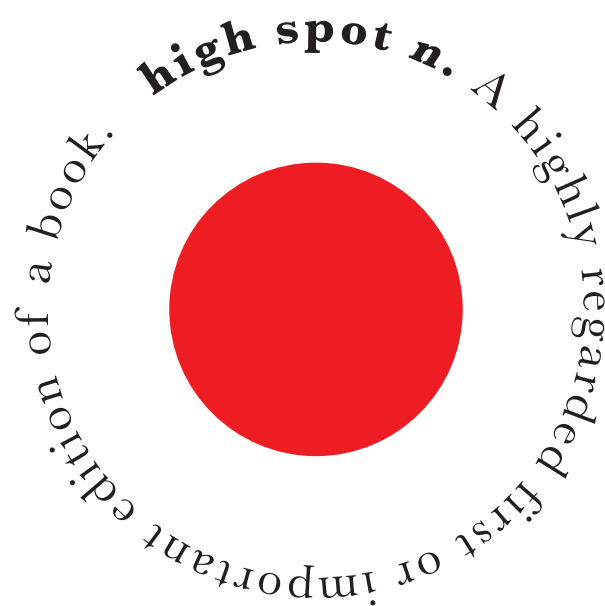


GENERAL RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2021

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CAROLINE BARRON

GENRE
FICTION

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PROFILE

Caroline Barron is an award-winning writer, manuscript assessor and editor, book reviewer and columnist. Her debut, *RIPIRO BEACH: A MEMOIR OF LIFE AFTER NEAR DEATH* (Bateman Books, May 2020) won the *2020 New Zealand Heritage Literary Award* for Best Non-Fiction Book. She holds a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Auckland (2015) plus a journalism degree and, in a previous life, owned and ran Nova, a leading model and talent agency. She is currently working on a novel, for which she was awarded Creative New Zealand funding.

DAYLIGHTING

DAYLIGHTING is the story of the intense late-teen 1995 friendship between bookish Becky and stardusted Zoe—music, clubs, art collaboration, spirituality, sex—and what happens when one terrifying night changes their lives, and destroys their friendship, forever.

We meet first person protagonist Becky again 13 years later, drunk for days and mourning the death of her wealthy husband. His death has not only brought back the traumatic events of the night her brother died but somehow has also evoked Zoe's return.

Becky thought she'd left that summer behind, but with Zoe's reappearance she's forced to reconsider her interpretation of that summer's events, as well as where blame lies, her true nature and her place in the world.

Told with stunning emotion and psychological depth, *DAYLIGHTING* is a timely and compelling first novel by an award-winning memoirist.



CAROLINE BARRON

GENRE
MEMOIR

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AUSTRALIA

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RIPIRO BEACH: A MEMOIR OF LIFE AFTER NEAR DEATH

Does DNA write our destinies? Or do the hands that nurture triumph over nature? What is it that determines who we really are?

Caroline Barron's father never found his birth mother. After he dies suddenly on her twentieth birthday, Caroline develops an insidious fear of her own untimely death. When she nearly bleeds out on an operating table during childbirth, it almost seems her greatest fear is justified. Emerging from the experience a changed woman, Caroline spends the next six years poring over her family history in an attempt to make sense of her inexplicable rage.

The family secrets she unearths threaten to destabilise her identity and carefully built life, eventually leading her to Northland's rugged Ripiro Beach, where past and present dramatically collide.

RIPIRO BEACH is a beautifully written, relentlessly honest memoir. Caroline learns that there are mental health issues, suicide and incarceration in her family and – most significantly – that she is Māori.

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PAUL M CLARK

GENRE
**GOTHIC/
FOLK HORROR**

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PROFILE

As a graduate from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, **Paul M Clark** is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing in Folk Horror at Massey University. He has published short stories and flash fiction pieces in various journals and anthologies, and been placed in several competitions worldwide. His television pilot episode was a finalist in the Southern California Screenplay Competition in 2019. He writes speculative and historical fiction, often with dark themes.

SAMUEL'S WAY

Samuel Hawke is a charlatan. His lucrative career as a witch-finder is built on fabricated evidence and forced confessions. His guilt grows with each innocent person he condemns and his only remaining motive is the financial rewards his profession offers him.

In Beckborn, Lancashire, two girls are accused of witchcraft. Samuel travels to the isolated village for an investigation which may pay enough to be his last. He finds a community torn apart by fear and paranoia. His hopes of a simple examination are dashed when the mystery of the two girls unravels in a deadly way. Rescued by another witch-finder, Samuel is plunged into a world of the supernatural and the occult. Strange people with immense power lurk on the fringes of society, hiding behind the veil of superstition and belief, causing chaos in war-torn England.

Samuel must find the girls, before he is hunted down and destroyed, whilst navigating through the violence and suspicion of a country ravaged by war.

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TINA CLOUGH

GENRE
**WOMEN'S
COMMERCIAL
ROMANCE**

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PROFILE

Born in Sweden, **Tina Clough** now lives in New Zealand where she works as a translator of medical research papers for a Swedish university. She writes in a variety of genres, from crime through romance. Her series of crime novels, featuring army veteran, Hunter Grant, have been longlisted for the Ngaio Marsh Awards and feature regularly on bestseller lists. **THE DEVON LETTERS** is a new series of romance novels.

THE DEVON LETTERS SERIES is a series of three books all set on the South Devon coast. In each book the main character is given a letter from the past that changes how she sees herself and her closest family.

A STRANGER AT MY TABLE

Who is the man secretly living at Thornhill, the empty house where Miranda was brought up by her grandparents?
And why is he hiding?

His story wrenches her heart – a man scammed by his partner, his house burnt down, his assets gone and struggling to get back on his feet. Miranda – reckless, brave and inventive – feels that Felix is the man for her, but can she trust him or is she risking too much?

MY ENEMY, MY LOVE

Can two people on opposite sides of a high fence find common ground? There is strong, mutual attraction between Jamie, the environmental protester, and Leo Masters, the high-powered developer, but caution and misconceptions get in the way.

But just when it appears that their relationship might have a chance, Jamie overhears a chance conversation that changes everything. She flees to avoid having her heart broken, and Leo is left wondering if she really loved him.

Can the intervention of a well-meaning sister resolve the situation, or are they doomed to remain apart?

TRUSTING THE ENEMY

Callista, a level-headed science teacher, experiences an event of ESP at the Okehampton Castle ruins and becomes a media sensation, when she intervenes to stop a massacre.

Cosmo, geologist and sceptic, publicly states his opinion that this is not the truth, and that it has been exaggerated. But a television chat show throws them together in a situation nobody could have foreseen.



NIKKI CRUTCHLEY

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

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PROFILE

Nikki Crutchley lives in the picturesque rural town of Cambridge, New Zealand, with her husband and two daughters. After graduating from Waikato University, she travelled to the UK where she worked at Oxford University Press. On returning to New Zealand, she completed a diploma in library and information studies and has worked in libraries in New Zealand, Ireland and the UK. For the past five years she has been working as a freelance proofreader.

TO THE SEA

Keep a secret. Tell a lie. Protect the family

Iluka has been the only home that 18-year-old Ana has ever known. The wild pine plantation overlooking the Pacific Ocean where her grandfather builds furniture, her aunt and mother run an artists' retreat and her uncle tends the land, is paradise. A private idyll safe from the outside world.

Ana has been told that anything beyond Iluka is dangerous, that her grandfather's violent punishments are for her own good and his infatuation with the sea is normal.

But Iluka is hiding a violent secret.

When Nikau arrives at the artists' retreat, he brings questions about Ana's family history that she will be forced to confront. Was her grandfather really responsible for her grandmother's death and who else in the family knew? How many other deaths have there been and how far will her grandfather go to keep the past hidden?

Ana will need to make a choice – tell the truth or tell a lie.

Protect Nikau or protect her family's secret.

Protect Iluka – no matter the consequences.



MADELEINE ESKEDAHL

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

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PROFILE

Born and raised in Sweden on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea, **Madeleine Eskedahl** moved to New Zealand where she now lives and works. Her thriller **BLOOD ON VINES**, the first instalment in **THE MATAKANA SERIES**, is a taut thriller set in the beautiful wine region north of Auckland. The second book in the series, **RINGS ON WATER** is underway.

BLOOD ON VINES

Four friends, a shared past, a common enemy.

In New Zealand's Martinborough, an ex-winemaker is brutally murdered. The precise planning and execution by the unknown assailant begins a series of vile attacks.

Meanwhile, north of Auckland, the long, hot summer is over and the tourists have left the Matakana wine region. A tranquil atmosphere descends and warm autumnal winds sweep across the grape-laden valleys. With the harvest due, grapes sit bursting upon the manicured vines awaiting the pick.

Within this vista of peace, a rampage of death is about to rock the local community to its core. Will it be their shared history that sees the four friends being picked off one-by-one?

A stunning new voice in crime fiction, a thrilling page-turning read set in New Zealand vineyards.



MADELEINE ESKEDAH

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

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RINGS ON WATER

Will the dark blue swallow them all before the greed and lies come to the surface?

It's the middle of a gloomy winter in Matakana and local policeman Bill Granger is enjoying the peace the off-season brings.

His wife, Annika, a local artist, meets Crystal, an attractive and mysterious young woman who is new to the area and is always accompanied by a minder. Andrei, Crystal's boyfriend, is a flashy, property developer who seems intent on ingratiating himself into the tight-knit community.

Crystal overhears a conversation she shouldn't have, and realises her life with Andrei isn't everything she thought it was. Meanwhile, Annika is unwittingly drawn into a high-stakes situation where she is quickly out of her depth.

Things change dramatically when a narcotics pickup at sea goes wrong and the waterlogged body of a small-time criminal is found washed up on the local beach, sparking a series of sinister events.

Bill and his constable, Niko, find themselves stretched to the limit in their efforts to save their besieged community.

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NOD GHOSH

GENRE
**FICTION/
SPECULATIVE
FICTION**

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PROFILE

Award-winning author **Nod Ghosh** was born in the UK and moved to Christchurch, New Zealand where she works as a medical laboratory scientist who enumerates stem cells, diagnoses leukaemia and other cancers by day. This work uses lasers, fluorescent dyes, dichroic glass and more than a little magic. Nod's novel *PAPER PRISON* draws on that magic, though sadly the uncontrollable nanobots are a figment of the author's imagination. Truth Serum Press has published the following novellas: *THE CRAZED WIND* (2018), *FILTHY SUCRE* (2020) and *TOY TRAIN* (2021). Nod has judged several flash fiction and short story competitions in New Zealand and overseas and been guest editor for *SmokeLong Quarterly* and the UK National Flash Fiction anthology 2021. *PAPER PRISON* is her first full-length novel.

PAPER PRISON

Madison Robbins is fourteen minutes older than her twin Ellen, but the second-born girl surpasses Madison in every other way. A congenital disability prevents her from developing as Ellen does.

