



MidnightSun Publishing
Adult Books 2025



MidnightSun

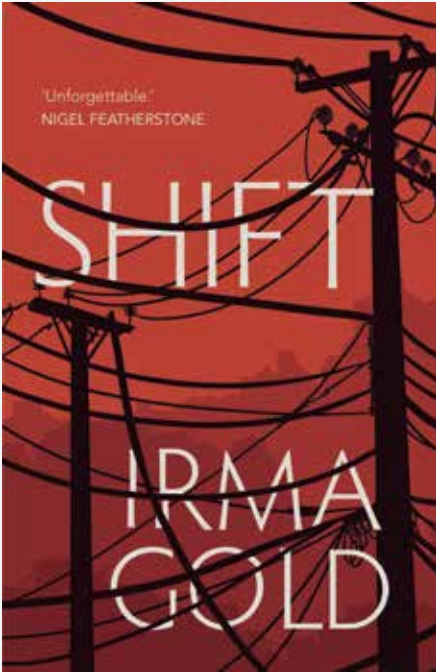
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MidnightSun Publishing
Novels



MidnightSun

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SHIFT

Irma Gold

Novel | PB 304 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781922858566

Rights held: World

In the year of the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter – which outlined the principles of democracy and freedom in South Africa – comes a novel set in the township where it was signed. *Shift* asks us to examine both the world around us ... and ourselves.

Arlie is a moderately successful thirty-something photographer who can't seem to get his shit together. He can't hold onto a girlfriend, or much else, and his relationship with his parents is complicated. His agoraphobic mother, Dellie, has long drawn a silence over her South African upbringing. The more she refuses to illuminate, the more Arlie wants to know.

After another break-up, Arlie needs to get away, and there's only one place he's drawn to. In Kliptown, he meets choirmaster Rufaro, singer Glory and her younger brother Samson. Amidst the poverty, violence and beauty of this neglected South African township, Arlie begins exploring ideas for an exhibition, and courting the possibility of happiness. But then his father unexpectedly turns up, and a catastrophic event changes everything.

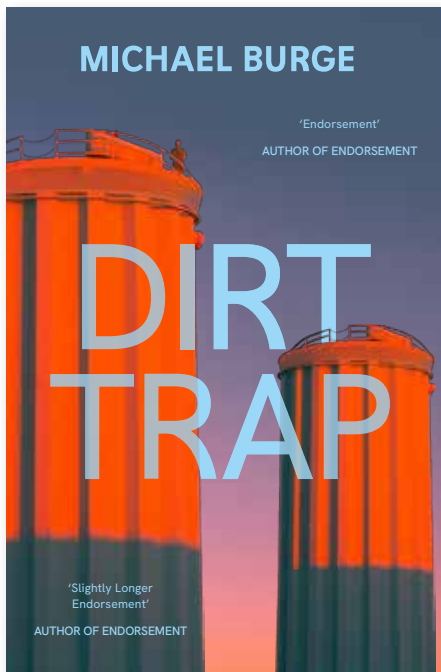
Gutsy and gripping, tender and deeply compassionate, *Shift* is a compulsively readable story about the messy process of art-making, and the mess of love and family. It is an unflinching, insightful and immersive novel that takes the reader inside the inner life of one township, beyond the hyperbole of newspaper headlines, to offer bold, big-hearted hope.

'Seductive, superbly atmospheric and beautifully narrated with a painterly, cinemascope feel, *Shift* will make your heart race.'

Niq Mhlongo, *The City is Mine*



Irma Gold is an author, freelance editor and podcaster. Her works include a novel, *The Breaking*, a short fiction collection, *Two Steps Forward*, and five children's books. Her short fiction has been widely published in literary journals, and her next children's book, *Come Home, Bigibila*, co-written with Kamilaroi man Corey Tutt, is forthcoming with Allen & Unwin. *Shift* is Irma's second novel published by MidnightSun. She is also the founder and co-host of the writing podcast *Secrets from the Green Room*. She lives in Naarm/Melbourne.



