



ADULT CATALOGUE 2022

WWW.BIGSKYPUBLISHING.COM.AU



/Big Sky Publishing



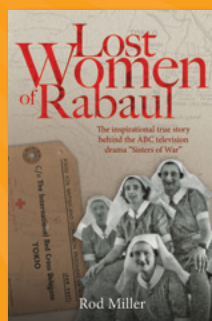
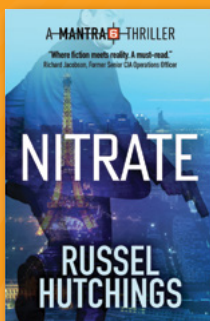
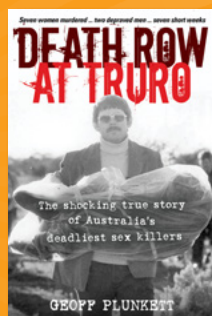
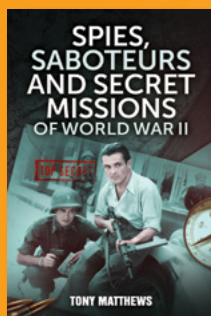
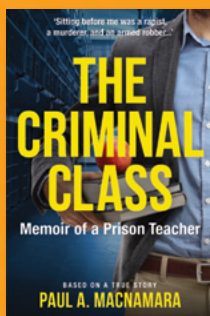
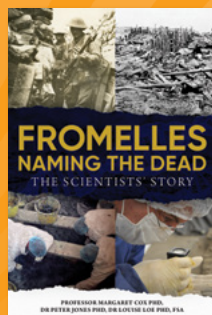
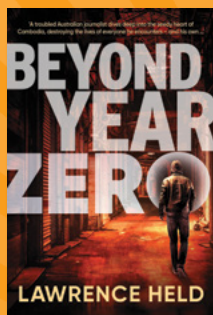
/Bigskypub



1300 364 611



www.bigskypublishing.com.au



randle
editorial
& LITERARY
CONSULTANCY

For all Rights enquiries, please contact:
Emily Randle
Randle Editorial & Literary Consultancy
emily@randleeditorial.co.uk
T: +44 07946248283

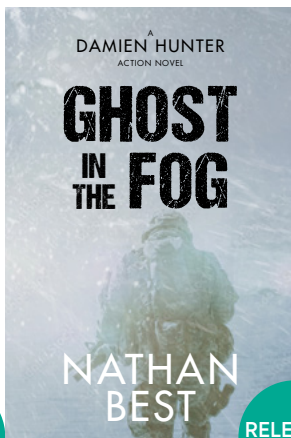
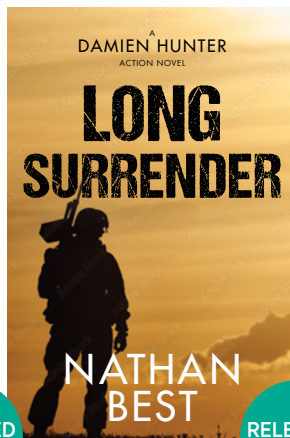
FICTION

A
DAMIEN HUNTER
ACTION NOVEL



BATTLE BORN

NATHAN BEST

OCTOBER
2022RELEASED
2023RELEASED
2023

Damien Hunter is a veteran born in the unforgiving cauldron of combat operations. An Air Force special forces operator turned contractor; Damien is employed by the shadowy Taipan Organisation. In company with Warwick 'Wuz' Davis and Paul 'Stayer' MacLean, Damien is in command of the tight three-man outfit, Taipan One Six. The team are the Warfighters who take missions no one else will.

Contracted to undertake a flawed mission in the deadly Chora Valley of Afghanistan, Taipan One Six support a Dutch operation against the ruthless warlord Abd al-Malik. Abd al-Malik takes the fight to the Dutch and ambushes the operators with the help of Rainer Toussaint a psychopathic ex-French Legionnaire who revels in death and destruction. The dusty soil of Afghanistan has become the graveyard of another military mission.

Damien is jaded and broken by years of combat. It is his mission to protect the Dutch operators. Hopelessly outnumbered the Dutch fight for their lives. With their exfiltration plan compromised, Damien and his team are forced to join up with the besieged Dutch operators. Stalked by Rainer and Afghani fighters, Taipan One Six and the Dutch grapple for survival in a cauldron of death without mercy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nathan Best is a 30 year veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force as a communicator. Deployed to the Middle East operations in Iraq and Kuwait as part of the Australian commitment to the War on Terror Nathan has gathered unique and credible experiences to add realism and authenticity to his writing.

A MANTRA-6 THRILLER

NITRATE

RUSSEL HUTCHINGS

International Sales Rights:
Mantra 6 Series WEL audio (Wavesound)

John Devereaux and his MANTRA-6 team are now fully operational.

On the frozen landscape of Northern Russia, four figures dressed in arctic camouflage uniforms, break into the Polyarny Naval Base near Murmansk - Home of Russia's Northern Fleet. Their mission, to steal 60kg of highly enriched Uranium-235 and hand it over to the Russian Mafia.

Rogue nations and despots - North Korea, Libya, Iran, Al-Qa'ida, Hamas and Hezbollah, all want their hands on this lethal cargo... Let the bidding begin!

MANTRA-6 is on the hunt.

God help anyone who gets in their way!

Mantra 6: Nitrate is the second book in Russel Hutchings' explosive new thriller series featuring operative John Devereaux.

"The purpose of MANTRA-6 is to destroy or greatly degrade the capacity of the leadership of terrorist organisations and that of the 'underworld', such as mafia and NARCO organisations."

- John Devereaux

“Mantra-6 BRIMSTONE is a high-impact espionage thriller that will keep movie goers guessing and on the edge of their seat from start to finish...From the moment I read the script, I was hooked!”

– Film Director, Storm Ashwood

‘When thinking of MANTRA-6 ‘BRIMSTONE’, think: JASON BOURNE meets TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY meets SICARIO.’

“Astounding! An awesomely crafted, high-octane novel from start to finish”

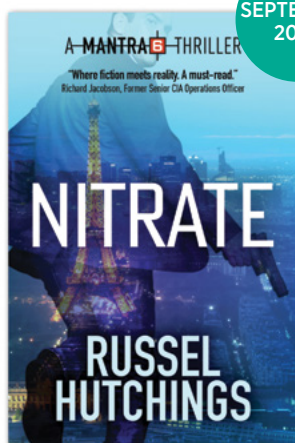
– Lt. Col. Warren Young CSC (Rtd), Former 1 CDO Regt.

“As real as it gets”

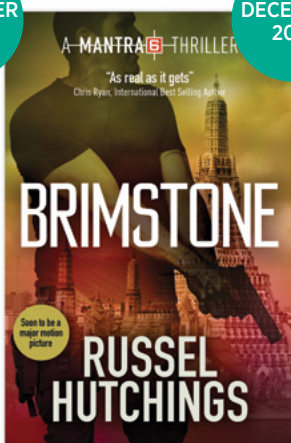
– Chris Ryan, International Best Selling Author

“One of the most gripping and authentic reads in recent years”

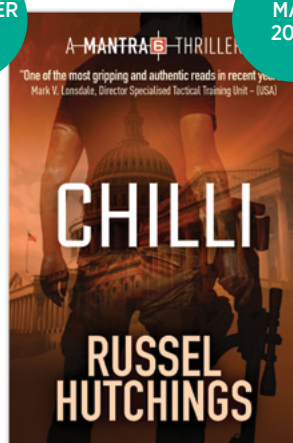
– Mark V. Lonsdale. Director Specialised Tactical Training Unit (USA)



SEPTEMBER
2022



DECEMBER
2021



MAY
2023



HITLER'S RESURRECTION

STEVE MATTHEWS

International Rights Sales for *Hitler's Brothel*:

Czech (Euromedia), Hungarian (IPC), Italian (Newton Compton), WEL audio (Wavesound)
(3 books), Poland (Bukowy Las/Znak) at auction (3 books)

'All my books for adults focus upon difficult and at times confronting situations. The Hitler series is no different. While the stories are based upon fact here are strong female leads While the Hitler series is based around war, the strength of women is paramount.'

