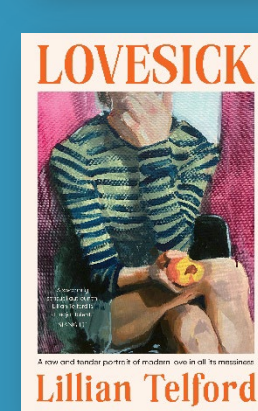
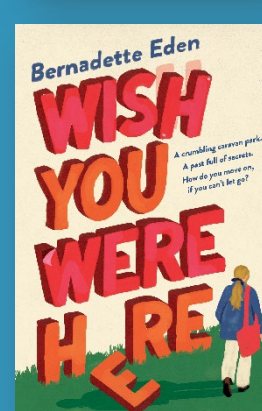
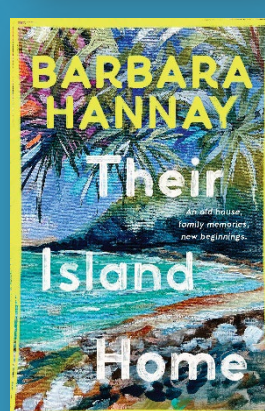
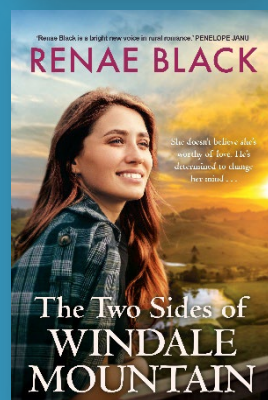
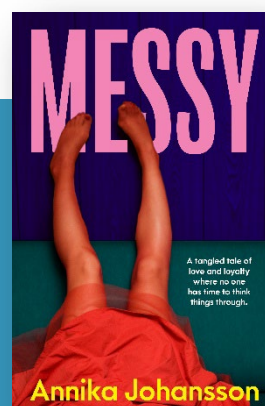
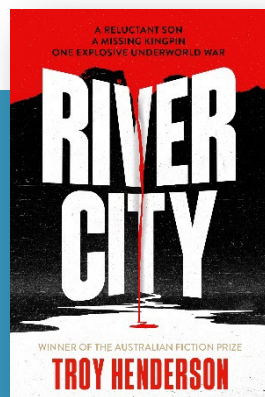
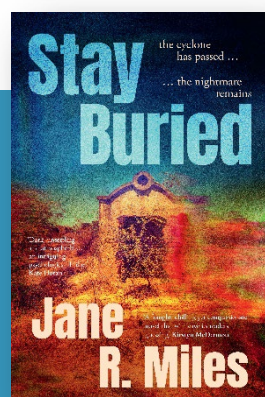


HCANZ ADULT FICTION RIGHTS GUIDE FBF2026



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the HarperCollins ANZ Adult Fiction Rights Guide, a comprehensive showcase of the extraordinary literary talent and unique voices from Australia and New Zealand.

At HarperCollins, our love of publishing Australian and New Zealand stories has spanned more than a hundred years and continues to this day with a dedicated and passionate team of bookmakers, booksellers and book-spruikers. We love books that you can't put down, characters that you fall in love with, stories that stay with you long after you finish the last page.

This guide includes titles from Harper Fiction, 4th Estate and HQ.

Happy reading!

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AND OTHER UGLY THINGS

Lillian Telford

It's a sticky summer in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. Hannah's art career is finally taking off, but she's lonely – grieving her recently deceased father, unsure how to care for her mother from afar and broken after being left by her ex-girlfriend.

Julius is wallowing, getting nowhere fast. Working at a bar pays the bills; drugs fill the emptiness.

Kaden, the best friend of both, brings them together by suggesting that Hannah photograph Julius. A spark is lit between Hannah and Julius, but Hannah knows Kaden pines for Julius, and she doesn't want to damage their friendship.

Longing. Addiction. Devotion. In such heat and proximity, it's impossible for Hannah and Julius to ignore their feelings – and for Kaden to let go. This summer might break them, or it might remake them.

KEY POINTS

- The second novel from the highly praised author of *Lovesick* again delves into a vibrant Brisbane setting
- Reviewers called Lillian Telford's debut 'intoxicating', 'profound' and 'achingly beautiful'
- For readers who love the emotional intensity and heartache of Coco Mellors, Madeleine Gray and Jacqueline Maley

PRAISE FOR *LOVESICK*

'Soft, lyrical, and haunting, *Lovesick* is a stunning debut that packs a punch.' *Readings*

'If you pick up only one work of fiction in 2026, let it be *Lovesick*. From the first page, it's clear that this novel is something truly special. Lillian Telford's writing is remarkably forthcoming and sharp, and at the same time, the elegance of her prose will melt you like butter.' Harry Hartog Bookseller Review

'*Lovesick* hit me like a swooning, sensual gut punch. Lillian Telford is a major talent.' Siang Lu, award-winning author of *Ghost Cities*

'Observant, profound and often visceral. Telford's prose reads more like poetry.' Eleanor Kirk, author of *Very Impressive for Your Age*

'*Lovesick* is an impressive debut, showing lonely lives butting against a refreshing Brisbane landscape. I enjoyed its raw, dark depiction of human nature at its most vulnerable.' Elise Esther Hearst, author of *One Day We're All Going to Die*

'An achingly beautiful portrait of young love in all its messy glory as well as fragility.' Emily Lighezzolo, author of *Life Drawing*



July 2027

ISBN: 9781038955517

\$34.99

272 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Lillian Telford is an Australian writer from Meanjin (Brisbane) whose work has been published in a range of literary magazines and anthologies, including *Corella Press*, *Urinal Magazine*, *Island* and *Bowen Street Press*. She has been shortlisted for the Glendower Award in the Queensland Literary Awards twice.

SUMMER COUNTRY

Madeleine Streater

Three generations. Two timelines. One crumbling farm. Secrets, betrayal and redemption collide in the heart of Australia's harsh plains.

Summer Country is a sweeping tale of family, legacy, and the unyielding pull of the land, set against the stark beauty of southern New South Wales. Spanning two timelines, this evocative novel explores the lives of the Macleay family and the secrets that bind them to Nummerak, their once-grand sheep station.

In the present, Sal Wilson's sudden death leaves her three children grappling with grief and a fractured future. Fleeing Sydney's chaos, they return to Nummerak, a place steeped in history and heartbreak. But the farm is crumbling, and Gordon Minerals is circling, eager to claim the land. As Hannah fights to preserve Nummerak's historic shearing shed, Aaron sees salvation in selling. Their conflict deepens as they're drawn into the lives of their neighbours: the struggling O'Learys and the Wyatts, an Aboriginal family championing sustainable farming.

Twenty years earlier, Sal is a restless teenager navigating her parents' crumbling marriage and the weight of family expectations. Her mother clings to tradition, her father dreams of change. Sal's own choices spark ripples that will echo for decades.

With secrets unearthed and loyalties tested, *Summer Country* is a poignant exploration of love, loss and the enduring ties to home.

AWARDS

Shortlist – The Australian Fiction Prize, *HarperCollins Australia*

Shortlist – Penguin Literary Prize, *Penguin Random House Australia*

KEY POINTS

- For readers of Judy Nunn, Di Morrissey and Rosaline Ham's *The Dressmaker*
- Timely themes of land ownership, sustainability and the clash between tradition and progress
- Perfect for fans of multi-generational dramas



March 2027

ISBN: 9781460768327

\$34.99

320 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Madeleine Streater is a writer originally from the Southern Highlands of NSW Australia. She completed a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Bath Spa under the supervision of acclaimed short story writer Tessa Hadley. After spending several years as a bookseller, she recently began a career as a secondary teacher. She now lives in Sydney.

MESSY

Annika Johansson

An outrageously funny and entertaining novel about a woman ready to go to any lengths to have a baby, even if that means using the frozen embryos she made with her ex ... who has inconveniently gone missing.

These embryos were made in a grand gesture of panicked love. The love is gone. But the panic is real.

When Daisy is hit with early perimenopause, her plans to start a family suddenly come with a deadline. Since she's single and competing for her dream job as a TV weather presenter, the timing isn't ideal. It's a good thing she already has embryos on ice.

Their origins are ... complicated. She and her ex made them after Xavier's cancer diagnosis – before Xavier's miraculous recovery, when he'd dumped Daisy for his oncology nurse, Erik.

Giving Daisy his blessing to use the embryos is the least Xavier can do. Except Xavier says no. And then he goes missing.

The date for the embryo transfer is fast approaching. Xavier will turn up eventually, right? So Daisy goes ahead. She just can't tell her sister, or Xavier's grieving parents, and definitely not Xavier's brother, Max, her teenage crush, who turns up wanting to talk. If the procedure works, she'll figure the rest out later.

But Daisy isn't the only person telling white lies, and things are about to get more complicated than Daisy could have ever imagined.

AUTHOR AWARDS

Cupid on Wheels

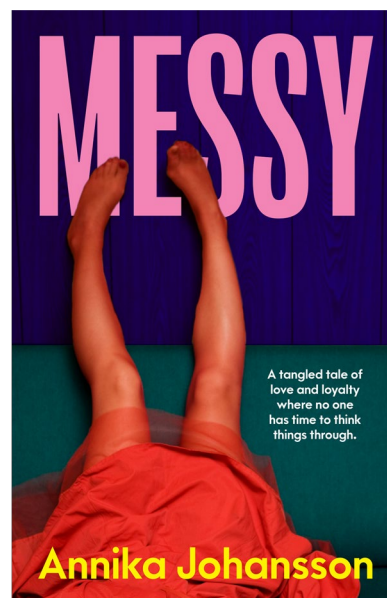
Winner – Spicy Bites Anthology 2024, Romance Writers of Australia

The Speed Dater

Winner – Sweet Treats Anthology 2023, Romance Writers of Australia

KEY POINTS

- *Jane the Virgin* meets *Bridget Jones's Baby*
- A novel about the unforgiving nature of biological clocks, the impossible battle between career and motherhood, the messiness of adult relationships and how quickly a few little white lies can spiral out of control
- Fresh, funny, feel-good fiction with the perfect amount of drama and entertainment for summer reading
- Explores real issues women face every day, from workplace discrimination and gender pay parity, to managing careers and kids, to women's health issues that so often go ignored



January 2027

ISBN: 9781038975362

\$34.99

288 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: On request

Annika Johansson is a freelance writer and creative writing tutor living in the rainforests on Bundjalung Country (Northern Rivers of NSW). Born in Brisbane, she studied a Bachelor of Business Communications which took her to Sydney, Asia and the Middle East, working as a copywriter and creative director. Her short stories have won awards and appeared in anthologies. Her debut novel *Downstream* was published in 2024, with her latest novel *Messy* coming in 2027.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

Bernadette Eden

Warm, witty and wise, an authentic debut touching on mental health, guilt and family ties.