Draft cover only

'I love reading Michael's work, an elegant, flowing pleasure combining journalistic rigour with literary excellence'
Margo Kingston, journalist and author

DIRT TRAP

Michael Burge

Novel | PB 300 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781922858689

Rights held: World

Journalist James Brandt lives in a brittle truce with his partner Dylan and his family, never talking about the homophobic attacks he exposed in his rural hometown, including the brutal death of a beloved cousin twenty years ago.

But this illusion of peace is ripped apart by the start of the state's historical gay-hate crime inquiry, and the reappearance of the Joneses, who waltz back into Kippen professing to be queer allies. Yet when one of that notorious dynasty is found dead at a local water tower, it is James who stands accused.

With an under-resourced sergeant and a tech-savvy podcaster on his heels, James refuses to trust in a police force that has proven its inadequacy with gay-hate crime. In order to clear his name and flush out which member of this remote community took justice into their own hands, he will need to expose every secret, including his own.

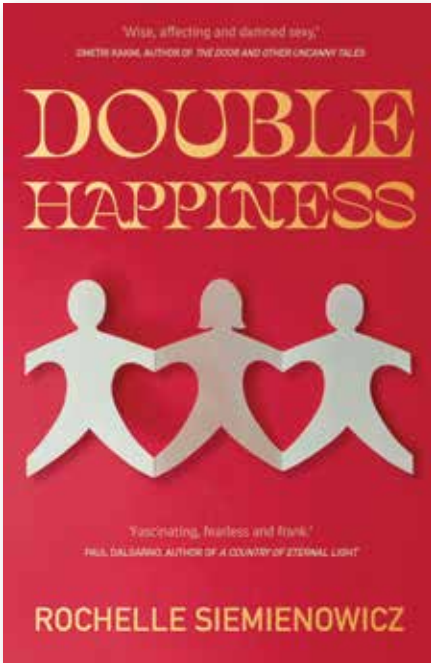
The gripping and heartbreaking sequel from the author of *Tank Water*.

"Michael Burge is one of our most compelling, nuanced and enjoyable voices."
Rodney Croome AM, LGBTIQ+ advocate



Photo: Max S Harding

Michael Burge is an author and journalist who lives at Deepwater in the New England region of NSW, Michael's debut novel *Tank Water* was released by MidnightSun Publishing. His article about the research behind this coming-of-age crime thriller appeared in *The Journal of Australian Studies*. A second novel *The Watchnight*, a gothic crime thriller set on Australia's colonial frontier, will be released globally in September 2025 by Histroria Books. An earlier memoir *Questionable Deeds: Making a stand for equal love* lifted the lid on homophobia during Australia's marriage equality campaign. Michael's reports for *Guardian Australia*, *Fairfax Media* and *NoFibs* led to a citation at the 2023 Honour Awards for his contribution to writing about rural LGBTIQ+. He sits on the board of the BAD Sydney Crime Writers Festival.



'A morally complex, moving, passionate and often bitingly funny work of autofiction, *Double Happiness* evokes the everyday and the erotic with equal finesse.

This authentic, questing, sometimes savagely reflective midlife crisis novel is Helen Garner meets Miranda July!

Jo Case, author and critic

DOUBLE HAPPINESS

Rochelle Siemienowicz

Novel | PB 384 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781922858474

Rights held: World

One woman, two men. What if she doesn't have to choose?

Overcome with guilt about a love affair she can't give up, Anna confesses to her husband, Brendan. He is shocked and devastated but makes the unusual decision to try to accept the lover, Jeremy, as part of their family.

Told from three perspectives, *Double Happiness* is a story about sex, honesty and jealousy – and the challenges of forging a new kind of romance.

Set in Melbourne over seven years, this lyrical contemporary love story explores the complexities of non-monogamy with humour and heart, asking what it's like to love two, or more, people equally but differently. What is the effect of *time* on erotic love? And what happens when your new lover wants someone else too?