– Steve Matthews

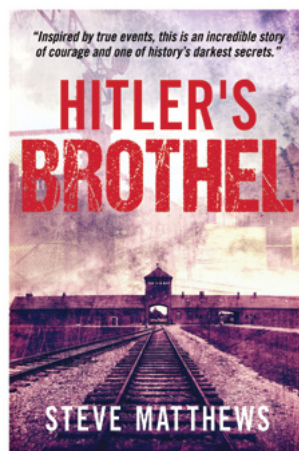
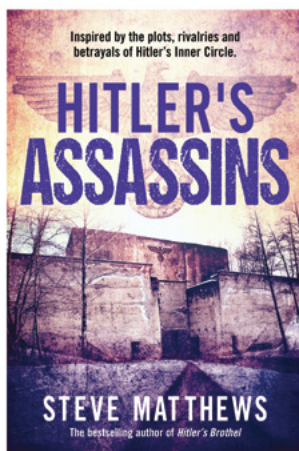
I am constantly reminded of Steve Matthews' talent during my reading of his newest masterpiece "Hitlers Brothel". In what is such an unthinkable part of history, Steve manages to craft a story that leaves you pondering long after you've turned the last page!

– Goodreads

HITLER'S RESURRECTION | OCTOBER

2022 *The third and climactic volume in Steve Matthews' Nazi Trilogy*

While intelligence agents undertake missions to verify if Hitler is alive, a Hitler double – the Wolf – is laying a false trail across Europe and South America. The real Hitler is hiding out in a monastery in Poland. Klara's sister Natalka receives a tip-off through her work with the Polish Government pursuing and executing Nazi fugitives and recruits Klara to track him down. Retribution is close. But brutally buffeted by the winds of fate since the War began, Klara can't take any more. One final twist awaits her, revealing a future she couldn't possibly have imagined!



HITLER'S ASSASSINS | OCTOBER 2021

Hitler's inner circle – A web of deceit.

Hitler's new cook Klara finds herself surrounded by secrets and her respect for the Fuhrer is gradually eroded by the events she witnesses. Her life is shattered when her 6-year-old daughter is sent to Auschwitz.

As the war progresses, Hitler becomes paranoid about assassination. Who can he trust? With the Russians closing in on the Berlin bunker Klara finally discovers the truth about her daughter's internment and takes revenge on the man responsible. She also decides to kill Hitler, but has she been thwarted?

Has he already committed suicide?

Or did someone else get to him first?

Or is he really dead at all?

HITLER'S BROTHEL | OCTOBER 2020

'War and what it does to people. No one escapes it's clutches ...'

Spanning 60 years, *Hitler's Brothel* follows the lives of two Polish sisters, separated by the vagaries of war. It examines their lives as well as those of their German masters.

Two sisters are cruelly separated by war in tragic circumstances. Ania is imprisoned in a concentration camp in Poland and Danuta's search for her sister leads her into the Polish Underground. They each do what they must to survive long enough to find each other. Their dream of being united ends in shocking circumstances. Amazingly, the opportunity for revenge presents itself 60 years later in New Jersey, USA. But faced with the ultimate decision what will be the outcome: seek justice or revenge?



SECRETS & SHOWGIRLS

OCCUPIED PARIS ... A GLITZY CABARET WHERE NOTHING IS WHAT IT SEEMS ...

"An intricate and captivating read, Secrets and Showgirls is a wonderfully captivating novel that will take you to another time and place."

Secrets and Showgirls portrays an occupied Paris in which exotic cabarets existed uneasily under the heel of the invader. It follows the antics of Maurice, Lily and a glittering array of characters, but never loses sight of the battle to survive that characterised the life of the everyday Parisian.

Le Prix d'Amour, a vibrant Paris cabaret, is caught in the crossfire of the occupation. Everyone is being watched, and some of Le Prix's colourful performers are hiding dangerous secrets. Monsieur Maurice manages Le Prix d'Amour, a successful

Parisian cabaret, which boasts glitzy performers and sassy showgirls. But with the German occupation in June 1940, Maurice treads a fine line between his German patrons, the French police and the Gestapo as he hides the dark secrets of his performers. With the Allied landings, the tension builds and Maurice is pushed to his limits as his performers finally take the fight to the invader in their own flamboyant way.

LOVE & RETRIBUTION

A WARTIME STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND REVENGE

"This story is a vivid reminder that even the quietest of lives can attract the most unforeseen of circumstances."

In the midst of a devastating war, a young widow finds two men washed up on the beach below her house on a Cornish cliff, a discovery that will eventually draw her

across the continent to the British war crimes trials and plunge her into the dark world of post-war retribution.

It's July 1943 and the world has been at war for almost four long years. One morning, young widow Emmy Penry-Jones discovers two men washed up on the beach below her house on the west coast of Cornwall. Emmy is used to rescuing washed-up sailors, the deadly Battle of the Atlantic exacting a heavy toll on shipping. But these men are not like the shipwrecked sailors she has rescued before and Emmy is soon drawn into a web of intrigue that will test both her ingenuity and her patriotism.

DANCING WITH DECEPTION

LOVE, LIES & DECEIT IN OCCUPIED PARIS

"A beautifully written book that takes you on a journey through occupied Paris during WWII."

Paris 1942, and a new Gestapo chief arrives to replace his murdered predecessor. The resistance has a beautiful new recruit he will find irresistible. It's a perfect storm.

A beautiful nurse escapes a possessive lover and a domineering mother, trapped eventually in the maelstrom of wartime Paris where she is caught in the crossfire between a desperate resistance and a ruthless Gestapo chief, a dangerous weapon to one and a trophy to the other, but expendable to both — so why does she find herself falling in love with a man she knows has blood on his hands, and why does the resistance now have her in its sights?

PRAISE FOR CATHERINE McCULLAGH

Catherine McCullagh once again gives us a page-turner that reflects her meticulous historical research.

Love the colour and pace. I can easily picture Le Prix and the assortment of eclectic characters. It actually feels like I'm at a Vegas Burlesque Cabaret Show ... in a good way !! I'm feeling it rather than just reading it.

Upon finishing this book I felt like I had left friends and a second life behind. A must read.

Incredible descriptions leaves you feeling like you are immersed in WW2 Paris and the intricacy of each characters personality enthrals you in their lives.

The plot was very unique to and loaded with lavish vocabulary, a lot of humour and detail from start to finish. Very well written and very well researched. I absolutely loved it!

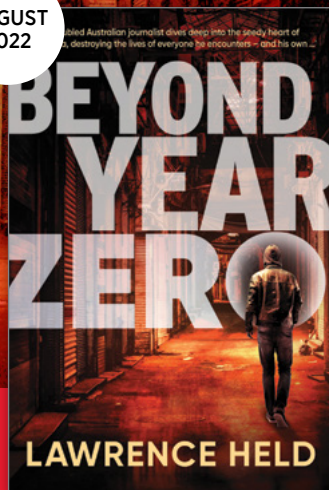
Meticulous research by Catherine McCullagh describes a world of intrigue, passion and revenge.

BEYOND YEAR ZERO

LAWRENCE HELD

A troubled Australian journalist undertakes an odyssey into the heart of Cambodian darkness that will destroy the life of everyone he encounters – and his own ...

