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Adult Books 2022



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MidnightSun Publishing
Novels



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HER DEATH WAS ALSO WATER

Allen C. Jones

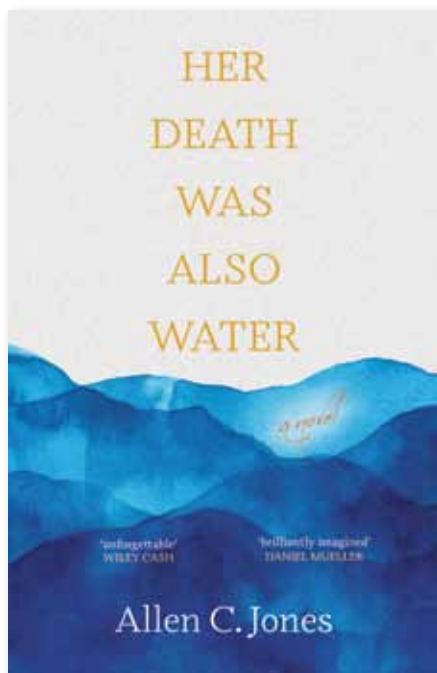
Novel | PB 368 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781925227918

Rights held: World

A mixture of apocalypse, high-seas adventure, and otherworldliness, *Her Death Was Also Water* tells the story of seven people trying to survive on a small boat in a world completely transformed by an apocalyptic flood. Haunted by entwined pasts, the characters must voyage from a small Midwestern town through a world that seems increasingly fantastic. Each will face their past, and some will die, and the boat will even float through the miraculous, but only fifteen-year old Charlotte will discover that death is not always death. Sometimes, it is also water.

Virginia Woolf's stream of consciousness meets Yann Martel's magical realism as a young woman discovers a sense of adventurous possibility in a world that has taken nearly everything from her.

'[A] searing yet hypnotic debut by a novelist in full control of his powers. Allen C. Jones distills so many of our collective fears about the uncertain global future into prose that is buoyed by beauty and hope. This is an unforgettable reading experience.' – **Wiley Cash**, **New York Times bestselling author of *When Ghosts Come Home***.



'*Her Death Was Also Water* reaches back to the imagery of the great classics, and projects the notion of a water world into the punishing, perilous future of a post-climate change planet.' – **Stuart Dybek**

Allen C. Jones is an award-winning writer from California. He has lived and taught in Spain, Mexico, Korea, China, and presently serves as associate professor of literature in Norway. He earned an MFA in poetry from the University of New Mexico and a PhD in English from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. His work appears widely online and in print.
www.allencjones.com





RANDOM ACTS OF UNKINDNESS

Anna Mandoki

Novel | PB 352 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9780987226587

Rights held: World

In an all-too-recognisable Melbourne of the near future, the lives of three very different women become intertwined.

Emily is a researcher at the University, carrying out experiments on overcrowding in rats. Free-spirited Amala is an international student feeling the strong tug of home. Roz is a struggling photographer who has visions of the future, although she tries her best to ignore them.

When Roz foresees a terrible tragedy, she is finally driven to act. But can she turn things around once a direction has already been set? As events rapidly escalate, all three women will be pushed to their limits and forced to revisit the choices they have made.

Dark and compelling, *Random Acts of Unkindness* is a novel about kindness and cruelty. Above all, it explores the importance of human connection in an increasingly fragmented world.

‘Vivid, exciting and wholly original, Mandoki weaves a tale of obsession, compassion and choosing how to live with each other.’ – **Margaret Bearman**



Anna Mandoki is an Australian author and artist. She was born in the UK and lived and worked in London and Budapest before making her home in Melbourne, on beautiful Wurundjeri woi wurrung country. Anna has a Bachelor degree in Psychology from the University of York and a Diploma in Professional Writing and Editing from Melbourne’s RMIT. Her short fiction and non-fiction has appeared in various journals and anthologies including *Island* and *Westerly*, and has been broadcast on ABC Radio National. *Random Acts of Unkindness* is her first novel.

THE RIDER ON THE BRIDGE

Scott Pearce

Novel | PB 192 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9780987226556

Rights held: World

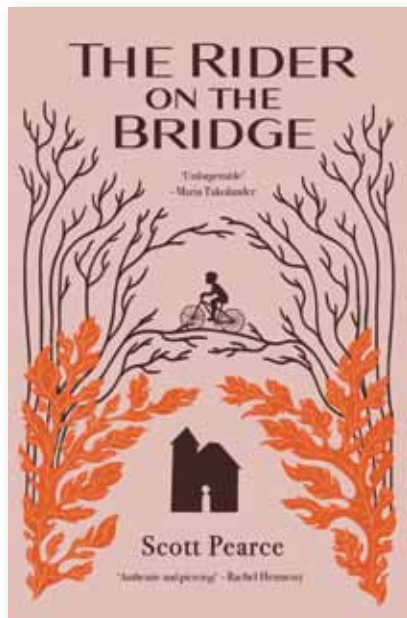
'It is a good story, although I cannot say it is true. Like most stories I suppose there is some truth in it, but the absence of truth does not diminish the story, does it?'

In late autumn, Kitten, so named by a girl he met long ago, sits and remembers an aching adolescence; not of lost love and romance, but of wild and unbound joys and sorrows. And of those enduring friendships that linger at the periphery, that come with the hope that one day everything will return to what it once was.