'Fascinating, fearless and frank. One woman's attempt to rewrite the rules of romance in the face of love's Olympian hurdles and the conundrum of knowing herself. A challenge to Tolstoy's maxim that all happy families are alike.'

Paul Dalgarno, author of *A Country of Eternal Light*

'Wise, affecting and damned sexy.'

**Dmetri Kakmi, author of
*The Door and Other Uncanny Tales***



Rochelle Siemienowicz is a writer, editor and arts journalist. Her first book was *Fallen* (Affirm Press, 2015), a memoir about sex, religion and marrying too young. Her debut novel, *Double Happiness* (MidnightSun, 2024) is a polyamorous love story. Rochelle's work has been published widely, including in *The Age*, *SBS*, *Kill Your Darlings*, *The Big Issue*, *Metro*, *ArtsHub* and *Kalliope X*. She has a PhD in Australian cinema and was for many years a film and TV critic and columnist. She lives in Melbourne with her two partners, her son, and a beloved but incontinent rescue dog.



'A captivating novel which gives readers a vivid glimpse into a hauntingly realistic future.'
Shandar Stormland

R.E.GENERATION

Michael Prewer

Novel | PB 448 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781922858443

Rights held: World

After 50,000 years in a chemically induced sleep, Sarah and her fellow R.E.Generation volunteers awake to find a world devoid of human life. Climate change has wiped all mammalian life from the planet surface, and pine trees and giant mushrooms have taken over.

Can they stave off bitter infighting and a hostile earth to build a strong settlement in this strange new world? They are humanity's last chance of survival, but in the ongoing battle between humankind and the Earth, who wins?

'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'

R.E.Generation presents a near future where humanity is succumbing to the ravages of a changing climate and a reproductive blight, and a distant future where a few volunteers struggle to survive on a reborn earth. Can they remember the lessons of the past and create a better society capable of repopulating the earth, or will human greed, selfishness and conflict bring the whole experiment down. *R.E.Generation* explores one possible future where the climate crisis has almost won. But Sarah and her friends have other ideas.



Michael Prewer has been writing plays and stories and developing board games for as long as he can remember. *R.E.Generation* is his debut novel, but he already has a number of others in the works. Michael holds a Bachelor of Science (majoring in Anatomy) and a Masters of Speech Pathology. He has worked as a paediatric speech pathologist for over 5 years. Michael and his wife are passionate about taking small steps to minimise the impact humans leave on our wonderful planet. Michael also has a keen interest in theatre, sports, mathematics, puzzles and snorkelling. He lives on the outskirts of Melbourne with his wife, Georgie, and their young daughter.

MISSING PIECES

Jennifer Mackenzie Dunbar

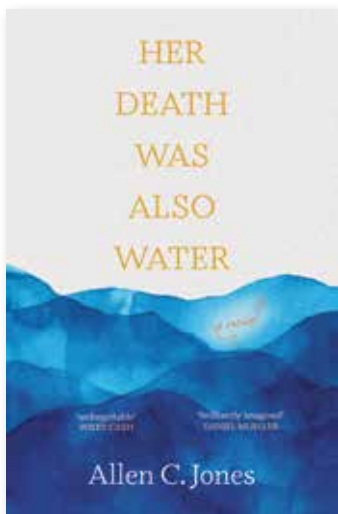
Novel | PB 304 | 53 x 234 | ISBN: 9781922858092

Rights held: World

Inspired by the 1831 discovery of a hoard of priceless chess pieces on a remote Scottish Island, *Missing Pieces* tells the story of four women who created and protected the now famous artefacts.

When Marianne is coerced into leaving the security of her comfortable London life to curate an exhibition on the Isle of Lewis, she uncovers her own ancestral connection to the mysterious island. Her eerie connections to the past introduce us to Magrit, the Icelandic artisan, beholden to a power-hungry Bishop, Morven, the rescuer, who seeks intimacy with a mysterious stranger and Mhairi, the negotiator, fighting a greedy landlord to stave off starvation and eviction.