As a young adult, Madison is subjected to a ground-breaking treatment that enhances her abilities and allows her to enjoy a fuller life. As she ages, she loses some of the benefits the treatment provided.

The year is 2073 when we meet Madison, aged sixty-nine. She is writing her memoir. She discusses her work with her young carer, Gyeong. Madison reveals how their insecure mother Alison stifles the twins' development, introducing uncertainty into the girls' lives. Their disquiet increases when their parents separate.

As a teenager, Madison covets her sister's able-bodied albeit dysfunctional existence, while Ellen opens her twin's eyes to life outside her protective bubble. Their mother's mental health deteriorates and Ellen plays a greater role in her sister's care. This burden increases after their father's sudden death.

After her treatment, Madison graduates from university, and finds work providing support in the disability sector; helping people who are the way she used to be.

When both women fall for Fabien Constantin, their bond is stretched to its limit. The untidy union culminates in the birth of baby Cassie, whom the sisters agree to raise together, after Fabien abandons them. Ellen and Cassie disappear when the child is thirteen years old. Madison is distraught.

Later, Madison works for the elusive Universal, subliminally influencing people through the media, while desperately trying to find her sister and child.



ANNE HARRÉ

GENRE
CRIME

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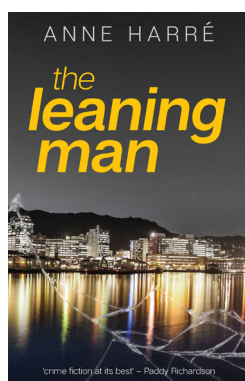
Anne Harré has studied music, literature, publishing and creative writing, and was awarded an NZSA Hachette mentorship for the manuscript of *THE LEANING MAN*. She works as a school librarian, but has also been a music teacher, bookseller, freelance editor and reviewer, and editor for the New Zealand Poetry Society anthology. Anne lives in Wellington and *THE LEANING MAN* is her first book.

THE LEANING MAN

It's Saturday night in Wellington and celebrations are in full swing for the Westons' wedding anniversary. Their daughter Stella has returned from London to attend. Once shoulder-tapped as detective material, a few bad decisions and a questionable ethical dilemma saw her leave the force under a cloud. She's now a private investigator in London, and she doesn't want to be home. Later that night her best friend Teri is found dead in a lane in the central city. Her phone is missing. It looks like suicide, but Stella won't believe it. Not trusting her former colleagues to find out the truth, she begins her own investigation.

Stella Weston is relentless, foul-mouthed and tenacious. She's not above taking risks to find the truth about her friend and the shady world she's been dragged into, which seems to involve a paedophilia ring smuggling children from Thailand. Someone knew Teri was gathering information to put a stop to it, and the race is on between those who want the phone, the homeless man who's pocketed it, and Stella.

As relentless as its protagonist, *THE LEANING MAN* is an assured debut, written in the tradition of fellow Kiwi crime writer Paul Cleave – while he draws on the city of Christchurch for the atmosphere of his novels, Anne draws on the windy capital city of Wellington.





LIZZIE HARWOOD

GENRE
CRIME

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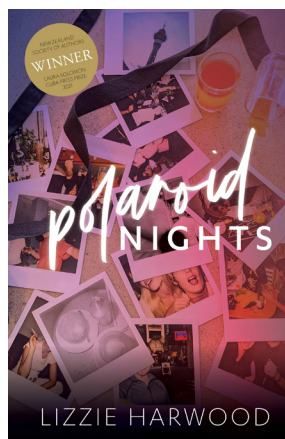
Lizzie Harwood grew up on Aotea Great Barrier Island and writes novels set in the far-flung places she's lived. Her memoir *XAMNESIA AND TRIUMPH: COLLECTED STORIES* were international Amazon bestsellers. She co-founded the First Pages Prize, an international writing award to support emerging un-agented writers. After twenty-four years out of New Zealand, mainly in Paris, she now lives in Auckland with her family.

POLAROID NIGHTS

Auckland city bars, 1996, when the *click / whirr* of a Polaroid 600 proved you were living your best life. Betty's is on repeat: waitress till late, drink till dawn, in bed to forget. But partying like there's no tomorrow is no fix for the problems crowding in. Her ex is back in town, her flat was burgled and she faces eviction if she can't pay rent. And then there's the serial rapist called the Psychic who's terrorising women in their homes. When her ex is murdered and left in her bed, Betty and her flatmate Alabama turn to the bar world to find out who did it – was it the Psychic or someone closer? – and in doing so discover more about their colleagues in the hospitality industry and those on the periphery, like taxi driver Baza.

A confident, fast-paced crime novel that fizzles with the energy of city bars and is fueled with black humour – it brings to mind in story and style the TV hit *The Flight Attendant*. But there's darkness at its heart – the novel draws on the time when the author's flat was burgled by convicted rapist Malcolm Rewa.

POLAROID NIGHTS is the inaugural winner of the NZSA Laura Solomon Cuba Press Prize.





JESSICA KANY

GENRE
FICTION

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PUBLISHING,
NEW ZEALAND

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PROFILE

Jessica Kany was born in New York City. She graduated from Washington University in St Louis with a BA in English Literature. Past hats include writing for the Jackson Hole News in Wyoming, indexing the American Alpine Journal, working at a library in Hawaii. She moved to Stewart Island/Rakiura in 2002 and has been editor of the Stewart Island News (SIN) since 2005. She ran the community library for seven years and is now the Halfmoon Bay School librarian. Other hats: shore crew for a crayfisherman; keen rat trapper, trail runner, and mother of two boys.

A RUNNER'S GUIDE TO RAKIURA

Maudie doesn't cut a convincing detective figure. She's an erratic, impulsive, semi-alcoholic Millennial from New York City, on assignment at the bottom of New Zealand to cover southernmost running trails. Or, as her new friend Vil puts it: "Giving brainless bucket-listers hard-ons for islands like mine."

Once she hears the tale of buried treasure on Stewart Island, Maudie embarks on a dogged pursuit of the truth behind Stewart Island's mysteries. What did Vil's great uncle bring back from the battle of Monte Cassino, and where did he hide it? Maudie's hunt sees her befriending Dogbox, the pontificating Yeats-quoting patron of New Zealand's southernmost pub.

She wades into a world of ferns, boat-builders, lighthouses, muttonbirds, dune grass politics, and all the other things that make Stewart Island (Rakiura) such an extraordinary corner of the world. But it's not all a box of birds...dark histories reverberate: the Battle of Monte Cassino in 1944; Maudie's memories from September 11, 2001. As the echoes grow louder, the past loops forward, overtaking Maudie and Vil.

Like any good treasure hunt, there will be reckonings, redemptions, and yes, yes, YES... there will be treasure.

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ANGELIQUE KASMARA

GENRE
FICTION/
SPECULATIVE
FICTION

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PROFILE

Angelique Kasmara was born in Bandung, Indonesia, and has lived in Jakarta and Sydney. She lives now in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). She has worked in communications for a not-for-profit, and as a translator, and film and television researcher. She has published work in *A CLEAR DAWN: NEW ASIAN VOICES FROM AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND* and *KO AOTEAROA TATOU | WE ARE NEW ZEALAND*. A graduate of the Masters of Creative Writing at Auckland University, Angelique is a winner of the *Sir James Wallace Creative Writing Prize* and *ISOBAR PRECINCT* was shortlisted for the *Michael Gifkins Prize*.

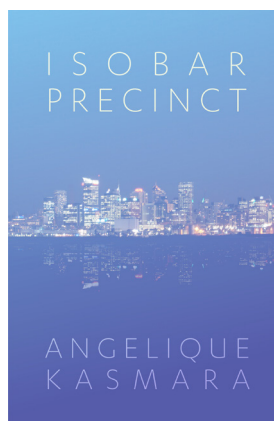
ISOBAR PRECINCT

An audacious and inventive debut novel set in a vivid, grimy inner-city Auckland

Lestari Aris is a woman on the edge. Her tattoo studio on Karangahape Road is hammered by burglaries; the hangers-on in her life, from a teenage runaway to a married cop, are bonded to her for reasons she can't fathom. And years after Lestari's father disappeared, her Indonesian mother is still lost in a self-medicated blur.

When a murder in Symonds Street Cemetery whirles Lestari into the orbit of an unpredictable drug, she uncovers a decades-long covert clinical study targeting rough sleepers and others on the fringes – and its dark connections with her own life and history. Everything is connected: the past is circling. How far will Lestari go to save someone she loves?

Isobar Precinct explores perceptions of time and progress and asks whether the past ever disappears. It also marks Angelique Kasmara as a writer to watch.





RACHEL KERR

GENRE
LITERARY FICTION

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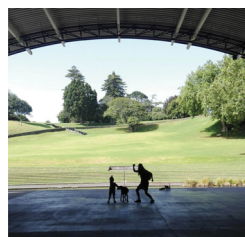
Rachel Kerr is a Wellington writer who lives in Island Bay, Wellington, with her family. She is studying te reo Māori and has degrees in film and creative writing. Rachel has worked as a librarian for Te Kooti Whenua Māori and Judicial Libraries. **VICTORY PARK** is her first novel and she is currently writing a second novel, **KING TIDE**.

VICTORY PARK

Kara lives in Victory Park council flats with her young son, just making a living by minding other people's kids – her nightly smoke on the fire escape the only time she can drop her guard and imagine something better. But life is unpromising until the mysterious Bridget moves in to the Park. The wife of a disgraced Ponzi schemer, she brings with her glamour and wild dreams and an unexpected friendship. Drawn in, Kara forgets for a moment who she's there to protect.

Bridget is careless when she's minding Kara's son and selfish in minding her own. When she needs to get out of town during her husband's court case, she takes Kara with her and their two sons, but when the court follows her to retrieve property she takes an overdose, leaving Kara to get back to Wellington with the boys and little money. The trip is a desperate one and things get worse in Wellington when Kara's health declines. But her community at the flats and her mother help get Kara back to health and give her a glimpse of happiness and a new life.

*Rachel Kerr writes with huge compassion, humour and insight into life's inequities. **VICTORY PARK** won the MitoQ Best First Book of Fiction 2021 at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.*



Victory Park
Rachel Kerr

"A rich, funny, compassionate exploration of care and carelessness — this is a wonderful book — like its heroine, subtle as hell and full of heart." — **NEAR PRESS**





TSITSI MAPEPA

GENRE
DEBUT FICTION
A NOVEL IN
SHORT STORIES

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PROFILE

Tsitsi Mapepa was born in Zimbabwe and moved to New Zealand twelve years ago. She has a MA in Creative writing from Auckland University. She lives in Auckland with her husband and three children. *THE DEADLY BUSH* is her first novel – told in short stories.

THE DEADLY BUSH

*When a moon meets the sun, they create the ring of fire
to bear a star...*

Zuva Taha has to come to know the bush in the same way she recognises each season. The bush shelters many things, not just wild creatures and snakes. She and her four daughters have to be on guard at all times. And here, in their new home in Harare, culture, war, religion, love, politics, and death make them delve deeper into their relationships, their past, and their present lives.

