



# FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

---

Adult Rights Guide

2024



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand

# CONTENTS

## FICTION

- Modern & Contemporary
- Romance
- Historical Fiction
- Crime

## NON-FICTION

- Self-Help
- Cooking
- Memoir & Biography

## RECENT RELEASES & BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

- Fiction
- Non-Fiction





# FICTION

---

Modern &  
Contemporary



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



# The Lucky Sisters

## Rachael Johns

**BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**

- A funny, uplifting and feel-good novel that will warm your heart (but only after breaking it first!)
- Rachael Johns is Australia's bestselling author of romance and women's fiction.
- World English Language rights (excluding ANZ) for *The Other Bridget & The Bad Bridesmaid* sold to Bloodhound Books.

### What happens when the Lucky sisters' luck runs out?

True to their name, the Lucky sisters have been blessed with good fortune. Twins adopted at birth, Norah and Stevie Lucky were raised in a loving family, and while they have always had very different personalities, the one thing they agree on is that they adore their parents.

A five-star chef and a confirmed workaholic, Norah is a control freak. She and her husband own a restaurant and while their passion for each other has long burnt out, their marriage remains solid because they both want the same things in life... or so they always thought.

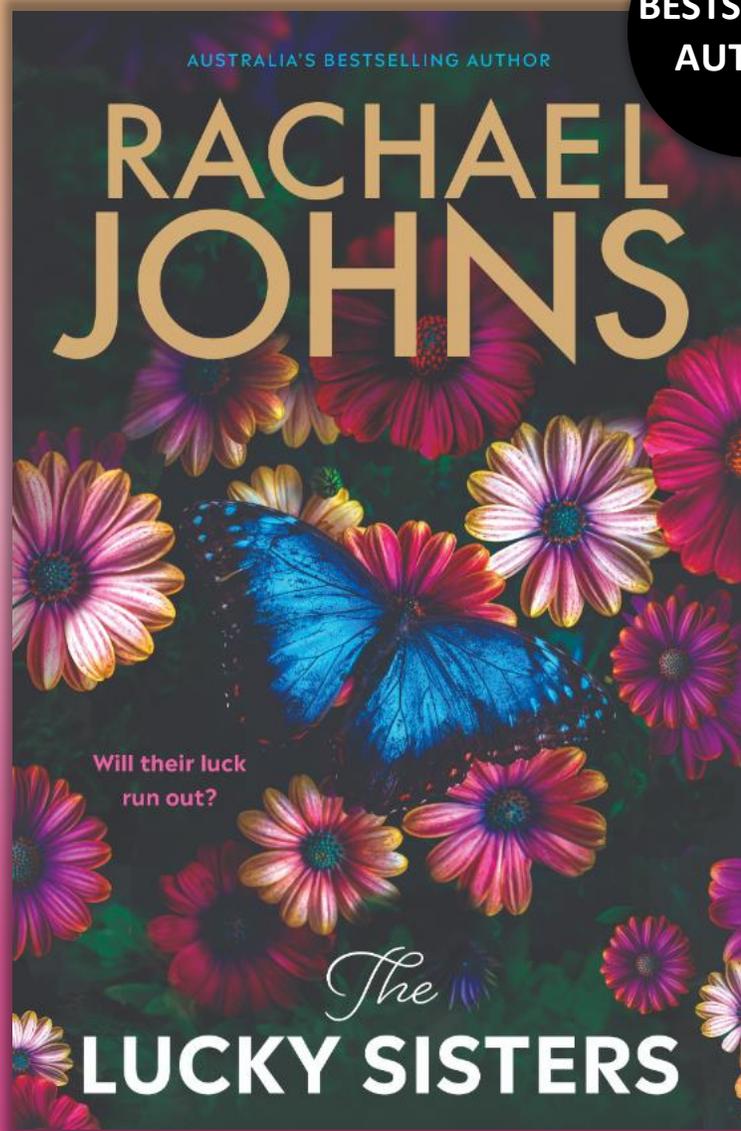
Stevie, on the other hand, needs her freedom. A radio host on a popular breakfast show, she is married with two adult daughters and a grandchild on the way. She is an extrovert, who is wild at heart, and likes it that way.

When tragedy strikes the Lucky family, the twins find out that they might not have long to live. Shaken by the discovery, they react in polar opposite ways. Stevie tries desperately to seize control and redirect her destiny. She changes her lifestyle and explores every medical option available, consumed by her quest for longevity. Norah decides to embrace freedom and questions every decision she's made in her life. She is filled with regret over all the sacrifices she's made for her career and determined that it's time to finally let loose and have some fun.

Spiralling in two very different directions, the Lucky sisters are each grappling with the same life-changing question. How will they make the most of the time they have left? Or will their time run out?