Missing Pieces is a story about women's determination, passion and cunning and the power of love to right the wrongs of the past.



HER DEATH WAS ALSO WATER

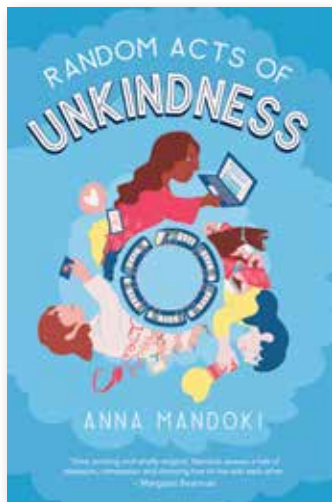
Allen C. Jones

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.



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.

THE RIDER ON THE BRIDGE

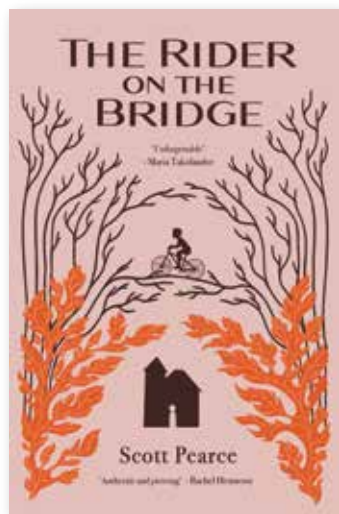
Scott Pearce

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.



TANK WATER

Michael Burge

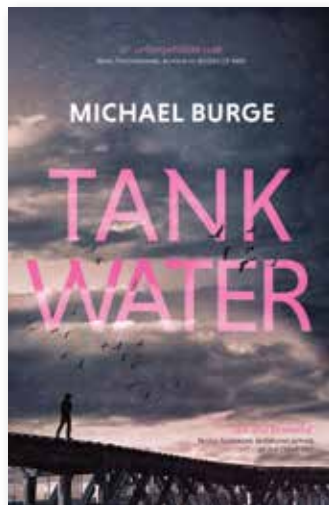
Novel | PB 300 | 153 x 234 | ISBN: 9781925227888

Rights held: World

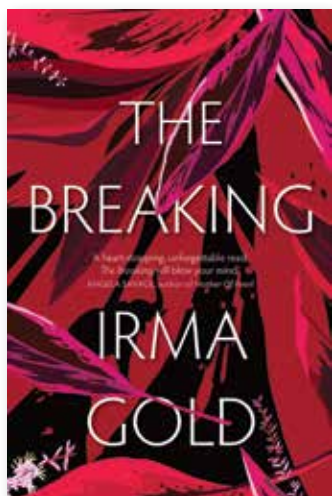
James Brandt didn't look back when he got away from his rural hometown as a teenager. Now, he's returned to Kippen for the first time in twenty years because his cousin Tony has been found dead under the local bridge.

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.



THE BREAKING

Irma Gold

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

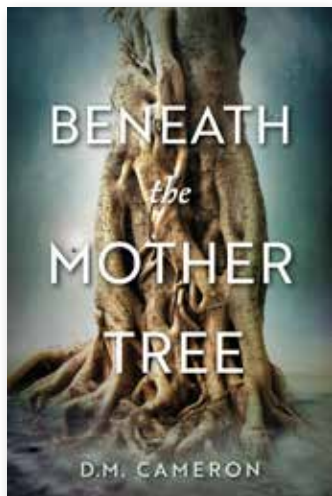
Rights held: World

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.



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.

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.