AUGUST
2022



Carl Meissner is a 32-year-old unemployed journalist who was fired over his reporting of a paedophile scandal involving a prominent Sydney judge, and is hired by Joe Goldman, a rich currency trader/property developer, to find his missing twin brother, whom a private detective has traced to Cambodia.

Beyond Year Zero is the story of Carl's journey into the dark heart of Cambodia – and simultaneously into himself – along the way becoming entangled in the lives of the mysterious 'Bible Bill' Butt and the two beautiful Eurasian sisters, Bopha and Dara, and being forced to confront Cambodia's dark underworld of child pornography, trafficking in human body parts, personal and political corruption, cannibalism, incest, lust and drugs. Having got himself into this seething milieu, where the only certainties are cruelty and violence, Carl then has to get himself out ...

KEY POINTS

- A pacey, gripping crime thriller.
- A 'noirish' novel, in the classic tradition of James Ellroy, Don Winslow and Raymond Chandler, but set almost entirely in the menacing and exotic location of Phnom Penh.
- It is an edge-of-the-seat page-turner – just when you think it couldn't go any deeper into the murky Cambodian underworld, that's just where it goes.
- It draws partly on the writer's experience of living in Cambodia, where for a while he learned Khmer and taught street kids English.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAWRENCE HELD trained at the 'Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art' (London), worked in theatre and television in the UK and Europe, presented a ninepart series for the BBC, acted in *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*, developed scripts for 'Film Victoria' and published *Once A Jolly Swagperson* (Pan Macmillan).

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

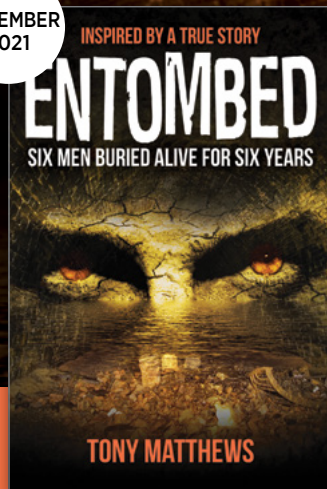
ENTOMBED

SIX MEN BURIED ALIVE FOR SIX YEARS

TONY MATTHEWS

International Rights Sales:
Polish (Swiat Ksiazki) at auction

NOVEMBER
2021



What would it be like to be trapped deep underground for six long years with no hope of rescue or escape? This is a profound question explored deeply in *Entombed*. And the key point here is that *Entombed* is inspired by an astonishing true story and real events.

Six German soldiers led by Captain Hans von Roth are accidentally buried alive in a vast subterranean stores bunker at the port of Gdynia, Poland, in 1945. At first they believe they will soon be rescued, but as the weeks drag into years it becomes appallingly clear that the men will almost certainly face a terrifying death in the grim darkness that surrounds them.

Meanwhile, in Berlin, Hans von Roth's wife, Erika, is desperately attempting to survive the fall of the city and the Russian hordes destined shortly to occupy it. Facing starvation, massive aerial bombing, Soviet shelling and a host of other dangers, she is also attempting to discover what has become of her lost husband.

In *Entombed*, the author has woven a tale of great love and a desperate struggle for survival like no other. The story literally pushes all the frontiers of human frailty and courage to their very edges.

PRAISE FOR TONY MATTHEWS

The release of a new book by Tony Matthews is always an event keenly anticipated by those who love history, and Tony's new publication lives up to the promise of an intriguing and beautifully-crafted read.

Meticulously researched, this powerful publication drills down into the heart of the stories to reveal the true nature and previously hidden background to these events.

OTHER BOOKS BY TONY MATTHEWS



OCTOBER
2021

THE MADNESS LOCKER

EDDIE RUSSELL

"A powerful story that dramatically blends harsh reality with poignant fiction. Readers will be fascinated by the unexpected sequence of events four decades later in Australia."

Two young lives. One devastating decision.

In the early hours of Christmas morning in 1986, the body of an older woman was discovered inside a wheelie bin in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, Australia. There were no clues and no suspects. After an extensive investigation, the police admitted defeat and filed it as a cold case. It is a case that taunts them still. Eddie Russell's debut conjures a plausible motive to this strange crime in this artfully wrought, page-turning story which takes the reader from Utrecht to Berlin, to Auschwitz, and finally, to a sleepy neighbourhood in Sydney, Australia.

Winter, 1986. Ruth, a Jewish woman in her later years, is grieving the death of her husband. His old friend, a widowed neighbour called Sam, offers her comfort. But Ruth feels there is something off about Sam. Whatever story he's peddling, she doesn't buy it. She's determined to uncover the truth about how he came to find himself in

Sydney and where his real loyalties lie.

Winter 1941. Two young girls living under the tyranny of a brutal and dictatorial Nazi regime experience a fateful twist, leading one to escape to freedom and the other to be subjected to incarceration in a concentration camp, and how she got there is buried in the depths of her memory. But remembering is key. Somebody is responsible for her ending up in the depths of hell. And, if she survives, she will make that person pay if it's the last thing she does...

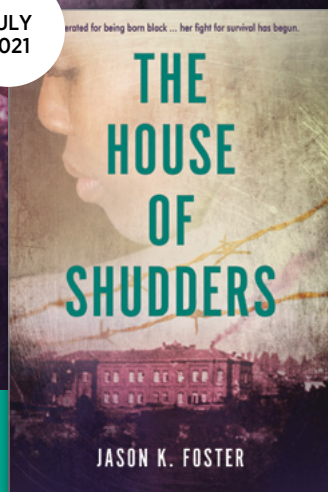
An extraordinary story of hidden identity, revenge and deception, The Madness Locker is a chilling reminder that the truth will always catch up with you someday.

JULY
2021

THE HOUSE OF SHUDDERS

JASON K. FOSTER

International Rights Sales:
Italian (Newton Compton)



I couldn't put this book down. Ingrid's tragic story resonates long after the final page.

The daughter of a German mother, and black French soldier, Ingrid has been ostracised all of her life. The rise of Hitler and his barbaric racial cleansing policies has intensified the hatred and prejudice to a frightening new level. When Ingrid is identified as an "undesirable" she is sent to Hadamar – an institution the locals call "The House of Shudders". There she discovers how far the Nazis will go to rid the Reich from those considered unworthy of living.

Desperate to survive and protect others around her, Ingrid seeks the help of a charming Aryan doctor. Can he be her protector? Or will Johan, a wounded German soldier she is starting to have feelings for be her only source of hope?

Inspired by true events, this is the powerful story of a young woman's quest to overcome hatred and survive.

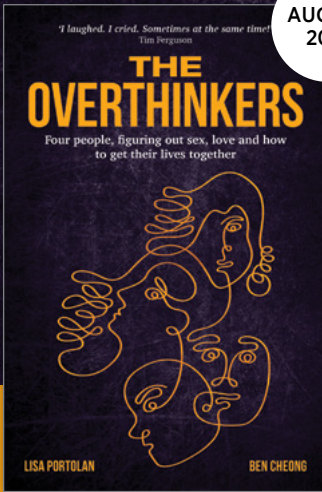
PRAISE FOR HOUSE OF SHUDDERS

I couldn't put this book down. Ingrid's tragic story resonates long after the final page.

I was 'there' from the moment I opened Jason Fosters book. Well done. I've been a fan of Jasons true crime books. What an amazing story. I feel like my eyes have been opened.

What a great read! While the story makes for interesting and absorbing reading, I find its true value in the way the author left the reader to contemplate and condone what happened at Hadamar.

This dark period of History should never be forgotten and it was well told by the author and I would love to see this story told through a movie. it is my first book by Jason K.Foster and it won't be the last ...

AUGUST
2021

THE OVERTHINKERS

Four people, figuring out sex, love and how to get their lives together

LISA PORTOLAN & BEN CHEONG

They're kind of messed up,
but trying to get things right.

