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Terrifying, Powerful Sly  
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# Frankfurt 2021 Rights Guide

## New Releases

Harlequin



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GENERAL FICTION

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in any of the titles in this Rights Guide or would like further information, please contact us:

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**Spell Binding,  
Hilarious,  
Illuminating,  
Riveting,  
Lovely,  
Wonderful,  
Fiction Titles**



## SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD

KYLIE ORR

**A gripping contemporary novel from a magnificent new talent that tackles the almost unbreakable loyalty of female friendships, the generosity of community and the lengths we will go to save a child.**

July 2022 | 384pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867227267



Ren will do anything for her best friend, Anna. The news that Anna's daughter Charlotte has terminal brain cancer sends them on a desperate hunt for a cure and their only hope lies in an expensive European drug trial.

Ren jumps onboard Anna's fundraising efforts, willing to put everything on the line – her reputation in their close-knit community and all the money she can beg or borrow-to secure Charlotte's place. When the local charity drive quickly becomes a nationwide campaign, townspeople start asking questions about the trial. And Anna's past. Questions Ren can't answer.

The more she uncovers, the more Ren realises the truth is darker than she could ever imagine. Are there any lines that won't be crossed in their fight for Charlotte?

### PRAISE

'*Someone Else's Child* is a captivating story. In the age of GoFundMe, it raises some very timely questions about friendship, ethics and loyalty.' – Eliza Henry-Jones, author of *In The Quiet*

Kylie Orr writes about everything from the stages of underwear in marriage to why telling women to stop being so emotional is a death wish. Over the past fifteen years, her feature articles have been published across many of Australia's main media sites including *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Daily Life*, *Kidspot*, News Ltd. amongst others. Kylie has published four titles in her children's book series with Lake Press; *Whose Hat? Whose Pants? Whose Shoes? Whose Bag?* The books were sold throughout Australia and Canada.

Kylie lives on the side of a cliff in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges. She shares the space with her four children and just the one husband.

**Rights Held: World English language**

## DANCING WITH THE ENEMY

DIANE ARMSTRONG

**From an award-winning author comes a World War 2 mystery – a story of betrayal, moral complexity and redemption which asks whether, even as we remember history, do we ever learn from it?**

May 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867206545



**St Helier, Jersey 1940** For Dr Jackson, it was a perfect June evening that began with hope and ended in despair ... Britain had abandoned the Channel Islands to invasion by Hitler's forces, and the idyllic island was about to become a very different place – one where the German army would rule with an iron fist and bloody violence, and daily life would become a battle for survival, particularly for Jersey's Jewish population ...

**2019 Sydney** Doctor Xanthe Maxwell, despairing of her unsympathetic parents, traumatised by the suicide of her colleague and burnt out by her job has one requirement of St Helier – that it offer some peace and quiet so she can figure out what to do with her life. But when she discovers a World War II journal she is led back into the past and a world where collusion, betrayal and moral ambiguity reign, and a strange connection with the present threatens to upend her perilously held serenity.

In the company of academic Dan Miller, Xanthe begins to uncover just what happened on Jersey in the war, and together they start to ask some difficult questions of its citizens, in particular, can those living in the sheltered present judge the actions of those from a dark and dangerous past?

Diane Armstrong is a child Holocaust survivor who arrived in Australia from Poland in 1948. An award-winning journalist and bestselling author, she has written five previous books.

Her family memoir *Mosaic: A chronicle of five generations*, was published in 1998 and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction as well as the National Biography Award. It was published in the United States and Canada, and was selected as one of the year's best memoirs by Amazon.com. In 2000, *The Voyage of Their Life: The story of the SS Derna and its passengers*, was shortlisted in the New South Wales Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE TRUTH ABOUT FAKING IT

CASSIE HAMER

**Lie to your friends. Lie to your family. Just don't lie to yourself.**

**Funny, clever, heartfelt contemporary fiction for readers of Holly Wainwright and Marian Keyes from the bestselling author of *After the Party* and *The End of Cuthbert Close*.**

May 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489292995



The Trainor women have always been excellent at hiding their true feelings ... until now

Ellen's estranged husband, David, has managed to interrupt her fabulous life of Bridge and Zumba by getting himself killed in a Thai boating accident. She's hardly surprised. It's simply the final in a long line of mistakes, the first was leaving her to go on a worldwide sailing trip with his mysterious, long-lost brother. Ah, well. At least she's now free to marry her rich but dull boyfriend, Kenneth.

Regrettably, her daughter, self-possessed TV news broadcaster Natasha and granddaughter, reality TV producer Georgie, seem to take the whole 'dead' thing very personally and they decide to dig deeper, though neither really has time.

Natasha is on the nose at her network and a toxic secret from her past is about to set off a catastrophic personal crisis. Meanwhile, Georgie is furiously focused on denying her true feelings for a contestant on her show, The Single Guy.

Neither Ellen, Natasha, nor Georgie are agreed on quite how they should feel about David's death but they're certain about one thing – it isn't quite what it seems – and discovering the truth will test the tapestry of lies they've been spinning to themselves and each other.

One way or another, all three women are faking it and as matters come to a head, the truth wills out in the most unexpected of ways ...

### PRAISE FOR CASSIE HAMER

'Cassie Hamer is a merging of all that is wonderful about authors like Marian Keyes, Liane Moriarty and Sally Hepworth. With this, her second novel, she shows she's here to stay' – Better Reading

Cassie Hamer has a professional background in journalism and PR, but now much prefers the world of fiction over fact. In 2015, she completed a Masters in Creative Writing, and has since achieved success in numerous short story competitions. Her debut novel, *After the Party*, was published in 2019. Cassie lives in Sydney with her terrific husband, three mostly terrific daughters, and a labradoodle, Charlie, who is the newest and least demanding addition to the family. In between making school lunches and walking the dog, Cassie is also working on her next novel, but she always has time to connect (or procrastinate) with other passionate readers via her website – CassieHamer.com – or through social media.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE NURSES WAR

VICTORIA PURMAN

**There is more than one way to fight a war ...  
An extraordinary story of grit, love and loss,  
based the true history and real experiences of  
the Australian nurses in World War 1.**

April 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867207764



In 1915, as World War 1 rages in Europe and the numbers of dead and injured continue to grow, Australian nurse, Sister Cora Barker, leaves her home in Australia for England, determined to use her skills for King and country. When she arrives at Harefield House-donated to the Australian Army by its expatriate Australian owners-she helps transforms it into a hospital that is also a little piece of home for recuperating Australian soldiers.

As the months pass, her mission to save diggers lives becomes more urgent as the darkest months of the war see injured soldiers flood into Harefield in the thousands. When the hospital sends out a desperate call for help, a quiet young seamstress from the village, Jessie Chester, steps up as a volunteer. At the hospital she meets Private Bert Mott, a recuperating Australian soldier, but the looming threat of his return to the Front hangs over them. Could her first love be her first heartbreak?

Cora's and Jessie's futures, their hearts and their lives hang in the balance as the never-ending wave of injured and dying soldiers threatens to overwhelm the hospital and the hopes of a nation rest on a knife edge. The nurses war is a war against despair and death, fought with science and care rather than mustard gas and fear – but can they win it?

Victoria Purman is an award-nominated, bestselling Australian author. She has presented and interviewed authors at writers' festivals all over the country and is a regular writing workshop presenter. In 2018, she was a judge in the fiction category for the 2018 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. Her most recent novels are *The Three Miss Allens* (2016), *The Last of the Bonegilla Girls* (2018), and the Australian bestsellers *The Land Girls* (2019) and *The Women's Pages* (2020).

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## HER TIME TO SHINE

FIONA MCCALLUM

Sometimes serendipity comes knocking, and life leads us to the most surprising places ...

April 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867207887



*It's never too late to find your true self.*

While very pretty, the tiny town of Melrose isn't where Erica thought she'd be at almost fifty. And working in a funeral home and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, while navigating her grief as a recent widow, is not how she thought her life would look either. But she's committed to her lovely new boss, Walter, who gave her a chance when she so desperately needed it.

Erica's friends and daughters back in Adelaide cheer her on as she discovers a genuine love for her new job, forms friendships and immerses herself in the local community. But why is she being plagued with fresh bouts of anxiety and flashes of partial memories of her brother Mark who died when she was eleven? Why is there so much about him she doesn't know and can't remember? And why does it feel like it's more about her than him?

But she has to put it all aside when, despite being happy and settled, Erica is suddenly called upon to step up and face her deepest fear. If she can, what will she discover about herself and her past? And what will it mean for her future?