Sally Jenkins can't seem to catch a break ...

Widowed with two children, Sally clings to the only thing still connecting her to her late husband: a bankrupt caravan park where the loos are always getting blocked.

It wouldn't be so bad if there wasn't a new resort opening up nearby, luring away the last of the holiday-makers. And if one more person suggests that she reopen the park's mountain-bike tracks, she will impale them with a plunger. It was riding those dangerous tracks that caused her husband's accident, leaving her in this mess. A mess that includes desperately trying to find the money to send her son to a school that offers everything he needs.

Then, to make matters worse, her husband's childhood friend Jagger has arrived back in town, and the fact that he is charming and loved by everyone only annoys Sally further. But Jagger holds a secret of his own that could break this already battered family for good.

Sally can't hide forever, and whether she wants it or not, the past isn't finished with her yet ...

AUTHOR AWARDS

Awaiting Annie Jones

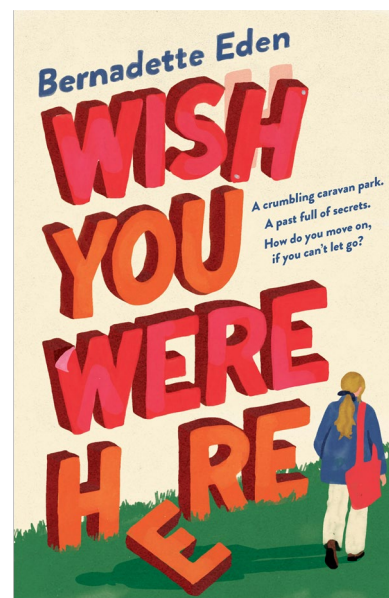
Winner – Romantic Elements Ruby Award, Romance Writers of Australia

Shortlisted – Publishable, Queensland Writers Centre

Longlisted – The Richell Prize, Emerging Writers' Festival

KEY POINTS

- Topical talking points about the stigma of mental health, compounded by rural isolation, as well as the wide-spread struggle of small towns' survival
- Perfect for readers of *The Other Side of Beautiful*, *The Wedding People*, and Frances Whiting, and humour and heart authors like Monica McInerney and Marian Keyes
- Written with wry and witty observation, this novel draws you into its small town as if it were a stop on your own latest holiday



December 2026

ISBN: 9781038976253

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Bernadette Eden writes feel-good fiction that gives you a giggle. Growing up in a small country town, Bernadette learnt the art of storytelling by sitting at kitchen tables listening to gossip. When she was old enough, she dabbled in some gossip herself and then thought, what if I made this a bit juicier and called it fiction? Now living in the Adelaide Hills with her husband, three kids and a dog who thinks he is human, Bernadette still gossips but likes to call it research instead.

THE PARADISE RESORT

Tricia Stringer

Who doesn't love a luxurious holiday? But even paradise can have an off day ... A funny, warm and wise insight into the joys and challenges of finding community in the most unlikely places, from the bestselling author of *The Road Trip*.

As manager of a luxurious Kimberley resort, Nelda has a lot on her plate. So when Beatrice Foreston, a wealthy friend of the owner, arrives in fragile health to recuperate from an unpleasant battle with cancer, Nelda is not happy. Beatrice will need special treatment, and isn't it enough that some of the clientele are particularly obnoxious this season, and new staff Kathleen and Omar are clearly out of their depth?

Worse, Nelda has heard there is a spy in their midst – and they will have to be dealt with. Because a spy could uncover Nelda's secret, and if that happens, it could ruin the resort and destroy the livelihoods of all who depend on it.

When Kathleen starts to investigate something amiss, Nelda has no choice but to confess what she is hiding, and Beatrice, determined to get her mojo back, joins forces with them to try and put things right and save the community they all love – before it's too late.

KEY POINTS

- Tricia Stringer's print sales exceed a quarter of a million copies and according to Bookscan, she is in the top 25 Australian fiction authors locally
- Beloved by readers, her writing appeals to readers of Joanna Nell, Liz Byrski and Monica McInerney

PRAISE FOR *THE ROAD TRIP*

'“Masterful” gets used a lot in reviews, but Stringer really is ... one of Australia's most accomplished writers.' *Better Reading*

'Heartfelt, funny and brimming with outback charm – this is a must-read for anyone who loves stories of love, life and community on the road.' Joanne, *NetGalley*

'This is a heartwarming story about connection, forgiveness and finding joy in the journey rather than the destination.' Karyn, *NetGalley*



October 2026

ISBN: 9781867247784

\$34.99

416 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Tricia Stringer is a bestselling and multiple award-winning author. Her books include contemporary fiction, rural romances and historical sagas set in Australian communities past and present.

Tricia grew up on a farm in country South Australia and has spent most of her life in rural communities as the owner of a post office and bookshop, and as a teacher and librarian.

She lives on the traditional lands of the Narungga people in the beautiful Copper Coast region and shares her passion for the country and its people through her authentic stories and their vivid characters.

THE CONFESSION

E. Brodie

A twisty and addictive crime suspense novel and daring quest for justice from a talented Australian debut author.

When Cindy Rogers fails to collect her five-year-old daughter from the skating rink, her husband fears the worst. It's 1984 in Blewett Harbour and Cindy's disappearance devastates the Australian coastal town.

Ten years later, told through the eyes of those closest to Cindy, a chain of events conspires to unravel the threads of the cold case, compelling one woman to embark on a dangerous and daring quest for the truth.

Seth Brown: A dirty Mayor who fled town is forced to return, letting a dark secret from his past slip in an unguarded moment.

Dean Rogers: A heartbroken husband desperate for answers pins his hopes on a tenth-anniversary missing person's reward yielding fresh clues.

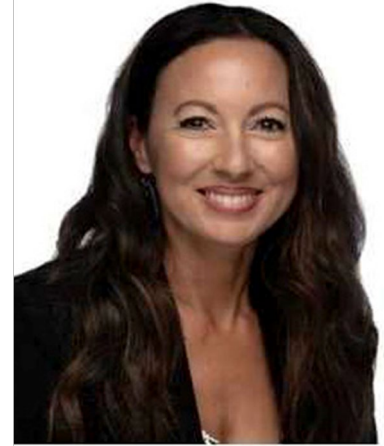
Sergeant Wight: A veteran cop on the brink of retirement, but his conscience won't let him hand in his notice until Cindy is found.

Mallory Tanner: The skating rink owner, and the only person who can find out what really happened to Cindy. If she succeeds, she'll be absolved of her secret guilt in incriminating Cindy's husband all those years ago.

Not everyone will survive this gripping story.

KEY POINTS

- For readers who love Sally Hepworth, Nicola Moriarty or Kate Horan
- A captivating and suspenseful read that will appeal to both new and seasoned crime readers
- Big bookstagram community with 4.9k+ followers – @ebrodieauthor



August 2027

ISBN: 9781038996046

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

E. Brodie is a full-time fiction writer and former newspaper journalist at *The Whyalla News* and magazine editor at *Australian Property Investor*. She has founded three thriving book clubs in Brisbane, Adelaide and the Sunshine Coast, all of which she actively attends. She has a home library with more than 800 novels, a rolling ladder and a secret room that opens with a book. Her favourite genre is the one she writes in, crime and suspense thrillers. She lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband Alan, German Shepherd Bruno and rescue cat Digby.

SANDALWOOD (RENEE TAYLOR #2)

Angie Faye Martin

A gripping dual-time line crime mystery set deep in the Australian outback from an award-winning author.

In the blistering heat of a remote cattle station in Western Queensland, the silence hides a multitude of sins. When young Aboriginal stockman James 'Timber' Fuller is found dead, station owner Warner Lassider is quick to call it a suicide. But the local community are not so sure.

Aboriginal policewoman Renee Taylor is still recovering from her previous case and is reluctant to take this one on. However, urged by her father and an unshakeable sense of duty, she steps into the red dust of Tooladdi to investigate. What starts as a routine inquiry quickly changes when the autopsy results come in. Now Renee must confront a powerful pastoral dynasty in her search for the truth.

As she delves into the mystery, the narrative weaves back to the 1920s, revealing a heartbreaking history of survival and brutality at an Aboriginal camp living in the shadow of the Lassider fortune.

Past and present collide when Renee realizes Timber's death is linked to a dark century-old secret, a secret she must uncover if she is to find out what really happened. It's a secret the station's owners would kill to keep hidden.

AWARDS

Melaleuca

Winner – Matt Richell New Writer of the Year, Australian Industry Book Awards, 2026

Winner – Davitt Awards, Debut, 2026

PRAISE FOR *MELALEUCA*

'*Melaleuca* is a masterful debut that calls for justice and change within Australian politics, the judicial system and cultural mindset.' *Readings*

'This is a powerful and thrilling read that is a real stand out. Highly recommended.' *Great Escape Books*

'Angie Faye Martin brings an important new voice to Australia's rich rural crime tradition. With a gutsy First Nations heroine, an atmospheric setting and a shocking crime that exposes a small town's prejudices, this is a book that deserves a large and enthusiastic audience.' Cassie Hamer, bestselling author of *The Stranger at the Table*

'This intense, heart-wrenching and beautifully written novel introduces a bold, and important voice in Australian crime fiction.' Karen Brooks, bestselling author of *The Good Wife of Bath*

'Atmospheric and blistering. *Melaleuca* will leave you wanting more. What a remarkable debut.' Fleur McDonald, bestselling author of *The Prospect*



June 2027

ISBN: 9781867270904

\$34.99

368 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Angie Faye Martin is a writer and editor of *Kooma*, Kamilaroi and European heritage.