For fans of 'Twenties' and 'Fleabag' TV shows and Sally Rooney's 'Normal People', this is a truly modern portrait of millennial life.

A powerful, heart-warming novel sharing the embarrassments and excitements, horrors and humiliations, glories and defeats of a group of twenty-something-year-olds, navigating life, love, sex and their dreams. Trying to appear ordinary on the outside but inside obsessing on the unspoken rules of what's okay and racked with self-doubt.

Leo: the confident 'Gay-sian' – fit, fabulous and hilarious – but riddled by anxieties and seeing an unavailable married man.

Benji: a privileged pretty-boy who spends his time pining after Leo's gorgeous house-mate Francesca, who barely notices that he's alive.

Francesca: a social climber plotting her remarkable and glamorous future, aligning herself to well-connected but lost Hamish.

Hamish: an Eastern-suburbs private school boy dealing drugs to distinguish

himself, and now he's met a girl he really likes (who is not Francesca).

Who will they be on the other side? Will they be friends, enemies or strangers?

KEY POINTS

- A powerful, heart-warming novel which depicts the embarrassments and excitements, horrors and humiliations, glories and defeats of a group of twenty something-year-olds, navigating life, love, sex and their dreams.
- A realistic portrayal of the messiness and complexity of most people's everyday lives set against the gritty and inspiring miasma of inner-city Sydney.
- Fast-paced and brilliantly observed, *The Overthinkers* is the debut novel of writing team Lisa Portolan and Ben Cheong, cleverly uniting the arrogance and insecurity of the young adult psyche in all its tragic glory.

Being developed into a feature film

Pretty girls

LISA PORTOLAN & SAMANTHA McDONALD

A stunning narrative of personal resilience and triumph set against a history of violence.



'Pretty Girls' is one of the bravest books of 2020, putting the devastating effects of domestic violence and sexual assault back into the spotlight when so much else is happening.

Pretty Girls is a visceral narrative of violence, personal tragedy and female resilience set against the backdrop of one of Australia's most politically charged communities, Redfern, where sinister racial tensions underpin everything.

Evie is a woman in her mid-thirties who returns to her hometown to meet with her dying father. In coming back to the place where she grew up she has to revisit her history of violence – the death of her mother, the suicide of her brother and the domestic violence that occurred in her home. Her father only has a short time to live – she expects to find him a changed man. But he's not. He's unrepentant and unapologetic for his actions.

Evie has to reclaim her story – she's not just a pretty girl, she won't just sit down, be quiet, stay still – but getting there is more than tough, more than an ordeal – it's a mammoth display of tenacity and strength.

Pretty Girls is ultimately a story of triumph. Evie rises from the ashes of a hellish past and re-writes her story.

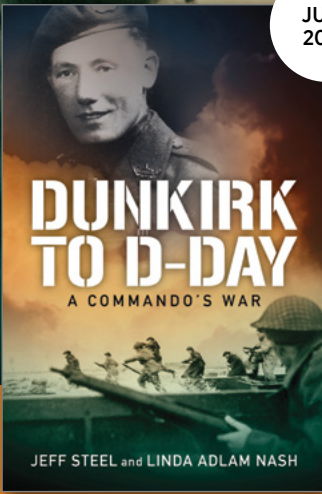
There is a part of Evie in every woman and *Pretty Girls* seeks to start a movement.

KEY POINTS

- Fiction based on real-life events, *Pretty Girls* is the basis for an Australian feature film.
- A story for all women seeking to reclaim their power and write their own narrative.
- A stunning narrative of personal resilience and triumph, set against a history of violence.
- This story exposes the violence and racism often hidden politely under the surface.

JULY
2022

NON-FICTION



DUNKIRK TO D-DAY

A COMMANDO'S WAR

JEFF STEEL & LINDA ADLAM NASH

Another rip-roaring World War II history
by prize-winning author Jeff Steel.

Bill Adlam's hair-raising escape from Dunkirk, his dramatic commando raids and his storming the D-Day beaches reads like fiction. It all happened.

Bill escaped the Dunkirk disaster via a bayonet charge into Nazi machine guns. He was presented with the Military Medal 'for gallantry under fire' by King George VI. Bill volunteered for commandos: he thrived on adrenaline.

Number 4 Commando took him to a surgical strike in the north of Norway. The stated objective: to destroy oil installations. It was a feint. Ian Fleming of the Secret Intelligence Service had masterminded the raid. Its objective: to help break the Enigma Code.

Number 4 Commando then sent him on a raid to Dieppe to spike naval guns to enable a landing by Canadian forces. Bill's commanding officer was Lord Lovat: cousin to Ian Fleming and (allegedly) template for the fictional James Bond.

Bill's prowess as a commando saw him headhunted to a top-secret location in the

wilds of Scotland. Here he trained others in the dark arts of 'butcher and bolt'.

On D-Day morning Bill passed over the sands of Normandy in minutes. The next two months saw him up against Hitler's elite army and Waffen SS divisions.

The reader will ask the same question that Bill asked: *how would he ever come out alive?*

KEY POINTS

- Bill Adlam bore arms against Hitler's Reich at Dunkirk, Dieppe and D-Day, he was severely wounded on operations, awarded the Military Medal and became a commando.
- A compelling true story co-authored by Bill's daughter and constructed from meticulous research, family records and eye-witness accounts.
- A rip-roaring tale which includes a military raid planned by Ian Fleming of the Secret Intelligence Service and his cousin Lord Lovat, Bill's commander and the alleged inspiration for James Bond.

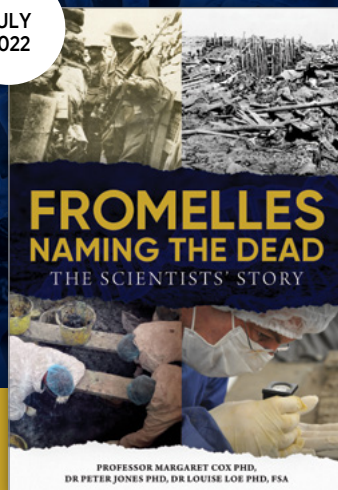
JULY
2022

FROMELLES NAMING THE DEAD

THE SCIENTISTS' STORY

PROFESSOR MARGARET COX PHD,
DR PETER JONES PHD, DR LOUISE LOE PHD, FSA

This is the extraordinary story of the engagement between 250 young Australians, who enlisted in 1915 and died in the Battle of Fromelles of 1916, their families, and three British scientists.



Much has been written about the Battle of Fromelles, the missing soldiers, their families' quests to restore their identities and the discovery and excavation of the graves. This book tells a new story. It is the scientist's story behind naming the Fromelles' dead.

In 2009, the bodies of these 250 soldiers were excavated by Oxford Archaeology. Among them were the Wilson brothers who, with their comrades were subsequently reburied in individual marked graves in the new cemetery in Fromelles village.

The Battle of Fromelles needs no introduction, nor do the losses sustained. Here we focus on 166 of the 250 soldiers who were excavated from six mass graves adjacent to Pheasant Wood in 2009 and who have since been identified. Each has his own story to tell as does his family. We explore aspects of these lost lives while telling the story of their recovery and identification.

This is the story of how these lost soldiers were excavated and identified. It is told by the scientists who led the excavation, the anthropological and DNA

analyses, and the identification process. It is their story of involvement with and commitment to this fascinating project, in which many combined decades of professional experience were pooled to help achieve a fitting final resting place, names restored, for these brave men, and belated solace for their families.

KEY POINTS

- Although Fromelles and its missing soldiers is a story much discussed, this book focusses on the journeys of the first 166 soldiers to be identified, from their homes in Australia to their marked graves in Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery.
- A story of lost soldiers and their families – from 1916 to the present day, we consider the relationship between past and present lives, intergenerational memory and impacts.