*From Australia's master storyteller, a tender story about finding strength and fulfilment after major upheaval, and discovering you can only outrun your true calling for so long ...*

Fiona McCallum was raised on a farm near Cleve on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula and remained in the area until her mid-twenties, during which time she married and separated. She then moved to Melbourne and on to Sydney a few years later. Fiona currently resides in suburban Adelaide. Fiona writes heart-warming stories that draw on her rich and contrasting life experiences, love of animals and fascination with human nature. Her first novel, *Paycheque* (2011) became a bestseller. In the ten years since, Fiona has written another thirteen bestselling novels. *Her Time to Shine* is Fiona's fourteenth novel.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

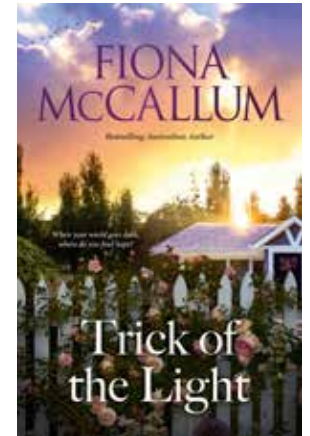
## TRICK OF THE LIGHT

FIONA MCCALLUM

The old saying goes: *A problem shared is a problem halved.* But what if your problem is secret? For readers of Jodi Picoult and Amanda Prowse.

**Manuscript available**

April 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867207863



Erica, newly widowed, is devastated to discover her venture capitalist husband left their finances in ruins. Determined to save her home while protecting her teenage daughters, she vows to get back on her feet without letting them, or anyone else, know the truth.

When her girls head off on a long-planned overseas adventure, Erica focuses on her much-loved job behind a make-up counter to keep her emotionally and financially afloat – although she is troubled by a peculiar encounter at work.

Then she loses her job, the darkness beckons and Erica's life spirals downwards, further disturbed by strange occurrences in her house. Missing objects. Stopped clocks. Noises in the night. Should she doubt her very sanity? Can she swallow her pride and make herself reach out to her friends in time? Does she have a choice?

**A moving story of loss, finding strength and changing tack from Australia's master storyteller.**

**PRAISE FOR FIONA MCCALLUM**

'A master storyteller' – *Good Reading*

'McCallum has a keen eye for fine detail and writes about raw emotion better than any other contemporary writer I know' – *War Cry Magazine*

Fiona McCallum was raised on a farm near Cleve on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula and remained in the area until her mid-twenties, during which time she married and separated. She then moved to Melbourne and on to Sydney a few years later. Fiona currently resides in suburban Adelaide.

Fiona writes heart-warming stories that draw on her rich and contrasting life experiences, love of animals and fascination with human nature. Her first novel, *Paycheque*, was published in 2011 and became a bestseller. In the ten years since, Fiona has written another eleven bestselling novels: *Nowhere Else*, *Wattle Creek*, *Saving Grace*, *Time Will Tell*, *Meant To Be*, *Leap of Faith*, *Standing Strong*, *Finding Hannah*, *Making Peace*, *A Life of Her Own* and *The Long Road Home*. *A Trick of the Light* is Fiona's thirteenth novel.

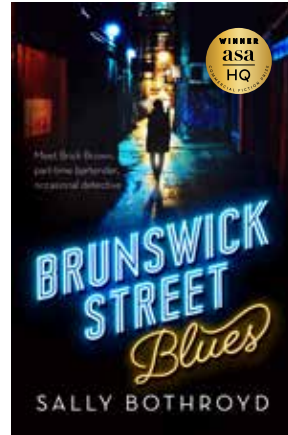
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## BRUNSWICK STREET BLUES

SALLY BOTHROYD

**Winner of the inaugural ASA/HQ Commercial Fiction Prize. The twists keep piling up in this funny debut mystery, perfect for readers of *The Thursday Murder Club* and Janet Evanovich.**

March 2022 | 272pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867216018



*Brick Brown has a problem: she hates her day job, and her beloved Uncle Baz has gone missing.*

Although a bartender by trade, Brick Brown has finagled herself a job on the city council to investigate a complaint that threatens to close her uncle's well-loved blues club in the heart of Melbourne.

Brick suspects something strange is going on, but when her amateur sleuthing uncovers the mayor's dead body in a locked room, she's dragged into the dangerous world of dodgy developers with the reluctant help of Mitch Mitchell, a prickly war correspondent turned investigative journalist.

Relying on her street smarts and an unlikely band of allies, Brick and Mitchell unearth corruption that runs deeper than just local government, and the stakes are higher than they banked on. And when Brick also discovers some terrifying information about her past, the stakes turn deadly ...

## PRAISE

'A cracker of a debut novel! ... With a loveable cast of characters, page-turning intrigue and laugh-out-loud moments, this thoroughly entertaining story had me from the first page to the last.'

– Sarah Barrie, author of *Unforgiven* and *Deadman's Track*

Sally Bothroyd lives in Darwin with her partner and daughter. She's currently the director of the Northern Territory Writers' Centre, but before that worked for many years as a journalist – both in broadcast and in print.

Sally grew up in Victoria and lived in Melbourne in the 1990s. She returned there for a period in the 2000s to study filmmaking at the Victoria College of the Arts. She has made several short films which have appeared at film festivals around Australia and overseas. She's a longtime fan of crime fiction, and last year had a short story shortlisted for the 2020 Scarlet Stiletto Awards, run by the Sisters in Crime.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

LILY HARFORD'S  
LAST REQUEST

JOANNA BUCKLEY

**A thought-provoking, vivid and moving exploration of how we value a life well lived, and the decisions we make when that life is coming to an end. For readers of Tricia Stringer and Anita Shreve.**

February 2022 | 256pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867232469



Knowing she is sliding into dementia, Lily Harford is ready to give up her life ... but can she persuade someone to commit the illegal act of taking it from her?

Lily has lived a joyful, independent life in a seaside town in Queensland, running her own business and raising a daughter as a single mother at a time when few women did so. Now health and circumstance have pushed her into a nursing home, and her memory is failing, although events of the past remain fresh. Like pulling back the layers of a Russian doll, Lily recalls the former selves – mother, professional woman, lover, daughter – who still exist inside her.

Lily's daughter, Pauline, has been pushed to her limits by her demanding job, as well as the needs of her mother, husband, daughter and grandchildren. And now her mother is begging to die. Nurse aide Donna, still recovering from a dysfunctional childhood and the demise of her marriage, finds comfort in Lily's kindness and down to earth wisdom. As Lily fades, she asks Donna, too, to help her end her life.

## PRAISE

'This moving, big-hearted novel celebrates the richness of life, while fearlessly exploring a burning question of our time. Bravo!' – bestselling Australian author Nikki Gemmell

Joanna Buckley writes fiction focussed on the timeless roles, challenges and inner lives of women, scaffolded on important social and ethical issues. Based in Melbourne, she has a background in creating short stories, poetry, social media content and educational materials and has also worked as a copywriter and editor. Joanna is a mother of three and part-time careers counsellor. *Lily Harford's Last Request* was inspired by the author's witnessing as a teenager the trauma and misery of her grandfather succumbing to dementia, then decades later her father begging his five children to help him die when he in turn began to lose his memory.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



## MURDER MOST FANCY

KELLIE MCCOURT

She's not responsible for the corpse this time. Okay, maybe just a little bit. Our favourite socialite and felon are back in a madcap new sleuthing adventure ... for readers of Janet Evanovich and Kerry Greenwood.

### Manuscript available

January 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867204305



*She really didn't mean to become a detective ...*

Home for just 48 hours, billion-heiress Indigo-Daisy-Violet-Amber Hasluck-Royce-JonesBombberg has already committed two (completely understandable) felonies, reignited a childhood feud, been (possibly) humiliated (again) by her first love, and fallen over a nameless homeless dead man. All while strolling in her grandmother's garden ...

Grandmother's kindly neighbour, Dame Elizabeth Holly, wants to spring the anonymous corpse from the coroner's freezer. She's convinced Indigo and her parolee personal assistant Esmerelda can unearth the man's identity, thus allowing his burial. Meanwhile Grandmother wants the unlikely duo to locate Dame Holly's possibly missing gentleman friend. Dame Holly's miserly granddaughter and not-so-bright son don't want her involved with any man – dead or alive.

Are the cases related? Why are they receiving clues from an unknown helper? Should they cooperate with Detectives Searing and Burns, who tried to arrest Indigo for blowing up her plastic surgeon husband last summer? What is Esmerelda's secret? It's not so bad to undress a detective. Twice. Is it? How illegal can it be, really, to break into a top-secret government facility?

They're not annoying a ruthless organised criminal on purpose, they're just trying to help ...

### PRAISE

'Stiletto-sharp, sexy and laugh out loud funny, *Murder Most Fancy* is the perfect escapist read. An absolute blast!' – Kelli Hawkins, author of *Other People's Houses* \

Kellie McCourt has worked as a national and international television anchor, producer and reporter. She's also a seasoned print journalist, magazine editor and television scriptwriter. Kellie has a double BA in Journalism and Creative Writing from Curtin University. She's studied journalism and business in Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam and the Philippines, and has completed a postgrad scholarship program at UNSW. Kellie passionately advocates and creates, entertaining, gender empowering stories. She lives in Sydney with her two daughters and her two adopted toy poodles.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## HEIRESS ON FIRE

KELLIE MCCOURT

After accidentally blowing up her husband, can Indigo get back on her four-inch heels? In this madcap debut, *One for the Money* meets *Crazy Rich Asians* with a little Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries thrown in.

### Manuscript available

January 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867204282



The marriage of Aussie billion-heiress Indigo-Daisy-Violet-Amber Hasluck-Royce-Jones-Bombberg to conscientious reconstructive surgeon Dr Richard Bombberg has come to a spectacular end. In the middle of a cocktail party, Indigo set him and a mysterious redhead on fire. And then blew them and her penthouse up. All terrible accidents.