The Taha family moves from Marondera to settle down in Harare with the hope of bringing fortune into the family. Mwedzi is determined to find more building jobs in Harare to fulfil his promise to Zuva, his wife, to build a house for her and their four daughters, Ruth, Hannah, Abigail and Nyeredzi. In this new city, the Tahas learn that the bush next to their house is sheltering snakes and also the thugs who attack their neighbours. Zuva is a brave woman, but she fears for her daughters' safety.

Weaving through Zuva's narrative is the narrative of the youngest child of the Tahas – Nyeredzi. Nyeredzi embraces her adventurous spirit while she learns about her family, and the new environment. She fights for her freedom to be heard in the house, but two of her sisters, Hannah and Abigail give her grief. Nyeredzi bonds with her oldest sister, Ruth. As she grows up she faces snakes in the field and armed men in her mother's garden. She questions her mother about Christianity and her ancestors. She sees her ancestors, who foretell her future. She learns about womanhood from the women around her and she loses the sister she loves the most when she is shot during a riot.

She moves to study law in Cape Town and then summoned back home to her mother's death bed. She seeks help from her ancestors to save her mother.



BECKY MANAWATU

GENRE
LITERARY/
POPULAR FICTION/
INDIGENOUS
WRITING

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PROFILE

Becky Manawatu (Ngāi Tahu) was born in Nelson, raised in Waimangaroa on the West Coast of New Zealand, and then moved to live in Germany and Italy, where her husband was playing rugby and where she wrote the first drafts of her award-winning debut novel, *AUĒ*. She returned to the West Coast with her family and works full-time as a writer. She is currently writing the sequel to *AUĒ*, titled *PAPAHUA*.

AUĒ

Taukiri was born into sorrow. *Auē* can be heard in the sound of the sea he loves and hates, and in the music he draws out of the guitar that was his father's. It spills out of the gang violence that killed his father and sent his mother into hiding, and the shame he feels about abandoning his eight-year-old brother to a violent home.

But Ārama is braver than he looks, and with his friend Beth and her dog, he feels like he might be strong enough to turn back the tide of sorrow. As long as there's aroha (love), stories and a good supply of plasters, which Āri uses to deal with the pain inside that nothing can fix.

Auē means howl or cry, and the story is told through four narrators, whose stories weave together out of the past and into the present: the ghost of Taukiri's mother; Taukiri; Ārama or Ari; Taukiri's mother, Jade, and his murdered father, Toko, until there is some sort reconciliation between those that are left.

Here is a novel that is about personal pain rooted in the past and grown from a wider story that is called colonialism. Both raw and sublime, Manawatu is a compelling new voice in New Zealand fiction.

AUĒ is the winner of the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction 2020, the MitoQ Best First Book of Fiction 2020, the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel 2020, and the Bestsellers Choice Award 2021. It has been on the NZ fiction bestsellers list for well over a year.





KIRSTEN MCKENZIE

GENRE
HORROR

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US AND UK

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RIGHTS AND
FILM/TV RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Kirsten McKenzie is a former customs officer and antiques dealer, who has also dabbled in film and television. THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP SERIES (which includes Fifteen Postcards, The Last Letter and Telegram Home), has been described as 'Time Travellers Wife meets Far Pavilions'. Kirsten released her bestselling gothic horror novel PAINTED in 2017, with her medical thriller, DOCTOR PERRY, following in 2018. Both books hit #1 in the Canadian and Australian horror charts. THE FORGER AND THE THIEF, Kirsten's third historical thriller, is set in Florence, Italy. She has had several short stories published in anthologies around the world. And has twice been an entrant in the Ngaio Marsh Awards.

PAINTED

If art can capture a soul, what happens when one of those souls escapes?

When junior art appraiser Anita Cassatt is sent to catalogue the extensive collection of the recently deceased reclusive artist Leo Kubin, it isn't only the chilly atmosphere of the secluded house in a fog shrouded coastal town making her shiver.

She assures her boss that she's looking forward to getting on with the job. Anita arrives at the out of the way mansion days before her colleagues, as it is expected that the sheer number of paintings assembled there will take much longer to appraise. Little does she know how much evil lurks in the house and in the portraits themselves or that her boss has disregarded the very specific instructions sent by the owner as to how his vast art collection was to be handled and disposed of.

Once there, Anita is instantly filled with a fear that she is being watched, despite being the only human present. Upon entering the house, she stands before a silent audience of portraits clustered on every wall. Every painted eye is watching her, including those of the unfinished portrait on the artist's easel. A portrait with an eerie familiarity.

Unbeknownst to her, disturbed, a man eases himself out of his portrait and stretches. Free at last from the confines of his canvas, he has no intention of ever returning. He has a painting to finish...

Described as "Caravaggio meets Poltergeist" – a gothic horror novel with a decent serving of psychological unease and a healthy fear of the dark. Perfect for lovers of Shirley Jackson's The Haunting of Hill House.



KIRSTEN MCKENZIE

GENRE
**HISTORICAL
FICTION/FANTASY**

RIGHTS
**PUBLISHED BY
SQUAWKING
SPARROW PRESS
(2016) IN NEW
ZEALAND,
AUSTRALIA,
US AND UK**

**FOREIGN
LANGUAGE
RIGHTS AND
FILM/TV RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

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"Kirsten McKenzie has written a very unusual novel: part time travel, part historical, and part antique review. Sarah's adventures in other times and other continents, linked together by the postcards and the antiques, are well researched and entertainingly written. This is a very striking debut novel."

– HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY



THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP - 3 BOOK SERIES

History shapes those who travel through it

FIFTEEN POSTCARDS

Determined to save the antiques store she has inherited from ruin after the unexplained disappearance of her parents, Sarah Lester discovers a jumbled collection of vintage postcards which lead her on a journey through time. Unprepared for the story the postcards weave about their reclusive former owner, Sarah's life is thrown into disarray as she is transported to Victorian London, colonial New Zealand and to the British Raj in nineteenth century India.

Sarah's journey through time could solve the mystery of her parents' disappearance. But one impossible question remains: what will staying in the past do to her future?

THE LAST LETTER

After disappearing amidst a spray of bullets, antiques dealer Sarah Lester leaves behind no body, only questions. Sarah's friends are left dealing with the aftermath of her disappearance, including an investigation into the provenance of her antiques, which threatens to crush The Old Curiosity Shop. As Sarah struggles to reunite with her father, she continues the search for her mother, unaware the violent colonial past has followed her home, putting herself, and those she loves in danger.

From the remote shores of New Zealand, through India's hill country stations and onto the streets of Victorian London, Sarah must decide whether family bonds are strong enough to stretch through time.

TELEGRAM HOME

Sarah Lester's mother is missing and the Indian uprising holds her father captive. The police want to question her, and even the church is demanding its pound of flesh. Her return to The Old Curiosity Shop raises more questions than answers.

Waiting in the shadows is a vengeful Richard Grey. After discovering Sarah's ability to travel through time, nothing will stop him from restoring his name to its former glory. Not even time.

Can Sarah reunite her scattered family before Grey closes the doorway to the past?



KAREN McMILLAN

GENRE
WOMEN'S FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT

catherine@highspotlit.com

PROFILE

Karen McMillan is the author of fiction, non-fiction and children's books. She is a regular with local media outlets, including regular book reviews on TV, and is in demand as a guest speaker for events and festivals. She co-runs a PR company, promoting and marketing books for local publishers. Karen is a cancer survivor.

THE PARIS OF THE EAST

A sweeping epic of love and war, courage and survival, sacrifice and loss.

Warsaw, 1939. Four friends picnic on a brilliant summer's day and celebrate an engagement, aware of the rumbles of war but hopeful that, in any conflict, Poland will have the upper hand.

A beautiful story that spans the period of WWII, this dramatic, historical saga travels from Warsaw to Lublin, from Bucharest to Paris and from London to the horrors of the concentration camp at Ravensbruck. But always at the heart of the novel is the mesmerizing city of Warsaw – the 'PARIS OF THE EAST'.

THE PARIS OF THE WEST

A story of love and loss, betrayal and forgiveness, and having the courage to start over.

San Francisco, 1948. Having survived WWII against all odds, Celina and her family arrive on a Liberty Ship into the Bay Area with high hopes for their new lives. But, as new immigrants, they face many hurdles as they deal with the trauma of war and the grief of losing loved ones. Betrayal and heartbreak are just around the corner.

Set in the spectacular hilly city of San Francisco – the 'PARIS OF THE WEST' – this sweeping novel takes the reader from the jazz clubs in the Fillmore district to the sun-kissed vineyards of Sonoma.



KAREN McMILLAN

GENRE
WOMEN'S FICTION

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

BRUSHSTROKES OF MEMORY

A compelling novel of love, lost memories and rediscovering dreams.

On her 32nd birthday, Rebecca is in high spirits and life could not be better – both personally and professionally. But in 2013 she wakes in hospital after a head injury and finds out that nearly a decade of her life has been erased from her memory.

Now almost 42, she can't remember anything after her 32nd birthday – a decade fraught with changes she would never have anticipated – illness, infidelity, betrayal, separation and death – and the disintegration of many of her dreams.

But if Rebecca can't remember anything of nearly ten years, then could this be the chance for her to wipe the slate clean and start again?

CONTACT

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KAARINA PARKER

GENRE
**WOMEN'S
HISTORICAL
FICTION**

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Kaarina Parker (Ngāpuhi) grew up with a keen interest in history, studying both Latin and Classics in college. She completed a BA (hons) from the University of Melbourne, in history and gender studies. She then went on to receive a Masters of Creative Writing from AUT. When tasked with writing a research essay on an aspect of ancient Rome she was amazed to discover the rich, salacious, ambitious and fascinating lives of Fulvia and Clodia – two sisters (by marriage) who were active political players, wielding real influence and power in Rome and whose names were almost completely unknown. Motivated to use her writing to give voice to the forgotten women of history, Kaarina's first novel (part of a trilogy) follows the lives of these two extraordinary women of Rome.

SISTERS OF ROME: BOOK 1 RISE

CLODIA is a vivacious young aristocrat, accustomed to getting her way, before being forced into a politically advantageous marriage by her family. But she is unwilling to accept the rules and role prescribed to her, and so finds increasingly creative and dangerous ways to test the limits of her husband's control.

When young FULVIA arrives in Rome with an enormous dowry and burning ambition, Clodia finds both a friend and an opportunity. Soon, they become sisters by marriage, and Fulvia is party to her new family's salacious antics. But Fulvia's ambition continues to grow, and she works hard to educate herself, so that she might steer them all towards a path of glory.

Both women will be tested as Rome descends into chaos and, in a world where men hold all the power, Clodia and Fulvia need to use all their intelligence to, not only survive, but to prosper.