With a Bachelor of Public Health from the Queensland University of Technology and a Masters of Anthropology from the Australian National University, Angie spent many years working in policy roles in state and federal government before launching *Versed Writings* in 2019. Her work has been published in *Meanjin*, *Garland*, *The Saltbush Review* and *The Rocks Remain*.

Angie is a member of the First Nations Australia Writers Network and accredited with the Institute of Professional Editors.

THE EXCHANGE STUDENT

Sal Balharrie

Audrey Fitzgibbon knows all about the power of appearances and reputation management. That's her business, after all. Together with her hotshot business partner, Tim, she runs one of Melbourne's most successful boutique PR companies, Quandary Consulting. She's got a lot of plates in the air, but so far, by working harder than anyone else, juggling male egos and keeping across *everything*, she's created an enviable picture-perfect life, complete with a beautiful home in Melbourne's leafy Eastern suburbs; a handsome, ex-footy star husband, Fitz, now a popular sports commentator; and two lovely, smart teen daughters, Grace and Clemmie.

But in this seemingly idyllic Garden of Eden, things are not always as they seem. So when a luscious and opportunistic young Italian exchange student, Gaia, arrives in their home, cracks in their perfect life soon start forming into chasms. Incidents and accidents escalate to devastating discoveries and shocking betrayal, and as events spiral out of control, a rattled Audrey is shocked to discover that the girl she so vehemently hates might just be the one who ends up saving her.

KEY POINTS

- For fans of juicy, high-stakes family psychological dramas and domestic noirs – and stories of rich people behaving badly
- Themes: price of a perfect life, secrets, family drama and gaslighting
- For readers of Sally Hepworth, Liane Moriarty and Jane Harper



May 2027

ISBN: 9781460769454

\$34.99

352 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Sal Balharrie is writer, documentary director and producer.

While Sal's documentaries fall under the banner of Naked Emperor, Sal creates scripted drama as part of the collective Goddess Pictures. Her most recently produced project, the critically acclaimed feature documentary *Like My Brother*, premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2024 before an Australian cinema release and international festival run.

Sal is currently writing an animated TV series for women that Hot House Tiger Mama developed with Hoodlum/Hooligan Animation. She is also working on her next documentary feature *Why Push It?*, which explores the competitive mindset of elite female athletes.

FOR ALL THE DEAD GIRLS

Sherryl Clark

Tough and gutsy P.I. Lou Alcott returns with a terrifyingly gritty new case that takes her deep into the dark web.

While juggling a missing person case with unexpected ties close to home and saving an innocent woman and her child from a dangerous domestic situation, Lou ends up in the line of fire of a mysterious dark-web hate group, known only as SYB.

As Melbourne simmers through a relentless heatwave, the murders of more women are connected to SYB and Lou becomes the number one target of their vicious campaign of incited violence.

Lou lurches between a fire-bombed safe house, car chases and stalkers, as her private investigation firm races against time to uncover the core of the group and work out just how far their tentacles stretch ...

Dark, gritty and utterly compelling, *For all the Dead Girls* is Sherryl Clark at her riveting, nail-biting best and delivers a chilling warning that will stay with you long after you've turned the final page.

COMPARISON AUTHORS

Perfect for fans of Jacqueline Bublitz and Jane Caro.

SERIES AWARDS

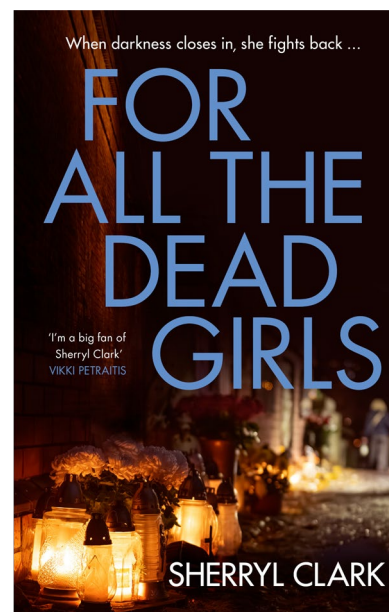
Shortlist – Ngaio Marsh Best Novel

Shortlist – NZ Booklovers Awards

SERIES PRAISE

'The attention to detail is phenomenal, combined with multiple twists that elevates this thriller to a new level of suspense. I was hooked from beginning to end.' *Better Reading*

'I confess, I'm a big fan of Sherryl Clark's and *Woman, Missing* is another one to love. A pacy race against time that keeps you turning the page. Clark pulls in the reader straight away when her private investigator Lou Alcott is called in to locate a missing wife, and to help a woman who suspects her ex is stalking her. *Woman, Missing* is cleverly plotted and hard to put down. A perfect holiday read.' Vikki Petraitis, author of *The Unbelieved*



July 2026

ISBN: 9781038963215

\$32.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Sherryl Clark has been writing crime fiction for many years; her first crime short stories were published in the Artemis Press anthologies, as well as The Age Summer Reading and in high school texts. In 2018 she entered her novel, *Trust Me, I'm Dead*, in the CWA Debut Dagger and was shortlisted, which led to her being published in the UK. The first book featuring Lou Alcott, *Woman, Missing*, was shortlisted for the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Novel and NZ Booklovers Awards 2025.

WITHIN THESE WALLS

Kirstyn McDermott

Their grandmother's will propels two sisters into a strange bargain when they inherit an isolated country house. But there is more than one kind of inheritance. From an award-winning author comes a contemporary gothic tale of sibling bonds, grief, love and redemption.

Sisters Grace and Faith Oswald are returning to the isolated childhood home that – according to the terms of their estranged grandmother's will – is now their inheritance. As long as they can stay there a year and a day.

Slightly uneasy about the terms of the will, the sisters nevertheless have good reasons for complying. Grace has just lost her job, and struggling artist Faith is out of luck and time; she needs to find somewhere she can paint in peace.

But from the moment they arrive, something is off. The solicitor who opens up the house is hostile and there are bloodied remains of a bird at their door. Harder to explain are the noises in the walls, the doors that swing open, and what sounds like footsteps in the night. Just peculiarities of an old house? Or something more?

As Faith's art becomes all encompassing, and Grace's dreams more vivid, they uncover evidence of witchcraft in the house. As they read their grandmother's journals they realise that the charms they destroyed were not bringing the uncanny into the house, but keeping it out ...

Can the house be haunted? And if so, by whom? The answer to that unleashes a darkness that may be their undoing ... because there are all kinds of inheritance.

PRAISE FOR *WHAT THE BONES KNOW*

'Kirstyn McDermott's powerful writing fully immerses the reader in an environment of increasing unease and tension, then plunges into scenes so chilling I had to wait till morning to finish. McDermott is an exceptional story-teller, leaving you shivering with a creeping sense of dread.' Jo Dixon, author of *The Disappearing Act*

'A masterfully atmospheric descent into the haunted borderlands between past and present, this is a richly textured story of how home can become the most haunted place of all.' Kimberley Freeman, author of *The Secret Year of Zara Holt*

'*What the Bones Know* is a skilfully woven tapestry of grief and memory, of what's been – and might yet be – lost. McDermott's latest is a rather brilliant specimen of Australian Gothic, a tale of haunting, tenderness and the possibilities of redemption. Masterful.' A.G. Slatter, author of *A Forest, Darkly*

'Kirstyn McDermott masterfully evokes time, place and mood in a story where the past echoes back and memory returns like a flood. Unsettling, gripping and gritty in the details, it carries a palpable tension.' Scott Vandervalk, editor and reviewer



March 2027

ISBN: 9781038922786

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages
(except German)

Manuscript: Not yet available

Kirstyn McDermott is an Australian author of two award-winning novels, *Madigan Mine* and *Perfections*, along with numerous pieces of short fiction and poetry. Her most recent works are *What the Bones Know*, *Winterbloom*, *Hard Places*, a collection of short fiction, and *Never Afters*, a novella series of retold fairy tales now collected in an omnibus edition.

Kirstyn holds a PhD in creative writing and lives in Ballarat, Australia, with fellow writer Jason Nahrung and two distinctly non-literary felines.

RIVER CITY

Troy Henderson

A missing kingpin. A reluctant son. Enemies on all sides – and one explosive underworld war.

In Brisbane's criminal underbelly, chaos is the only constant.

When feared crime boss Jack Cavarly mysteriously vanishes, his reluctant son Rain is dragged into a world he's spent years avoiding. Between a volatile brother, a dysfunctional crew, and enemies circling like vultures, Rain is barely keeping everything together when a case of mistaken identity threatens to bring everything crashing down.

A disgraced cop chasing redemption becomes entangled in the Cavarlys' bloody turf war. A ruthless rival sees her chance to strike. And a wildcard with a killer vendetta is ready to burn it all to the ground.

Darkly funny, razor sharp and drenched in tension, *River City* is a gritty Australian crime thriller where loyalty is fragile, violence is inevitable and survival is never guaranteed.

KEY POINTS

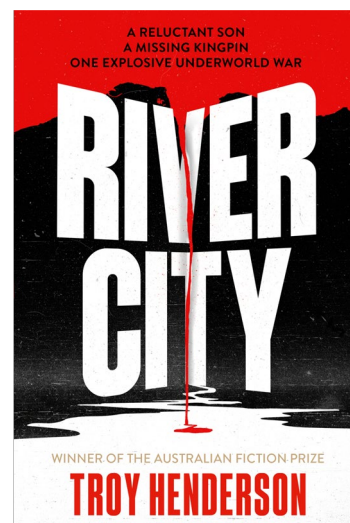
- The Australian Fiction Prize winner 2025 is an unputdownable, take-no-prisoners thriller for all fans of *Animal Kingdom*, Gabriel Bergmoser and Jack Reacher
- Troys short stories have longlisted in the Australian Writers' Centre Furious Fiction competition, placed in the GenreCon Short Story competition and FLEUR Flash Fiction Contest

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'If you like your crime gritty and your setting Brisbane, you are going to love the 2025 winner of The Australian Fiction Prize.' *The Australian on River City*

'*Head Grenade* is a hilarious, relatable, intriguing jump into the mind of a young adult trying to just live a life in Brisbane. The narration takes everything on the chin, from increasingly niche restaurants to mysterious backstories to the general stresses of life, roommates and The Valley, all with a quirky deadpan, a host of interesting characters, and a growing thriller aspect that keeps an edge of tension.' Nita Delgado, Editor & Reviewer on *Head Grenade*

'This fascinating yet relatable novel is packed with colourful characters and a thrilling plot. Henderson's evocative, often satirical, writing style brings this coming-of-age tale to life with a thick coating of dark humour.' Seanna Burnett, Editor & Writer on *Head Grenade*



January 2027

ISBN: 9781460769768

\$34.99

272 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available on request

Troy Henderson is a fiction writer from Brisbane, Australia. He has a Bachelor of Popular Music and a Masters in Journalism. He turned to novel writing seriously in his mid-thirties.