*'The Rider on the Bridge is part coming-of-age, part rumination, part magic realism. For those delighted by Haruki Murakami's *Norwegian Wood*, Sally Rooney's *Normal People*, and Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, here you will find a kindred spirit.'* – **Robert Parker**

'This book follows the desperate lives of vulnerable and isolated people. It marries beauty and despair in rich prose to tell a profound and moving story.'

– **Alonzo Longabaugh**

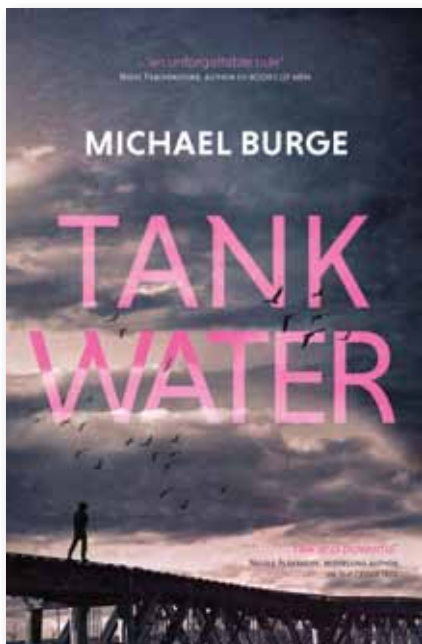


'The Rider on the Bridge is an unforgettable portrait of a group of abused or disabused youths, surviving in solidarity, sustained by dreams.' – **Maria Takolander**

*'A gritty, realistic portrayal of a young boy forced to grow up quickly, *The Rider on the Bridge* creates its urban underworld in lyrical and evocative language.'* – **Rachel Hennessy**

Scott Pearce is originally from Mooroolbark, Victoria. He received his PhD from Deakin University in 2016 and has published his academic research in journals and books, with a focus on the role of race and gender in the Western and Weird Western film/television genres. His first novel *Faded Yellow by the Winter* was published in 2019. Scott has been teaching English and Literature at Alia College since 2003 and holds the all-time record for goals kicked in lunchtime soccer games. He lives in the Yarra Valley with his partner and their four children and enjoys early morning runs in the darkness, creating new reasons to never cut the lawn, and writing.





TANK WATER

Michael Burge

Novel | PB 300 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781925227888

Rights held: World

James Brandt didn't look back when he got away from his rural hometown as a teenager. Now, he's returned to Kippen for the first time in twenty years because his cousin Tony has been found dead under the local bridge.

The news that Tony has left him the entire family farm triggers James's journalistic curiosity – and his anxiety – both of which cropped up during his turbulent journey to adulthood. But it is the unexpected homophobic attack he survives that draws James into a hunt for the reasons one lonely Kippen farm boy in every generation kills himself.

Standing in the way is James's father, the town's recently retired top cop, who is not prepared to investigate crimes no one reckons have taken place. James must use every newshound's trick he ever learned in order to uncover the brutal truth.

A coming-of-age story and crime thriller with a large and gentle heart.

'an unforgettable ride' – Nigel Featherstone, author of *Bodies of Men*

'confrontational' – Margo Kingston, author and journalist

'gripping to the last page' – Mary Moody, author and broadcaster

'raw and powerful' – Nicole Alexander, bestselling author of *The Cedar Tree*



Photo: Max S Harding

Michael Burge is an Australian author and journalist who lives at Deepwater in the New England region of NSW with his husband and their dogs. After graduating from the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Michael undertook media studies in the United Kingdom. His non-fiction debut *Questionable Deeds: Making a stand for equal love* lifted the lid on familial and institutional homophobia in Australia during the marriage equality campaign. Michael has written, edited, directed and broadcast for Fairfax Media, Intermedia, United News & Media, Margo Kingston's *NoFibs* and a range of lifestyle mastheads. He is director of the annual High Country Writers Festival in Glen Innes. His complete works can be found at www.burgewords.com. *Tank Water* is his first novel..

THE BREAKING

Irma Gold

Novel | PB 272 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781925227819

Rights held: World

Hannah Bird has just arrived in Thailand. Disoriented and out of her depth, she meets Deven, a fierce and gutsy Australian expat who sweeps her into thrilling adventures rescuing elephants.

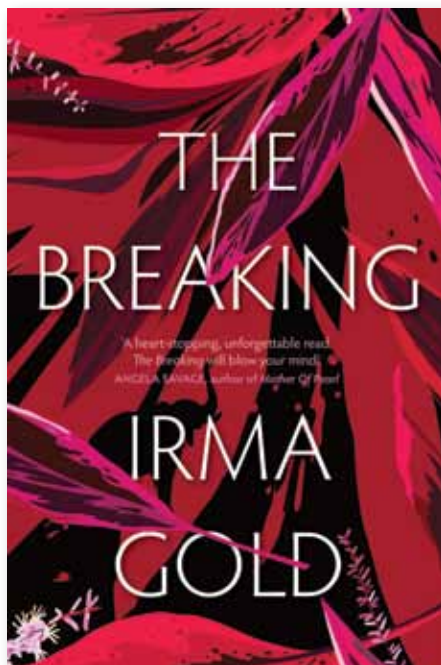
As they head deeper and deeper into the fraught world of elephant tourism, their lives become tangled in ways Hannah never imagined. But how far will they go to save a life?

Hannah is about to make a critical decision from which there will be no turning back, with shattering consequences.

The Breaking is an extraordinary debut. Sharply observed and richly vivid, it is an intensely moving story about the magnetic bond between two young women and the enduring cost of animal exploitation. It is at once devastating and exhilarating, and ultimately transformative.