A powerful debut novel that shares the stories of two incredible sisters whose stories are inspiring, haunting and timeless.



WENDY PARKINS

GENRE
FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Born in Sydney, **Wendy Parkins** is the author of *EVERY MORNING, SO FAR, I'M ALIVE: A MEMOIR* (Otago University Press, 2019) and is currently writing a historical novel about the scandalous life of the Victorian travel writer, Frances Elliot. A former professor of Victorian literature at the University of Kent, Wendy now divides her time between Dunedin and Tomarata, north of Auckland.

UNDONE

Liv Burns, a literature professor, is living alone in Fiesole, on the outskirts of Florence, having left her home and job in southeast England because of the fallout from her husband's affair. Luke, also a professor, had announced a few months earlier that he was leaving Liv for a woman he had just met on sabbatical at a research centre in Fiesole. Despite the ensuing conflict, Liv and Luke attempt a reconciliation but Liv's distress over her betrayal results in several lapses of professional judgement, leading to a formal complaint by a student.

The tentative marriage reconciliation then founders when Liv discovers that Luke's sabbatical lover, Mina, is to be interviewed for a post in Liv's department. Liv's plan to sabotage the interview process is thwarted; Mina is appointed while Liv is suspended.

In Fiesole, Liv seeking to understand what led to Luke's affair and regrets the demise of her career. Then she is summoned from Italy by her father's death in New Zealand. Returning to her hometown, Dunedin, where her younger sister has remained, makes the pull of the past and Liv's need for roots starkly apparent.

When Liv finds that Luke (who is in Dunedin to deal with his own elderly parents) had visited her father in hospital before he died, she reaches out to him in the hope that, sometimes, the damage in our lives might be undone.



EMILY PATTULLO

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

PROFILE

Emily Pattullo is originally from the UK where she previously published a YA novel about child trafficking. She also worked in magazine publishing and then ran her own writing, editing and proof-reading business. Now in New Zealand, she is focused on writing suspenseful stories for adults, with conflicted and unreliable characters. *SILENT AS THE SNOW* is her first adult novel.

SILENT AS THE SNOW

Four friends, one tragic death and 23 years of secrets and lies

Anna was 15 when she and her three friends, Seth, Dougal and Rudy, killed a man in a tragic accident.

But that night it snowed, covering up their crime, and all four friends decided to keep it secret – until one of them is accused of murder and sent to prison.

Now 23 years later Anna and her friends are thrown together for a funeral and Anna is forced to confront the truth of what happened all those years ago. But Anna's recollection of the past is not what her friends remember.

Could she really have been mistaken about what happened and what will it mean to her carefully constructed life if her reality is nothing more than a façade?

Will digging up the past reveal a truth she would rather not know? Sometimes ignorance is bliss

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JAN PRYOR

GENRE
FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Jan Pryor wrote or contributed to numerous academic books before taking creative writing seriously. Her short stories have won the Page and Blackmore competition twice, and others have been placed in that and other competitions. In 2018 she published a memoir, **AFTER ALEXANDER: THE LEGACY OF A SON**. She lives in Wellington.

THE REDEMPTION OF DANIEL McRAE

Daniel is a presbyterian minister of the old school – raised in the faith, unquestioning, devoted to his congregation, obedient to the precepts of being a good person. But in his commitment to his church, he omits to care for the emotional needs of his wife and child. Doubts about first the goodness then the very existence of God begin to corrode his faith.

When, in his late sixties, he needs to comfort his dying and faithful wife, he confronts the fact that he no longer believes that God exists. Thus begins a fundamental reassessment of what matters, impelled by his taking on the rearing of his baby granddaughter, Evie. As he reflects on his failings as a husband and father, he discovers that his notion of family has been cramped and confining. He wrestles with the conflicting demands of his parishioners and the need to embrace his emerging understanding of what is good and true, without resorting to God.

He lost a son in infancy, and he discovers the existence of another one, now a grown man. He falls in love with a local artist, and fields the disapproval of the widows in his parish.

As Evie grows, he is compelled to honesty and an ongoing reassessment of what he believes in face of her questioning and persists in his pursuit of reconciliation with her mother.



MAGGIE RAINEY- SMITH

GENRE
**FICTION/
HISTORICAL
FICTION**

RIGHTS
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NEW ZEALAND BY
MĀKARO PRESS
AND IN GREECE
BY KEDROS**

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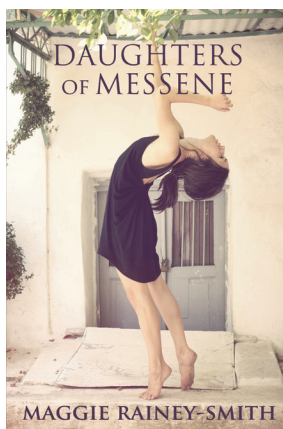
PROFILE

Maggie Rainey-Smith is a novelist, poet, short story writer, essayist and book reviewer. Her first novel, *ABOUT TURNS*, was a bestseller, the first New Zealand novel to be chosen by Whitcoulls as a Guaranteed Great Read. In 2014 she was joint runner-up for the Landfall essay prize. While researching *DAUGHTERS OF MESSENE*, Maggie travelled to Greece, and ended up at the Mani home of travel writer Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor, celebrating his Name Day with the locals – an unexpected blessing upon this story.

DAUGHTERS OF MESSENE

Artemis has the name of a goddess, but she has trouble living up to it. Instead she usually just runs away. She's running now ... away from the married man she's been seeing, and the Greek community in New Zealand who think they know what's best, and into the arms of family in the Peloponnese that she's never met. It's 2007. She carries her mother's ashes and an iPod with recordings, which bit by bit tell the shocking story of what happened to Artemis's grandmother during the Greek Civil War over half a century earlier.

DAUGHTERS OF MESSENE is a story of a family of women – those who stayed in that broken but beautiful country, one who went to the ends of the earth to escape what she'd seen, and another who returned not knowing what it was she was looking for. A powerful third novel by Maggie Rainey-Smith, who was drawn to the story because her father was a NZ soldier fighting in Crete during WWII.





RENÉE

GENRE
**COSY NOIR/
CRIME**

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NEW ZEALAND BY
THE CUBA PRESS**

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**FILM/TV RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**



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PROFILE

Renée (Ngāti Kahungunu) turned 92 in 2021. A novelist, poet and playwright, who lives in Ōtaki, New Zealand, she was recently awarded the *Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement* and the *Playmarket Award* for significant artistic contribution to New Zealand theatre. In 2017 she published her bestselling memoir *THESE TWO HANDS*. *THE WILD CARD* is her first crime novel and the sequel, *BLOOD MATTERS*, is due for release in 2022.

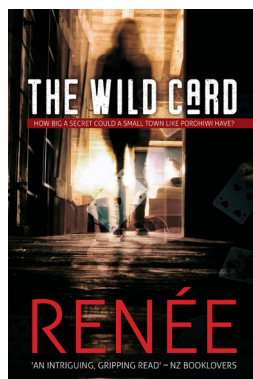
THE WILD CARD

How big a secret could a small town like Porohiwi have?

Ruby Palmer has been dealt a rough hand. She was left in a kete at the back door of the Porohiwi Home for Children when she was a baby, and then at seven she discovered that Betty – who stopped the bad stuff happening to Ruby – had drowned. Adopted by a lesbian woman, Ruby grew up loved and tough enough to face anything, and now she's in her thirties, she needs to find out what really happened to her and Betty at the Home. Her only lead is a notebook that uses the symbols in playing cards to tell a story she doesn't understand. She sets off a chain reaction: a man attacks her and there are break-ins at the local theatre where she's acting in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. As Ruby goes deeper into the mystery at the Home, she starts to find answers to questions she hadn't dared ask including ones about herself as a young Māori girl with nowhere to turn.

Ruby's story is interspersed with quotes from Oscar Wilde's play, which is set a world away and decades earlier but often echoes what's happening in Porohiwi.

The Wild Card was shortlisted for the Ngaio Marsh Awards 2020.





ERICA REX

GENRE
**NARRATIVE
NON-FICTION**

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Erica Rex is an American science journalist with a MA in journalism from Columbia University. In 2012, as a breast cancer patient, she took part in a clinical trial at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine's Behavioural Pharmacology Research Unit in Baltimore, US. She had two therapeutic treatment sessions with psilocybin to treat her cancer-related depression. The results have been life changing and far reaching. Rex wrote about this experience and the scientific basis of the research study in a lengthy article in 2013 for Scientific American Mind: "CALMING A TURBULENT MIND." The article was translated into Italian, Croatian and Portuguese. She wrote a version for The Independent and spoke about the article and the experience at conferences, and on National Public Radio. She appeared with Dr David Nutt on Sky News and had interview requests from the Portuguese press and the Daily Mail. Erica is an Advisor to the Task Force on Psychedelic Medicine, US Department of Health and Human Services.

THE HERO'S JOURNEY: HOW PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE WILL TRANSFORM MENTAL HEALTH

THE HERO'S JOURNEY portrays the evolution of psychedelic medicine through the lens of one woman's quest to heal from her childhood trauma.

Erica Rex's psychedelic story begins in 2012, when she was a subject in a clinical trial at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine's Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit where she was given doses of psilocybin – the active ingredient in "magic mushrooms" – to treat her cancer-related depression.

The book describes her abuse at the hands of her psychiatrist parents and her encounters with the medical and mental health establishment over the course of several years. She artfully braids the scientific story of psychedelics – their indigenous roots, early experiments, their uses and abuses and the very recent neuroscientific discoveries at Imperial College, London with her own experiences and those of a few key others, including an Iraq War veteran, as well as researchers and practitioners who have toiled for years to make psychedelics part of the western medical pharmacopeia.

Untreated PTSD and its many consequences, including drug- and alcohol- abuse – and myriad other diseases including cancer – affects the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. Society suffers from it.

Erica's brave voice provides insight into how psychedelic medicine provides trauma survivors a pathway out of and away from their experiences, a light at the end of a very long tunnel.



PADDY RICHARDSON

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

RIGHTS
GERMAN
LANGUAGE
RIGHTS SOLD

ALL OTHER
RIGHTS AVAILABLE

CONTACT
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PROFILE

Paddy Richardson is the author of two collections of short stories, *CHOICES* and *IF WE WERE LEBANESE* and seven novels, *THE COMPANY OF A DAUGHTER*, *A YEAR TO LEARN A WOMAN*, *HUNTING BLIND*, *TRACES OF RED*, *CROSS FINGERS*, *SWIMMING IN THE DARK* and *THROUGH THE LONESOME DARK*.

A YEAR TO LEARN A WOMAN ('Der Frauenfänger') *HUNTING BLIND* ('Komm Spiel Mit Mir') and *TRACES OF RED* ('Deine Schuld') have been published by the German publishers Droemer Knauer and *SWIMMING IN THE DARK* has been published by Macmillan, Australia.