His first book, *Head Grenade*, was shortlisted in the Hawkeye Publishing Manuscript Development Prize and the Queensland Writers Centre's Adaptable and Publishable Programs, respectively.

STAY BURIED

Jane R. Miles

Christmas Eve, 1974.

As Cyclone Tracy tears through Darwin, four girls disappear into the heart of the outback. No tracks. No bodies. No answers.

Decades later, one returns.

She claims to be one of the missing. But is she? There is no proof of who she is, only a keepsake that once belonged to another missing woman – Sally, a teen mother whose disappearance never mattered to anyone but Von, the daughter she left behind. Sally's return rekindles the cold case, as desperate families plead for answers – and a dark mystery begins to surface.

A hidden bunker ... a ghost ... scratches on a concrete wall ... pictures inside a View-Master ... and the little girl who understood the darkness better than anyone.

Inspired by true events, *Stay Buried* is the darkly thrilling tale of secrets unearthed, the will to survive and a legend that refuses to die.

KEY POINTS

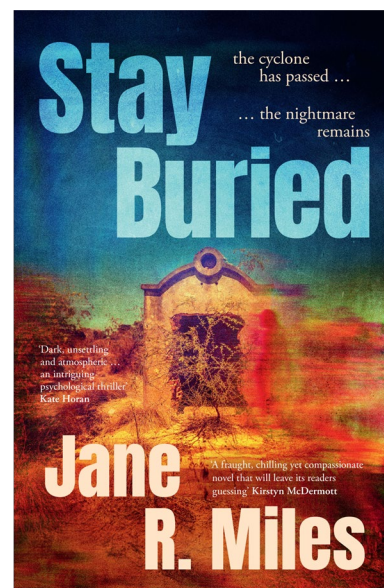
- The claustrophobia of *Room* meets the camaraderie of *Yellowjackets* with a touch of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* in this dark, immersive, psychological thriller debut with a speculative/light-horror edge
- Set against the atmospheric backdrop of the Australian outback and the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy, the story immerses readers in a vivid and unforgettable environment
- A haunting mystery that delves into loss, identity and the relentless search for truth, offering a deeply resonant and thought-provoking story
- Richly developed characters navigating trauma, resilience and redemption delivers a gripping and emotionally charged experience

PRAISE FOR *STAY BURIED*

'This is a compelling read ... It is a story that will (sadly for my partner) stay with me. The opening page notes that it is inspired by true events; I would add that it also springs from a fierce imagination. Jane R. Miles has you riveted before you can count to 10 and wake up. This is her first novel, but surely she is already writing another campfire horror story that will keep readers wide awake.' *Readings*

'A deeply resonant, unforgettable thriller.' *Queensland Reviews Collective*

'Compelling, gripping, claustrophobic, and creepy as hell, *Stay Buried* was a roller coaster of emotion from start to finish.' *AustCrimeFiction.org*



August 2026

ISBN: 9781038943521

\$32.99

384 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Jane R. Miles is a former Royal Australian Navy sailor turned writer, born in the suburbs of Perth, Western Australia. After travelling the world and working in top-secret roles within the Department of Defence, she now splits her time between Australia and the Netherlands.

THE CORDIAL MAKER

Justine Ford

Two women, separated by time, trapped by the past ... and a mansion with secrets that could set them both free.

1957: Claire Quinn dreams of becoming a cordial maker, but when her sister makes a foolish decision, Claire is forced to take a live-in job as a cook to pay back their debts. When she starts work at the mysterious Dreighton House, she finds romance – and danger. How far will she go to protect those she loves?

2013: Returning to Melbourne after a disastrous event in London, Ashley swears she will never work as a journalist again. But when her grandfather asks her to find out what happened decades ago to Dreighton House's missing cook, Ashley has to dig deep and confront her fears. With the help of a St Kilda detective, what she learns about the missing woman – and herself – will change her life forever.

A riveting story of courage, cordial and the importance of dreams.

KEY POINTS

- Justine Ford is a well-known crime journalist, true crime writer and TV producer
- *The Cordial Maker* is Justine's first foray into crime fiction and is sure to entrap its audience just like her previous non-fiction work

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

'Very well written and thought provoking. Showing care and compassion for the families mourning the loss of a loved one and praying daily for news.' *Beauty and Lace*, on *Unsolved Australia: Lost Boys, Gone Girls*

'This is an interesting, informative and engaging book and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in the complex and successful work and career of one of Victoria's top Homicide detectives. It's a hard book to put down once you start reading it.' *Sisters in Crime Australia* on *The Good Cop*



May 2027

ISBN: 9781460768778

\$34.99

320 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Justine Ford is a true crime author, TV producer and journalist. Her first forays into crime were as a reporter on the top-rated TV series *Australia's Most Wanted*. Justine has since covered the Melbourne Gangland Wars and scores of chilling homicides and missing persons' cases. In that time, she has won the trust of many families who are victims of crime, and developed deep access to police all over Australia, enabling her to bring crucial, never-before-published case information to her reporting.

A DEADLY DOWRY

Elizabeth Leydin

A delicious Regency country house mystery. Think *Bridgerton* meets Agatha Christie.

When the eldest daughter of the aristocratic Godfrey family, Lady Miranda Harwood, rejoins her family for the annual lauded performance of Shakespeare at their country estate, it is a welcome reprieve from two years of widow's weeds. And so entertaining! The young debutantes of the Ton and their mamas flock to take part in the play and find good matches. There are dramas, fights and love affairs aplenty, on and off stage.

Even more enjoyable when the devilishly handsome Lord Richard Elsingham falls for her. She knows it can only be a summer fling – a barren woman cannot help Elsingham in his quest to produce an heir. A pity, but at least they can have some fun.

Then Mrs Willoughby, mother of the season's Diamond and a practised blackmailer, is murdered. A deadly game is afoot, and Lady Miranda and Lord Elsingham join forces to find the killer and save Miranda's family from disgrace. But instead of no suspects, they have been gifted too many ... is everyone in the Ton being blackmailed? And can they stay alive long enough to discover who killed the wicked Mrs Willoughby, save the play, the family's reputation and their love, all by summer's end?

KEY POINTS

- Like *Bridgerton*, this is Regency for the 21st century – a joyous, thrilling reinvention of historical fiction
- Broad appeal for fans of cosy mystery, adventure romance and social comedy, with a charming but fierce feminist heroine
- Endorsements to come from Alison Goodman, Kelly Gardiner and more
- Award-winning author

AUTHOR AWARDS

A Generous Heart

Winner – Ruby Award for Best Romance Novella, Romance Writers Australia

The War Bride as Pamela Hart

Shortlist – Epic Romance Award, Romantic Novelists' Association

Shortlist – Ruby Award for Long Form Romance, Romance Writers Australia

The Captain and the Lady

Shortlist – Ruby Award for Best Novella, Romance Writers Australia



February 2027

ISBN: 9781038971418

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available on request

Elizabeth Leydin is one of the pen names of author Pamela Freeman. She is an award-winning and bestselling author, Director of the Australian Writers Centre and has a doctorate in creative writing from UTS. Elizabeth Leydin has a Substack featuring videos and articles on Regency life called *Corsets and Coaches*.

THE PARISIAN CORSET

Katrina Lawrence

Behind the scenes of wartime Paris, she will face an undercover mission like no other ...

January 1939: Sophie Beauvais, winner of a prestigious magazine prize, sails from New York to France. At French *Vogue* she has a front-row seat to a city at its most glamorous and finds herself swept into an intoxicating whirl of costume parties and fashion parades.

As war clouds darken, Sophie is determined to stay and fight in any way she can to preserve her beloved City of Light as a symbol of beauty, tolerance and love.

After *Vogue* opts to close rather than collaborate, Sophie takes a job as a model-salesgirl for a leading lingerie house. While the crass nouveau riche of occupied Paris – Nazi mistresses and black-market wives – clamour for her signature piece, a wasp-waisted satin corset from the last pre-war collections, Sophie turns the corset from a restrictive garment into a secret weapon in the fight for liberation.

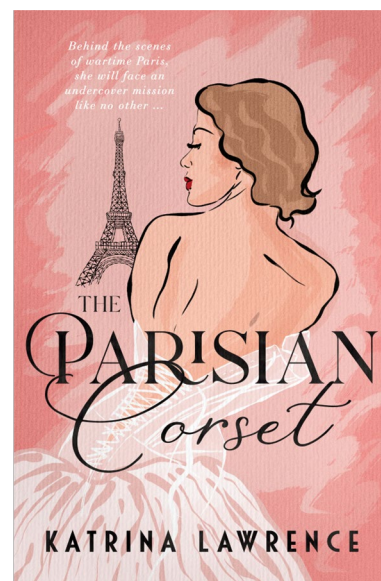
The Parisian Corset is inspired by the true story of French *Vogue* during World War II, and the mystery of an iconic fashion photograph.