‘Bold, passionate and fierce. A plea against powerlessness and indifference. I loved every minute.’
– **Karen Viggers, author of *The Orchardist’s Daughter***

‘Evocative and urgent, *The Breaking* shows Gold’s talent and heart.’ – **Kate Mildenhall, author of *The Mother Fault***

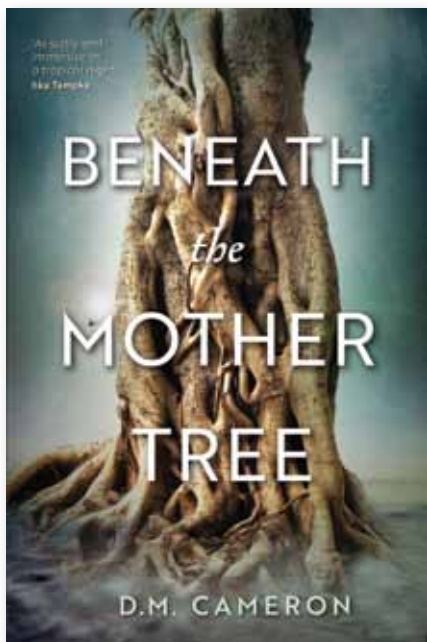


‘A heart-stopping, unforgettable read. *The Breaking* will blow your mind.’ – **Angela Savage, author of *Mother of Pearl***

‘Sensual and hyper-dangerous, Gold’s take on human love and animal cruelty is a real tour de force.’ – **John Clanchy, author of *In Whom We Trust***

Irma Gold is an award-winning author and editor. She has previously published a short fiction collection, *Two Steps Forward*, and her short fiction has been widely published in anthologies and journals like *Meanjin*, *Island*, *Westerly*, *Going Down Swinging* and *Review of Australian Fiction*, among many others. She has also published three children’s books, with another two forthcoming in 2021. *The Breaking* is her debut novel. It won the NSW Writer’s Centre Varuna Fellowship Award and received development funding from artsACT and CAPO. Irma is Ambassador for Thailand’s Save Elephant Foundation and has worked with rescued elephants in Chiang Mai, Surin and Kanchanaburi. www.irmagold.com





BENEATH THE MOTHER TREE

D.M. Cameron

Novel | PB 336 | 154 x 233 | ISBN: 9781925227390

Rights held: World

A spine-chilling mystery and contemporary love story, *Beneath the Mother Tree* plays out in a unique and wild Australian setting, interweaving Indigenous history and Irish mythology.

On a small island, something sinister is at play. Resident alcoholic Grappa believes it's the Far Dorocha, dark servant of the Faery queen, whose seductive music lures you into their abyss. His granddaughter Ayla has other ideas, especially once she meets the mysterious flute player she heard on the beach.

Riley and his mother have moved to the island to escape their grief. But when the tight-knit community is beset by a series of strange deaths, the enigmatic newcomers quickly garner the ire of the locals. Can Ayla uncover the mystery at the heart of the island's darkness before it is too late?

Wrought with sensuousness and lyricism, D.M. Cameron's debut novel *Beneath the Mother Tree* is a thrilling journey, rhythmically fierce and eagerly awaited.

'A compelling page-turner that will transport readers to a world populated with characters who are as mysterious and gripping as their Australian landscape.'
– **Tiffany McDaniel, author of the Not-the-Booker Prize winning novel *The Summer that Melted Everything***

'From the first page, this book held me in its thrall. As sultry and immersive as a tropical night.' – **Ilka Tampke, author of *Skin***

'Soulful and dreamlike, and utterly original. Here is a slice of Australia as you've never seen her before.' – **Kim Kelly, author of *Lady Bird & The Fox***

'A seductive, dark, contemporary fairy tale thrumming with a fierce, beguiling energy.'
– **Kim Lock, author of *The Three of Us***



Originally an actress, debut novelist **D.M. Cameron** is an AWGIE nominated radio dramatist, award-winning playwright and celebrated short film writer. She received funding to begin work on her first novel and was then selected for a Varuna Litlink residency to further develop this initial draft into what became *Beneath the Mother Tree*. www.dmcameron.com

WE. ARE. FAMILY.

Paul Mitchell

Novel | PB 288 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227109

Rights held: World

Kick the darkness until it bleeds

Three generations are forced to confront the pervasive violence that hangs over them like a ghost, and the distances to which they have carried their forebears' pain.

We. Are. Family. is a sensitive and rugged episodic novel which ruminates on the damaging idea of Australian masculinity with tenderness and dry humour. Paul Mitchell unravels the twisting threads that tie us to the past and the trauma that is handed down through families.

Taking cues from Tim Winton's *The Turning*, it is a cyclic meditation on the slow grind of life and the interconnectedness of identity and family.