HUNTING BLIND, *TRACES OF RED*, *CROSS FINGERS* and *SWIMMING IN THE DARK* have all been finalists in the Ngaio Marsh Award.

Paddy has been awarded three *Creative New Zealand Awards*, the *University of Otago Burns Fellowship* in 1997, the *Beatson Fellowship* in 2007 and the *James Wallace Arts Trust Residency Award* in 2011. In 2012 she represented New Zealand at both the Leipzig and Frankfurt Book Fairs. She is an experienced teacher of creative writing, has been a speaker at many writing festivals and is a mentor for both NZSA and the Whitireia Creative Writing Programme. Paddy lives in Broad Bay, Dunedin.

A YEAR TO LEARN A WOMAN

Freelance writer Claire is hired by a disreputable lawyer to write a biography of serial rapist, Travis Crill serving time for a series of vicious attacks on women. She's wary, but she's also a single mother with a teenage daughter and desperately needs the money. When she interviews him in prison, Crill is chillingly charming.

Can this man be a rapist? Initially there are few clues as to how he became a violent predator, but slowly Claire begins to unravel the story. What are his parents hiding? Why did the rapes occur only every October? And how does he seem to know so much about her? If Crill is locked away in jail, why is Claire so afraid? Could she be Crill's next victim?



PADDY RICHARDSON

**GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER**

**RIGHTS
GERMAN
LANGUAGE
RIGHTS SOLD**

**ALL OTHER
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

**RIGHTS
GERMAN
LANGUAGE
RIGHTS SOLD**

**ALL OTHER
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

CONTACT
vicki@highspotlit.com

TRACES OF RED

Rebecca Thorne is a successful television journalist, but her world is thrown into turmoil when her Saturday night programme is axed because of falling ratings. Not only will she lose her job but her big story on the convicted triple murderer Connor Bligh, whom Rebecca believes is innocent, has to be abandoned.

Rebecca's lover Joe, a married man and the barrister representing Bligh, also thinks Bligh is innocent – or does he? And if he loves Rebecca so much, why is he prepared to cast her off?

Meanwhile Bligh languishes in jail, convicted of three brutal murders and continuing to protest his innocence. Did he do it? Rebecca refuses to let the matter lie.

HUNTING BLIND

On a perfect summer's day, at a school picnic beside a lake, a little girl goes missing, leaving a family devastated and a community asking questions.

Seventeen years later her sister, Stephanie, is practising as a psychiatrist. A new patient's revelations force her to re-examine her sister's disappearance. Why are their stories so similar?

Unable to let the matter rest, Stephanie embarks on a journey to find out what happened to her sister.



"Paddy Richardson's research is immaculate but it never weighs on her story. This is not the first *Somes Island* novel but it must surely be the ultimate. A masterpiece of storytelling."

— Fiona Kidman



PADDY RICHARDSON

GENRE
**HISTORICAL
WOMEN'S FICTION**

RIGHTS
**NEW ZEALAND
RIGHTS WITH
QUENTIN WILSON
PUBLISHING**

**REST OF WORLD
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

BY THE GREEN OF THE SPRING

They came for me at first daylight.

Otto Bader is a young, Blackball miner, determined to do his bit to make the world a better and more equal place. Although he has lived almost all of his life in New Zealand, he is a German immigrant and, when the first world war breaks out, he is branded an enemy alien, taken from his home and from Pansy Williams, the woman he loves and interned on *Somes Island* as a prisoner of war.

There, with other men in a similar situation, he must helplessly wait out the war under the autocratic and often vicious regime of the camp's commandant.

Clem Bright returns after the war, to Blackball. Physically and psychologically maimed by his experiences, he must somehow make something of his life, negotiating his way through family relationships, the hasty marriage he made with Pansy and the child born after he left. Lena Bright is Pansy's child with Otto. Spirited, clever and perceptive, she observes the adults around her, her mama, her nan and her pop and the papa who has returned from war bringing upheaval to her former easy and regulated life.

More than anything she loves her mama and her home. Blackball is where she belongs and it is where she returns when, as a young adult, she paints her memories.

BY THE GREEN OF THE SPRING entwines the threads of lives affected and changed forever by the war, the hurts which must be endured, the losses which must be borne and the secrets which must be kept.

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LAUREN ROCHE

GENRE
FICTION

RIGHTS
NEW ZEALAND
RIGHTS WITH
QUENTIN WILSON
PUBLISHING

REST OF WORLD
RIGHTS AVAILABLE

PROFILE

Lauren Roche is a retired GP, inspirational speaker and author living in Tutukaka, NZ with her partner. She's the author of the autobiographical **BENT NOT BROKEN** and **LIFE ON THE LINE**. The former has been translated into German, Simplified and Complex Chinese and Swedish, is a one-woman play by the same name and Lauren has been commissioned to write the screenplay for a movie version. Lauren completed her Masters in Creative Writing through AUT.

MILA AND THE BONEMAN

Growing up in rural Northland, Mila is descended from generations of healers and is surrounded by a loving and close-knit family.

Tommy, her autistic neighbour, lives with his grandmother and spends much of his time in the bush, collecting bones to make mobiles. But Mila's life is changed forever when her little sister, Anahera, dies in a tragic accident that Mila blames herself for.

The death tears the family apart but it's the events after Anahera's death where the real tragedy takes place – events with far-reaching consequences.

**A novel about guilt, forgiveness and finding your way home.
And the secrets we keep to protect those we love the most.**

CONTACT

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ALEX RYVCHIN

GENRE
NON-FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT
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PROFILE

Alex Ryvchin is a writer and community leader. He is the author of two books of history and politics, and a children's book on finding hope in a time of pandemic. He was born in the former Soviet Union and left as a stateless refugee before settling in Australia and practising law in Sydney and London. His writing on history, race and religion, identity and multiculturalism is published in leading newspapers and journals around the world. He is a frequent media commentator and speaks at major events, universities, think tanks and parliaments.

10 DEADLY MYTHS: THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES THAT HAVE UNDERPINNED ANTISEMITISM FOR CENTURIES

10 DEADLY MYTHS: The Conspiracy Theories that have Underpinned Antisemitism for Centuries looks at how these conspiracy theories still endure and animate violent extremists around the world.

The book focuses on the most dominant and pervasive myths such as blood libel, Jewish global domination and deicide and examines their origins, giving examples of their classic and contemporary usage and ultimately, in this age of fake news, providing a model answer for responses online. For example, the blood libel chapter tells the story of one of the earliest blood libels, that of Simon of Trent in the 15th century, and shows how it was explicitly referenced in the manifesto of the Poway Synagogue shooter in San Diego in 2019.



ANDY SOUTHALL

GENRE
**MYSTERY (SET IN
THE PACIFIC)**

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NEW ZEALAND BY
THE CUBA PRESS**

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PROFILE

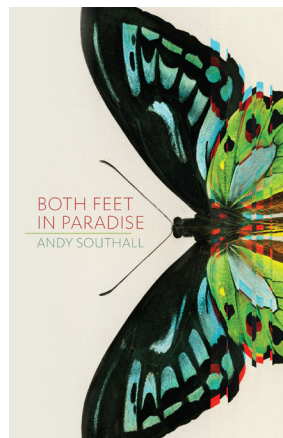
Andy Southall grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, spent too many years in the fog of London, and then followed the long white cloud – and his wife – to Wellington. Always wanting to write, he completed a creative writing diploma in 2016, and won an *NZSA mentorship* with award-winning author Pip Adam to write *BOTH FEET IN PARADISE*. He has published two travelogues: *ONE HUNDRED DAYS IN SAMOA* and *28 DAYS IN SRI LANKA*, and a novel, *MAKING MEREDITH*. His science fiction short stories have appeared in *sponge.nz*

BOTH FEET IN PARADISE

After months of researching butterflies in Sāmoa, Adam is looking forward to returning home to his family in New Zealand. Then his transfer to the airport doesn't arrive. A hastily arranged taxi takes him not to departures but an empty field in the middle of nowhere, and he misses his flight. As he fails to find alternative ways off the island – other flights, ferries, even seagoing yachts – he grows increasingly frustrated, especially as all overseas phone lines and emails seem to be down as well.

He meets Eve, who offers to help, and Adam accepts but has a strange feeling they've met before. From his point of view in the first half of the book (a Pālagi/European male), we switch to Eve's (a Sāmoan woman) and see with clarity what Adam couldn't: his mind is confused and getting worse. As the two of them go into the past for solace, the depth of their relationship becomes apparent and we understand why both have daughters called Naomi.

BOTH FEET IN PARADISE is a masterpiece of storytelling that suspends the reader in a world of relentless beauty where nothing and no one can be relied on.





BARBARA SUMNER

GENRE
COMMERCIAL
HISTORICAL FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Barbara Sumner is a multi-award-winning Oscar short-listed documentary filmmaker and former magazine features writer, turned author. She has published a memoir, *TREE OF STRANGERS* (Massey University Press, 2020). She lives in Napier, New Zealand and is currently writing a novel of astral travel and the arrival of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn into Havelock North in 1916 and completing her PhD in Creative Writing at the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University in Wellington.

THE GALLOWS BIRD BOOK I IN THE GALLOWS BIRD TRILOGY

London, 1838

Hannah 'Birdie' Bird is a 15-year-old under-laundry maid at Angus Hall, a London manor house. Her mother was an aristocrat, thrown out into the streets when her illegitimate child was discovered. Forced into servitude at age 12, Birdie knows how to return the purity of white rags from the dregs of the curse. And how to embed a waft of fresh lavender into bed linen. She knows the secrets of aged urine to bleach away any stain. Gravy and duck fat yield to her ministrations, but she will never accept her life buried in the laundry.

Captivated by the beauty of silk, she 'borrows' a red silk gown from her mistress. She breaks all the rules to apply for a position with a seamstress. But borax and laundry duties have stripped the flesh from callused hands that will never sew. The seamstress sends her away. Bloated with all she does not have, Birdie's frustrations and disappointments grow. Drawn to a flash house one night, she consults a fortune teller who predicts an unthinkable life. There she meets Joe, a charming thief who cons his way into her heart. Together, with Joe's regular girlfriend, they plan an audacious silk heist. Betrayal stalks them. The robbery goes wrong, and they escape. Later, alone with Joe beneath a tent of stolen silks, the police find them. They shoot Joe and arrest Birdie. Grand theft and murder see her sentenced to transportation beyond the seas for the term of her natural life.

On the wharf, surrounded by the heartbreak of family separation, she glimpses Joe. He is alive but grievously injured. Processed onto the ship with the women convicts, Birdie is at the mercy of the seas and the sailors. Her value is no more than cargo. But Joe is onboard. He is alive, and she has hope.