KEY POINTS

- For fans of Natasha Lester, Belinda Alexandra and Kate Quinn
- Inspired by the true story of French *Vogue* during World War II, and the mystery of an iconic fashion photograph
- Think courage meets couture in occupied Paris

ADVANCE PRAISE

‘The perfect novel! Take three of my favourite things – fashion, photography and the world of magazines – and weave them into a story set in late 1930s Paris and you have *The Parisian Corset* by Katrina Lawrence. Exquisite storytelling, sublime characters, incredible research and a magical setting make this a novel everyone will want to lose themselves in this year. It’s simply *magnifique!*’ Natasha Lester, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Paris Seamstress*



December 2026

ISBN: 9781460769287

\$34.99

384 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Rights licensed: North America, English language; French

Manuscript: Available

Katrina Lawrence is a writer, history enthusiast and Paris lover who has visited the city countless times since childhood. A former beauty journalist and editor, she authored *Paris Dreaming: What the City of Light Taught Me About Life, Love & Lipstick*. Based in Sydney with her two sons, Katrina runs a travel consultancy, Paris for Dreamers, where she creates custom Paris itineraries. The *Parisian Corset* is her first novel. She’s already at work on her next, which will also be set in Paris.

SLAVE CONCUBINE QUEEN

Sally Neighbour

A sweeping saga of passion, betrayal and revenge set in the opulent Ottoman palace of Suleyman the Magnificent. Inspired by the remarkable and compelling true story of Sultana Roxelana.

Stolen from her family and sold into slavery in the Sultan's palace, Roxelana vows not only to survive, but to rise. In the cut-throat world of the imperial harem, she embraces its language, rules, music – and the chance to catch the Sultan's eye.

When she captures the heart of Suleyman the Magnificent, her ascent is assured. But power in the Ottoman court is fickle, and jealousies and hatreds are rife. Spurned rivals circle and plot. The Sultan's subjects revile her as a witch. And a deadly tradition hangs like a curse over the fate of every son she bears.

From the perfumed corridors of Topkapi Palace to the battlefields where Suleyman wages war against the kings of Europe, Roxelana must exert all her wiles to protect her position and her family. But at what cost?

KEY POINTS

- Sally Neighbour is an award-winning author and highly respected journalist
- A true-life *Game of Thrones*, with conniving by family, lovers, a queen and rivals
- For readers of Philippa Gregory, Hilary Mantel and Kate Mosse

AUTHOR AWARDS

In the Shadow of Swords

Winner – General History Prize, NSW History Awards

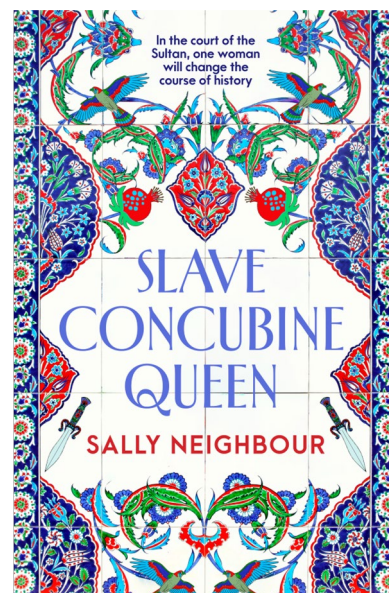
The Mother of Mohammed

Shortlisted – Walkley Non-Fiction Book Award, The Walkley Foundation

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

'Amazing, riveting, a fantastic feat of journalism ... You know it's a good book when you can't stop talking about it.' Geraldine Brooks, *The Age* on *The Mother of Mohammed*

'Disturbing ... chilling ... courage, dispassion and skill present us with conclusions as unpleasant as they are inescapable' *Australian Book Review* on *In the Shadow of Swords*



November 2026

ISBN: 9781460770467

\$34.99

352 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Sally Neighbour, award-winning investigative journalist, has worked on flagship ABC television programs including *7.30*, *Lateline* and *Four Corners*. She is the author of *In the Shadow of Swords* (2004), which documented the rise of Jemaah Islamiyah and the Bali bombings, and *The Mother of Mohammed* (2009). *Slave Concubine Queen* is Sally's first novel.

THE EXTRAORDINARY FLORENCE STOKER

Karen Brooks

From a bestselling, award-winning author comes a compellingly realised story of an enigmatic figure, the beautiful 19th century muse and brilliant social powerhouse, Florence Stoker whose life, in spite of her many gifts, was overshadowed by one of the most abiding and terrifying of contemporary culture's monsters, the vampire Dracula – her own husband's creation.

Dublin, 1878: When the witty and beautiful Florence Balcombe marries up-and-coming theatre impresario and putative novelist Bram Stoker, and her dazzling literary salons make her the darling of the literary, theatre and art worlds in London, no-one is surprised. So what if she came from humble beginnings and her prior engagement to Oscar Wilde was inexplicably broken off? She was always exceptional. Besides, none of that matters now that she moves in exalted circles and Bram is managing the Lyceum for Henry Irving, the leading actor of his generation.

But appearances can be deceptive. Bram is in thrall to the tyrannical narcissist Henry, who is draining the life from him, and his distance from his marriage bed is noticeable. Dear friend Oscar is in court for gross indecency and Florence is afraid – for her family, of the secret she keeps and of the visions of a monstrous fanged demon that haunts her by day and night.

But Florence will fight for her family and rid herself of the threats – both real and phantom – that plague her, even if it threatens her own sanity.

After all, no ordinary monster can confound the extraordinary Florence Stoker.

KEY POINTS

- Karen Brooks is a bestselling, award-winning novelist
- Brilliant recreation of the dazzling, complex and fraught society of the late 19th century
- Brings to life the compelling story of a woman whose famous husband's biographers largely wrote out of history

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

'A master storyteller.' *Kirkus Reviews*

'A gorgeously atmospheric historical thriller ... A gold-star read.' *Better Reading on The Chocolate Maker's Wife*

'Brooks's immersive page-turner does not disappoint.' *Publishers Weekly on The Lady Brewer of London*

'Richly atmospheric, romantic, and chock-full of period detail.' *Booklist on The Lady Brewer of London*

'So damned readable and fun ...' *The Australian on The Good Wife of Bath*

'*The Darkest Shore* is a major achievement for Karen Brooks.' *Better Reading*



September 2026

ISBN: 9781038942609

\$34.99

592 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Karen Brooks is the author of 16 novels. She was an academic for over 20 years, a newspaper columnist and social commentator. She has a PhD in English/Cultural Studies, has published internationally, and is an award-winning teacher. Nowadays, she finds her greatest contentment studying history, writing and helping at her husband's brewery, Captain Bligh's.

THE ROAD BACK TO YOU

Eva Scott

Heartfelt romance and family drama set against the backdrop of the challenging climate of the Tasmanian shearing sheds.

At nineteen, Jess McDonagh had life all figured out when she married her high school sweetheart. A decade later, it was the mistake that taught her hard lessons about love. But through sheer grit Jess now has a life she loves in southern Tasmania. As the state's top wool classer, she has carved out a place in the traditionally male-dominated world of the shearing sheds. Romance, as far as she's concerned, is a nonstarter.

Then Tom walks back into her life. Now a qualified vet, he's hoping for a second chance with the woman he never stopped loving. But while there's an attraction neither can deny, their history can't be forgotten.

As tensions rise in the sheds, Jess clashes with a volatile shearer whose views belong to another era. By stepping in to defend a female shearer, she becomes the target of escalating intimidation, which puts her livelihood, and her safety, on the line.

As danger draws closer, Jess and Tom are forced to reckon with the scars of their past. Can Tom learn to respect Jess's strength without trying to save her? Can Jess risk her heart again, trusting that Tom has truly changed – and that she has too?

KEY POINTS

- Eva writes a new style of rural romance, where women challenge traditional farming roles
- Underpinned by a strong sense of community, this story contains widely popular romance tropes like second-chance love, a sense of belonging and the bonds of friendship and family
- The lush landscape of southern Tasmania comes to life with Eva's authentic writing
- Perfect for readers of Rachael Treasure

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

'Eva can honestly do no wrong when it comes to rural romances! I've barely seen Tasmania, let alone set foot on a walnut farm, but I instantly felt like I was living in this stunning and picturesque landscape.' *Just Me, Victoria* on *Home to Echidna Lane*

'Lovers of rural romance, you've just found your next weekend read. *Home to Echidna Lane* deserves priority position on your winter TBR pile!' *Better Reading*



March 2027

ISBN: 9781038977007

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Eva Scott is the bestselling author of rural romcoms such as *Lonely in Longreach* and *Meet Me in Bendigo*. A lifelong storyteller, she lived in Britain and Papua New Guinea before coming home to Australia to train as a cultural anthropologist. She now lives in rural Tasmania, amongst vineyards and orchards, with her husband and son, two cats and a cocker spaniel.

SMALL TOWN SKIES

Penelope Janu

Returning to a small town offers an opportunity for a new beginning, a longed-for sense of belonging and a second chance of love in Penelope Janu’s latest novel.

Imogen Duval swore she’d never return to Horseshoe Hill, yet here she is, back from Paris and London to right the wrongs of the past and uncover the secrets that ruined her career. Easier said than done when Saxon Quinn, the local-bad-boy-made-good and infuriatingly capable cattleman, is even more attractive now than he was seven years ago.

Imogen made promises to Saxon and shattered every one of them. Given their history, he’s vowed never to trust the almost-Olympian and media darling who trampled on his heart. But Saxon is protective. Why wouldn’t he step in when Imogen, the same impossible mix of grit and vulnerability he fell for the first time around, is hell-bent on stirring up a hornet’s nest of troubles?

Before too long, Imogen is helping at the school, caring for unwanted horses and tending her beloved friend’s garden. Horseshoe Hill is a world away from her old life, but could she have come back to a place where she belongs? Can she and Saxon face the hurts of the past and the dangers of the present to find the happiness they’ve only dared to dream about?