JULY
2022

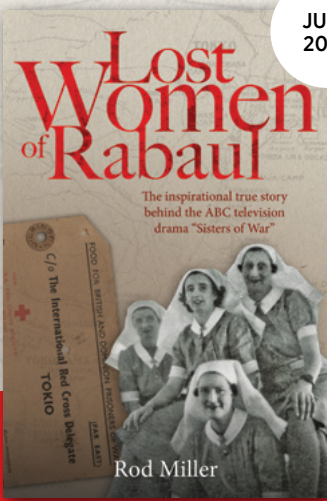
NON-FICTION

Lost Women of Rabaul

The inspirational true story behind the
ABC television drama "Sisters of War"

Rod Miller

**Australian nurses captured and at the mercy
of the rampaging Japanese Empire; how did
they survive and what were the international
secrets that determined their fate?**



Travel with a group of captured Australian nurses into the dark heart of the ascendant Japanese Empire at the start of the Pacific War.

Quiver with the nurses, abandoned by their own government, as they raise their hands in surrender to Japanese troops swathed in jungle camouflage.

Witness the intrigues of international diplomacy and the fog of war as loyalties are tested, confidences betrayed and acts of defiance made at great personal risk.

Retreat into the private world of the women's diaries, where poetry, memory and hope could still be kept alive.

Cower before the might of the US War Machine that incinerated Tokyo, with firestorms, hunger and the ever-present threat of Japanese "die-hards" still holding complete power over the women.

Thrill to the joy of liberation and the amazing priority given to the Lost Women, as they became the very first

liberated prisoners to be airlifted to Australia ... But why?

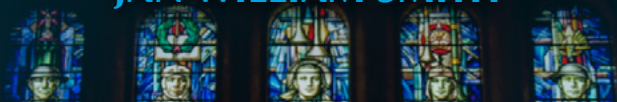
KEY POINTS

- The inspirational true story behind the AACTA and Logie award winning ABC-TV mini-series Sisters of War.
- Intense personal accounts of Australian nurses captured in Rabaul in 1942 and transported to the hell of the doomed Japanese Imperial Capital, Tokyo.
- Extensively researched, this is an accurate and compelling historical work using coded poetry, diary entries and personal accounts to reveal their hidden story.
- Exposes the secret conduct of both the Allies and the Axis at the highest levels, which led to a disastrous exchange of civilians and post war intrigue.
- Reveals important new eye-witness reports of major moments in World War II history and the War in the Pacific.

THE GLASS CRICKET BALL

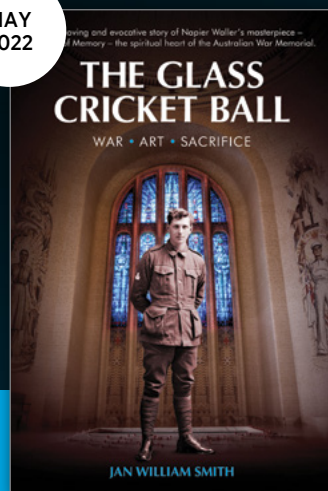
WAR • ART • SACRIFICE

JAN WILLIAM SMITH



The moving and evocative story of Napier Waller's masterpiece – the Hall of Memory – the spiritual heart of the Australian War Memorial.

MAY
2022



The one-armed Melbourne artist Napier Waller OBE CMG created the great Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Waller died in 1972 without knowing that 20 years later his greatest work would be the place for a tomb that would be central to Australia's remembrance of war dead. *The Glass Cricket Ball* is a story of Waller's life, the creation of a great artwork and the bringing home and reburial of the remains of an Unknown Australian Soldier from a French World War I battleground cemetery.

Napier Waller was a casualty at the battle of Bullecourt. A watercolour artist on the Western Front should be out of his comfort zone when his wounds include the loss of his right painting arm. But Napier Waller's answer was to become Australia's greatest monumental artist – with his left hand.

Waller and the war historian Charles Bean had a fine time deciding which words described the quintessential qualities of Australian fighting men and women in World War I. The words would

be included at the foot of each of the fifteen windows of the Hall of Memory and would define fighting, social and personal qualities. The window defined as "ancestry" would include a sporting image and Waller chose to include a stained-glass cricket ball and stumps – a tradition of the Anzacs of World War I.

KEY POINTS

- The remarkable story of Napier Waller OBE CMG, WWI veteran and artist, who endured the loss of his painting arm at Bullecourt, to design and supervise the development of the Australian War Memorial's spiritual heart – the Hall of Memory.
- A moving and evocative recount of the 1993 reinterment of the Unknown Australian Soldier.
- Intrigued and inspired by Waller's creation, retired journalist and former voluntary AWM guide Jan William Smith, retraces the artist's wartime journey and that of the unknown soldier.

APRIL
2022

SPIES, SABOTEURS AND SECRET MISSIONS OF WORLD WAR II

TONY MATTHEWS

a fascinating insight into some of the most astonishing clandestine activities of the Second World War.

What kind of courage does it take for an ordinary married couple to confront the Nazi regime of Hitler's vicious Third Reich?

And why did two men betray their fellow secret agents after landing on American shores with the intention of carrying out sabotage attacks on a massive scale?

Why did the Germans murder more than two hundred and sixty innocent men in retaliation for a botched Resistance attempt to steal a simple truckload of meat?

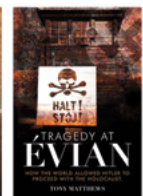
From technical wizardry that goes disastrously wrong, to underwater warfare with a sting in its tail, this new book by Tony Matthews delves into a wide range of top-secret stories, including black propaganda missions, calamitous Resistance operations and accounts of espionage activities at the very highest level.

Spies, Saboteurs and Secret Missions of World War II is a fascinating insight into some of the most astonishing clandestine activities of the Second World War.

KEY POINTS

- This book delves deeply into some of the more secretive and deadly facets of the Second World War.
- It covers clandestine aspects of the war, many of which could only be found in previously secret documents.
- The book details some of the most astonishing and far-reaching feats of courage, deceit and betrayal that ultimately categorised covert operations during World War II.
- Supported by a national PR and media campaign.

OTHER BOOKS



MARCH
2022

HAVOC-06

A Combat Controller
on Operations

Troy Knight

Havoc06 is the untold story of the Australian Combat Controller, but it is also Troy's personal story and one that will resonate with so many.



I received a target indication from one of the rear team members and observed movement coming from the left of the area of engagement. I then saw them, two enemy fighters moving to a new position. I must have let rip about twenty rounds and not one of the rounds hit them. I had missed completely!

"You shit shot," swearing at myself under my breath. My teeth were clenched and I was pissed off at my own incapability with a rifle, however, I realised I had a primarily role to play and that was as the Platoon JTAC.

Havoc06 is the call sign of former Australian Combat Controller, Troy Knight. As a Royal Australian Air Force Airfield Defence Guard, Troy had not found the military adventure he sought; combat operations. His thirst for overseas deployment saw him privately contract his services in Iraq and South East Asia, but when he got whiff that the Australian Defence Force was raising a new defence capability, he couldn't help but want to be part of it.

The new Defence capability, termed the 'Special Tactics Project,' would see Troy undertaking the gruelling Commando Selection course and passing, making him one of Australia's first Combat Controllers attached to the Australian Army 2nd Commando Regiment.

As a member of the Special Forces unit, Troy's lifelong dream of taking part in combat operations would come to fruition, but the reality of his dream would also play havoc on his life.

KEY POINTS

- The untold story of the Australian Combat Controller
- Portrays the real-life story of a member of the Royal Australian Air Force who was one of the first Airmen to pass 'selection' into the 2nd Commando Regiment and one of Australia's first Combat Controllers (CCT) in this Special Forces unit.
- Shows the personal impact of combat operations on those directly involved in them, with rawness and honesty.