FIONA SUSSMAN

GENRE
**CRIME /
MURDER MYSTERY**

RIGHTS
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PROFILE

Born in South Africa, now living in New Zealand, **Fiona Sussman** is a former GP. She has written several highly acclaimed, award-winning short stories, including *A BREATH, A BUNK, A LAND, A SKY* which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, 2020. Her debut novel, *SHIFTING COLOURS*, was published by Allison & Busby in the UK and by Berkley in the US under the title, *ANOTHER WOMAN'S DAUGHTER*. Her second novel, *THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE* (Allison & Busby) was translated into Polish and won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel in New Zealand, 2017. Her third novel, *ADDRESSED TO GRETA* (Bateman Books) won the NZ Booklovers Award for Best Adult Fiction, 2021

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE

Nothing in pottery teacher Stan Andino's very regular existence prepares him for the moment he discovers his wife naked, except for a black apron, bleaching the lounge carpet.

So begins a nightmare for more than just the Andino family, where all is not what it seems. A CT scan one week later explains the seemingly inexplicable; Carmen Andino has a brain tumour. As Stan and their teenage sons grapple with the diagnosis and frightening personality changes in their wife and mother, Austin and Tibbie Lamb, the Andino's most longstanding friends and a 'power couple' in the community, do everything possible to assist the family in crisis. Austin, the family's GP, oversees Carmen's medical care, while Tibbie picks up on the home front. With their help, the road ahead for the Andinos seems grim, but manageable.

Then Tibbie Lamb's body is discovered at the bottom of Browns Bay cliffs by Eliot Bard, a young autistic man. The death is initially considered 'low priority', a presumed suicide, and assigned to Detective Mitch Winter, who has just returned to his desk after extended leave for depression. Winter is assigned just one other officer – astute, socially-awkward trainee detective Hilary Stark. Then Stark asks for a transfer, and Winter finds himself left alone to work the case. Despite ditching her detective training, Stark finds herself plagued by the Lamb case and is compelled to check in with Winter. She discovers that he shares her same misgivings about the case and is eager for her input.

The two start to work the case in a most unorthodox manner.

THE DOCTOR'S WIFE is told from various characters perspectives. But who is lying, and who is telling the truth when there are multiple potential murder suspects?



FIONA SUSSMAN

GENRE
**COMMERCIAL
WOMEN'S FICTION**

RIGHTS
**PUBLISHED IN
NEW ZEALAND
AND AUSTRALIA
BY BATEMAN
BOOKS, 2020**

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ADDRESSED TO GRETA

Greta Jellings lives a small life. No expectation, no disappointment had been her mother's mantra. It serves Greta well now too.

At 30-something years of age she has spent her life pleasing others; working for the past 22 years in a pool-chemicals shop just one of the many compromises she's had to make. She has embarrassingly big feet and a pet chicken named Marilyn Monroe, but who is she really? Even Greta has no idea.

So, when she receives a call from a lawyer acting on behalf of her dear friend Walter, Greta finds herself presented with a terrifying, though compelling, opportunity. Walter's bequest, sees Greta embark on a mystery journey, each destination revealed in a letter on the eve of her departure.

ADDRESSED TO GRETA is a captivating novel about a woman learning how to express her true self. It is an important story about finding the courage to be seen, and a testament to the transformative power of friendship.

Winner of NZ Booklovers Award for Best Adult Fiction, 2021

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JULIE THOMAS

GENRE
**HISTORICAL
COMMERCIAL FICTION**

RIGHTS
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PROFILE

Julie Thomas is the author of the highly acclaimed historical trilogy **THE KEEPER OF SECRETS**, **RACHEL'S LEGACY** and **LEVI'S WAR**. She has also written a thriller; **BLOOD, WINE AND CHOCOLATE**. Julie worked in the media in New Zealand for over 25 years in radio, television and film before turning to full-time writing. She lives in Cambridge, New Zealand.

THE THISTLE AND THE BEAR

1917 and, as war rages across Europe and the tumultuous events of the early twentieth century unfold, two very different aristocratic families become intertwined in a saga of tragedy, love, greed and murder that will impact future generations of both dynasties.

Edward Saywell-Stuart, the eighth Duke of the Lochmorland estate in the Lowlands of Scotland, is fighting in WWI. He and his wife, Cordelia, have two daughters and the Duchess has just given birth to twin boys. Ed, born first, is his father's heir and Gus, the younger son, will be Viscount of Islay when his brother becomes Duke. When the Duke arrives back from the Sinai the wounds he carries are much more than skin deep and no one realises the danger that lurks in his damaged mind.

Far to the east the Grand Duke Alexander Petrovitch Romanov is forced to flee Russia with his young daughters after the bloody revolution. When Alexander wins an estate in Scotland in a high-stakes poker game he has no idea that its location, next door to the Lochmorland estate, will have a devastating impact on both families.

As the two families are swept up in global events over which they have no control, they are forced to confront the fact that wealth and privilege offer them no buffer against disaster. WW2 crashes into the lives of all and when the twins enlist in the RAF old loyalties are tested and new ones forged as love and tragedy become equal partners in the lives of both families.

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JULIE THOMAS

GENRE
CRIME/THRILLER

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
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BLOOD, WINE AND CHOCOLATE

Vinnie Whitney-Ross grew up on the periphery of the London gangland, so when he overhears the voice of a murderer committing the deed, he recognises him as a childhood friend. He reluctantly testifies and goes into witness protection.

Hidden away on an idyllic island, Vinnie indulges his dream of being a winemaker and could be forgiven for thinking he can start a new life. But old grudges die hard, coppers are bent, and the finest wine and chocolates become weapons as Vinnie's present runs headlong into his secret past.

From the mean streets of London's East End to the sparkling waters of Vinnie's mysterious hideout, this tale of switched identities, vengeful obsession and lethal ingenuity is as addictive as chocolate – with more twists than a corkscrew.

A blackly comic murder mystery involving very expensive wine and an overdose of chocolate.

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ZIRK VAN DEN BERG

GENRE
GENERAL FICTION

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**PUBLISHED IN
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SOUTH AFRICA BY
NB PUBLISHERS**

**ENGLISH
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CUBA PRESS**

**WORLD ENGLISH
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PROFILE

Zirk van den Berg was born in Namibia and now lives in New Zealand. He writes award-winning novels and short stories in English and Afrikaans. The crime novel **NOBODY DIES** (Random House NZ, 2004) was translated into Afrikaans as **'N ANDER MENS** and released as a film in 2019. He has also published **HALF OF ONE THING** (Penguin Random House, South Africa) and the historical novel **PARTS UNKNOWN**. His novel **EK WENS, EK WENS** won South Africa's premier Afrikaans literary prize and was published in English as **I WISH, I WISH** by The Cuba Press, NZ.

I WISH, I WISH

As mortician at White Lily Funerals Seb has embalmed countless corpses, repacked organs in body cavities, and applied make-up to pallid faces for the mourners' last viewing. You have a job to do and you do it; there's no use wishing for something else. And yet, every so often, Seb does wish for some kind of intervention to jolt him from his dreary existence.

One day, when the dying boy and his mother walk into the funeral parlour Seb comes to believe that he has been granted one wish that will come true. But what to wish for? What is the most worthwhile use of his precious gift? What does he want more than anything? Having to make these decisions forces him to examine his life, at a time when the two main pillars of his existence – his work and his marriage – both collapse.

Through the crises, he discovers unsuspected abilities in himself. Over the course of a week, Seb learns to stand up for himself, he forms meaningful connections with his previously distant children, finds innovative solutions to problems, a new career path, and even sees the possibility of a new love.

I WISH, I WISH has the timelessness and enchantment of a modern fairytale. On the one hand it is recognisably current; on the other it is almost archetypal in the exploration of primitive fears and desires. Like the Rubik's cube that Gabriel solves on Seb's keyring everything in this novel fits together seamlessly. Big questions are asked within the confines of a modest life, while the repulsive surprisingly finds its place next to the magical.

Winner of the WA Hofmeyer Prize for Fiction and the Kyknet/Rapport Prize for Fiction and Most Filmable Novel in South Africa. Shortlisted for the Booklover's Choice Award in New Zealand.



BRIAN WALPERT

GENRE
LITERARY FICTION

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PROFILE

Bryan Walpert is the author of *LATE SONATA*, winner of the 2020 *Seizure Viva La Novella Prize*, as well as a short story collection, four books of poetry and two of literary criticism. Originally from Baltimore in the US, he is a professor in creative writing at Massey University, Auckland.

ENTANGLEMENT

A memory-impaired time traveller attempts to correct a tragic mistake he made in 1977 when, panicked, he abandoned his brother on a frozen lake in Baltimore to a beating that disabled him. Decades later, in 2011, a novelist researching at the Centre for Time in Sydney becomes romantically involved with a philosopher from New Zealand. A writer at a lake retreat in New Zealand in 2019 obsesses over the disintegration of his marriage following another tragedy.

The three stories travel side-by-side through the novel, not apparently linked. The love story in Sydney plays out backwards via journal entries that includes a writer's research into time travel; the time traveller story is a frantic against-the-clock tale in a Baltimore winter; and the writer's story is told through a series of responses to writing prompts that dig into a failing marriage, the loss of a child, and living with a disabled brother.

An erudite and literary novel written with a poet's eye and using fragmented stories that sprawl across time and countries, **ENTANGLEMENT** feels like the work of Canadian author Anne Michaels. It nods to speculative fiction but asks the reader to decide if the time travel is real or imagined. The ending is hopeful and potentially redemptive.





KIRSTEN WARNER

GENRE
LITERARY FICTION

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PROFILE

Kirsten Warner is a writer, journalist and musician. Her father, Günter Warner, who passed away in 2017 aged 95, was a refugee from Nazi Germany and survivor of the Holocaust. She was born in Hastings, and brought up in Tauranga and Auckland where she worked for newspapers and magazines and as a television researcher. She writes poetry and plays in a travelling folk-blues band.

THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS

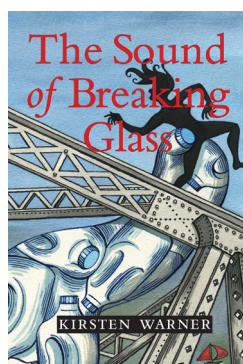
Christel is at shattering point. She's got two small children, her job in reality television is super high stress, she's an activist with Women Against Surplus Plastic and now she's being stalked. To top it off her protest milk bottle sculpture appears to have come to life like the golem of Jewish folklore and is reviving characters from a past she can hardly bear to confront.

Christel is Second Generation – her father was a Holocaust survivor and a refugee to New Zealand after the war – and she cannot focus on the problems in front of her without dealing with an inheritance that is both murky and unresolvable. And how to live with the secrets she begins to uncover in her own life and her father's.

It takes everything imploding around her and a complete breakdown before she finds herself in the place where the pain started: Germany, meeting the ghosts who have been clamouring for her attention.

Set in Auckland in the 1990s, **THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS** is that rare thing – a book that crackles with end-of-millennium urban life while vibrating with a history that's impossible to forget.

It was the 2019 winner of the MitoQ Best First Book Award.