When detectives discover explosive device remains in the charred penthouse, they're gunning for Indigo. Unless she can remain upright, stuff her dignity into her Chanel clutch and uncover the mystery redhead's identity, she's going to jail.

To help Indigo, her semi-retired, semi-Buddhist, supermodel mother hires Esmerelda, a recent graduate of the model mentor prison program, as Indigo's personal assistant. Indigo and Esmerelda traverse Sydney's upper-class underbelly picking locks, outsmarting bankers and leprechauns, beating up feared gangsters, breaking into hospitals, setting a cathedral on fire (another terrible accident), bribing a giant fireman and some other stuff.

How hard can all this be for an heiress and a felon?

### PRAISE

'A wild and rollicking ride through Sydney's celebrity culture, accessorised with a marvellous murder mystery' – Tracey Spicer

'Hilarious, witty and completely binge-worthy. *Heiress on Fire* is a fabulous murder mystery novel and the perfect summer read' – Better Reading

Kellie McCourt has worked as a national and international television anchor, producer and reporter. She's also a seasoned print journalist, magazine editor and television scriptwriter.

Kellie has a double BA in Journalism and Creative Writing from Curtin University. She's studied journalism and business in Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam and the Philippines, and has completed a postgrad scholarship program at UNSW.

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## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

TRICIA STRINGER

When three women are thrown together by unusual circumstances, ruffled feelings are just the beginning. A wise, sharply delineated celebration of the life-changing power of female friendships for fans of Monica McInerney and Liz Byrski.

## Manuscript available

September 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489270870



Eve has been a partner in a Wallaby Bay fishing fleet as long as she can remember. Now they want her to sell - but what would her life be without work? She lives alone, her role on the town committee has been spiked by malicious gossip and she is incapacitated after surgery. For the first time in her life she feels weak, vulnerable – old.

When her troubled god-daughter Julia arrives at Wallaby Bay, she seems to offer Eve a reprieve from her own concerns. But there is no such thing as plain sailing. Eve has another house guest, the abrasive Lucy, who is helping her recuperate and does not look kindly on Julia's desire for Eve's attention.

But Lucy, too, has demons to battle and as each woman struggles to overcome their loss of place in the world, they start to realise that there may be more that holds them together, than keeps them apart.

But will these birds of feather truly be able to reinvent what family means? Or will the secrets and hurts of the past shatter their precarious hold on their new lives ... and each other?

## PRAISE FOR TRICIA STRINGER

'A moving, feel-good, warm read about strong, loving women – the exact book we all need right now.' – *Mamamia*

'A polished family saga ... all delivered with intelligence, wit and emotion in equal measures ... Perfection!' – *Better Reading*

Tricia Stringer is a bestselling and multiple award-winning author. Among others, her books include commercial fiction titles *The Family Inheritance*, *Table For Eight* and *The Model Wife*, the rural romances *Come Rain or Shine* and *Something in the Wine* and historical sagas *Dust on the Horizon* and *Jewel in the North*. Tricia grew up on a farm in country South Australia and has spent most of her life in rural communities. She now lives in the beautiful Copper Coast region, often exploring Australia's diverse communities and landscapes, and shares this passion for the country and its people through her stories.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

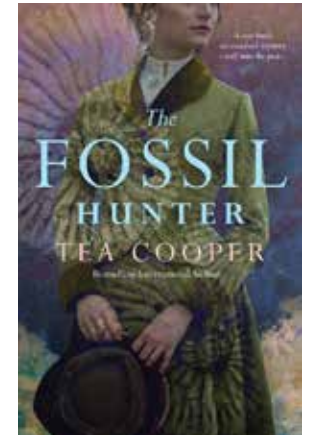
## THE FOSSIL HUNTER

TEA COOPER

A fossil discovered at London's Natural History museum leads one woman back in time to nineteenth century Australia and a world of scientific discovery and dark secrets in this compelling historical mystery.

## Manuscript available

October 2021 | 384pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489299598



## Wollombi, The Hunter Valley 1847

The last thing Mellie Vale remembers before the fever takes her is running through the bush as a monster chases her – but no one believes her story. In a bid to curb Mellie's overactive imagination, her benefactors send her to visit a family friend, Anthea Winstanley. Anthea is an amateur palaeontologist with a dream. She is convinced she will one day find proof the great sea dragons - the ichthyosaur and the plesiosaur – swam in the vast inland sea that millions of years ago covered her property at Bow Wow Gorge, and soon Mellie shares that dream for she loves fossil hunting too ...

## 1919

When Penelope Jane Martindale arrives home from the battlefields of World War 1 with the intention of making her peace with her father and commemorating the death of her two younger brothers in the trenches, her reception is not as she had hoped. Looking for distraction, she finds a connection between a fossil at London's Natural History museum and her brothers which leads her to Bow Wow Gorge. But the gorge has a sinister reputation – 70 years ago people disappeared. So when PJ uncovers some unexpected remains, it seems as if the past is reaching into the present and she becomes determined to discover what really happened all that time ago ...

Tea Cooper is an established Australian author of contemporary and historical fiction. In a past life she was a teacher, a journalist and a farmer. These days she haunts museums and indulges her passion for storytelling. She is the bestselling author of several novels, including most recently *The Naturalist's Daughter*, *The Woman in the Green Dress*, *The Girl in the Painting* and *The Cartographer's Secret*.

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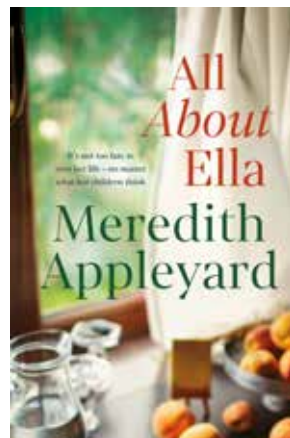
## ALL ABOUT ELLA

MEREDITH APPELEYARD

At 70, and widowed, Ella is about to find out that blood is not always thicker than water. A wise and warm-hearted story about aging, family and community for readers of Anita Shreve and Barbara Hannay.

## Manuscript available

September 2021 | 384pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867230847



At 70, Ella's world is upended, leaving her at odds with her three adult children, whose attention is fixed more firmly on her money than her ongoing welfare. After an argument with her son Anthony, she flees his Adelaide home for Cutlers Bay, a seaside town on the Yorke Peninsula. There she befriends Angie, a 40-year-old drifter, and becomes an irritant to local cop Zach. He's keen to shift Ella off his turf, because Anthony phones daily, demanding his mother be sent home. And besides, Zach just doesn't trust Angie.

Ella warms to Cutlers Bay, and it warms to her. In a defiant act of self-determination, she buys an entirely unsuitable house on the outskirts of town, and Angie agrees to help make it habitable. Zach is drawn to the house on the clifftop, and finds himself revising his earlier opinions of Ella, and Angie.

A keenly observed story about aging and its inherent vulnerability, about community and chosen family, about how family stressors shape us all, about trust and loyalty, and about standing up for yourself.

## PRAISE

'A poignant and beautifully written novel that reminds us of the importance of friendships between women' – Tricia Stringer, bestselling author of *The Family Inheritance*

'From the moment I met her, I was in Ella's corner. A wonderful character full of courage and love' – Janet Gover, author of *Close to Home*

Meredith Appleyard lives in the Clare Valley wine-growing region of South Australia. As a registered nurse and midwife she practised in a wide range of country health settings, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service. She has been an agency nurse in London and a volunteer in Vietnam. When a friend challenged Meredith to do what she'd always wanted to do – write a novel – she saved up, took time off work, sat down at the computer and wrote her first novel. Realising after the first rejection letter she needed to learn more about the craft of writing, she attended workshops, joined a writers' group and successfully completed an Advanced Diploma of Arts in Professional Writing with the Adelaide Centre for Arts. Meredith lives with her husband and border collie Lily, and when she's not writing she's reading! *All About Ella* is her sixth novel.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

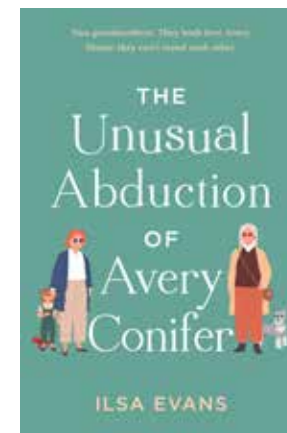
## THE UNUSUAL ABDUCTION OF AVERY CONIFER

ILSA EVANS

Two women abduct and hide out with their four-year-old granddaughter Avery, who they suspect is being harmed. They both love Avery ... shame they can't stand each other. A wise and witty novel for readers of Beth Morrey and Jonas Jonasson.

## Manuscript available

September 2021 | 480pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867214021



*What would you do to protect a child?*

Beth's daughter Cleo and Shirley's son Daniel used to be married. Now Cleo is in gaol for supposedly contravening a family violence order, and Daniel has full-time care of their four-year-old daughter, Avery.