PEACE, LOVE AND KHAKI SOCKS

Kim Lock

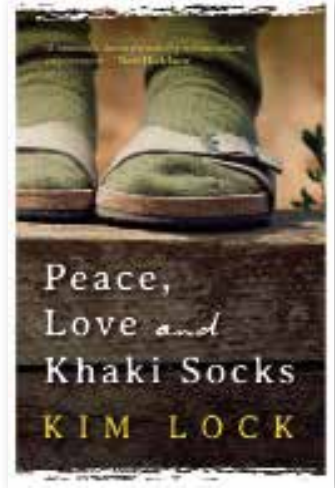
Novel | PB 336 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9780987380913

Rights held: World

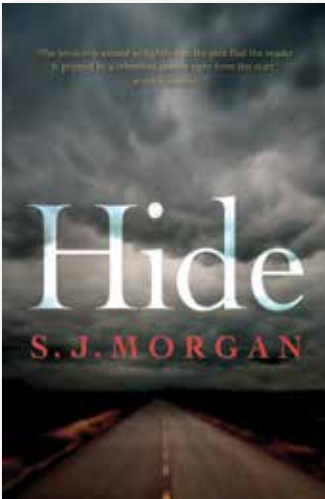
Peace, Love and Khaki Socks explores what it is to be a woman, an expectant mother, a lover and a friend in a patriarchy.

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.



HIDE

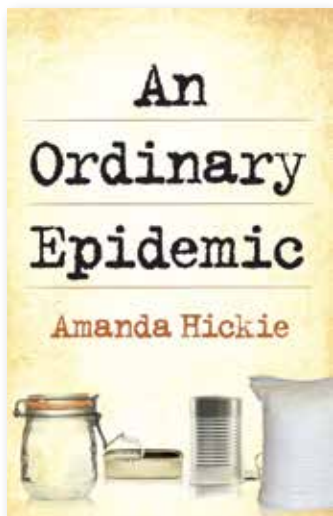
S.J. Morgan

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.



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.

PANGAMONIUM

Zanesh Catkin

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

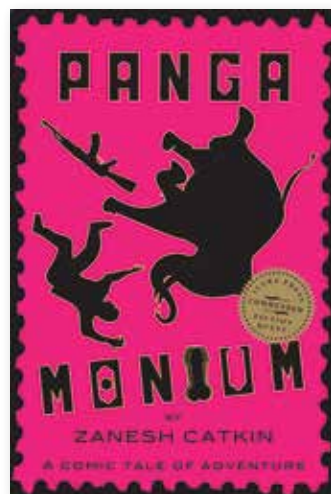
Rights held: World

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.



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 fleet-ing beauty of everyday life. From the silences between people and the ordinariness of places, she conjures narrative jewels of intelligence and pleasure.



MidnightSun Publishing
Non-fiction



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THE GROWN-UP'S GUIDE TO PICTURE BOOKS

Written by Lara Cain Gray and illustrated by Lorena Carrington and Timothy Ide

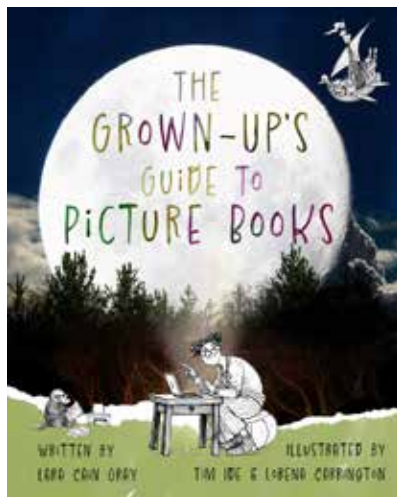
Non-fiction | HB | 297 x 210 | ISBN: 9781922858504

Rights held: World

A picture book is a book with pictures, but it's so much more than that! This A to Z guide helps you level up your picture book reading experiences, empowering yourself and the young readers in your world to dive deeper into what makes a great picture book great. With histories, insights and handy talking points for shared reading, come and explore the complexities of modern picture books. Discover the science of page layouts, the purpose of rhyme, and why our favourites linger in our hearts and minds for life. Let's read!

'A delightful deep-dive between the covers of picture books, exploring both the inner-workings and enchanting wonders of the artform.'

Matt Cosgrove, author & illustrator of *Macca the Alpaca*



'I know of no other book that will so quickly improve a grown-up's ability to engage more deeply with that which is so human – the combination of words and pictures to tell stories.'