KEY POINTS

- The latest uplifting rural romance from an award-winning author, it takes the reader back to the world of *Up on Horseshoe Hill*
- Tropes include: second chance romance, emotional scars, fake relationship, return to hometown, the one that got away, found family
- Heart-warming themes include recovery from trauma and a career-ending injury, rescue horse rehabilitation, belonging and community and forgiveness

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

‘Penelope Janu’s fresh, bright, funny new twist on rural romance is an absolute delight. Her wit is as sharp as a knife. She is one of my absolute must-read authors.’ Victoria Purman, bestselling author of *The Radio Hour*

‘Take a break from the news and spend time in Horseshoe Hill. Well written, interesting and filled with heart, *Starting from Scratch* is the perfect weekend read.’ *Better Reading*

‘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 author of *The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village*



June 2027

ISBN: 9781038942944

\$34.99

336 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Penelope Janu lives on a farm in the Southern Highlands of NSW with a distracting husband, a very large dog and, now they’re fully grown, six delightful children who come and go. Penelope has a passion for creating stories that explore social and environmental issues, but her novels are fundamentally a celebration of Australian characters and communities.

Penelope’s first novel, *In at the Deep End*, came out in 2017, followed by *On the Right Track*, *On the Same Page*, *Up on Horseshoe Hill*, *Starting from Scratch*, *Clouds on the Horizon*, *Shelter from the Storm*, *Sunshine Through the Rain*, *The Summerfield Saddler* and *Out of the Blue*, as well as several Christmas novellas.

THE WORST JACKAROO

Stella Quinn

Emergency doctor Bill Deagon has just lost everything: his marriage, his house and, yes, his dog. With nothing more to lose he packs up his city life to join a remote bushcraft country-survival reboot program on a cattle station in the middle of nowhere.

To save McEvoy Station, grazier Rowena hatches a money-making scheme with a jackaroo bootcamp for cashed-up adults. But the plan backfires when only one person signs up for it. Who then refuses to leave when she tells him its cancelled and is both incredibly useless at all tasks *and* keeps telling her she’s pretty, which is really starting to tick her off.

KEY POINTS

- Award-winning author
- The perfect tone and writing for rural romance: sweet romance, humorous characters and scenes, balanced by heartfelt drama, with an added layer of mystery and local issues
- For people who love warm community stories with plenty of romance, e.g. a no-spice Laurie Gilmore, Tricia Stringer and Rachael Johns
- Stella Quinn is a romance star on the rise with book sales of 80,000+ copies

AUTHOR AWARDS

Christmas at Yindi Creek

Winner – Novella Ruby Award, Romance Writers of Australia

A Country Farm Christmas

Winner – Favourite Romance Anthology, Australian Romance Readers

The Patchwork Project

Winner – Sapphire Award for Best Unpublished Manuscript, Romance Writers of Australia

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK

‘Quinn’s warm tone, gentle humour and all-pervasive kindness shines throughout *A Home Among the Snow Gums*; it’s a lively gallop with endearing characters and a satisfying ending that leaves a spring in your step.’ *Better Reading*

‘Brimming with warmth and humour, Stella Quinn’s new rural romance, *A Town Like Clarence*, roped me in from the prologue and kept me smiling throughout.’ *Kiss and Tell*



May 2027

ISBN: 9781038976291

\$34.99

320 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Stella Quinn has had a love affair with books since she first discovered the alphabet. She lives in sunny Queensland now, but has lived in England, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea.

Boarding school in a Queensland country town left Stella with a love of small towns and heritage buildings (and a fear of chenille bedspreads and meatloaf!) and that is why she loves writing rural romance.

Stella is a keen scrabble player, partial to her four kids and anything with four furry feet, and is a mediocre grower of orchids.

APPLE TREE COTTAGE

Alissa Callen

Bestselling author Alissa Callen returns with a romance where two people are trying to find their way back from grief and, maybe, to each other ...

To discover where you belong sometimes life has to get a little messy ...

Small-town girl Darcy Laurent has one non-negotiable. Keep things simple. It's the only way to hold her grief at bay after losing her brother. With an old rescue dog by her side, she tends to her wildflowers and sells their seeds.

Logan Shaw may be a high-flying actuary, but when his sister passes away, work fails to fill the void inside him. To honour her final plea to slow down and enjoy life, he books a month long stay in a renovated grain silo on an idyllic Tasmanian lavender farm. If he doesn't die of boredom first, he intends to last at least a week before he returns to the city.

When a hard-of-hearing dog plants himself on Logan's doorstep, he has no choice but to return the stray to its owner, a stunning redhead who goes out of her way to avoid him. Already distracted by her grumpy neighbour, Darcy's peaceful existence takes a second hit after a DNA test delivers a shocking bombshell.

When Logan offers to assist Darcy unravel the truth about who she is, she breaks her golden rule. As life gets messy, secrets surface and boundaries blur, it will take all the wily scheming of the Windamere Gardening Girls to help Darcy and Logan not only find the answers they seek, but the way to each other.

PRAISE FOR *LAVENDER HILL*

'If you love heart-tugging stories where old flames reignite among small-town whispers, *Lavender Hill* is exactly the escape you've been craving.' *Better Reading*

'Alissa Callen knows how to get to the heart of real people ... *Lavender Hill* is a captivating story brimming with heart and a dash of mystery and drama. Another compelling novel from the queen of small-town fiction.' *The Burgeoning Bookshelf*

KEY POINTS

- Picture-perfect rural romance for readers of Karly Lane and Rachael Johns
- The Alissa Callen promise: an uplifting and optimistic read, along with layers of women's issues, family secrets, mystery, real rural issues and a stunning sense of place
- Growing author profile and platform, readers love Alissa's charm and authenticity



February 2027

ISBN: 9781038908889

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Not yet available

Alissa Callen, an Australian and *USA Today* bestselling author, is a country girl happiest living far from the city. 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 in rural NSW, Australia.

THE TWO SIDES OF WINDALE MOUNTAIN

Renae Black

A heartwarming and emotional rural romance about believing in yourself, standing up for what's right, and learning to be loved, from the author of *Second Chance Station*.

Emery Shaw has come a long way, from the girl who was ready to throw herself off an overpass to trusted farmhand on Windale Mountain Station. Armed with a diagnosis that has turned her world around, Emery has her life under control, even if her condition has her convinced she's unlovable.

Dustin Granger has been keeping his head down, avoiding the town and the lies about where he's been – after all, the truth would tarnish Granger Stud's generations-long reputation. He's working hard to redeem himself from his mistakes and earn the stud, but his father's conditions are clear: Barty won't retire until Dustin finds an acceptable wife.

When station owner Nova receives shocking news that forces her from the mountain, it's up to Emery to take charge. With shearing season almost upon them, Emery's anxiety is at an all-time high. She finds comfort in her secret evenings by the creek with Dustin, whose quiet support helps build her confidence. But the rivalry between Barty Granger and Windale Mountain Station is strong, and they're pulled in opposite directions.

Between Barty undermining Emery at every step, sending Dustin on unwanted blind dates, and an unwelcome face from Dustin's past turning up and threatening everything, their relationship seems doomed. What will it take for Dustin to stand up to his father – and for Emery to accept the love Dustin is offering? Can these star-crossed lovers breach the divide of Windale Mountain? Or will they fall victim to their warring properties?

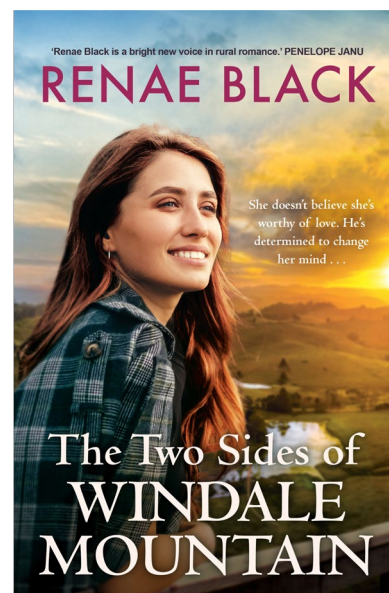
KEY POINTS

- Rural romance with deeper themes around belonging, trauma, recovery and management of mental health issues
- Realistic depiction of life on a sheep farm, written in an authentic voice from an author who grew up on a farm and now works as a social worker, specialising in child protection
- Popular romance tropes: forbidden romance, second chances, boy next door, secret relationship, modern day Romeo and Juliet, farm life, interfering family, found family, mental health representation and redemption

PRAISE FOR *RED DIRT HOME*

'I wasn't expecting a novel as powerful as this! I thought I was getting an Australian outback romance – and I did, but it was so very much more. *Red Dirt Home* is a powerfully emotional read.'

Sandy's Book a Day



January 2027

ISBN: 9781038968753

\$34.99

304 pages

234 mm x 153 mm

Imprint: HQ Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

Manuscript: Available

Renae Black lives in Queensland with her husband and two young bookworms. By day she works as a social worker within the child protection industry. By night, she escapes to the romantic fictional realms of rural Australia that transport her back to her childhood home, a large property that bred cattle and hosted the odd ostrich sale.

THEIR ISLAND HOME

Barbara Hannay

Bestselling and award-winning author Barbara Hannay brings us a journey to rediscover the true meaning of home in a heartwarming novel that weaves themes of family, loss, new beginnings and unexpected love.

Anna is recently divorced, but her new Melbourne apartment doesn't feel like the fresh start she was hoping for. When her best friend suggests a tropical holiday, Anna takes the plunge – and finds more than she'd ever dreamed.

Ted, an elderly widower, has decided to sell his island home. It's full of family memories, so his three adult children Pip, Clover and Tristan will be devastated, but he knows helping his children with the proceeds is the right thing to do.

Anna falls in love with Magnetic Island and impulsively buys Coral Cottage. She's painting a wardrobe when she discovers hidden papers, written by Tristan when he was in high school. Moved, Anna makes enquiries to discover Tristan is running an outback hotel. Anna writes to him and they start a cautious friendship through their emails. Both burned by the past, they're avoiding new relationships, but they're intrigued by each other. There's little chance of them meeting, though – until Tristan returns to Townsville for a family emergency.

Sparks fly, but can there ever be a future for them when they live so far apart – especially when Tristan's sisters see Anna as the woman who betrayed their family by buying their beloved Coral Cottage?