When Shirley suspects that Daniel is harming Avery, she enlists Beth to abduct their own granddaughter, even though the two women can't stand each other. They are joined on the run across country Victoria by Winnie, Shirley's own 89-year-old tech-savvy mother, and Harthacnut, Beth's miniature schnauzer.

The abduction gives rise to crises both personal and social, as Shirley's large and interfering family – including her toxic son – struggle to come to terms with her actions, amid a whirl of police investigation and media excitement. This heartfelt, wise, witty and wholly original novel explores of the lengths we may go to for those we love, and the unintended damage folded into daily life.

## PRAISE

'fantastic, fresh and unexpected' – Cassie Hamer, author of *After the Party*

'combines controversy and compassion' – Olivia Wearne, author of *The Grand Tour*

'I loved this story of women's lives – many different ages and kinds of women – and its deep, compassionate understanding of ordinary life forced to become extraordinary' – Pamela Hart, author of *Digging Up Dirt*

Ilsa Evans has published 14 books across a range of genres, from light fiction and short stories to memoir, murder mystery and YA fantasy. Two of her books have been shortlisted for the prestigious Davitt (Sisters in Crime) Awards, while her novel about domestic violence, *Broken*, was an Australian bestseller and selected as *Women's Weekly* Book of the Month.

Ilsa also works as a Higher Education Coordinator at Chisholm Institute in Melbourne's south-east, teaching into several degrees including the Graduate Certificate in Family Violence. She sits on the board of a local refuge servicing women and children escaping family violence. In her spare time, Ilsa writes social commentary and has been published in several newspapers and online journals. In 2011, she received the Eliminating Violence Against Women (EVA) Award for online journalism.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



## THE LAST OF THE APPLE BLOSSOM

MARY-LOU STEPHENS

The fire took everything – except two women's fighting spirits. A sweeping, big-hearted Australian family saga for readers of Judy Nunn and Colleen McCulloch.

### Manuscript available

July 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867226437



7 February, 1967. Walls of flame reduce much of Tasmania to ash.

Young schoolteacher Catherine Turner rushes to the Huon Valley to find her family's apple orchard destroyed, her childhood home in ruins and her brother dead. Despite her father's declaration that a woman will never run the orchard, Catherine resolves to rebuild the family business.

After five sons, Catherine's friend and neighbour, Annie Pearson, is overjoyed by the birth of a much longed for daughter. As Annie and her husband Dave work to repair the damage to their orchard, Dave's friend Mark pitches in, despite the fact that Annie wants him gone. Mark has moved his family to the valley to escape his life in Melbourne, but his wife has disappeared leaving chaos in her wake and their young son Charlie in Mark's care.

Catherine becomes fond of Charlie, whose strange upbringing has left him shy and withdrawn. However, the growing friendship between Mark and Catherine not only scandalises the small community but threatens a secret Annie is desperate to keep hidden.

Through natural disasters, personal calamities and the devastating collapse of the apple industry, Catherine, Annie and those they love battle to save their livelihoods, their families and their secrets.

### PRAISE

'Mary-Lou Stephens has crafted a taut family drama set against a backdrop of environmental and political upheaval. The crisp prose sparkles and the characters stay with you long after the story ends' – Lauren Chater, author of *Gulliver's Wife*

Mary-Lou Stephens was born in Tasmania, studied acting at The Victorian College of the Arts and played in bands in Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney. Eventually she got a proper job – in radio, where she was a presenter and music director, first with commercial radio and then with the ABC.

She received rave reviews for her memoir *Sex, Drugs and Meditation* (2013), the true story of how meditation changed her life, saved her job and helped her find a husband.

Mary-Lou has worked and played all over Australia and now lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and a hive of killer native bees.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## SARGASSO

KATHY GEORGE

A mesmerising Australian novel that echoes the great gothic stories of love and hate: *Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre*, and especially Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. For readers of Kate Morton and Hannah Richell.

### Manuscript available

February 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867215899



Last night I dreamt I went to Sargasso again ...

As a child, Hannah lived at Sargasso, the isolated beachside home designed by her father, a brilliant architect. A lonely, introverted child, she wanted no company but that of Flint, the enigmatic boy who no one else ever saw ... and who promised he would always look after her.

Hannah's idyllic childhood at Sargasso ended in tragedy, but now as an adult she is back to renovate the house, which she has inherited from her grandmother. Her boyfriend Tristan visits regularly but then, amid a series of uncanny incidents, Flint reappears ... and as his possessiveness grows, Hannah's hold on the world begins to lapse. What is real and what is imaginary, or from beyond the grave?

### PRAISE

'Shades of du Maurier's classic *Rebecca* in this riveting, atmospheric mystery. Captivating' – Téa Cooper, bestselling Australian author

'Atmospheric, moody and deeply sensual, *Sargasso* is the perfect combination of contemporary love story and gothic intrigue. Evoking the ethereal, dream-like quality of summers gone by, it shifts between the past and the present, teasing and tormenting until its final, stunning conclusion' – Jane Cockram, author of *House of Brides*

Kathy George was born in South Africa, and has since lived in Namibia, New Zealand, and Australia. A hopeless romantic, she fell in love with *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier as a teenager, and includes *Wuthering Heights* and *Great Expectations* among her favourite books. She has worked as a legal assistant, but her true enthusiasm has always been for writing, and she holds an Masters of Fine Arts in Australian Gothic literature from Queensland University of Technology. Kathy lives in Brisbane and *Sargasso* is her first novel.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

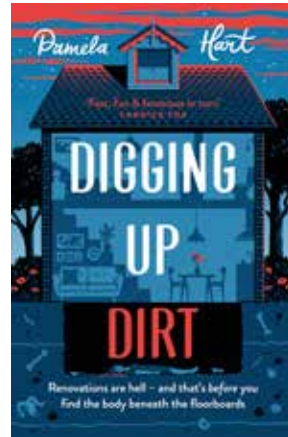
## DIGGING UP DIRT

PAMELA HART

Renovations are hell. And that's before you find the body beneath the floorboards. An intriguing mystery from a stylish new voice in crime fiction, for readers of Alexander McCall Smith, MC Beaton and Robert Thorogood.

## Manuscript available

June 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867201878



When your builder finds bones under the floor of your heritage home, what do you do? For TV researcher Poppy McGowan, the first step is to find out if the bones are human (which means calling in the cops and delaying her renovations) or animal (which doesn't).

Unfortunately, 'help' comes in the form of Dr Julieanne Weaver, archaeologist, political hopeful, and Poppy's old enemy. She declares the bones evidence of a rare breed of fat-tailed sheep, and slaps a heritage order on the site. The resultant archaeological dig introduces Poppy to Tol Lang, the best-looking archaeologist she's ever met - and also Julieanne's boyfriend.

When Julieanne is found murdered in Poppy's house, both she and the increasingly attractive Tol are considered suspects – and so Poppy uses her media contacts and news savvy to investigate other suspects. Did Julieanne have enemies in the right-wing Australian Family party, for which she was seeking preselection, or in the affiliated Radiant Joy Church? Or at the Museum of New South Wales, among her rivals and ex-boyfriends? And who was her secret lover?

Can Poppy save herself, and Tol ... and finally get her house back?

## PRAISE

'Fast, fun and ferocious in turns' – Candice Fox, bestselling Australian crime writer

'*Digging Up Dirt* is a clever, blackly funny murder mystery of our times' – Petronella McGovern, author of *Six Minutes*

Pamela Hart is an award-winning author for adults and children. She has a Doctorate of Creative Arts from the University of Technology, Sydney. Under the name Pamela Freeman she wrote the historical novel *The Black Dress*, which won the NSW Premier's History Prize for 2006. Pamela is also well known for her fantasy novels for adults, published by Orbit worldwide, the Castings Trilogy, and her Aurealis Award-winning novel *Ember and Ash*. More recently she has been writing historical romance novels as Pamela Hart, including *The War Bride*, which was shortlisted for Romantic Book of the Year Australia (the Ruby) and Romantic Book of the Year UK (the Rona) in 2017. Pamela lives in Sydney with her husband and their son, and teaches at the Australian Writers' Centre, where she is Director of Creative Writing.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

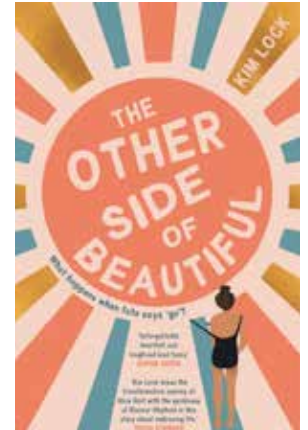
## THE OTHER SIDE OF BEAUTIFUL

KIM LOCK

*Lost & Found* meets *The Rosie Project* in a stunning break-out novel where a vulnerable misfit is forced to re-engage with the world, despite her best efforts.

## Manuscript available

July 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867214908



Meet Mercy Blain, whose house has just burnt down. Unfortunately for Mercy, this goes beyond the disaster it would be for most people: she hasn't been outside that house for two years now.

Flung out into the world she's been studiously ignoring, Mercy goes to the only place she can. Her not-quite-ex-husband Eugene's house. But it turns out she can't stay there, either.