'[Mitchell] succeeds in creating a domestic fiction that is at once panoramic and suffocating. It is in equal parts reminiscent of Christos Tsiolkas' *The Slap* and Tim Winton's *The Turning*.' – **Books+Publishing, 4 stars.**

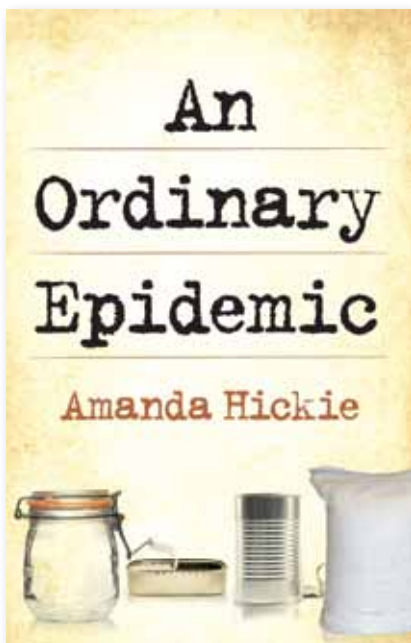


'Mitchell's writing is challenging, exhilarating and touched with a deep sense of humanity' – **Tony Birch**

Paul Mitchell's wry and moving considerations of society's undercurrents chronicle an unsettlingly recognisable Australia. His three poetry collections have received national prizes and wide acclaim, and his short story collection *Dodging the Bull* was included in the 2008 *The Age* Summer Read program. He is also a playwright, screenwriter and essayist. Mitchell's varied oeuvre explores the beauty in the seemingly mundane, the troubled history of Australian masculinity, and finds spirituality in the murky depths of life. He has continued this exploration with his sensitive and rugged first novel, *We. Are. Family.*



Photo: Virginia Cummins



AN ORDINARY EPIDEMIC

Amanda Hickie

Fiction | PB 374 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227031

Rights sold: USA, UK

Hannah is stuck in the middle of a deadly outbreak.

As Sydney goes into lockdown, she attempts to quarantine her home and protect her family from the ominous infection around them. How far will a panicked mother go to keep her loved ones safe? In *An Ordinary Epidemic*, fear and compassion collide as Hannah, Sean and their two boys struggle to survive as the epidemic spreads. But what happens when their water supply is cut – and then the power...?

An Ordinary Epidemic is a riveting, topical novel from a new voice in Australian writing.

'It's utterly fascinating, a little gruesome and impossible to put down.' – **Books+Publishing**



Amanda Hickie has always been interested in ethical questions, annoying her scripture teacher at the age of ten by asking if it was immoral to lie to a murderer. Despite a passion for writing, she studied Computer Science – but she quickly recovered. A change of lifestyle when she and her family moved to Canada resulted in her first novel, *AfterZoe*. Living down the road from the SARS outbreak also provided the seed for *An Ordinary Epidemic*. Amanda lives a pleasant stroll from Coogee Beach in Sydney with her two computer oriented sons and husband and two non-computer oriented cats.

HIDE

S.J. Morgan

Novel | PB 320 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781925227581

Rights held: World

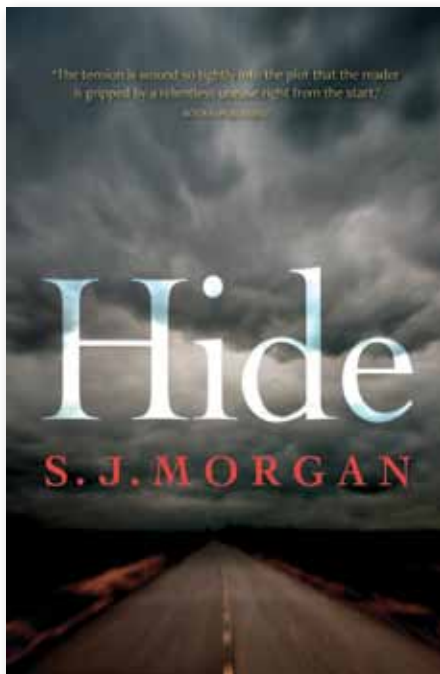
It's 1983 in Thatcher's Britain. Alec Johnston has left his comfortable family home in Cardiff and taken a flat with bikers Minto, Stobes and Black. There he meets Sindy, Minto's strange and vulnerable young girlfriend. When she starts to view Alec as a possible saviour from her abusive relationship, it earns Alec a big target on his back.

Hide takes us on a dark, unsettling journey: one that begins in a small town in Wales and continues through the vast Australian outback. As the threats get closer, Alec fears this is one journey from which he may never return.

'Morgan is an author with a considerable amount of potential and her next work will be something to keep an eye on.' – **Tulpa Magazine**, *Riana Kinlough*

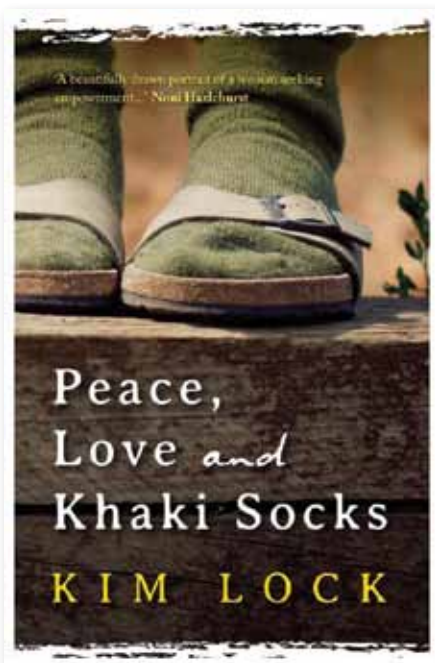
'Raw, genuine and widely relatable ... very impressive and enjoyable YA novel with scope for deeper study.' – **CBCA**, *Angela Brown*

'a gripping, edge-of-your seat read' – **Books+Publishing**



S.J. Morgan grew up in the UK and arrived in Australia many years ago, via a twelve-month round-the-world air ticket. In her former life she was an Occupational Therapist, but she now writes full-time. She writes across several genres and has won prizes for short fiction as well as an ASA mentorship for her children's writing. In 2018, her debut YA novel, *Heaven Sent* was published by MidnightSun Publishing. *Hide* is her first adult novel. She lives in the Adelaide Hills with her family and two very slovenly greyhounds. You can find more information at www.sjmorgan.com.au





PEACE, LOVE AND KHAKI SOCKS

Kim Lock

Novel | PB 336 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9780987380913

Rights held: World

Peace, Love and Khaki Socks explores what it is to be a woman, an expectant mother, a lover and a friend in a patriarchy.