AUGUST
2021

SEA MONSTERS

Savage Submarine Commanders
of World War II

TONY MATTHEWS

SEA MONSTERS

Savage Submarine Commanders
of World War II

TONY MATTHEWS

International Rights Sales:
UK (Pen & Sword)

“A carefully crafted and stunningly emotive history written with considerable passion by one of Australia’s leading war historians.”

The true story of a deeply murderous intent that lurked menacingly beneath the waves during World War Two.

The torpedoes strike explosively, and nine thousand people die — five thousand of them are just defenceless children.

Another ship founders after being attacked by a brutal submarine commander and the ship’s crew and passengers are used in a murderous kind of blood-sport. Merchant seamen are savagely machine-gunned in the water, callously slaughtered with hand-grenades or simply left to the circling sharks. And hundreds of doctors, nurses, ship’s crew, ambulance drivers and hospital orderlies are viciously killed without compassion, despite being protected by the Geneva Convention.

From the heart-rending account of the sinking of the German liner Wilhelm Gustloff in 1945 — the worst maritime disaster in world history — through

to a variety of other brutal actions carried out by numerous submarine commanders, including the sinking of the hospital ship Centaur in 1943, this book comes from the deep shadows of a tragic past. It reveals the terrible truth of a secretive war that was responsible for the deaths of unimaginable numbers of innocent people.

This book includes powerful and poignant interviews with survivors — never before published.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“Meticulously researched, this powerful publication drills down into the heart of the stories to reveal the true nature and previously hidden background to these events.” – Goodreads

“Reveals what it was like for those few who survived – told intimately through the eyes of the survivors themselves.” – Goodreads

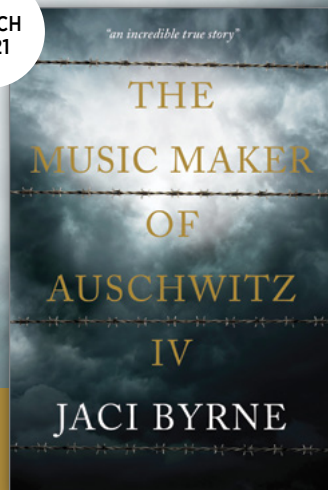
MARCH
2021

THE MUSIC MAKER OF AUSCHWITZ IV

JACI BYRNE

"Jaci Byrne has written this story with truth & sensitivity which will resonate to everyone who reads it. Incredible and inspiring."

International Rights Sales:
Hungarian (XXI Szazad Kiado), UK (Pen & Sword), WEL audio (Bolinda)



A captivating testament to human endurance, Jackson's diary and photos, one of the last such memoirs to be published, is the inspiration for *The Music Maker*. An unforgettable and gripping true story about the life and times of a humble man who, through his passion for music, overcame extreme adversity.

The inspirational true story of an Allied POW appointed Kapellmeister to the Nazis in Auschwitz.

When called up to fight in yet another World War, Drum Major Jackson promised his beloved wife Mabel that he would return to lead his band and play for her once more.

In May 1940, he was captured at Dunkirk and interned in several German forced labour camps throughout Poland. Two years later he was transferred to Auschwitz IV, part of the notorious concentration camp complex where it is not widely known held Allied POWs.

When his captors appointed Jackson their 'Kapellmeister' (man in charge of music),

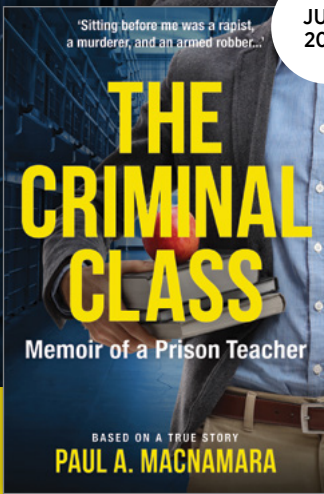
he seized the opportunity to provide entertainment for his fellow prisoners at rehearsals, and cover for escapees during concerts. Finally liberated in May 1945, malnourished and gravely ill, Jackson carried his secret war diary—an incredible exposé on five years of life and death in Nazi concentration camps

He wrote, 'Where there is music there is hope'.

The Music Maker of Auschwitz IV, based on Jackson's diary, is written by his granddaughter. It is a thrilling testament to the resilience one man found in the darkest of times through his two greatest loves—music and the woman who waited for him.

INSPIRATIONAL TRUE EVENTS

- A story spanning two World Wars and the difficulties faced on returning to civilian life.
- An exceptional story of a man who provided hope to thousands through his music.

JULY
2022

THE CRIMINAL CLASS

Memoir of a Prison Teacher

PAUL A. MACNAMARA

Based on the true-life experiences of an everyday teacher who makes the precarious career transition to an Education Officer in the prison system.

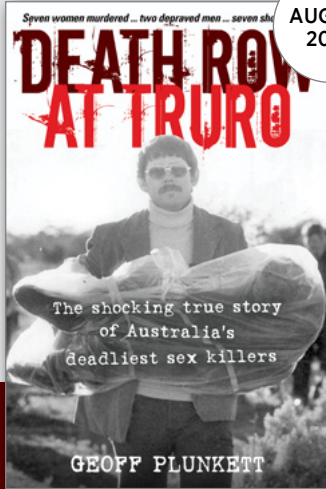
'The only door in the room was now closed and sitting before me was a murderer, a rapist, an armed robber and a guy serving six years for grievous bodily harm. Slowly but purposefully, I glanced at the secured metal door and, next to it, the red duress button on the wall. I guessed the distance to be three metres. I looked back at the prisoners and wondered, if it came to it, would I be able to press that button or exit the doorway before they could get to me? I didn't fancy my chances...'

The Criminal Class is based on the true-life experiences of an everyday teacher who makes the precarious career transition to an Education Officer in the prison system.

Dealing with both the law enforcers and the law breakers, but not bound by any normal allegiances, he finds himself having to tread the rocky path of an outsider on the inside. His surreal experiences with will compel you as they draw you in. The bizarreness he encountered will make you shake your head, pump your fist, cry your heart out, laugh your head off and blow your mind.

KEY POINTS

- Inspired by true events, *The Criminal Class* is an expose of the uncomfortable realities of the criminal justice system.
- Based on real criminals and real crimes from the view of an educator whose job it is to help reform them
- An insight into the reality of everyday life inside a jail that is neither from the criminals' perspective nor from the law's viewpoint
- A uniquely well-written account of crime has the dual effect of repelling you and, at the same time, drawing you in

AUGUST
2022

DEATH ROW AT TRURO

The shocking true story
of Australia's
deadliest sex killers

GEOFF PLUNKETT

**Seven women murdered ...
two depraved men ... seven short weeks**

Australia's most prolific serial sexual killers met in prison. They were a complete contrast: Christopher Worrell, the charismatic youngster; and James Miller, the older and socially awkward loner. For Miller, it was love at first sight. They developed an ominous bond – proving that opposites can attract – and then kill.

The tag team were inseparable, working, socialising and killing together – slaying as many people as the notorious serial killer Ivan Milat.

James Miller said it was all his mate's doing. He and Worrell often picked up girls off the street. Miller drove them to a discreet location, where Worrell and the women had consensual sex. Miller pleased his lover and the women had sex with an attractive and charismatic man. It was fun all round.

But then it all went wrong.

On 23 December 1976, they picked up Veronica Knight. Worrell went satanic, killing her without warning. And then it happened again and again, six more

times. There was nothing Miller could do. He claimed he was victim number eight. Miller lied.

Using the latest research into serial sexual homicide, the truth of the murder spree and the offenders' motives are finally revealed.