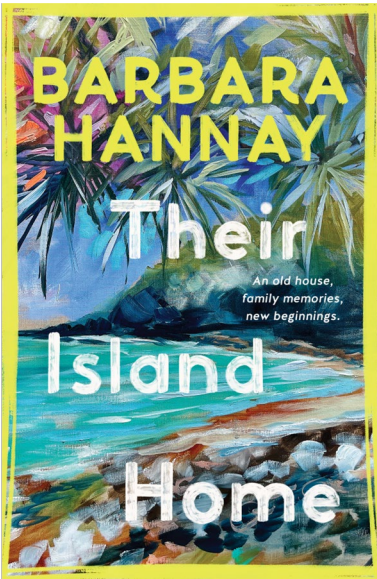
KEY POINTS

- Barbara Hannay has published 14 commercial fiction novels plus 50 romances, sold over 7 million books, and her work has been translated into 26 languages as well as adapted for the screen
- Barbara has won three awards with Romance Writers of Australia and has been a finalist multiple times
- *Their Island Home* is full of warmth and charm, combining family drama with romance and multi-generational characters
- A gorgeous sea change story to lift your spirits and take you away to tropical North Queensland

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'Barbara Hannay's books are without fail a breath of fresh air for me. If I'm feeling stressed or just looking for a book that I know will be wonderful without even reading a word, her novels are a go to.'

Sam Still Reading

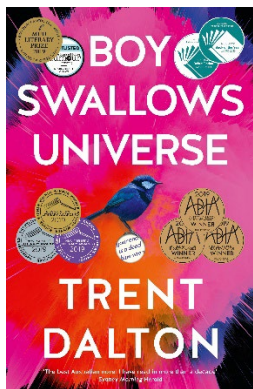


January 2027
ISBN: 9781038973931
\$34.99
320 pages
234 mm x 153 mm
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights: World, all languages
Manuscript: Available

Barbara Hannay writes women's fiction, with over seven million books sold worldwide. Her books have been translated into 26 languages and have been adapted for the screen. She is a winner of Romance Writers of America's prestigious RITA award and has twice won Australia's Romantic Book of the Year award. Barbara lives in Townsville, Queensland.

NOVELS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

TRENT DALTON



BOY SWALLOWS UNIVERSE

Trent Dalton

ISBN: 9781460757765
\$22.99; B Format
528 pages
Imprint: 4th Estate
Rights licensed: over 26 territories; details on request

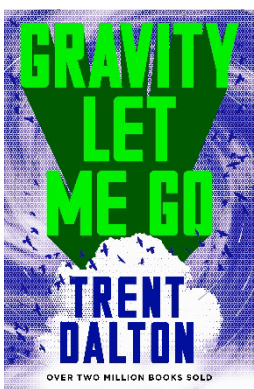
A story of brotherhood,

true love, and the most unlikely of friendships, *Boy Swallows Universe* is heartbreaking, joyous and exhilarating.

Trent Dalton's bestselling debut. #1 in ABC Radio National's top 100 Books of the 21st century survey in 2025. Now a major international Netflix series.

AWARDS

2019 Winner, ABIA Book of the Year Award; Indie Book Award; Winner, UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing; NSW Premier's Literary Awards; People's Choice Award, NSW Premier's Literary



GRAVITY LET ME GO

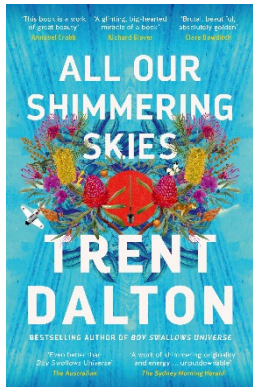
Trent Dalton

ISBN: 9781460769010
\$45.00; HB
448 pages
Imprint: 4th Estate
Rights licensed: North America, English language; UK & Comm, English language, German, Lithuanian

Dark, gritty, hilarious and unexpected, *Gravity Let Me Go* is Trent Dalton's deeply personal exploration of marriage and ambition; truth-telling and truth-omitting; self-deception and self-preservation. It's the story of a murder. It's the story of a marriage. It's the story of a lifetime.

PRAISE

'I barely looked up once while reading this **brilliant, brilliant novel**. Funny, heartfelt, suspenseful, fantastical, *Gravity Let Me Go* has made me a confirmed Trent Dalton fan. **Read it.**' Jennie Godfrey, *Sunday Times* bestselling author



ALL OUR SHIMMERING SKIES

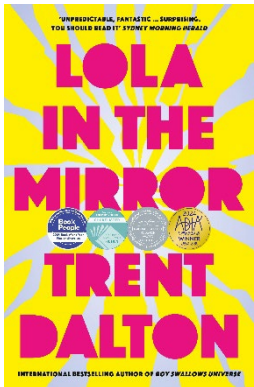
Trent Dalton

ISBN: 9781460759325
\$24.99; B Format
480 pages
Imprint: 4th Estate
Rights licensed: English language (North America, UK & Comm), Simplified Chinese, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, German, Lithuanian

A story about gifts that fall from the sky, curses we dig from the earth and the secrets we bury inside ourselves. It is an odyssey of true love and grave danger, of darkness and light, of bones and blue skies; a buoyant, beautiful and magical novel abrim with warmth, wit and wonder; and a love letter to the art of looking up.

PRAISE

'A work of shimmering originality and energy, with extraordinary characters and a clever, thrilling plot ... **unputdownable.**' *Sydney Morning Herald*



LOLA IN THE MIRROR

Trent Dalton

ISBN: 9781460759844
\$24.99; B Format
512 pages
Imprint: 4th Estate
Rights licensed: North America, English language, UK & Comm, English language, Portuguese, Spanish, Hebrew, German, Ukraine

A big, moving, blackly funny, violent, heartbreaking and beautiful novel of love, fate, life and death and all the things we see when we look in the mirror: all our past, all our present, and all our possible futures.

AWARDS

2024 Winner, ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year

PRAISE

'**Unpredictable, fantastic**' *Sydney Morning Herald*

KAREN BROOKS



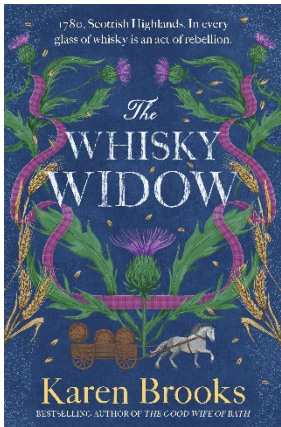
Karen Brooks is the author of seventeen books, an academic of more than twenty years' experience, a newspaper columnist and social commentator, and has appeared regularly on national TV and radio.

She lives in Hobart, Tasmania, in a beautiful stone house with its own marvellous history. When

she's not writing, she's helping her husband Stephen in his brewstillery, or cooking for family and friends, travelling, cuddling and walking her dog, Bounty, or curled up with a great book and dreaming of more stories.

PRAISE

'A master storyteller.' *Kirkus Reviews*



THE WHISKY WIDOW

Karen Brooks

ISBN: 9781038989710
\$24.99
480 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights: World, all languages

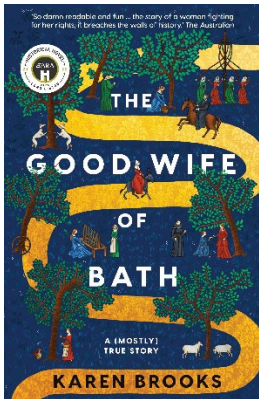
A rollicking historical adventure that celebrates the art of whisky distilling, the

defiant spirit of the Scottish Highlanders and a woman's fearless quest.

PRAISE

5 Stars. 'There is mystery in this novel, a swearing pastor, romance and even the possibility of faeries. It is as subtle and fiery as a Highland whisky.' *Good Reading Magazine*

'Brilliant book. I would say this is the best book I have read this year...' *Better Reading*



THE GOOD WIFE OF BATH

Karen Brooks

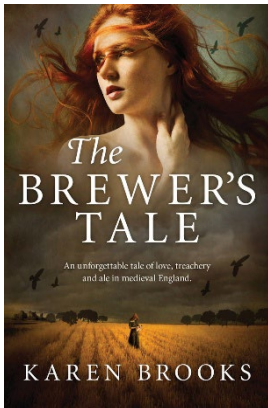
ISBN: 9781867256021
\$22.99
560 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights licensed: North America, English language; Russian (Phantom)

In the Middle Ages, a poet told a story that mocked a strong woman. It became a literary classic. But what if the woman in question had a chance to tell her own version? Who would you believe?

PRAISE

'So damned readable and fun ... the story of a woman fighting for her rights; it breaches the walls of history.' *The Australian*

'Brooks' mischievous retelling [of Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath*] dials up the feminist themes - and the fun - to 11.' *The Canberra Times*



THE BREWER'S TALE (THE LADY BREWER OF LONDON)

Karen Brooks

ISBN: 9781460757765
\$32.99
560 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights licensed: North America, English language

An unforgettable tale of love, treachery and ale in medieval England.

PRAISE

'Brooks's immersive page-turner does not disappoint.' *Publishers Weekly*

'Richly atmospheric, romantic, and chock-full of period detail.' *Booklist*

HISTORICAL FICTION



THE SCENT OF ORANGES

Kathy George

ISBN: 9781867252320
\$34.99
384 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights licensed: Canada,
US, UK (H360), Russian

A retelling of one of literature's great novels, Oliver Twist, from the point

of view of Nancy, one of the most sympathetic, most maligned and most tragic of Dickens's characters.

PRAISE

'A thoughtful, serious-minded, and emotionally generous companion to Oliver Twist.' *The Dickens Society*

'So beautifully written, so skilfully plotted, **such a masterpiece of tension and atmosphere ...**' *Australian Book Review*



THE WOMAN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

J.R. Lonie

ISBN: 9781460767535
\$34.99
432 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights: World, all languages

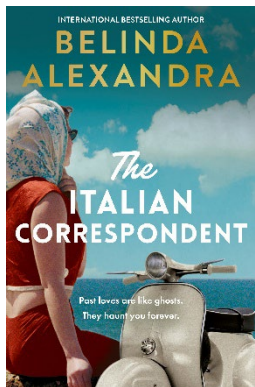
A gripping, utterly absorbing novel about survival and art as

defiance on the 1930s Berlin stage, from the bestselling author of *The Woman from Saint Germain*.