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JACK HARTLEY

GENRE
**YOUNG ADULT
FICTION**

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PROFILE

Jack Hartley is a YA author, born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand. With his education background in psychology and his passion for raising awareness and understanding about mental health issues, Jack uses his literature as a platform to portray a realistic voice for teens as he delves into the complexities of growing up. Jack has published his first YA novel, *ALL THE OTHER DAYS* (2018) and is currently working on his new novel.

BENEATH OUR FEET

Alfie's world begins to shake and, within the blink of an eye, the city he calls home comes crashing down around him.

Through this tragedy he's given a second chance to live after he receives a desperately needed heart transplant. A heart that will change everything, and not just for him.

As Dani hears the devastating news of her test results, she crosses paths with Alfie and together they discover something truly magical within the boundaries of the redzone cordon.

As they grow closer and their relationship develops, their life within the cordon makes them question what's real and what's not.

BENEATH OUR FEET, tells a story of love and survival as Alfie and Dani navigate through a world that isn't fair.



ALEXANDRA MAXWELL

GENRE
**YOUNG ADULT
FANTASY**

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PROFILE

Alexandra Maxwell is a YA fantasy author, born and raised in Florida. Alexandra's love of fantasy writing began at a young age and set her on the path to writing fulltime. When she's not creating expansive fantastical worlds and setting her characters on epic quests, she can be found in the woods practicing Medieval combat and dreaming up her next story. Alexandra is a passionate cosplayer and talented Irish dancer. Alexandra is currently working on her debut book **HEART OF SHADOW AND STEAL**.

HEART OF SHADOW AND STEEL

Anyone can kill the prince, but only Ivory can bring him back to life.

Ivory has survived ten years in the prison that was meant to kill her. But her fortunes improve when a mysterious man offers her freedom in exchange for a service: kidnap Aarys, the Crown Prince of Tiralon and bring him to the Sleeping Kingdom. Joined by a murderous crew of misfits, Ivory embarks on a journey to secure her freedom.

But everything comes at a price, and Ivory's actions may spell doom for the entire kingdom, taking Ivory along with it.



RAYMOND MCGRATH

GENRE
PICTURE BOOKS

RIGHTS
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AVAILABLE**

PROFILE

Raymond McGrath is an award-winning Animation Director, animator, illustrator, designer, musician and writer who has been working in children's television, publishing and advertising for nearly 25 years. He has written and illustrated a number of books, worked on television shows, music videos and television commercials. He is also the creator and director of the educational pre-school television series PUZZLE INC. Currently he is a lecturer teaching art and traditional 2D animation.

I AM A BEE

Follow our lonesome bumblebee as he tried to find a friend.

I AM A ROCK

While the rock remains quiet and still, nature is moving all around it.

LITTLE KITE

It's a windy day and Little Kite has broken free. Where will he go on his journey and who will he meet? Join him on a fun adventure

BIRD

Bird is making a terrible noise and all his feathered friends can't understand why. But sneaky cat is watching – can Bird make his friends take notice in time?

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KYLE MEWBURN

GENRE
JUNIOR FICTION

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PROFILE

Kyle Mewburn is one of New Zealand's most eclectic writers. Her picture books are noted for being multi-layered, funny and linguistically creative. Her titles have been published in a dozen countries and won numerous awards including *Children's Book of the Year*. As well as picture books, Kyle has published several best-selling junior fiction series, notably DINOSAUR RESCUE and DRAGON KNIGHT. She was the Children's Writer in Residence at Otago University in 2011 and President of the New Zealand Society of Authors from 2012–2016.

JUSTIN CASE INVESTIGATES – 4 TITLES

Wimpy Kid meets Alex Rider in a wacky, fast-paced, action-adventure series

Justin's family work for a top-secret organisation – it's so top secret nobody even knows what it's called. His mum runs the organisation. His dad is like Q on James Bond, albeit a slightly more accident-prone version (which is why he is currently invisible). And his sister is a master of disguise so a top, top-secret agent ... though Justin suspects she's actually a double agent.

Justin has always wanted to join them in saving the world/ preventing the end of the world, but he is clumsy like his dad and faints at the first sign of danger. When his dad accidentally dissolves all his bones, leaving Justin a wobbly jelly encased in an (theoretically) indestructible exo-suit, it turns out to be (somewhat paradoxically, and with some reservations) a bit of a godsend.

His newfound courage, coupled with his enthusiasm to help save the world makes him prone to see conspiracies everywhere – most of which turn out to be false alarms. When he DOES stumble upon an actual threat nobody believes him. So, he always has to save the day by himself ... with some (very slow) help from Ish, his giant talking pet snail.

Four titles in the series to date:

THE MIND-CONTROL PONY CLUB MYSTERY

THE MYSTERY OF THE SLIME-LESS SNAIL

THE MYSTERY OF THE STRANGE SMELLING SEWER

THE MAYBE MISSING DAD MYSTERY



KYLE MEWBURN

GENRE
MIDDLE GRADE

RIGHTS
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THE FANDANGLES

Lucy and Luke's new hometown seems exceptionally normal without a whiff of adventure. But when they decide to explore the abandoned section behind the dark hedge at the back of their garden, they stumble on a strange oasis of nature inhabited by the weirdest contraptions they've ever seen.

These odd mechanical constructions seem to be made of old appliances. Are they homemade robots?

When Lucy meets Wurly she and Luke soon realise the contraptions are actually living creatures brought to unexpected life in the distant past (1984) by Andson, the inventor of the whizgimlet. They call themselves Fandangles and have established a utopian society, where they live in peace and harmony with each other and nature.

It sounds perfect, but Luke and Lucy soon learn there are mysterious forces at work. Some people (and some who are not people) would do anything to get their hands on a whizgimlet. Soon the fate of the whole Fandangle society will rest in the children's hands.

THE FANDANGLES is a riotous middle grade adventure which contemplates what it means to be human, as well as reflecting our attitudes towards society, gender identity and nature

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KYLE MEWBURN

GENRE
JUNIOR FICTION

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AND RUSSIA**

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DRAGON KNIGHT – 6 TITLES

Merek and his family are shape-shifting dragons living as humans in a village ruled by superstition and the evil Lord Crumble.

Merek dreams of attending Knight School and becoming a famous knight like his hero, Sir Bragalot. There's just one problem – Merek isn't yet completely in control of his shape-shifting abilities. So, keeping his dragon identity secret – in an occupation that routinely sets out to vanquish dragons – will prove a real test for the young trainee knight. Merek has also inadvertently made an enemy of Lord Crumble's equally evil son, Percy. Okay, make that two problems ... Luckily, he soon befriends Brin, a fellow trainee with a talent for swordmanship and a secret she ... er, I mean he, is also desperate to keep hidden.

DRAGON KNIGHT is a messy medieval adventure not for the faint-hearted.

DINOSAUR RESCUE – 8 TITLES

It's hard being the only evolved boy in your tribe.

Arg does his best to fit in. But nobody really understands him. His mum is bewildered by his desire to wear clothes. His older sister, Hng, is constantly annoyed at his cleverness. She wouldn't mind at all if he got chomped by a T-Rex or squashed by a mastodon. His dad, while doting, is also concerned for his only surviving son. He tries to be supportive of Arg's strange, new ways (and even stranger thoughts and ideas) but he secretly hopes Arg will grow up to be just like any other Neanderthal. Even Arg's best friend, Shlock, is often jealous of Arg's evolved state.

Arg's life is changed forever when he meets Skeet, an equally evolved talking T-Rex. Together they embark on a mission to save the dinosaurs from extinction. But with ignorant Neanderthals on one side and stubbornly stupid dinosaurs on the other, it's not going to be easy.



KYLE MEWBURN

GENRE
PICTURE BOOK

RIGHTS
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MOLE'S MOUNTAIN

Mole loves sitting with her friends on her hill and watching the sun rise but her friends worry that her eyes are too weak to fully appreciate the wonderful view. So, they hatch a plan to make her hill bigger so Mole can get closer to the sun.

The only problem is, as the hill grows, it casts a bigger shadow on her burrow making it cold and damp. Every night, Mole has to get rid of the hill, while every day (while Mole sleeps) her friends re-build it.

As all the friends get more and more confused at the growing and shrinking hill what will it take to solve the problem?

A delightfully humorous picture book about friendship and helping each other.

BOO ZOO

A trip to this zoo is a little different – with ghouls and ghosts on display and wonderfully spooky exhibits.

But who is really in the zoo and who is just visiting?

WE SAW A SPINOSAURUS

What on earth is making all that noise in the corridor outside the classroom? Could it really be a dinosaur and, if it is, what is it doing at school?

A GOAT IN A BOAT ON A MOAT

Goat is happily grazing in her field when she spies some delicious grass on the far-side of the river. How on earth can she get across? Perhaps sheep and cow can help? Unfortunately boats and goats don't mix – with hilarious results.

HAPPYFULNESS

Hendrix is so full of happiness that he floats along like a boy-shaped balloon – feet barely touching the ground. But everywhere he goes people tell him he has to grow up and live life with his feet on the ground. Hendrix needs to share his message of happiness and stop the gloom taking hold.



R.A. PARATENE

GENRE
**YOUNG ADULT
SCIENCE FICTION/
FANTASY**

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PROFILE

After witnessing a mysterious object in the night sky at a young age, Māori author **Ngarina 'Rina' Paratene** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai) fell in love with reading and watching anything involving UFO's and outer space. She naturally fell into writing science fiction and fantasy, influenced by movies and TV series like Star Wars, Roswell, The Last Starfighter and E. T. Rina currently resides in Christchurch, New Zealand, with her father and two ginger cats. Her debut YA novel, *ALIENATION*, is Book I in a proposed trilogy.

ALIENATION

Sarah lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her aunt, uncle and cousins. Her mother died in a car crash and her father left when she was 6, promising to return. Nobody knows where he went and, when he hasn't returned by her eighteenth birthday, it becomes clear to her that he isn't coming back.

Sarah travels with her aunt, uncle and cousins to Skull Valley to visit grandma and to celebrate her birthday. In the middle of the night, the cousins are woken by grandma's dog who has gotten into the trash cans. When they go outside to clean up, they see a UFO crash land and when they go to investigate, they discover an injured alien.

This discovery sends them on a dangerous mission to save the alien, who they name Regi, from being captured and experimented on. All is almost lost until they are rescued by the Regi's father who takes Sarah and her cousin into outer space.

On a planet in a completely different galaxy, Sarah will learn the truth about her father's disappearance, but it may not be what she wants to hear. She will also meet Xaveon, an intense and gorgeous alien who believes she is his 'chosen one'.