KEY POINTS

- Reveals the shocking and tragic events of Australia's worst serial sexual homicide crime.
- The inside story of Australia's 1976-77 Truro murders told for the first time with the full cooperation of the relentless lead detective.
- Meeting in prison, the killers formed an unlikely but ominous bond; they became lovers and were inseparable on release – working, socialising ... and killing together.
- Meet the blameless victims – their hopes, dreams and lives cut short by a charismatic and psychopathic sexual predator and his willing accomplice.

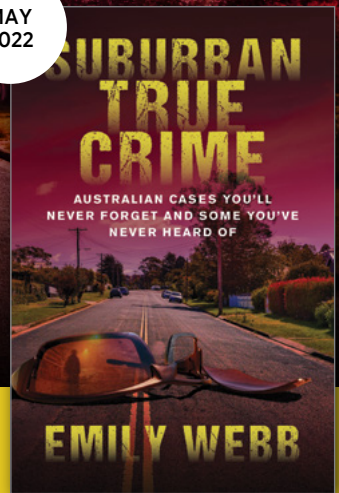
MAY
2022

SUBURBAN TRUE CRIME

AUSTRALIAN CASES YOU'LL
NEVER FORGET AND SOME YOU'VE
NEVER HEARD OF

EMILY WEBB

Chilling cases of murder and crime that have happened in the quiet streets of Australia's suburbs



Featuring contemporary cases as well as some shocking historical murders you've probably never heard of, *Suburban True Crime* proves you shouldn't say, "it could never happen here".

This collection of cases that are hard to believe, except they really happened – and all in the streets and homes of the Australia many of us know and live. The suburbs.

These cases range from recent murders to some historical stories that will shock and surprise. Some of the cases you'll know and there's crimes you've never heard of. These cases will shock and surprise you including the still-unsolved mistaken identity murder of Melbourne mother Jane Thurgood-Dove and the horrifying story of a man who killed in Australia and then was released from prison, only to kill again in the United States.

There are also some historical crimes that shocked the community at the time but have now faded into obscurity, including

cases of child murder in the 1970s. Think nothing ever happens where you live? Think again.

KEY POINTS

- Chilling cases of murder in Australian suburbs
- The author is the co-host of an *Australian True Crime* podcast with Meshel Laurie and has a great following
- True Crime is an extremely popular genre
- The book is unique in being a compilation of stories of shocking historical crimes
- Based on interviews with people affected by crime and families of murder victims
- Some shocking historical cases including many that have not been heard of before



The BIRTH BOOK

Your guide to a positive birth experience

PROF STEPHEN TONG

A fresh approach that fully prepares you for childbirth: warm, entertaining, and written with humour by an obstetric expert.

For most mums-to-be, the birth suite is a black box. An alarming number venture in with little clue what's really in store and this can impact on having a healthy and fulfilling birth experience.

The Birth Book aims to empower mother's with knowledge - flipping frightening birth experiences into cherished, life-long memories. Drawing on his extensive experience as an obstetric specialist and leading researcher into making childbirth safer, Professor Stephen Tong provides vital information relating to modern obstetric care of labour and birth. Simply written, warm and funny, it is packed with information and stories to answer questions such as:

- What happens during labour exactly?
- Are epidurals safe?
- Why are caesars even needed?
- What options and choices do I have?

People who read this be better prepared than most others fronting up to the birth suite in labour. The insights it offers

will provide a deep understanding of all the paths were birth may lead and help turn anxiety and trepidation into empowerment and confidence.

KEY POINTS

- There are few books on the market that cover all of birth that are an easy read and free of agenda.
- Titles covering birth are often outdated and/or only cover certain aspects of childbirth. This book fills a much needed gap in the market for parents wanted to be informed and prepared for a better childbirth experience.
- The aim of the book is to empower with knowledge - flipping frightening birth experiences into cherished, life-long memories.
- Professor Stephen Tong is a Specialist Obstetrician and among one of Australia's top Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He is widely known internationally.

Flourish for mums

21 WAYS TO THRIVE WITH
SELF-CARE AND ACCEPTANCE

SONIA BESTULIC

International Rights Sales:
WEL audio (Saga Egmont)

APRIL
2021



New book offers mothers struggling with the demands of motherhood a much-needed circuit breaker from 'mother-guilt'.

Sonia Bestulic understands the highs and lows of dealing with mother guilt. An award nominated children's author, Speech Pathologist, Business owner, Podcaster, highly regarded speaker and mother of three she has walked the path of highs and lows. Her new book *Flourish for Mums* asks Mums to accept their worth. Now!

The weight of social media, societal expectations, and an ever-evolving concept of what it means to be a good parent plays heavily on the minds of mothers. If the daily life of a busy mum is not enough this is the burden that can break a mother's feelings of self-worth and success – personally, within work and within the family unit.

Flourish for Mums shares 21 personal, yet universal messages of deep wisdom to release the 'mother guilt' and anxiety around raising children, and ultimately enjoy a new kind of self-nurture.

FLOURISH FOR MUMS:

- Allows a mother to feel understood and valued; as an individual, who is also fulfilling a mother role, with its many joys and challenges.
- Sonia's personal and professional experience talk to the concerns and the opportunities that mothers have.
- Inspires mothers to cultivate inner strength and lifelong wellbeing, offering simple, yet powerful self-nurture strategies.
- A necessary guide for mothers to step into a new zone of self-care, honouring themselves and accepting their worth and celebrating the children in their lives.
- Filled with uplifting anecdotes and supportive strategies, while busting big misconceptions *Flourish for Mums* cultivates a self-empowerment specific to mothers with its unique, strong, yet gentle messages.

EVERYDAY RESILIENCE

Helping kids handle friendship drama, academic pressure and the self-doubt of growing up

MICHELLE MITCHELL

**International Rights Sales:
WEL audio (Saga Egmont)**



“A timely, excellent read for those who live with or work with children.”

Maggie Dent – Author, educator and resilience specialist.

The way our children handle ‘small knocks’ is crucial, as it will be the foundation for much bigger things. Parents are wise to see each small knock as a teachable moment that has long-term significance. We can’t dismiss or understate our child’s daily experiences.

Our children can ‘have it all’ and still be ill-prepared to handle life’s challenges. Despite the posters on our school’s walls and the endless research on resilience, there has been a significant rise in mental illness over the past five years. For many of our young ones, resilience is much easier to talk about than put into practise.

In this book Michelle shows every family how they can cultivate resilience in their children or adolescents by focussing on 7 key traits – courage, gratitude, empathy, self-awareness, responsibility, self-care and contribution. She answers questions like,

- How can I help my child be more confident?
- What do I say when my child is rejected by friends?
- How do I help a child who is struggling academically?
- What do I say when my child says, “I can’t”?
- How do I help an anxious or shy child find their voice?
- What can I do to help them discover their potential?

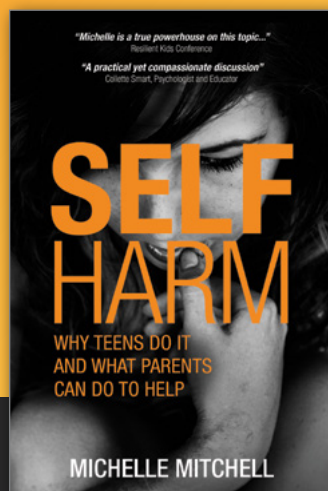
As a teacher, and founder of Youth Excel, Michelle has witnessed first-hand what works. Using every day scenarios and how-to actions, Michelle explains resilience in a way that will relate to every family. Her practical tone, humour and hands on experience provide every parent with tools to nurture strength in young lives.

SELF HARM

WHY TEENS DO IT
AND WHAT PARENTS
CAN DO TO HELP

MICHELLE MITCHELL

International Rights Sales: English in Singapore, English
in Ireland, and Simplified Chinese (China Renmin
University Press,) WEL audio (Saga Egmont)



If you have a child who is struggling with self-harm, I want to remind you that you are your child's greatest advantage. What you do and how you respond matters. This book was written for you and your family.