One sultry October morning in Darwin, hemp-wearing army wife Amy Silva grips a trembling fist around two pink lines on a plastic stick. Struggling to come to terms with her rampant fertility, disillusioned with a haughty obstetrician, and infuriated by an inordinate amount of peeing, Amy finds solace in a decision to homebirth. After all, it worked for the cavewomen, right? But as a tropical cyclone threatens to whip down the main street, Amy finds herself facing more than biology.

Sometimes horrifying, sometimes hilarious and always honest, *Peace, Love and Khaki Socks* is an unforgettable story of one woman's struggle to turn the ordinary into something extraordinary.

'At last a funny, true and beautiful novel about birth and how strong women can be... With humour, bravery and wit Kim Lock has captured the beauty of birth as her main character Amy travels down the bumpy road to empowerment.' – **Kate Gorman, Co Director/Producer *The Face Of Birth*, writer, actor.**

'A beautifully drawn portrait of a woman seeking empowerment. All parents-to-be should read it – and discuss!' – **Noni Hazlehurst**

'Indulging in raw, female emotion, *Peace, Love and Khaki Socks* introduces us to a snappy new writer with an intuitive sense of humour.' – **Heather Taylor Johnson, author of *Pursuing Love and Death***

'Kim Lock is a brilliant story teller! If you are a mother or considering having babies, hold onto your heart. *Peace, Love and Khaki Socks* is an engaging roller-coaster ride of emotions that will have you laughing, crying and cheering. You won't want to put it down!' – **Pinky McKay**



After growing up in country South Australia, **Kim Lock** has lived in Darwin, Melbourne and Canberra, and now resides on home soil in Adelaide with her military husband and their two young children. It was after having her children that Kim found the urge to write in earnest. Kim has spent over a decade working in advertising, and although she has been writing her whole life, *Peace, Love and Khaki Socks* is her first novel. www.kimlockauthor.com

PANGAMONIUM

Zanesh Catkin

Novel | PB 250 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 970987226532

Rights held: World

Sometimes you have to get lost to find yourself.

Pangamonium is a comic novel that parodies travel adventure stories and satirises globalisation. It is a tongue-in-cheek adventure romp, a mock epic.

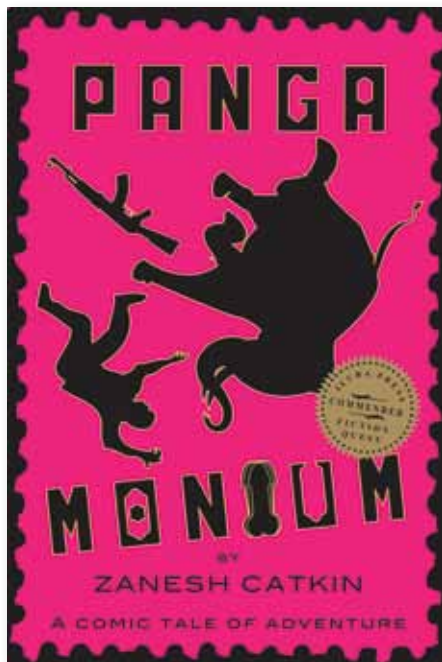
Francis is a modern Don Quixote who tries to be a cynical journalist looking out for himself but ends up trying to liberate a bunch of child slaves making sex toys for the West. Toss in an African pilgrim named Easter on a quest to find his grandfather's grave filled with pirate gold, a military regime oppressing the citizens of Panga, and a Bollywood romance – pandemonium ensues.

Pangamonium was shortlisted for the Ilura Press Fiction Quest.

‘A riot! This novel is so funny I laughed aloud in my sober study, and it is so frighteningly sharp I cut my finger and my heart turning the pages. A winner.’

– **Thomas Shapcott, judge of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards**

‘Along with its farce and game-playing, *Pangamonium* is a sharp critique of global capitalism. Lively and intelligent, it shows genuine compassion for those who suffer while others get rich.’ – **Nigel Krauth, winner of the Australian/Vogel Literary Award**



‘This novel is accomplished, excellently presented, amusing, and not without political point. The story is always entertain•ing, the narrative effectively and dramatically marshalled—like Alejo Carpentier meets Anthony Bourdain.’

– **Don Anderson, literary critic**

- Shortlisted for the Ilura Press Fiction Quest.
- Combines comic writing with wit and compassion.

Zanesh Catkin was horribly disfigured in a childhood accident; as a result he lived much of his life hidden in attics. He was taken in by a kind family from Minnesota, who offered a loving home and some plastic surgery. This is his first novel.





THE HUM OF CONCRETE

Anna Solding

Novel | PB 256 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9780987226501

Rights held: World

The Hum of Concrete is an evocative novel about a city and its people. Set in the multicultural city of Malmö, Sweden, *The Hum of Concrete* is the story of five people whose lives intersect.

Consumed with despair, Palestinian Nassrin walks into the ocean with her baby in her arms. Susanna dares to take a stand against gay-bashers. By starlight, Bodil sees the city from the roof of a church. Estella meets her tough little half-brother for the first time. Lonely Rhyme seeks shelter in a tree full of fairy lights. And all round them, the hum of concrete.