STEPHEN ROSS

GENRE
YOUNG ADULT

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PROFILE

Stephen Ross is the author of nearly 30 short stories and novelettes published in magazines such as the Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, and anthologies such as the Mystery Writers of America anthologies and a Bram Stoker Award-nominated YA anthology of Lovecraft-inspired horror. He has been nominated for an Edgar Award, a Derringer Award, a Thriller Award, and was an Ellery Queen Readers Award finalist. A longtime member of the Mystery Writers of America, he has had four stories appear in MWA anthologies, including the 2018 R.L. Stine anthology and the 2019 Kelley Armstrong anthology (the MWA's first YA anthology). Recently, he was a contributor to the MWA *How to Write a Mystery handbook* edited by Lee Child & Laurie King.

THE BRIDE MUST BE STOPPED!

A Mean City Mystery

In the late 1950s, in a large US city, Thornton Thacker, a Philip Marlowe-esque teenage detective follows a trail of Egyptian hieroglyphics and a missing mummy and finds himself up against ancient supernatural forces, with his girlfriend's life at stake.

Written in the style of a 1950s pulp thriller, this is a mix of hardboiled noir, pop culture horror and a lot of humour. It's the first in a series of standalone mysteries with each story drawing on a different branch of horror. The point of difference is to employ familiar horror tropes and storylines but to hatch something fresh and unique within a noir-mystery setting.



TANIA ROXBOROUGH

GENRE
MIDDLE GRADE

RIGHTS
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PROFILE

Tania Roxborough (Ngāti Porou) is a veteran educator and an award-winning writer of over thirty published works across a range of genres. Her most recent publication, a middle grade novel, *CHARLIE TANGAROA AND THE CREATURE FROM THE SEA* (Huia 2020) won the *Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Junior Fiction Award* and the *Supreme Award, the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award 2021*. Tania's happy places are: her classroom, at home with her husband and young border collie, enjoying pyjama days, and wherever she can snatch time to read – most often books recommended by her students.

CHARLIE TANGAROA AND THE CREATURE FROM THE SEA

On a beach clean-up, thirteen-year-old one-legged Charlie and his half-brother, Robbie, find a ponaturi – a mermaid – washed up on a beach. An ancient grudge between the Māori gods Tāne and Tangaroa has flared up because a port being built in the bay is degrading the ocean and creatures are fleeing the sea. This has reignited anger between the gods, which breaks out in storms, earthquakes and huge seas.

The human world and realm of the gods are thrown into chaos. The ponaturi believes Charlie is the only one who can stop the destruction because his stump is a sign that he straddles both worlds.

So begins Charlie's journey to find a way to reunite the gods, realise the power in the ancient songs his grandfather taught him, and discover why he was the one for the task.



TINA SHAW

GENRE
**MIDDLE GRADE
FICTION**

RIGHTS
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AVAILABLE**

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PROFILE

Tina Shaw is a New Zealand author for children, young adults and general readership. Her writing has taken her to Auckland, Christchurch, Berlin and even Hamilton – where she was Writer-In-Residence at the University of Waikato. She grew up on a farm at Matangi, went to school at Sacred Heart Girls' College and now lives outside Taupō with her partner and two English Pointers.

FRAGILE

The town of Fragile is known for its vast amounts of fog – and for people who go missing, never to be seen again. When the eerie foghorn is heard, locals know that trouble isn't far away.

Michael Loo is reluctantly visiting Fragile for the annual Soul Parade when he hears the foghorn, then bumps into a boy called Joey in the fog. He soon learns that Joey has gone missing. Michael might have been the last person to see him alive.

Uncle Toby once heard the foghorn and tried to save his sister Emily – Michael's mother – who went missing four years ago. Michael's friend Gretchen has also been touched by the local curse – her brother went missing six months ago. Even Great-aunt Abigail, who Michael is staying with, had a friend go missing. Meanwhile, strange activity is happening at Orca Bay.

Toby says the missing are 'still in the town', but he's in a mental institution so who's going to believe him? Michael soon realises that it's up to him and his friend Gretchen to solve the mystery of Fragile.



MELINDA SZYMANIK

GENRE
JUNIOR FICTION

RIGHTS
WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

CONTACT
vicki@highspotlit.com

PROFILE

Melinda Szymanik writes fiction for children and young adults. Her picture book, *THE WERE-NANA*, won the *New Zealand Post Children's Choice Award* in 2009, was a 2009 Storylines Notable Book, and was shortlisted for the 2010 Sakura Medal. Her novel, *A WINTER'S DAY IN 1939*, also a Storylines Notable Book (2014), was shortlisted for the Junior Fiction Award at the 2014 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards, and won *Librarian's Choice* at the 2014 *LIANZA Awards*. Melinda's most recent publications are a short story collection (*TIME MACHINE & OTHER STORIES*, *AHOY!* [The Cuba Press], 2019), and several picture books including *MY ELEPHANT IS BLUE* (Puffin [Penguin] 2021).

BAD UNICORN SERIES

The **BAD UNICORN** series follows ten-year-old school girl Harriet and her best friend Anika as they grapple with the realities of looking after the unicorn Harriet has brought to life by putting magic pencil to magic paper. Harriet imagined an obedient easy-care pet with all the qualities of fictional unicorns: gentility, sweetness and the potential for magic. But like many a real pet, the talking unicorn, Star, is anything but obedient and the opposite of easy-care.

The size of a small dog, he has the trouble-making capacity of a much larger creature. Rude, willful, needy, greedy and badly behaved, like any real animal, he's an independent creature with a mind of his own. He is not entirely without magic though, some useful, and some disadvantageous, which becomes apparent over the series.

The series currently includes three books with themes of being responsible for something or someone else, friendship, family, animal welfare, the ethics of animal testing and experimentation, reality vs. expectations, bullying and self-belief/confidence.



JESSICA THOMAS

GENRE
**YOUNG ADULT
FICTION**

RIGHTS
**WORLD RIGHTS
AVAILABLE**

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Jessica Thomas is a 26-year-old author, illustrator and artist. She gained her Masters in both Creative Writing and History and has had short stories and artwork published in *BEYOND THE LEVEE: TALES FROM BEYOND* and *IN FRESH INK: A COLLECTION OF VOICES FROM AOTEAROA*. She is passionate about books, history, nature, mental health, and writing the stories she wishes were on the shelves when she was growing up. This is her first novel.

THE REASON FOR EVERYTHING

Benedict Pomeroy is very busy trying to be someone he's not. Apolline Gaumond is tired of being who she is. They are both busy trying to die.

Benedict has no chance of living up to his perfect older brother who died in a tragic accident, leaving his family devastated.

Apolline, abandoned by her own family, has been trying to live alone – struggling to balance school and work while keeping one step ahead of the authorities who will place her in care.

It seems the answer for both of them is to just give up.

When Benedict sees Apolline jump off the pier, he runs into the sea to save her, setting in motion a friendship that will ultimately change the way they view themselves and their place in the world. But when reality comes crashing in, how will Benedict and Apolline overcome the trauma, grief and loneliness that led them both to the brink?

Told in alternating points of view, THE REASON FOR EVERYTHING is a remarkable and uplifting love story about discovering how you fit in the world. Benedict and Apolline are characters who will stay with you long after finishing the book.



SONYA WILSON

GENRE
MIDDLE FICTION
READERS 9-13

RIGHTS
RIGHTS SOLD IN
NEW ZEALAND

ALL OTHER RIGHTS
AVAILABLE

FILM/TV RIGHTS
AVAILABLE



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PROFILE

Sonya Wilson has been a broadcast journalist for many years, reporting, producing and presenting for TV news and current affairs shows such as One News, 20/20, Sunday and Q + A. She grew up in Southland, but now lives in Auckland with her husband and two sons, her elderly Burmese cat called Graham and her dog Dusky. She runs the charity children's book scheme, Kiwi Christmas Books, and works as a freelance writer and journalist. **SPARK HUNTER** is her first book.

SPARK HUNTER

Nissa Marshall knows that something is hiding deep in the forests of Fiordland National Park – she's seen their lights in the trees. But what are they, and why does no one else seem to notice them? When she abandons her school camp to track down the mysterious lights, Nissa finds herself lost in a dangerous wonderland where there are winged creatures known as guardians, charged with protecting birds and animals from extinction. Unable to remember clearly where she's come from and reduced to the size of her new friends, Nissa settles into life with the guardians. But she's in danger and the forest and the creatures in it are under threat too.

Nissa wants to help, but what can a school kid do where adults have failed? And can she find her way back? In Fiordland the lost usually stay lost. Despite her fears, Nissa takes on task given to her, to save a kākāpō chick by taking it away from the dangers on the mainland to a secure island.

SPARK HUNTER is an epic Kiwi adventure-fantasy with an environmental heart – and a story of survival in one of the world's last great wildernesses.





**VICKI
MARSDON**
LITERARY
AGENT
AND DIRECTOR

Vicki has worked in the publishing industry for over 30 years. She started her career in the sales and marketing department of Heinemann Education before taking on the role of Educational Publisher. She developed the successful children's list at Reed Publishing NZ, where she produced many award-winning books before working as Children's Publisher at Penguin and then Associate Publisher at Harper Collins NZ. After four years as a literary agent with Wordlink Literary, Vicki started High Spot Literary with business partner and fellow agent Nadine Rubin Nathan where she continues to pursue her interest in working with talented authors across a range of genres – in particular thought-provoking commercial fiction, high quality non-fiction, children's picture books, middle grade and YA fiction.



**NADINE
RUBIN NATHAN**
LITERARY
AGENT
AND DIRECTOR

Nadine has over 20 years of experience in publishing. She was editor in chief of ELLE in South Africa, an editor at Harper's Bazaar and the New York Post in New York and a senior book editor at Assouline Publishing in New York. Nadine has written two travel guides, one children's book, and collaborated on photography books. She has a MA from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Nadine joined Wordlink Literary in May 2017 and in January 2018, co-founded High Spot Literary with business partner and fellow agent Vicki Marsdon. She represents authors of high-quality literary and commercial fiction, short story collections, narrative nonfiction and visual coffee table books, all with international appeal.



**CATHERINE
WALLACE**
ASSOCIATE
LITERARY
AGENT

Catherine has a background in education, communications and public relations and a PhD from Massey University. Since 2014, she has co-directed the annual Hamilton Book Month and has worked with the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival as a publicist. She is experienced in liaising with publishers, publicists, authors and illustrators and is passionate about supporting authors. Catherine is also a published nonfiction author who works as a freelance editor on a range of academic and industry publications. Catherine is keen to work with authors in a variety of genres including non-fiction, education, commercial and literary fiction, crime, mystery and thrillers.



**NINA
LEON**
JUNIOR
LITERARY
AGENT

After obtaining her honours degree in publishing, Nina went on to intern at the Irene Goodman Literary Agency before arriving at High Spot Literary as a junior agent. Nina is currently building her list of new adult, young adult, and middle grade fiction across all genres with a particular interest in fantasy. Nina has a soft spot for magical realism, neo-Victorianism, enemies to lovers, expansive fantastical worlds, magical academia, and stories with rich emotional depth. Nina welcomes both commercial and literary works.