PRAISE

'A rich, slow-burn thriller that **grips the heart and shakes the soul**' Blanche D'Alpuget
'Monika Várady is a poster girl for our own troubling decade, as much as her own ... The very inspiration we need' Luke Devenish, author of *The Heart of the Ritz*

'Immediately absorbing ... featuring sensational, unforgettable characters' *Books + Publishing*



THE ITALIAN CORRESPONDENT

Belinda Alexandra

ISBN: 9781460763070
\$34.99
400 pages
Imprint: Harper Fiction
Rights licensed: Portuguese,
Brazil, Hungarian

A thrilling post-war time

spy thriller from the bestselling author of *The Masterpiece* and *Tuscan Rose*. For readers of Fiona McIntosh, Natasha Lester and Kate Quinn.

PRAISE

'A Belinda Alexandra book is like holding a passport to the past; her ability to weave historical research with sweeping, emotional storytelling is magical. Her latest book, *The Italian Correspondent* is a historical tale that hooks you from the first page, masterfully weaving together the sun-drenched glamour of 1951 Rome with harrowing flashbacks to the Second World War.' *Goodreads Reviewer*



THE TANGLED WEB

Tea Cooper

ISBN: 9781038979308
\$24.99; B format
384 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights: World, all languages

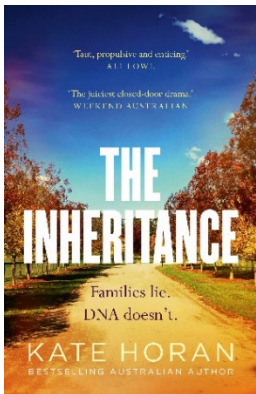
The latest novel from best-selling, award-winning novelist Tea Cooper.

It's 1892. The sudden death of a beloved brother leads a young woman on a quest to find a missing boy and into a tangled web of mystery, blood and fear.

PRAISE

'Tea is an Australian historical fiction writer who tempts us to look deeper into those lives in the past, and opens readers' eyes to see how all may not be as it seems. **All those historical fiction fans will just devour this book.**' *Good Reading Magazine*

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLERS



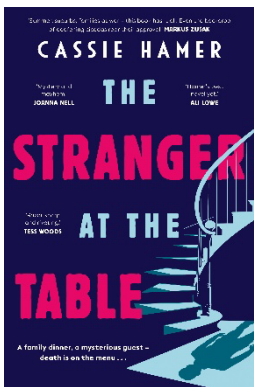
THE INHERITANCE
Kate Horan

ISBN: 9781038965875
\$22.99; B format
400 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights licensed: H360
(English language, UK & Comm)

What if everyone in your family was given a DNA test at Christmas: would there be any surprise results? For two women the answers are shocking, and dangerous.

PRAISE

'Kate Horan's debut is acute on the psychology of power and wealth, and the novel is intricate plotting with memorable characters. If you're into *Succession* or the real-life tussle over the Murdoch family trust, *The Inheritance* will appeal.' *The Age*



STRANGER AT THE TABLE
Cassie Hamer

ISBN: 9781489293015
\$34.99
352 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights: World, all languages

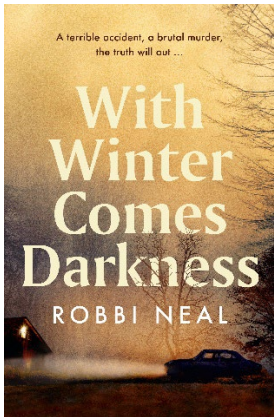
A family gathering, but not everyone who sits down to dinner will survive it. Poisonous lies, family

secrets, addiction and revenge - always a dish best served cold - are all on the menu.

PRAISE

'Summer, suburbs, families at war-this book has it all. Even the backdrop of deafening cicadas roar their approval. I turned pages without even realising.' Markus Zuzak

'I absolutely loved this book. A thrilling ride with a heartfelt storyline and rich, nuanced characters, I was all consumed by this brilliant and clever story. It is undoubtedly Hamer's best novel yet.' Ali Lowe



WITH WINTER COMES DARKNESS
Robbi Neal

ISBN: 9781460757765
\$32.99
368 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights licensed: English language, US, UK and Canada (H360)

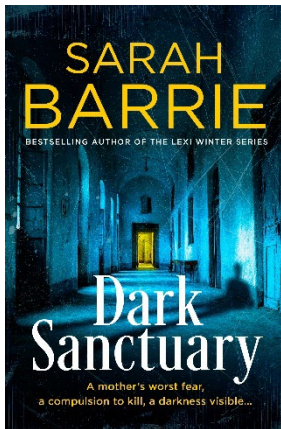
A terrible accident burns down a family's life on the same day a murder is committed. From the ashes of these acts comes revelation, darkness, and the truth.

AWARDS

Winner of the 2025 Daphne Du Maurier Award

PRAISE

'A tender, unique read. Psychological suspense and profound family drama meet in this heartrending novel.' *The Australian*



DARK SANTUARY
Sarah Barrie

ISBN: 9781038944054
\$32.99
368 pages
Imprint: HQ Fiction
Rights held: World English

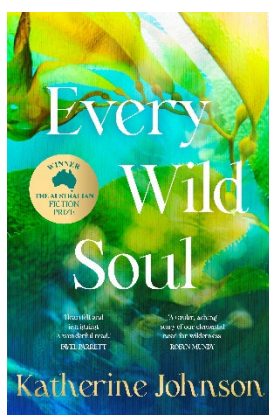
A mother's worst fear, a killer on the loose, a darkness visible ...

A gripping stand-alone page-turner for readers of Candice Fox and Karin Slaughter from an award-winning author.

PRAISE

'Explores the terrifying idea that intelligence and moral conviction can coexist with extreme violence. Chilling, smart and impossible to put down. Fans of Barrie's Lexi Winter series, will find plenty to love in this dark, exhilarating thriller.' Angie Faye Martin, author of *Melaleuca*
'Sarah Barrie pits love and loyalty against evil in a dark, gripping, addictive thriller that delivers a powerful and deeply satisfying conclusion.' Kate Horan, author of *On the Edge*

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



EVERY WILD SOUL

Katherine Johnson

ISBN: 9781460768303

\$34.99

336 pages

Imprint: Harper Fiction

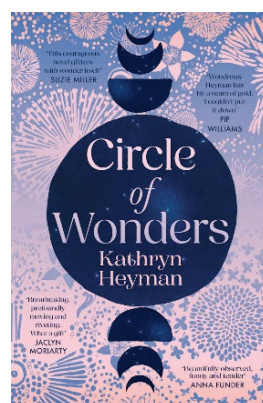
Rights licensed: German, Korean, Italian, Russian

The winner of the inaugural Australian Fiction Prize, *Every Wild Soul* is a lyrical and

compelling tale of secrets, survival, and the healing power of nature.

PRAISE

'Expansive and engrossing' *Books+Publishing*
'...an ambitious and complex novel that acknowledges environmental loss while insisting that awe remains one of our few acts of defiance...' *Australian Book Review*
'A thrilling journey into the wildness of landscape and heart, longing and desire, captivity and freedom.' Karen Viggers



CIRCLE OF WONDERS

Kathryn Heyman

ISBN: 9781460768051

\$34.99

256 pages

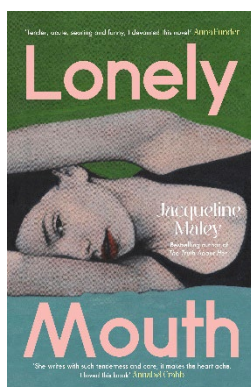
Imprint: 4th Estate AU

Right held: World, all languages

An uplifting celebratory song to life, and a homage to human resilience from an award-winning writer.

PRAISE

'... this courageous novel glitters with wonder itself' Suzie Miller, *Prima Facie*
'Wondrous.' Pip Williams, *The Bookbinder of Jericho*
'...a novel of deep courage and beauty, a serious act of witness to friendship, complexity, and the everyday wonders that sustain us' Chris Cleave, *Little Bee*
'A beautifully observed, funny and tender novel' Anna Funder, *Wifedom*



LONELY MOUTH

Jacqueline Maley

ISBN: 9781460759196

\$24.99

368 pages

Imprint: 4th Estate AU

Rights licensed: English language, UK & North America

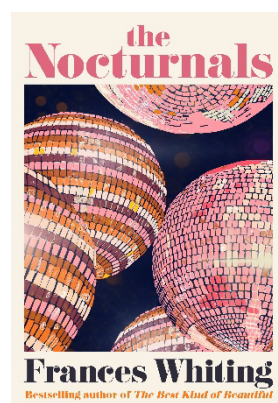
TV: Under option

A delicious, clever, tender

and vivid novel about the conflicted way women think about their bodies, their appetites, and themselves in the world.

PRAISE

'Captivating.' *Books+Publishing*
'...a song of abandonment, ghastly mothers, dysfunctional families, sisterhood, and loss... witty, savage and unshowy...' Nigella Lawson
'Tender, acute, searing and funny, I devoured this novel.' Anna Funder, *Wifedom*
'...a thought-provoking depiction of womanhood and a genuinely funny book that also is able to dissect family trauma, motherhood and female vulnerability...' *The Australian*



THE NOCTURNALS

Frances Whiting

ISBN: 9781460763926

\$32.99

304 pages

Imprint: Harper Fiction

Rights: World, all languages

A funny, moving and wise story of love and friendship, which asks:

what lengths would you go to, to protect your friends?

PRAISE

'A new Frances Whiting novel is always a cause for celebration!' Liane Moriarty, *New York Times*
Bestselling author of Big Little Lies
'Frances Whiting writes friendship with such warmth and precision it made my heart ache in the very best way. I fell in love with these characters - and when I finished the novel, I immediately wanted to ring every friend I adore.' Sally Hepworth, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mad Mabel*
'The Nocturnals is witty, luminous and frankly, irresistible. Think *The Breakfast Club* meets *The Great Gatsby* - clever, funny, and impossible to put down. I'm calling it as one of the best reads of 2026.' Rebecca Sparrow, *Birds of a Feather Book Club*

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