 Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** North America—Abrams; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Faber.

Children's Fiction

| September 2016

| Finished copies available

# *Ballad for a Mad Girl* by Vikki Wakefield

*I'm crying for somebody I never knew. I'm crying for the mother I lost and for the friends I don't understand anymore, for the funny girl I used to be. But mostly I'm crying with relief, because the possibility of ghosts means everything.*

A ghost story with a difference. Another brilliant novel by award-winning writer Vikki Wakefield—a suspense tale you won't be able to put down.

Everyone knows seventeen-year-old Grace Foley is a bit mad. She's a prankster and a risk-taker, and she's not afraid of anything—except losing. As part of a long-running feud, Grace accepts a challenge to walk across the pipe over a deep gully. That night she experiences something she can't explain.

The funny girl isn't laughing anymore. She's haunted by nightmares, voices and visions—but nobody believes a girl who cries wolf.

As she's drawn deeper into a twenty-year-old mystery surrounding missing girl Hannah Holt and the legend of William Dean, the thin veil between this world and the next begins to slip. She can no longer tell what's real or imagined—all she knows is that the ghosts, including her own mother, are restless. It seems one of them has granted her an extraordinary gift at a terrible price. She risks losing everything: her family, her friends, her identity. Her mind.

Everything about her is changing: her body, her thoughts, her very actions seem to be dictated by someone else... Grace is losing control, and her friends don't like it. Is she getting closer to answers about her mother's death? About Hannah Holt and William Dean? Or is she heading for madness?

**Vikki Wakefield's** first young-adult novel, *All I Ever Wanted*, won the 2012 Adelaide Festival Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction, as did her second novel, *Friday Brown*, in 2014. *Friday Brown* was also an Honour Book in the 2013 Children's Book Council of Australia awards. Among other awards, it was shortlisted for the prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Awards in 2013. Vikki's third novel, *Inbetween Days*, was an Honour Book in the 2016 Children's Book Council of Australia awards.

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publisher:** North America—Simon & Schuster

Young-Adult Fiction

March 2017

Manuscript available  
November 2016

## 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, writers including Elizabeth Harrower, Kenneth Cook, Kenneth Mackenzie, Gerald Murnane and Madeleine St John. We published our 100th Text Classic in September 2016, and it's another forgotten marvel: *The Dyehouse* by Mena Calthorpe, first published in 1961.

### ***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.

### ***Happy Valley* by Patrick White introduced by Peter Craven**

The magnificent debut novel of Patrick White, Australia's first Nobel Prize winner, available for the first time since its initial publication in 1939. Based on his own experiences in the early 1930s as a jackaroo at Bolero, near Adaminaby in south-eastern New South Wales, it paints a portrait of a community in a desolate landscape.

'Miraculously good.' *The Times*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** China—Chongqing Green Culture Co.; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; France—Gallimard; Israel—Am Oved; UK & Comm. (excl. ANZ & Canada)—Random House.

## ***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

## ***The Plains* by Gerald Murnane** introduced by Ben Lerner

A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, ‘a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself’. Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers alive today.

‘Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.’ Teju Cole

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Catalan—Minúscula; France—Éditions P.O.L.; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Spain—Minúscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Förlag.

## ***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](http://www.textpublishing.com.au)

# Film Rights Highlights

## *Good People* by Nir Baram

It's 1938. Thomas Heiselberg has built a career in Berlin with an American advertising company. In Leningrad, twenty-two-year-old Sasha Weissberg has grown up eavesdropping on conversations in her parents' literary salon. Neither of them thinks about politics much, but after catastrophe strikes they will have no choice. Thomas puts his research skills to work elaborating Nazi propaganda. Sasha persuades herself that working as a literary editor of confessions for Stalin's secret police is the only way to save her family. When destiny brings them together, they will face the consequences of the decisions they have made. *Good People* is a tour de force: sparkling, erudite, a glimpse into the abyss.

## *Alex As Well* by Alyssa Brugman

*Alex As Well* is a confronting and heartfelt story of adolescent experience—of questioning identity, discovering sexuality, navigating friendships and finding a place to belong. Alex is a strong, vulnerable, confident, shy and determined character, one you will never forget. With the same tenderness and insight as young-adult stars such as John Green and David Levithan, Alyssa Brugman has crafted a story about identity, sexuality and family that speaks to a universal teen experience.

'Brugman's beautiful writing offers a startlingly accurate portrayal of teenage life and is a remarkable exploration of gender and sexuality. *Alex as Well* tackles its subject matter with fearless honesty...strong insight and a delightful sense of humour.' *Books+Publishing*

## *In Certain Circles* by Elizabeth Harrower

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, 'a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel'. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful. Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other's shadow. Set amid the lush gardens and grand stone houses of the north side of Sydney Harbour, *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

## *The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit in his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control. Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

## ***The Snow Kimono* by Mark Henshaw**

Set in Paris and Japan, *The Snow Kimono* tells the stories of Inspector Jovert, former professor of law Tadashi Omura, and his one-time friend the writer Katsuo Ikeda. All three men have lied to themselves, and to each other. And these lies are about to catch up with them. *The Snow Kimono* is an intricate psychological thriller that is also an unforgettable meditation on love and loss, on memory and its deceptions, and the ties that bind us to others.

## ***Nine Days* by Toni Jordan**

One family. Nine momentous days. An unforgettable novel of love and folly and heartbreak. In *Nine Days* Toni Jordan has harnessed all the spiky wit, compassion and lust for life that drew readers in droves to *Addition* and *Fall Girl*. Ambitious in scope and structure, triumphantly realised, this is a novel about one family and every family. It is about dreams and fights and sacrifices. And finally, of course, it is—as it must be—about love.

‘A witty and wise family saga...gorgeously layered...a treasure.’ *Kirkus Reviews*

## ***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie**

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.

## ***Skin* by Ilka Tampke**

AD 43. Iron Age Britain is on the cusp of Roman invasion. For the people of Caer Cad, ‘skin’ is their totem, their greeting, their ancestors, their land. Ailia does not have skin. Abandoned at birth, she serves the Tribequeen of her township. Ailia is not permitted to marry, excluded from tribal ceremonies and forbidden to learn. But the Mothers, the tribal ancestors, have chosen her for another path. *Skin* is a thrilling, full-blooded, mesmerising novel about the collision of two worlds, and a young woman torn between two men.

## ***My Beautiful Enemy* by Cory Taylor**

Arthur Wheeler is haunted by his infatuation with a Japanese youth in the enemy alien camp where he worked as a guard during World War II. Abandoning his wife and baby son, Arthur sets out on a doomed mission to rescue his lover from forced deportation back to Japan. Thus begins the secret history of a soldier at war with his own sexuality and dangerously at odds with the racism that underpins the crumbling British Empire. Like *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *My Beautiful Enemy* explores questions of desire and redemption against the background of a savage racial war.

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