And so begins Mercy's unwilling journey. After the chance purchase of a cult classic campervan (read tiny, old and smelly), with the company of her sausage dog, Wasabi, and a mysterious box of cremated remains, Mercy heads north from Adelaide to Darwin.

On the road, through badly timed breakdowns, gregarious troupes of grey nomads, and run-ins with a rogue adversary, Mercy's carefully constructed walls start crumbling. But what was Mercy hiding from in her house? And why is Eugene desperate to have her back in the city? They say you can't run forever ...

Exquisite, tender and wry, this is a break-out novel about facing anxiety and embracing life from an extraordinary new talent.

## PRAISE

'Unforgettable, heartfelt and laugh-out-loud funny' – Sophie Green, bestselling author of *The Shelly Bay Ladies Swimming Circle*

'Kim Lock mixes the transformative journey of Alice Hart with the quirkiness of Eleanor Oliphant in this story about embracing life' – Tricia Stringer, bestselling author of *The Family Inheritance*

'*The Other Side of Beautiful* captures with moving honesty and a burbling sense of gathering hope what it's like to reach the very end of yourself and find that maybe there's more of that story to be told' – NetGalley

Kim Lock is an internationally published author of four novels. Her writing has also appeared in *Kill Your Darlings*, *The Guardian*, *Daily Life* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* online, among others. She lives in regional South Australia with her family.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



## ALL WE HAVE IS NOW

KANEANA MAY

For fans of Colleen Oakley and JoJo Moyes, this timely and moving novel explores how unexpected grief can change and damage our belief in the world – but also how coming out the other side makes us realise what is important.

**Manuscript available**

April 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867208365



*Healing others is their calling, but what happens if they can't fix themselves?*

Health and wellbeing brought Olive, Elsie and Bree together. After five years, their bustling wellness centre is demanding expansion. A beautiful federation house nestled among the picturesque backdrop of their small town is the perfect place to grow their business. But they don't count on their personal lives getting in the way.

Practical and pragmatic, Olive keeps her past hidden from her friends. But when an old high school flame shows up, the secrets she's worked so hard to bury threaten to tear her carefully constructed world apart.

Bree is the fun-loving one, although family tensions lurk behind her free-spirited facade. The reappearance of her troubled sister Winnie brings Bree's priorities into sharp focus. Will she have to shelve her own happiness to save her sister?

Kind and maternal to all those around her, Elsie's role as the practice's counsellor comes naturally. But when tragedy strikes, her world tumbles down like a house of cards.

With everything they've built in disarray, their friendship is on the line ...

**A richly nuanced and empathetic examination of life, loss and courage from a talented newcomer.**

**PRAISE FOR KANEANA MAY**

'An author to watch ... polished writing and zippy dialogue. A highly entertaining read.'  
– *Better Reading*

Kaneana May studied television production at university, graduating with first-class honours in screenwriting. She went on to work in television, including roles as a script assistant on *All Saints*, a storyliner on *Headland* and a scriptwriter on *Home and Away*. Since becoming a mother, Kaneana has turned her attention to fiction writing. Kaneana loves to read—mostly YA, romance and women's fiction—and also loves watching TV and films. Writing, boot camp, coffee, chocolate and champagne are just some of her favourite things.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON

PENELOPE JANU

Will a misunderstanding and past trauma stand in the way of profound attraction? Immovable determination meets irresistible charm in this delightful rural romance from an award-winning and much-loved author – for readers of Rachael Johns, Karly Lane and Fleur McDonald.

**Manuscript available**

January 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867223566



When Phoebe Cartwright finds Sinn Torrisen, a navel officer and meteorologist, frozen half to death in the middle of a thunderstorm, she believes she's saved his life. Sinn, unfailingly competent and infuriatingly arrogant, disagrees. In Phoebe's small country town to track down the members of an illegal horse-racing syndicate, the last thing he needs is to become entangled with Phoebe.

A much-loved member of her community, the prickly and independent Phoebe is used to solving other people's problems. So when she learns her younger sister could be implicated in their father's dishonest accounting for the syndicate, she insists on working with Sinn to uncover the truth.

Sinn is both confused and entranced by the passionate Phoebe and in spite of her resistance, Phoebe finds herself drawn to him. But Phoebe is determined to protect her sister above all, and the secrets she cannot tell Sinn threaten to sweep his investigation – and their romance – way off course. With clouds building on the horizon, can Phoebe and Sinn weather the gale and find in each other a shelter from the storm?

**PRAISE FOR PENELOPE JANU**

'Encapsulates everything I love about the romance genre and so much more. A go-to author for rural romance for the head as well as the heart,' Joanna Nell, Bestselling Australian Author

Penelope Janu lives on the coast in northern Sydney with six wonderful children and a distracting husband. A lawyer for many years, she has a passion for social justice, and the natural environment.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE VET'S COUNTRY HOLIDAY

LILY MALONE

**One irrepressible city girl plus a by-the-numbers accountant = a tricky equation ...**

April 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867223931



For city vet Isabella Passmore, the opportunity to pet-sit in the country knocks at the perfect time. Bring on that fresh air! But after three days of holiday bliss, Izzy is bored silly. If the air gets any cleaner, she'll start slinging mud. Then she gets offered work in the second-hand shop. Saved!

Maybe.

It's been years since Elliot Field's parents rolled out the red carpet, but Elliot only needs one day to learn that this welcome mat comes with strings. His parents' new business is sinking, and they expect him to fix their financial problems.

To prepare for the week from hell, he'll need a mug that's not steeped in bad memories, but nothing could prepare him for the employee he encounters at the second-hand shop.

For Izzy, pursuing Elliot is a most welcome diversion from walking another lap of town with the dog. For Elliot, their random encounters add up to the sum of much bigger things.

He's always been a numbers man and he's kept his heart locked away, but in irrepressible Izzy, is Elliot's number finally up?

### PRAISE FOR LILY MALONE

'Hands down my favourite contemporary romance author ... sharp and clever but incredibly warm.' – Tess Woods, Goodreads

'Warm, witty and fun ... Lily Malone creates unforgettable characters. Chalk Hill is a small town you will never want to leave.' ... Alissa Callen, bestselling Australian author

'A rural romance with strong domestic themes, this heartbreaking story pulls out all the emotional stops. Lily Malone's latest covers small town politics, community relations, family dynamics, social issues and a tender love story.' – Mrs B's Book Reviews

Lily Malone trained as a journalist and worked in newspapers before becoming editor of Australia's largest wine industry trade publisher. After the birth of her two boys, she discovered writing romantic stories set in Australia's vineyards was much more fun than writing about diseases of grapevines or the latest French clone. Lily is based in Cowaramup, Western Australia.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS CATTLEMAN

ALISSA CALLEN

**A woman's journey of self-discovery meets Bundilla's small-town charm and an intriguing post WWII mystery in this captivating romance from *USA Today* bestselling author Alissa Callen.**

### Manuscript available

February 2022 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867215837



*The greatest risk of all is love ...*

Interior stylist Grace Davenport has come to the mountains for solitude and a place to heal after her parents' death. Returning to their beloved town of Bundilla, she plans to restore a local bluestone mansion in honour of their memory. She'll just be there for the summer, until she figures out her next step.

Rowan Parker never used to think twice about taking risks until his love for a woman blinded him to all common sense. Now, between his cattle farm in the high country and his work as a stonemason, there's no room in his life for further mistakes. But when he meets the beautiful but reserved new owner of the historic mansion he's been hired to rebuild, he realises his best laid plans have run amuck.

Together, Grace and Rowan work to bring the mansion back to life. But when they uncover a hidden trove of post-WWII secrets about the house's former inhabitants, their quest to find answers draws them ever closer. And just when the stone rubble around them begins to resemble a home, a landslide threatens all that Rowan and Grace have rebuilt. With their futures as unstable as the mountainside, each must fight for what they really want, even if it means losing everything ...

Alissa Callen is a country girl happiest living far from the city fringe. She draws inspiration from the countryside around her and from the resilience of local bush communities. Once a teacher and a counsellor, she remains interested in the life journeys that people take. Alissa lives with her family on a small slice of rural Australia in Dubbo NSW.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



## SINCE WE LAST MET

BRONWYN SELL

Five years ago, Carmen and Bruno spent the night together. Their daughter, Mika, was born nine months later ... but Bruno doesn't know she exists. Can the couple find each other, and the truth, in a tropical island paradise? A sparkling romance for readers of Alissa Callen and Penelope Janu.

## Manuscript available

January 2022 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489284181



Single mum Carmen Lowery's life might be annoyingly imperfect, but at least it's orderly and predictable. Until a tall, dark, handsome stranger mysteriously arrives at her family's Whitsundays resort island – and turns out to be not quite a stranger after all.

American special ops pilot Bruno Michel fell off Carmen's radar five years ago after they shared the wildest night of her otherwise strait-laced life. The self-confessed fly-by-nighter when it comes to love is delighted to be temporarily reunited with his uninhibited dream woman, but there's something he doesn't know. Their liaison came with a consequence – a little girl who has his eyes.

Carmen and Bruno pick up where they left off, but the legacy of their liaison runs deep – and Bruno is hiding his own not-so-white lie about that night.