Matt Shanks, award-winning picture book author and illustrator



Dr Lara Cain Gray is a writer, librarian and storytelling advocate based in Brisbane, Australia. Her professional past spans library and museum curatorship, academic research, and corporate and creative writing and editing. She is currently Head of Acquisitions at nonprofit publisher Library For All, delivering cross-cultural children's books to remote and low-income communities. She reads every day and will NEVER be too old for picture books.



Timothy Ide is an Adelaide based illustrator with a number of children's books under his belt, including *Tom the Outback Mailman* written by Kristin Weidenbach, which won the Eve Pownall CBCA award in 2013. His most recent children's books are *King of the Outback*, *the Story of Sidney Kidman* (2017), also by Kristin Weidenbach and *Born to Fly* (2019) by Beverley McWilliams. *Medieval Monsters and Other Creatures* (2023) is his first book as both author and illustrator. When he is not illustrating, Timothy enjoys wargaming and role-playing games as well as practising medieval fighting in full armour.



Lorena Carrington is an illustrator whose books have been published in Australia and internationally. Her works are created using photography and digital montage techniques to form richly layered images. She has worked with the likes of Kate Forsyth, Sophie Masson and Carmel Bird, and has illustrated fairy tale collections, picture books, and created covers for novels and anthologies. She also exhibits her work in galleries around Australia, and holds workshops on illustration, books and story. She is recipient of the 2020 Australian Fairy Tale Society award, for her 'outstanding contribution to the field of Australian Fairy Tales.'

MidnightSun Publishing
Short Fiction



MidnightSun

www.midnightsunpublishing.com



STRANGELY ENOUGH

Gillian Hagenus

Short Fiction | PB 240 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781922858313

Rights held: World

Neglected by society, a group of caravanning 60-somethings encounter a place where time stops. A baby swims in a witch's cauldron. A statue of Jesus grows fat off fish and chips. An ancient Egyptian God swims through the sewers under a suburban street and a desperate family harvests the fingers they find growing in their soil after their final food supplies wither.

Strangely Enough is a celebration of the far-reaching possibilities of short fiction from some of Australia's most creatively ambitious minds. Surreal and haunting, funny and gripping, these intensely strange tales encompass what it means to grieve, love, wonder, fear and change, each ultimately offering something entirely unexpected and strangely, deeply human.

'Strangely Enough is an unsettling yet moreish anthology. I look forward to the next time I encounter the work of these talented writers – I look forward to the bewilderment, terror, and delight.'

– Elizabeth Tan, author of *Smart Ovens for Lonely People*

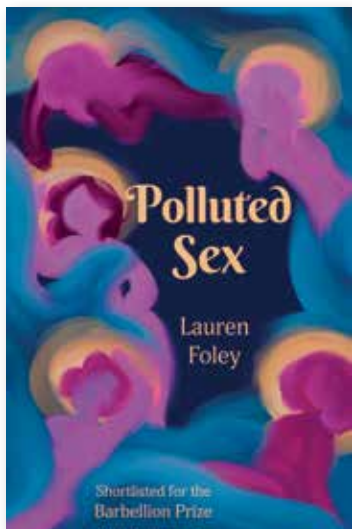
'Strangely Enough is a treasure box of the gloriously weird. A must read for anyone who delights in the strange, the dark and the twisted.'

– Wayne Marshall, author of *Shirl*

Gillian Hagenus is a writer, editor and book devourer living and working on Kurna land in South Australia. Her short fiction has appeared in various journals across Australia, including *Voiceworks*, *SWAMP*, *Social Alternatives* and *Aniko Press*, and internationally in *The Antigoneish Review*. She has a Masters degree in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide, where her thesis focused on Australian Suburban Gothic fiction. In 2022, her unpublished short story collection was the winner of the AAWP/UWA Publishing Chapter One Prize. In her free time, Gillian helps run literature festivals and looks after a menagerie of other people's pets.