With photographic precision, Anna Solding captures both light and shadow found in the fleeting beauty of everyday life. From the silences between people and the ordinariness of places, she conjures narrative jewels of intelligence and pleasure.

'The characters are treated with heartwarming tenderness... the Swedish settings vividly realized.'

– J.M. Coetzee, Nobel Laureate in Literature

- **SHORTLISTED**
Adelaide Festival Awards, MUBA,
People's Choice Award

- **ONGLISTED**
Commonwealth Book Prize



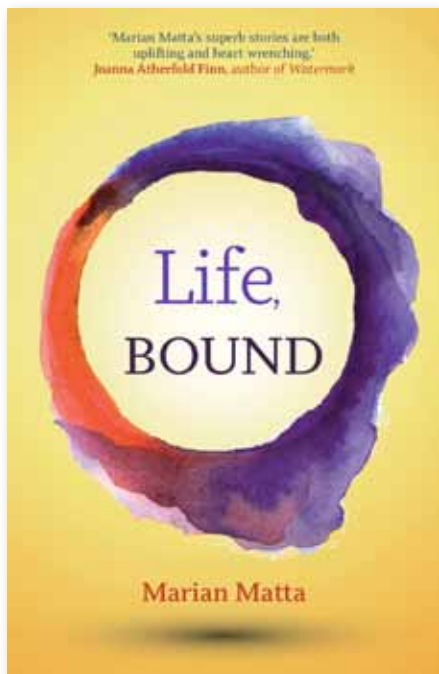
Anna Solding is a writer, editor and publisher. She holds a Masters and a PhD in Creative Writing. She has had short fiction published widely and has co-edited two literary magazines. Her first novel, *The Hum of Concrete*, was nominated for six awards and the books she has worked on as a publisher have also been well awarded. She is the co-founder and co-director of The Australian Short Story Festival. Anna is interested in how people navigate life depending on their circumstances and she would happily spend her days travelling the globe observing people.

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Short Fiction



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LIFE, BOUND

Marian Matta

Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227710

Rights held: World

Free agents or captives of our past?

In *Life, Bound* characters find themselves caught in situations not of their own making, or trapped by ingrained habits, walking in grooves carved out by past events.

An artist's progress is pleasingly channeled into a pattern laid down a century earlier. Karma mops up in the wake of a mousy clerk. A local legend falls foul of the town gossip. Spouses are constrained or liberated by love. Sexuality, gender, resentments, attachments and perversities all play a part.

Yet the grip of the past needn't always hold firm. Many protagonists are offered a potentially life-changing moment; whether or not they grasp it is up to them.

'Warm and witty stories. Marian Matta reveals her characters with razor-sharp clarity.' – **Lynette Washington**, author of *Plane Tree Drive*

'Marian Matta's superb stories are both uplifting and heart wrenching.' – **Joanna Atherfold Finn**, author of *Watermark*



For decades **Marian Matta** wrote whatever was called for, from medical articles and historical research to film scripts, but she began concentrating on the short story format in 2006 after being inspired by Annie Proulx's 'Brokeback Mountain'. Her stories have subsequently appeared in several anthologies. A grandmother, history tragic, internet junkie and circus student, she lives in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges with her husband, and is pleased to call Heath Ledger her muse. Optimism is her watchword.

RURAL DREAMS

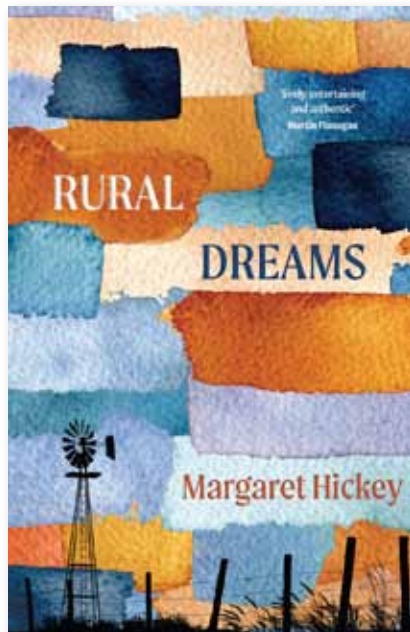
Margaret Hickey

Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227680

Rights held: World

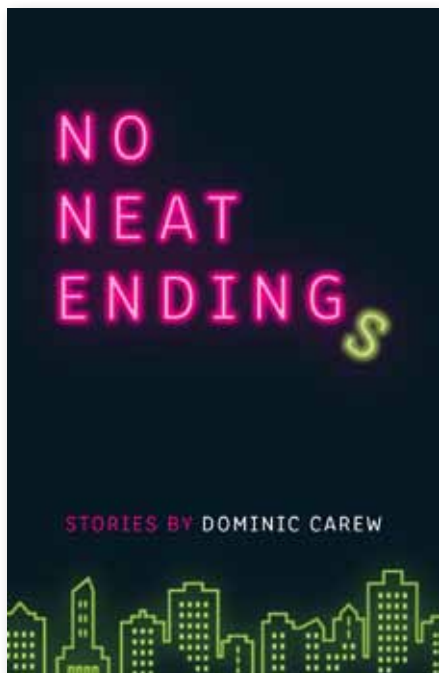
Funny, heartbreaking and true; the characters in *Rural Dreams* are the people we know and grew up with. Some of them might even be us. A girl finds strength in poetry, a football coach ponders obsession, a woman grapples with the fall out of an affair and a mother can't and won't stop swearing. In 'Binky', the character asks, 'who gets the farm?' and in 'Rescue', a backpacker is pulled out of a crocodile swamp. Written through the lens of landscape, *Rural Dreams* highlights the richness of life on the land and showcases the beauty of lives lived outside city walls.