Before he ships out, and Carmen's happy-family fantasy drifts away on the tradewinds, they must decide whether their unexpected bond can survive life-changing secrets, meddlesome relatives, and a heartbreaking vow made decades before.

## PRAISE FOR BRONWYN SELL

'Bronwyn Sell takes readers on a roller-coaster of emotions. You'll laugh, you'll cry, then laugh again.'  
– bestselling Australian author Rachael Johns

ALSO BY  
BRONWYN SELL:



Bronwyn Sell is many things – bestselling author, award-winning journalist, yogi, theatre nerd, karaoke hustler, soccer mum, lover of wines in the sun, perpetually terrified taker of creative risks – but at heart she's an eternal romantic and optimist who is happiest playing with words and imaginary friends. She is proud to share her study with a coveted RITA statuette, the world's premier award for romance fiction.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## ROAD TO ROSALEE

MANDY MAGRO

Return to Rosalee Station with bestselling author Mandy Magro's touching story of the search for belonging, love and healing. Perfect for readers of Maisey Yates.

## Manuscript available

December 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867223559



City girl Melody Harrison finds herself questioning everything in the wake of her mother's deathbed confession of a long-held secret – a secret that drives her far into the outback, to the wide-open skies of Rosalee Station ...

Matt and Sarah Walsh have finally reached a time in their lives where they are at peace, but their happiness is again thrown into turmoil when Matt answers the door to a young woman with shocking news. But what is the truth? Only by offering her sanctuary at Rosalee Station will they find space to come to grips with each other.

Long ago accepting he's never going to fit in with his wealthy family, Zai Wellstone has finally landed his dream job as head stockman at Rosalee Station. It's here he crosses paths with the most intriguing woman he's ever met, Melody, the new camp cook. Sparks fly between them from their first encounter, but will the secrets she's keeping stand in their way?

Rosalee Station is the place where love is found and family ties mean more than anything – will its magic once again show a heartbroken young woman her way forward, to the healing and connection she craves?

## ALSO IN THE SERIES:



Mandy Magro lives in Cairns, Far North Queensland, with her daughter, Chloe Rose, and their adorable toy poodle, Sophie. With pristine aqua-blue coastline in one direction and sweeping rural landscapes in the other, she describes her home as heaven on earth. A passionate woman and a romantic at heart, Mandy loves writing about soul-deep love, the Australian rural way of life, and the wonderful characters who call the country home.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## SAVANNAH'S SECRET

MANDY MAGRO

Starting over was never going to be easy, especially as he's looking for the one thing she can't give ... the truth.

## Manuscript available

May 2021 | 320pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489298829



Set in the heart of the countryside comes a compelling romance with a touch of suspense from bestselling author Mandy Magro.

Savannah Garret remains resolute in testifying as the sole eyewitness in Brisbane's most dangerous criminal case. For safety, the police have furnished her with a new identity and instructions to keep to herself. With a shiny new driver's licence in hand and job as a barmaid lined up, this die-hard city girl finds herself stepping off a bus and into the desolate street of the small country town she's now to call home.

Ash Sullivan has it all, money at his fingertips, his own property, and a successful chopper mustering business. But when it comes to love, he's failed miserably. Bitter experience has taught him that if he is ever lucky enough to meet a special woman he can fall for again, she has to be upfront from the get-go, no matter what.

These are two people, as different as chalk and cheese, who were never meant to meet until fate intervened. Will they grow to be the person each other needs? Or will their differences drive them apart?

## PRAISE

'*Savannah's Secret* is a story set in a small Australian country town, the local characters are likeable and extremely funny, and it has elements of romance, suspense and danger' – Karen Reads Books

Mandy Magro lives in Cairns, Far North Queensland, with her daughter, Chloe Rose, and their adorable toy poodle, Sophie. With pristine aqua-blue coastline in one direction and sweeping rural landscapes in the other, she describes her home as heaven on earth. A passionate woman and a romantic at heart, Mandy loves writing about soul-deep love, the Australian rural way of life, and the wonderful characters who call the country home.

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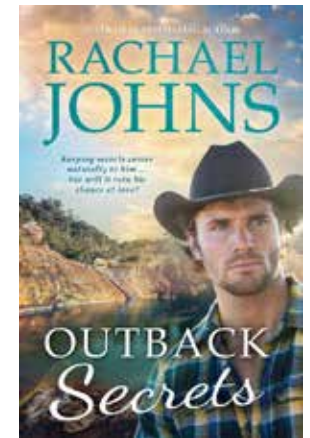
## OUTBACK SECRETS

RACHAEL JOHNS

Bestselling author Rachael Johns returns to Bunyip Bay in Book 5 of this uplifting rural romance series.

## Manuscript available

October 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867220237



*Keeping secrets comes naturally to him ... but will it ruin his chance at love?*

Liam Castle knows the secrets of everyone in Bunyip Bay. As the owner of the pub, he's heard it all – from marriage proposals and farming disasters to family rifts and everything in between. The locals love to confide in him, but no one knows he's hiding a tragic past.

And he wants to keep it that way.

Agricultural pilot Henrietta Forward lives for her job, choosing work over romance. But when an incident in the air brings Henri home to Bunyip Bay earlier than planned, she finds herself questioning everything she believes about herself.

But Henri's secret isn't her only problem.

Her mother will stop at nothing to have her settled down back in the Bay, and while Henri had always known domesticity wasn't the life for her, now she wonders what her future holds. So when Liam – always the first to lend a hand to those in need – agrees to play along with Henri's scheme to ward off her mother, she has mixed feelings. What happens when a pretend romance starts to feel like the real thing?

Will Henri's demons and Liam's traumatic past prove too great a barrier to love?

## ALSO IN THE SERIES:



Rachael Johns, an English teacher by trade and a mum 24/7, is the bestselling ABIA-winning author of *The Patterson Girls* and a number of other romance and women's fiction books including *The Art of Keeping Secrets*, *The Greatest Gift* and *Lost Without You*. She is currently Australia's leading writer of contemporary relationship stories around women's issues, a genre she has coined 'life-lit'. Rachael lives in the Perth hills with her hyperactive husband, three mostly gorgeous heroes-in-training and a very badly behaved dog. She rarely sleeps and never irons.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



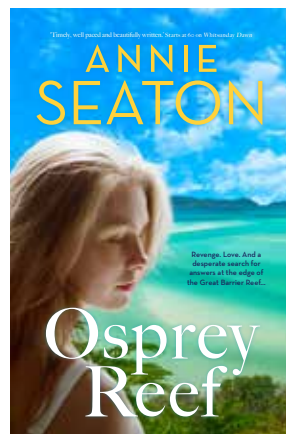
## OSPREY REEF

ANNIE SEATON

*Love. Greed. Revenge. And a desperate search for answers ...* Against the stunning backdrop of the Great Barrier Reef, two women in different eras discover how their hearts and fortunes are swayed by the secrets of the sea.

**Manuscript available**

October 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489277800



2019: Bethany Kristensen faces her toughest challenge to date, skippering the family charter business. With rivals doing their utmost to undercut her prices and reputation, the Kristensens' operation hangs by a thread. Winning the tender for a new scientific research program headed out to the farthest edge of the reef is her last chance to keep the business going. But when rumour and vandalism turn to outright sabotage, things take a drastic turn...

1934: Stella Booth flees a future of domestic drudgery in small-town outback Queensland, heading for employment and an independent life in Mackay. But fate has other plans and an accident en route sends her life spinning in a most unexpected direction...

Linked by a family mystery, decades apart, Bethany and Stella will both need to dig deeper than ever before to forge their place among the turbulent seas of the reef.

**PRAISE FOR ANNIE SEATON:**

'Timely, well paced and beautifully written' – Starts at 60

'The author seamlessly weaves an intriguing and suspenseful mystery' – Good Reads and Tea leaves

Annie Seaton lives near the beach on the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Her career and studies have spanned the education sector for most of her working life, including a Masters Degree in Education, and working as an academic research librarian, a high school principal and a university tutor until she took early retirement and fulfilled a lifelong dream of a full-time writing career. Since 2014 Annie has been voted Author of the Year (2014) and Best Established Author (2015 and 2017) in the AusRom Today.com Reader's Choice Awards. In 2018 *Whitsunday Dawn* was voted Book of the Year by AusRom readers, and also finalised in the ARRA Romantic Suspense book of the year awards.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

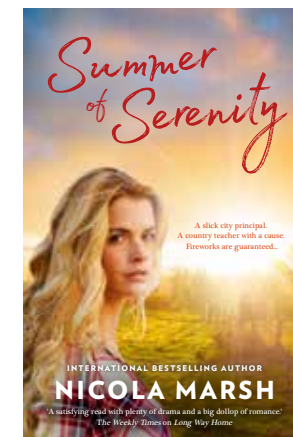
## SUMMER OF SERENITY

NICOLA MARSH

**Opposites clash in the addictive new small-town romance from *USA Today* bestselling author Nicola Marsh.**

**Manuscript available**

September 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867225409



*A slick city boy with a mission. A free-spirited country girl with a cause. Fireworks are guaranteed ...*

Upstanding principal Jy Atherton dreads the next four weeks. As punishment for crossing his bosses, he's been lumped with the inglorious task of assessing Acacia Haven's tiny school with its, dare he say, 'hippie' curriculum. With the lowest test scores in the state, it's no wonder shutting it down is practically a forgone conclusion. But then he crosses paths with a spitfire who knocks him for six – pity he's already public enemy number one ...