Leo Alder, **Shaeden Berry**, Liz Betts, **Mikaela Castledine**, Az Cosgrove, **Dorothy-Jane Daniels**, Jake Dean, **Rebecca-Anne Do Rozario**, Xandra Fowler, **Deborah Frenkel**, Victoria Griffin, **Rowan Heath**, Keren Heenan, **Matthew Hooton**, Katy Knighton, **Marian Matta**, Sam Mayne, **Helena Pantis**, Raeden Richardson, **Amber K Tilley**, RT Wenzel.



‘Religion, desire and sin are laid bare and made strange in Foley’s succulent language that drips from the page like an overripe fruit, sweet but spoiling at the same time.’ – **Books Ireland**

POLLUTED SEX

Lauren Foley

Short Fiction | PB 232 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781922858214

Rights held: Australia/NZ

A pregnant woman takes the ferry to the UK.

A fractious intimate relationship develops between an Irish woman, an English man, and her girlfriend.

Two ungendered characters contest the same female body.

A deserted wife takes a lover but remains unsatisfied.

Lauren Foley’s debut collection of dramatic short stories, *Polluted Sex*, is fearless in its depiction of women’s bodies and sexuality, offering an unflinching window into Irish girl and womanhood.

‘Lacerating and sexy, the heat sears off (and through) the pages.’ – **June Caldwell**

‘With her form-bending debut collection, *Polluted Sex*, Irish / Australian Lauren Foley joins a cohort of contemporary authors – including Cathy Sweeney, Claire-Louise Bennett, Eimear McBride – whose work seems dissatisfied with narrative conventions. What happens when we blow them open? ... *Polluted Sex* alternately challenges, interests, confuses, humours, shocks, and engages its reader. What art ought to do.’ – **Irish Independent**



Lauren Foley is a Next Generation Artist in Literature with the Arts Council of Ireland. Her work is published by *Influx Press*, *gorse*, *Head of Zeus*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *No Alibis*, *The Irish Times* and *Overland* and has been shortlisted for The Barbellion Prize and The Irish Book Awards.

BIG, WEIRD, LONELY HEARTS

Allen C. Jones

Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781922858344

Rights held: World

One part absurd humor, one part social commentary, *Big, Weird, Lonely Hearts* throws the most unlikely couples into bed together. This hilarious collection includes a man mistaken for a bush, a mermaid refugee, a bird who dreams of weaponizing cats, a boy with a computer for a face, and a woman in love with a severed arm. These and more are the weird and lonely characters who drag their broken hearts through this collection, diligently searching for someone to stitch them up.

Allen C. Jones' debut collection reads like a meeting between Peter Carey, Nikolai Gogol, and Aimee Bender where the task at hand is to write a love story. While the surface of these stories seems humorous and even absurd, beneath this runs a desperate nostalgia carried by a set of characters who will do anything to force their way back into love.

'A riotously unpredictable but entertaining examination of absurd human life, and the thin boundaries that separate us from what we perceive as 'other'. For lovers of the literary surreal!
Eugen Bacon, award-winning author of *Serengotti*

'With a poet's incisiveness and command of the symbolic, Jones lays bare his characters' shocking, shameful and tender interior worlds.'
Andrew Roff, author of *The Teeth of a Slow Machine*

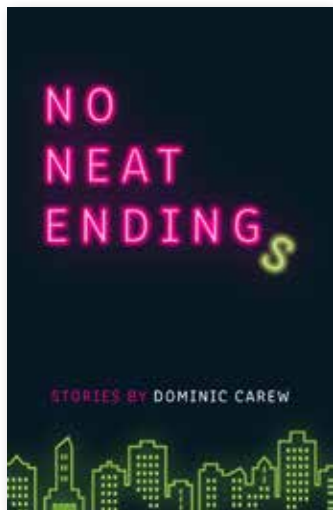


'What leaves me breathless and inarticulate about Jones's collection is how each story is written so entirely on its own terms. Each experiment its own dazzling and unlikely success!
Adam Prince, author of *The Beautiful Wishes of Ugly Men*

'Funny, observant, compassionate and wildly inventive.'
Fiona Robertson, author of *If You're Happy*