If you have a child who is struggling with self-harm, I want to remind you that you are your child's greatest advantage. What you do and how you respond matters. This book was written for you and your family.

– Michelle Mitchell

Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) is a global mental health concern with studies conservatively indicating 10% of young people experiment with self-harm. The ways in which young people selfharm are wide and varied, and a challenge many families now have to face.

It remains distressing and difficult for parents and caring adults to understand, as it seems to go against every innate instinct of self-protection and survival.

In this book, award-winning speaker, author and educator Michelle Mitchell has combined her 20 years' experience, with the latest research, interviews with experts and stories from professionals and everyday families, to give parents

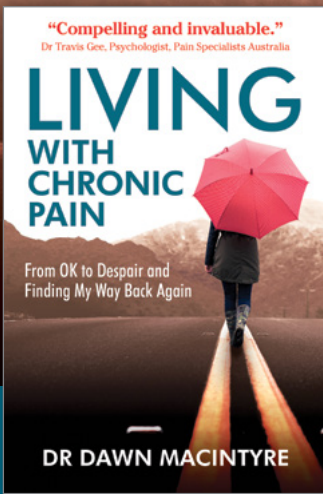
and teachers fresh insights into how-to prevent, understand and respond to self-harm.

Full of evidence-based strategies, this unique resource will provide parents with the facts, practical help and comfort they need.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"With compelling wisdom and compassion, Michelle Mitchell has lifted the curtain on self-harm."

Collett Smart – Psychologist, educator and author.



LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN

**From OK to Despair and
Finding My Way Back Again**

DR DAWN MACINTYRE

**International Rights Sales:
WEL audio (Saga Egmont)**

"I have written this book from the heart in the hope that my story helps the millions of us who live with chronic pain to navigate this sometimes seemingly impossible journey."

– Dr Dawn Macintyre

One in five people live with chronic pain and most feel misunderstood and unsupported. Dr Dawn Macintyre is one of those people.

In *Living with Chronic Pain*, Dawn shares her journey from living a full life to a life so diminished, full of pain, shame and exhaustion that she was desperate enough to want to take her own life.

The author's personal story is interwoven with insight into the emotions and challenges faced, as well as practical advice for changes and support to help sufferers enjoy life again. Dawn provides her perspective as both a sufferer of chronic pain, and a health practitioner.

If you are a health professional, this book offers insight into how to best support your patients and clients living with chronic pain.

If you are living with chronic pain, this story will bring you courage, joy and most importantly, the knowledge to find your meaningful life again.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"Compelling and invaluable."

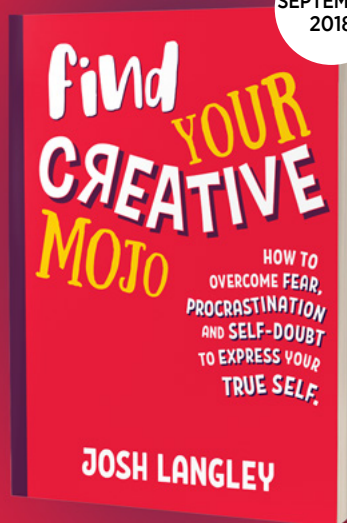
– Dr Travis Gee, Psychologist, Pain Specialists Australia

A unique resilience is evident on every page of her book. She shares openly her doggedness in extensive research of pain. Comprehensive results of her research give her readers an extraordinary pathway to better management of their own pain.

find YOUR CREATIVE MOJO

HOW TO
OVERCOME FEAR,
PROCRASTINATION
AND SELF-DOUBT
TO EXPRESS YOUR
TRUE SELF.

SEPTEMBER
2018



International Rights Sales:
WEL audio (Saga Egmont)

'Josh Langley provides great advice to help anyone bring out their creativity, and light up any aspect of their life.'
'Josh Langley reignites Inspirational Literature.'

"Mr Langley's humour is evident throughout this book and it feels like the author is sitting beside you, having a laugh while encouraging you to reach for your dreams. And in a world full of negativity, who wouldn't want that?"

Author/illustrator and award-winning radio copywriter, Josh Langley, knows how important it is to find your voice and explore your passions. When he did, his life changed!

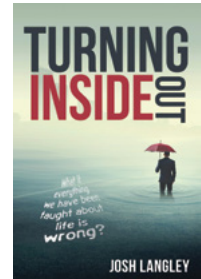
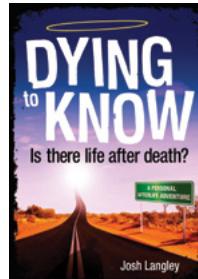
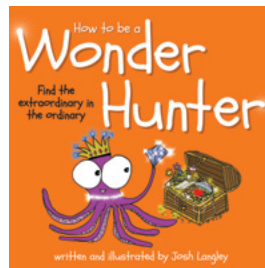
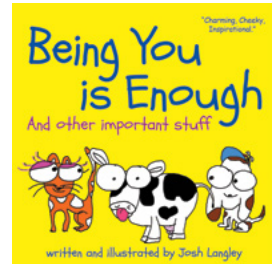
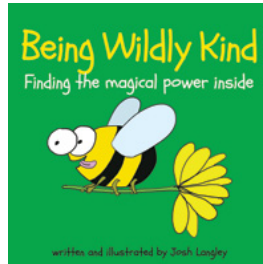
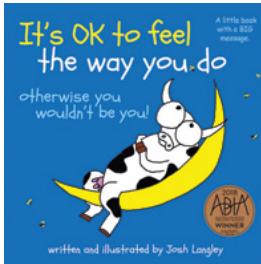
In this soul rattling manifesto, he delivers the untold truth about why it's so important to express yourself. This is this perfect call to arms for anyone wanting to unleash their creative spirit, or simply find the confidence to do something different.

A humorous and quirky mix of anecdotes, insights, illustrations and inspirational quotes, *Find Your Creative Mojo* is the perfect companion for any aspiring creative soul.

This is the book that people will want to pick up again and again to inspire them to find their creative voice, or even just to take that first brave step.

Life will never be the same after reading *Find Your Creative Mojo*.

OTHER BOOKS BY JOSH LANGLEY



PRAISE FOR JOSH LANGLEY

Award Winning series 'Being You is Enough'

"THE BOOK IS FUNNY, INSPIRING, AND UNPUTDOWNABLE FOR ANYONE TRYING TO FIND THEIR CREATIVE VOICE."

"A deceptively easy read – composed of anecdotes, insights, illustrations and inspirational quotes – but the content is powerful."

"A zesty, practical, and empowering book to dip into when the creative blahs hit."

"The world needs this book!"

"LOVE THIS BOOK. I've definitely done myself a favour. I love how you write."

"Really appreciated complete lack of pretension, and the absence of patronising language. Overall the book really has achieved the lofty heights of being on my favourites list."

"funny, insightful and has given me the push I needed."

CO-AGENTS

Balkans - Plima Literary Agency

Bulgaria & Romania – ANA Sofia

China & Taiwan - Big Apple China and Rightol Media

France - Agence Eliane Benisti

Germany - Michael Meller Agency

Hungary - Katai & Bolza

Indonesia - Maxima Literary Agency

Japan - Tuttle-Mori Agency

Korea - Eric Yang Agency

Poland – Book/Lab Agency

Russia - Van Lear Agency

Thailand & Vietnam- Maxima & Big Apple Thailand

Turkey - AnatoliaLit

In all other territories not listed, I deal directly.

Publisher – Big Sky Publishing

PO Box 303, Newport, NSW, 2106

E: sharon@bigskypublishing.com.au

T: 1300 364 611 F: 02 8330 9221



BIG SKY PUBLISHING

www.bigskypublishing.com.au