Teacher Summer O'Reilly loves her small town nestled along the beautiful coast. Returning was the best decision she ever made. The intentional living community of Serenity is thriving, and the children are its future. No way will she allow a jumped-up suit - no matter how good-looking – to close the school her precious students need.

For Rayne O'Reilly, Acacia Haven has always been serene on the surface, but there's a dark secret she's kept from everyone for decades, including her daughter, Summer. But after reviving old friendships and reconnecting with the past, will she finally have the courage to tear down the walls that have kept her trapped?

**PRAISE FOR NICOLA MARSH**

'A satisfying read with plenty of drama and a big dollop of romance.' – *The Weekly Times*

*USA Today* bestselling and multi-award winning author Nicola Marsh writes feel-good fiction ... with a twist. She has published seventy books and sold over eight million copies worldwide. She currently writes rural romance for HarperCollins Australia's Mira imprint, emotional domestic suspense for Hachette UK's Bookouture and contemporary romance for Harlequin Dare. She's a Romantic Book of the Year and National Readers' Choice Award winner. A physiotherapist for thirteen years, she now adores writing full time, raising her two dashing young heroes, sharing fine food with family and friends, barracking loudly for her beloved North Melbourne Kangaroos footy team, and curling up with a good book!

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## MEET ME IN BENDIGO

EVA SCOTT

Small-town Australia meets *You've Got Mail* in this rural romantic comedy about online dating, second chances, and following your heart.

**Manuscript available**

July 2021 | 384pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867230588



Small-town sweetheart Annalisa Cappelli has returned to Wongilly to take over her family's hardware store while she heals from a tragic loss. The business was hit hard by the pandemic, and now a Carpenter's Warehouse hardware superstore is opening in the district. There's no way Annalisa is going to let two hundred years of history go down the drain, but she's going to need to fight to keep her family's legacy alive.

The one simple thing in her life is her no names, no complications, easy-breezy online relationship with GardenerGuy94. For now, their online flirtation is the only kind of romance Annalisa needs. Until she meets Ed Carpenter. Sexy as hell, he'd be the perfect man ... if he wasn't trying to destroy her business.

Ed Carpenter is in Wongilly to offer the owner of a small hardware store a payout to pave the way for his family's next superstore. What he doesn't expect is for the owner to be the woman he's been talking to online. Annalisa is beautiful and passionate, and he's sure she's the one for him. But how can he reveal the truth without losing her?

Eva comes from a family of storytellers and has been writing her own stories since she could hold a pencil. Growing up in a multicultural neighbourhood in Melbourne, Eva developed her wanderlust and a passion for culture and language. Eva's passion for the Australian country is born of her large extended family, which is spread out across the land. Eva's books explore relationships, culture, our roles in changing society, love and loss.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE VET FROM SNOWY RIVER

STELLA QUINN

A hot vet. A rebellious teenager. And meddling but well-meaning townsfolk. Vera gets more than she bargains for when she runs off to a new life in the country ... A fresh and funny contemporary romance.

**Manuscript available**

June 2021 | 416pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867225591



Vera De Rossi no longer believes in love ...

And thanks to her ex-boyfriend she's also broke, jobless, and staring down the barrel of a court case that could land her in prison. Turning to her talent for baking, Vera opens a cafe in Hanrahan, a cosy tourist town in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains.

Josh Cody, once Hanrahan's golden boy, escaped sixteen years ago with gossip hard on his heels and a pregnant girlfriend in tow. Now he's back: a qualified veterinarian – and a single dad with a lot to prove. A new start and a grumpy teenage daughter ... it's a lot to juggle, and there's no room in his life for further complications. But that's before he walks into The Billy Button Cafe and meets its prickly owner ...

Reeling from the past, Vera has no intention of being sidetracked by the hot vet with a killer smile. But fate has a way of tripping up our best intentions and between a stray cat and a busybody with a heart of gold, this is a town – a family – unlike any other. And, whether Vera wants it or not, is there anything a family won't do to help one of its own?

**PRAISE**

'The perfect feel-good blend of warmth, wit and small-town charm. This debut will leave you smiling.' – Alissa Callen bestselling author of *Snowy Mountains Daughter*

Stella Quinn believes romance, adventure and escape are the reasons we love to read. They're also the reasons she loves to write. Stella was born in England and has lived in Asia, Australia and the South Pacific. When she's not sitting in the sun scribbling (the old-fashioned way) in a notebook, she can be found walking her dog, roaming her neighbourhood in search of the perfect latte, or thrashing her children at scrabble. Stella lives in Queensland, has four children, a funky day job as a tax accountant, and you can find her via her website, [www.stellaquinnauthor.com](http://www.stellaquinnauthor.com)

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

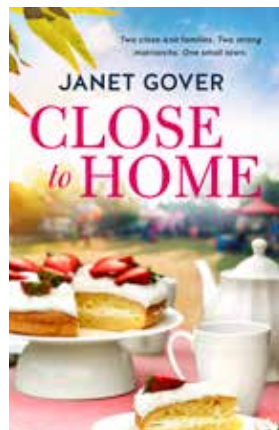
## CLOSE TO HOME

JANET GOVER

A story of community and family. Of the love that brings them together ... and the fears that would tear them apart. Perfect for readers who love Robyn Carr.

**Manuscript available**

February 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489294302



*Two households, both alike in dignity ...*

Aunt Alice Dwyer loves her small Australian town. She's rarely left its comforting embrace. She knows everyone in it; in fact, she's related to most of them. All she wants is to keep her family safe and the town running exactly the way it always has. Her way. But when an exotic French artist comes to town, her hold begins to weaken ...

Lucienne Chevalier, once the toast of Europe, has come to Nyringa after a tragic loss to hang up her sequins and create a place for her circus family to rest between tours. With her is Simon, her grandson, recovering from an injury so damaging he can no longer perform. Lucienne fears he'll never embrace a new future. That is, until she notices the chemistry between him and the new schoolteacher ... All they need is a push.

Both grande dames think they know what's best, but with equal amounts of stubbornness on both sides, peace looks unlikely. Then a relationship between Alice's rebellious great-niece and a teenage acrobat sets the two communities on a collision course. But when the bakery starts making patisseries over lamingtons, the battle lines are truly drawn ...

**PRAISE FOR JANET GOVER**

'A stirring family drama, *The Lawson Sisters* is an exceptional read from cover to cover.'  
– *Mrs B's Book Reviews*

Janet Gover is the author of 13 published books, mostly set in rural Australia after growing up in the Outback. Her stories focus on family and community relationships and strong women taking control over their lives. She has won or been shortlisted for awards in the Australia, the UK and the US, and speaks at writing events and mentors new writers. Married to an Englishman, Janet divides her time between West London and Australia.

**Rights Held: World English language**

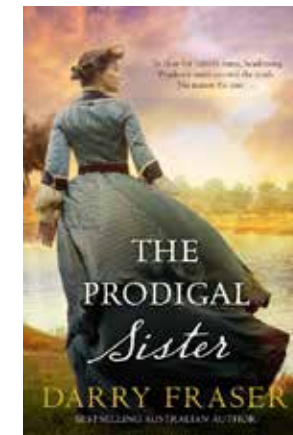
## THE PRODIGAL SISTER

DARRY FRASER

Headstrong Prudence North faces a dangerous blackmailer who threatens her family and her dreams of escaping domestic drudgery. An enthralling historical mystery from a bestselling author.

**Manuscript available**

December 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781489294562

**1900 Melbourne, Victoria**

Miss Prudence North is freshly returned from university in Scotland and determined to find her place among the male-dominated world of the new forensic sciences when a high-ranking policeman waylays her. He threatens to charge her father for illegal medical practices unless she helps him build a case against local landowner Jasper Darke by spying on him.

With her sister's illness worsening, if their income disappears, Prudence will have to take on nursing and domestic duties and she'll never have the freedom she craves. Prudence has no choice but to agree.

Immediately taken with the handsome Mr Darke, a seemingly good and honest man, Prudence can't see what nefarious activities she's meant to be reporting on. She'll have to get closer ...

But when a body turns up at her father's surgery, the forensics reveal to Prudence there's more going on about all this than meets the eye. It's clear it's up to her to uncover the truth - of this murder, of whatever's going on at the surgery after hours and, especially, of the intriguing Jasper Darke. Her life, her family and her future rely on it ...