Allen C. Jones received an MFA in poetry from the University of New Mexico and a PhD in English from University of Louisiana. He presently serves as associate professor of literature and culture at the University of Stavanger, Norway. His scholarly work investigates experimental writing and literary game pedagogy. His debut novel *Her Death Was Also Water* came out in 2022 with MidnightSun Publishing, and his debut book of poetry, *Son of a Cult*, is out in 2023 with Kelsay Books, USA. His writing appears widely in print and online. Find links to it here: <https://www.allencjones.com>. Follow him on social media: [allencjones_theauthor](#)





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.

PLANE TREE DRIVE

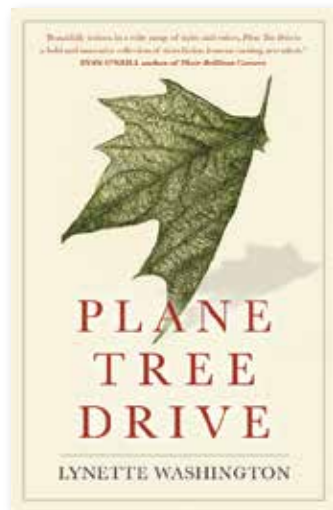
Lynette Washington

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.

• **HIGHLY COMMENDED:** Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2018



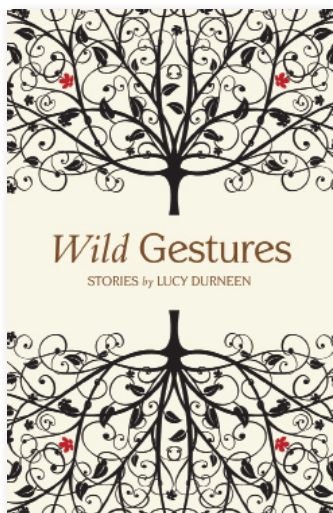
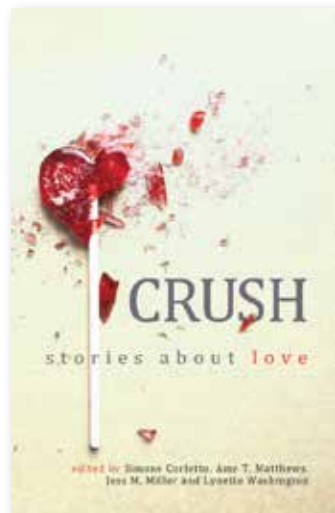
CRUSH: STORIES ABOUT LOVE

**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.



WILD GESTURES

Lucy Durneen

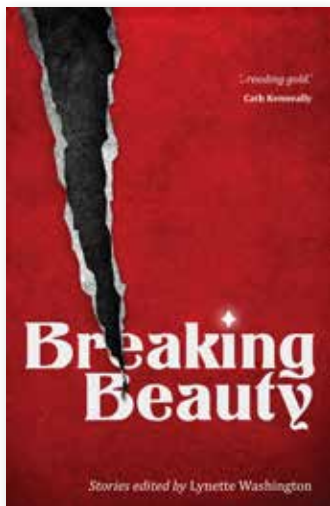
Short Fiction | PB 224 | 129 x 198 | ISBN: 9781925227208

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.

- **WINNER**
Saboteur Awards, UK, 2017



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, funerals, 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.

LIFE, BOUND

Marian Matta

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

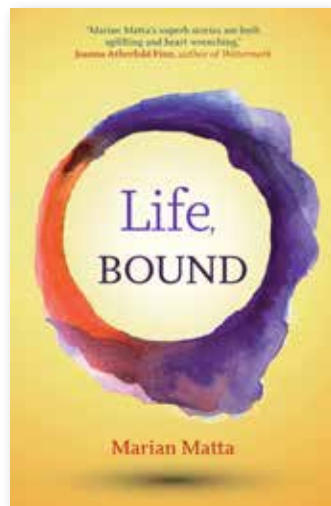
Rights held: World

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.



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