'Rural Australia is a dangerously neglected part of our national consciousness – Margaret Hickey populates it with stories that are lively, entertaining and authentic.'
– **Martin Flanagan**



Margaret Hickey is an award-winning author and playwright from North East Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and lectures at La Trobe University.





NO NEAT ENDINGS

Dominic Carew

Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227611

Rights held: World

A young man can't make love. A pedantic father spots a blemish in his new shorts and returns to the shop to demand their exchange. A girl rocks up to a Tinder date wearing a helmet.

In nineteen short stories, *No Neat Endings* pits its characters against the challenges of modern life, sex, love, work and the world. A man observes his brother's rise to comic stardom with envy and angst. A father faces his fortieth with mortal paranoia. A friend returns from Brazil to become embroiled in a drug-fuelled romp in a share house. It doesn't work out. For so many of the characters in these stories, it doesn't end well. They succumb to their own vices, impulses, insecurities. They have, more often than not, only themselves to blame.

Half tragedy, half comedy, this collection announces a fresh new voice in Australian writing.

'A rogues gallery of funny, heartfelt and unflattering adventures ... Carew is a sharp, comic satirist of the at times obtuse, at times ridiculous, figure of the twenty-first century Australian male.' – **Luke Carman, author of *An Elegant Young Man***



Dominic Carew is a lawyer and writer from Sydney. He has practised law in Sydney, London, Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands in leading global law firms and financial institutions. He has an MA in Creative Writing from UTS, for which he received an Outstanding Student Award. Dominic has won or been shortlisted for many major short story awards, including the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. *No Neat Endings* is Dominic's first collection of stories.

PLANE TREE DRIVE

Lynette Washington

Short Fiction | PB 256 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227345

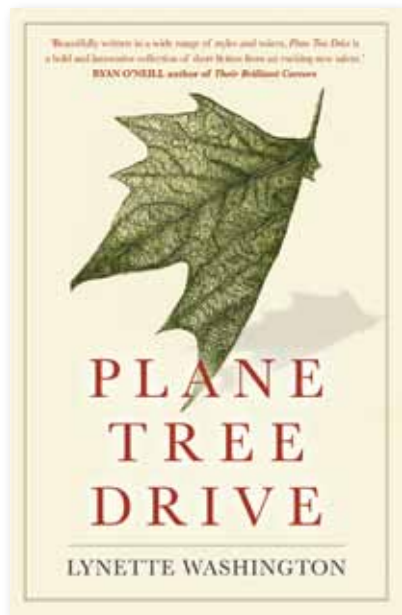
Rights held: World

Peer through the windows and doors on *Plane Tree Drive* to find a streetscape that is humorous, heartbreaking, real and surreal. Here, the loneliness of domestic isolation and the joy of connection weave together to form an interlaced map of suburban life.

‘Beautifully written in a wide range of styles and voices, *Plane Tree Drive* is a bold and innovative collection of short fiction from an exciting new talent.’ – **Ryan O’Neill**, author of *Their Brilliant Careers*

‘With each story in this complex fresco, layers are peeled away and others added, slowly revealing a delicate portrait of hurts and hopes, vulnerability and strength. *Plane Tree Drive* is a stunning and sensitive exploration of people, place and relationships.’ – **Michelle Wright**, author of *Fine*

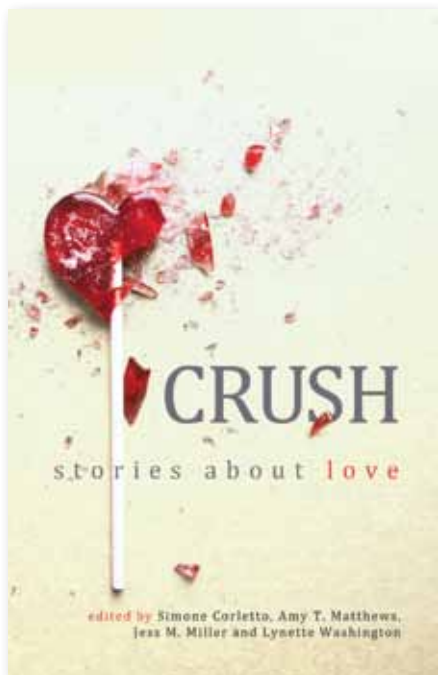
‘*Plane Tree Drive* is a highly original and moving collection... Picking and prodding at the human condition in all its everyday passions, neuroses, sadnesses and kindnesses, these are superb stories that can be read again and again. Most highly recommended!’ – **Professor Donna Lee Brien**



• **HIGHLY COMMENDED**
Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards 2018

Lynette Washington is a short story writer, editor and teacher of creative and professional writing. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. Her stories have been published widely and in 2014 she edited the story collection, *Breaking Beauty*. In 2017 she co-edited the story collection, *Crush*. *Plane Tree Drive* is her debut. When she is not writing, she teaches police cadets the importance of sentence structure and grammar.





CRUSH: STORIES ABOUT LOVE

**Edited by Simone Corletto,
Amy T Matthews, Jess Miller
and Lynette Washington**

Short Fiction | PB 368 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227307

Rights held: World

Bursting with affection, wit, loss, sex and a whole lot of love, the authors in this collection face the burning beauty of love and write of both the blaze and the ashes left behind. *Crush* will quicken the pulses of cynics and believers alike as it reimagines everything that makes the heart leap.