**PRAISE FOR JANET GOVER**

'A fabulous storyteller who underlies this compelling plot with strong female characters who challenge the status quo ... Fast paced historical fiction, first-hand experience of the landscape, and the added bonus of a plot line that has been drawn from Darry Fraser's very own family history make this an authentic, seamless and riveting tale.' – *Better Reading*

Darry Fraser is the author of five bestselling historical novels that celebrate spirited heroines and adventurous journeys through breathtaking landscapes and the fascinating world of the 19th Century. Darry currently lives, works and writes on Kangaroo Island, an awe-inspiring place off the coast of South Australia.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



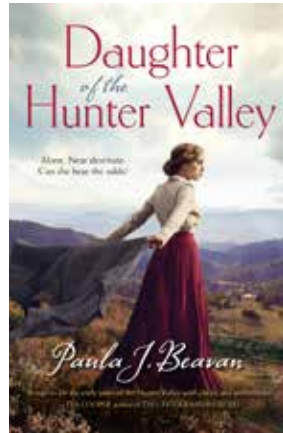
## DAUGHTER OF THE HUNTER VALLEY

PAULA J. BEAVAN

**Alone. Near destitute. But brave and determined. Can Maddy beat the odds to create a new home in the Hunter Valley? An exciting Australian historical debut.**

### Manuscript available

September 2021 | 234pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867221449



*1831, New South Wales*

Reeling from her mother's death, Madeleine Barker-Trent arrives in the newly colonised Hunter River to find her father's promises are nothing more than a halcyon dream. A day later, after a dubious accident, she becomes the sole owner of a thousand acres of bushland, with only three convicts and handsome overseer Daniel Coulter for company.

Determined to fulfil her family's aspirations, Maddy refuses to return to England and braves everything the beautiful but wild Australian country can throw at her – violence, danger, the forces of nature and loneliness. But when a scandalous secret and a new arrival threaten to destroy all she's worked for, her future looks bleak ... Can Maddy persevere or should she simply admit defeat?

*A captivating historical tale of one young woman's grit and determination to carve out her place on the riverbank.*

### PRAISE

'Richly detailed, inspiring and romantic - this engrossing story of a brave young woman overcoming insurmountable odds brings to life the early years of the Hunter Valley with clarity and authenticity.' – Tea Cooper, author of *The Cartographer's Secret*

An avid reader from childhood, Paula J. Beavan grew up on a small property in the Hunter Valley, riding horses, mustering cattle and listening to the tales of local farriers, cattlemen and farmers. Her love of the land and its history together with a curiosity about the challenges faced by the pioneering women of the region led her to seek out stories of the area's founding settlers. Serendipitously she discovered a family connection to William Harpur, local landowner and one of Australia's early surveyors. Inspired by this connection she delved deeper to discover when William Harpur lost his sight his wife Catherine managed their Hunter River property – a perfect illustration of the women she writes about.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE UNWORTHY DUKE

CHARLOTTE ANNE

**Witty, passionate and fast-paced, this sparkling debut Regency romance is a must-read for any fan of Georgette Heyer, Julia Quinn and all things *Bridgerton*.**

### Manuscript available

September 2021 | 352pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867234722



*She's running from her past; he's hiding from his.*

Miss Ellen Burney doesn't have a penny to her name. Determined to escape scandal, she flees to London and becomes Miss Smith: spinster and lady's companion. London offers security in anonymity. So long as Ellen can rein in her overactive imagination and become the perfect picture of propriety.

Calum Callaghan spent ten years in the Royal Navy fighting Napoleon and has the scars to prove it. Now he's a duke, but all of London thinks he murdered his brother. Heartbroken and battle weary, he's locked himself away for four long years, a prisoner in his own townhouse.

That is, until Cal's grandmother comes to stay with him for the London Season, her new lady's companion in tow. A lady's companion with a passion for life and love that can hardly be contained by even the most spinsterish of lace caps. She's fooling nobody, especially not this grumpy duke.

### PRAISE

'Secrets and scars that run deep ... a delightful Regency twist on Beauty and the Beast!' – Alison Stuart, author of *The Postmistress*

'Charming characters, witty banter, a delightful romp from a sparkling new voice in historical romance.' – Allison Butler, author of the Borderland Brides series

With a degree in archaeology, Charlotte Anne now pens steamy historical romances. She's been writing for as long as she can remember, and in her spare time she's climbed to Mt Everest Base Camp and has earned her black belt in taekwondo. She's even a pretty good shot with a bow.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## LORD SOMERTON'S HEIR

ALISON STUART

First love left them desolate ... can a new love heal their wounds? A tale of second chance love in aristocratic Regency England, for lovers of all things Bridgerton.

## Manuscript available

September 2021 | 532pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867234715



Sebastian Alder's sudden elevation from penniless army captain to Viscount Somerton is the stuff of fairy tales, but the cold reality of an inherited estate in wretched condition leaves him little time for fantasy, and the memory of his wife's brutal death haunts his every moment. When he learns of the mysterious circumstances of his cousin's demise, he must also look for a potential murderer ... surely not Isabel, his cousin's ladylike widow?

Isabel, Lady Somerton, is desperate to bury the memory of her unhappy marriage by founding the charity school she has always dreamed of. Her hopes are shattered from beyond the grave when she is left not only penniless but once more bound to the whims of a Somerton ... although perhaps the new Lord Somerton is a man she can trust ... or even care for?

Suspicion could tear them apart ... honesty and courage may pull them together.

## PRAISE

'In the wake of Waterloo, a richly detailed historical romance with plenty of danger, deception and derring-do' – Anne Gracie, international award-winning author

'*Lord Somerton's Heir* is a heartfelt historical romance, which combines heartbreak and mystery, with friendship and just enough seduction' – Love Reading Romance

'A sweet love story, *Lord Somerton's Heir* by Alison Stuart takes its cues from Cinderella with a fairytale geared towards the hero's perspective' – Romantic Historical Reviews

Australian author Alison Stuart began her writing journey halfway up a tree in the school playground with a notebook and a dream. Her father's passion for history and her husband's love of adventure and the Australian bush led to a desire to tell stories of Australia's past.

She has travelled extensively and lived in Africa and Singapore. Before turning to writing full time, she enjoyed a long and varied career as a lawyer, both in private practice and in a range of different organisations, including the military and the emergency services.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**

## THE BUCHANAN GIRLS

EMILY MADDEN

A sweeping family saga about betrayal, forgiveness and the cost of love.

## Manuscript available

September 2021 | 400pp | 234x153mm  
Paperback | ISBN 9781867204244



**Sydney, 1941:** Olive and Ivy may be identical twins, but they couldn't be more different. While Olive is focused on marrying a man appropriate to her station, Ivy wants to do more, to be more. Joining the Australian Women's Service Army is the perfect chance for her to escape her family obligations and make a real difference in the world. She doesn't expect serving her country to lead to romance ... or devastating betrayal and unthinkable grief.

As the war progresses, both Olive and Ivy find themselves wanting the same thing: for their loves to return safely. But neither of the Buchanan girls is ready for what the future has in store for them.

**Sydney, 2008:** Escaping her husband's betrayal and an impossible personal loss, Madeline returns home to Sydney to nurse her broken heart. As she settles into her new routine, it's too easy to consider never returning to New York and her old life. But her husband won't give up on what they have so easily, and Madeline can't ignore his messages reminding her of why they fell in love in the first place. With her grandmother's support, Madeline has to decide if forgiveness means reconciliation. But is the biggest betrayal yet to come?

Emily Madden covets books like some women covet shoes and handbags (although she has a decent collection of each of those too!). While she reads anything and everything, stories that touch the heart and uplift the soul are what she loves the most. Emily lives in Sydney with her two girls and husband. She's a coffee lover and can often be found writing at her local haunts.

**Rights Held: World (excl. Germany) English language**

## THE THIEF

ALLISON BUTLER

**She needs a home, he needs a bride ...  
neither wants to fall in love.**

**Manuscript available**

June 2021 | 336pp | 234x153mm

Paperback | ISBN 9781867222385



**1402, the Anglo-Scottish border.**

To fulfil his father's dying wish, border laird Lachlan Elliot must marry and sire a legitimate heir, cementing his family's name in the tumultuous borderlands. But he is determined his marriage will be one of convenience only – he has no time for the pain and betrayal of love.

So even when Lachlan catches a spirited thief stealing his horse, and she turns out to be the breathtaking daughter of a neighbouring laird, he vows to marry her, bed her, but never love her.

Kenzie never wanted an arranged marriage, but to be forced to wed the domineering laird who catches her thieving from his lands is even worse. Feisty, strong-willed and determined to make her own way, she may have no choice but to agree to the marriage, but she will never give up her independence. Lachlan may own her body, but he will never own her heart ...

**A lush, sexy romance in the spirit of Diana Gabaldon and Darry Fraser.**

### PRAISE

‘An unforgettable story with a heart as romantic and captivating as Scotland itself. Allison Butler is my go-to author for Scottish historical romance.’ – bestselling Australian author Alissa Callen

### ALSO BY ALLISON BUTLER:



Allison Butler is an author of Scottish historical romance. She spent her early years in country New South Wales building pretend castles with hay bales and leaping white posts with her army of two older sisters and a younger brother. Many years later, with her mother's influence, she discovered a passion for words and history, read her first historical romance and was inspired to create her own. She writes by day and cares for the elderly by night. Her love of travel has given her the gift of many amazing sights but none more heart-stirring than the rugged beauty of Scotland. Allison lives in a small town in New South Wales, Australia, with her very own Scottish hero, two beautiful daughters and a Jack Russell named Wallace. She loves travelling, dancing like no-one's watching and seeing the sights from the back of her husband's motorcycle.

**Rights Held: World English and translation**



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# Great Stories Uncovered