'A delicious and captivating look at love in all its wonderful and varied forms. I'd love to read more from these fresh voices!' – **Rachael Johns**

'Poignant, funny and heartbreaking, these short stories delve deep into secret longings, desires and love in all its intricacies and subtleties.' – **Victoria Purman**



Simone Corletto and Jess Miller

Simone Corletto is the Communications Officer for the South Australian Writers Centre, and spends her spare time crocheting and writing about teenage superheroes.

Amy T Matthews is an award winning novelist and academic who has published short stories in collections including *Best Australian Stories*.

Jess Miller is a PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Flinders University, researching time-travel fiction as a space for more empowering presentations of women.

Lynette Washington is a short story writer, editor and teacher of creative and professional writing. Her debut collection, *Plane Tree Drive*, was published in 2017.

WILD GESTURES

Lucy Durneen

Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227208

Rights held: World

Against the backdrop of an Italian bird market, a holidaying teenager makes her first attempt at seduction. An exchange student sees green lights in the sky above South America and fears the worst. And an affair that never happens is deconstructed while tigers pace in a European zoo.

Wild Gestures is the first collection from British writer Lucy Durneen, bringing together stories of loss, desire and opportunities missed, all orbiting the painful knowledge that the things we most long for remain the furthest from reach.

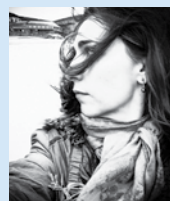
‘A writer of breathtaking precision, Lucy Durneen untangles the fears and longings of her characters with a surgeon’s eye and a poet’s tongue. These stories are whimsical and witty, incisive and sad; they will flip your heart.’ – **Rebekah Clarkson, author of *Barking Dogs***

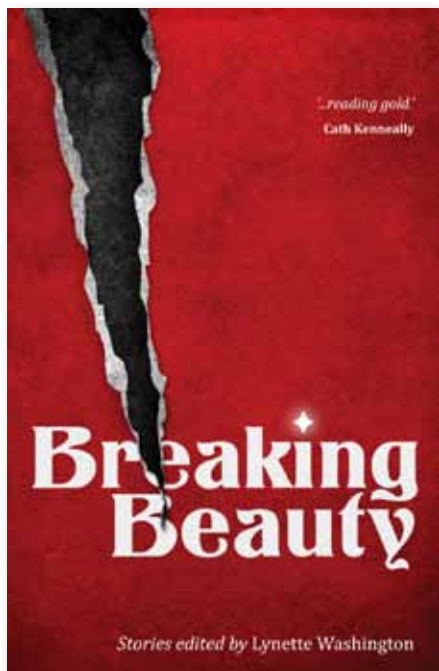
‘There is something vicious at the heart of these stories, something dark which unfurls and unsettles ... Distinguished by its measured yet speculative style, these stories will appeal to readers of Cate Kennedy and Mary Gaitskill.’ – ★★★★★ **Books+Publishing**



• **WINNER**
Saboteur Awards, UK, 2017

Lucy Durneen lectures in English and Creative Writing in Plymouth, England, and is Assistant Editor of the literary journal *Short Fiction*. Her short stories, poetry and non-fiction have appeared in *World Literature Today*, *The Manchester Review*, *The Letters Page*, *The Lightship Anthology* and *Litro*, amongst other places. She has been shortlisted four times for the Bridport Prize, Highly Commended in the 2014 Manchester Fiction Prize, and nominated for a Pushcart Prize.





BREAKING BEAUTY

Edited by Lynette Washington

Short Fiction | PB 240 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227000

Rights held: World

Breaking Beauty puts one of the greatest obsessions of our time under the spotlight and shows that beauty rarely exists without its grubby underbelly. There is no light without darkness.

Our writers – sparkling talents both established and emerging – discover that beauty can be found in the most unusual and unexpected places...in suburban driveways, graveyards, finials, cupcakes, train stations, grape vines and of course in the complexities of human relationships. They also find beauty in more conventional places like love, sex and the innocence of childhood.

‘The best of the writers in this collection take us outside out comfortable selves, to let us experience the world through sensibilities that are strange to us, even alien.’ – **J.M. Coetzee**

‘...in these hands the form is stretched, bent and spun into reading gold.’

– **Cath Kenneally**

‘...the psychological authenticity is exceptional, executed in economical prose.’ – **Brian Castro**

With stories by Katherine Arguile, Lesley Beasley, Gillian Britton, Rebekah Clarkson, Jessica Clements, Katherine Doube, Annabel Evitts, Ruby Ewens, Matthew Gabriel, Corrie Hosking, Rosemary Jackson, Melanie Kinsman, Stefan Laszczuk, Jo Lennan, Gay Lynch, Mary Lynn Mather, Amy T. Matthews, Rachael Mead, Lilliana Rose, Bernadette Smith, Anna Solding, Reg Taylor, Heather Taylor Johnson, Lynette Washington, Bryan Whalen, Sean Williams, Kimberley Zeneth

The writers in *Breaking Beauty* attended the Creative Writing postgraduate program at the University of Adelaide, one of the pre-eminent creative writing programs in Australia. Many have received national awards and been published widely in Australia and internationally. This collection showcases some of our finest established and emerging writers.

- Stories address the theme of beauty, looking at its grubby underside and unravelling its murky truth.
- Including stories by both emerging and established writers such as Sean Williams, Heather Taylor Johnson and Stefan Laszczuk.

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