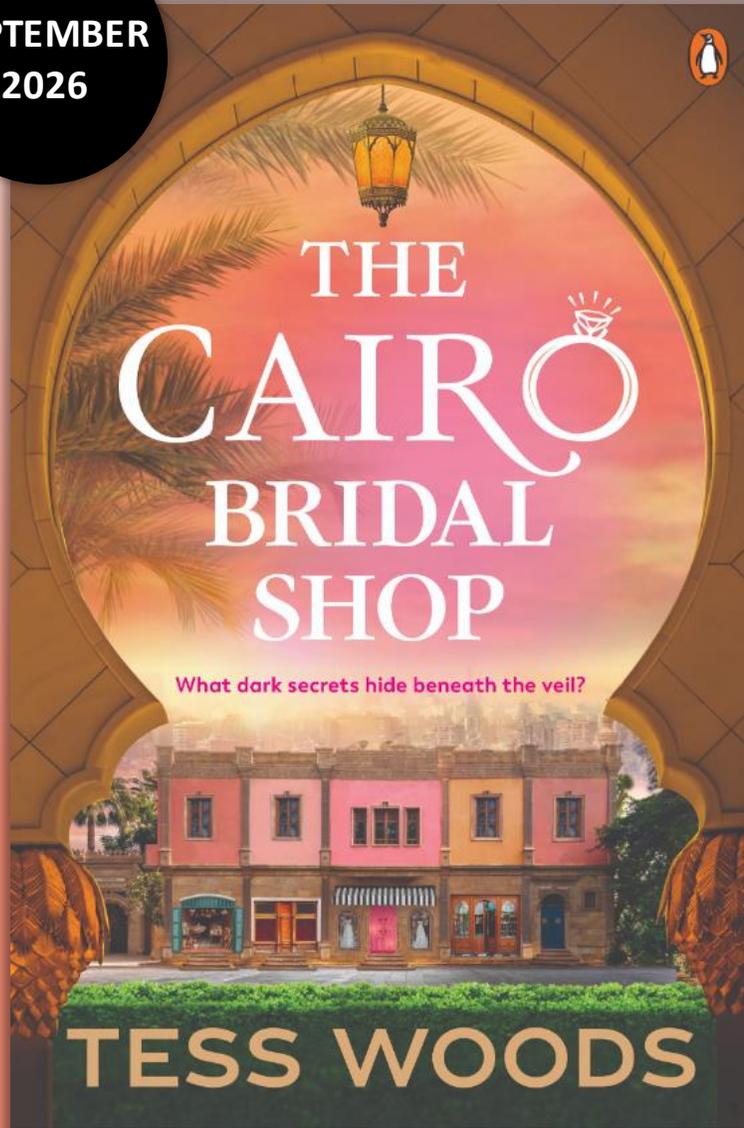
Once Upon a time (briefly) **RACHAEL JOHNS** was an English teacher, then her dreams of becoming a novelist came true. Now she spends her days writing romance and women's fiction in the Swan Valley, Western Australia. Her book *The Patterson Girls* won the ABIA Award in 2016 for General Fiction, and she has also won the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award twice.



OCT 2025 | Trade Paperback | 480pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY  
FICTION

SEPTEMBER  
2026



SEP 2026 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## The Cairo Bridal Shop Tess Woods

- A captivating new novel from the author of *The Venice Hotel*.
- Perfect holiday reading for fans of Liane Moriarty, Celeste Ng and Sally Hepworth.
- Translation rights for *The Venice Hotel* sold into Germany (PRH Verlagsgruppe).



The Albi sisters run a bridal shop at the foothills of the pyramids of Giza.

Eldest sister, Sarah, is struggling with infertility and IVF which has put a strain on her marriage to her husband Gamal. To make matters worse, Sarah's mother-in-law is manipulating Gamal into considering taking on a 'better' second wife who will be able to give him a child.

Middle sister, Aya, is a journalist on the cusp of an exciting new relationship. Habib is an Egyptian born, Australian-raised man with a burning passion for human rights, who has returned to Egypt to shine a light on the human rights abuses in his homeland. Aya is besotted by Habib, but just as he starts to return her affections, they are torn apart and Aya must decide if she's prepared to risk losing her life to follow her heart.

Youngest sister, Lola, is the most maternal of the three girls having always taken care of her older sisters. When she unexpectedly falls in love with a woman called Eman, Lola finds herself keeping secrets from her sisters for the first time. She realises that she wants to live an authentic life, it may mean leaving behind everything and everyone she loves to start over in a new country.

**Praise for *The Venice Hotel*:**

**'A love letter to the gorgeous city, crafted with such rich detail, I felt like I knew every character to the core.'** – MELINA MARCHETTA

**'I completely fell in love with the women from *The Venice Hotel*.'** – NICOLA MORIARTY



**TESS WOODS** once had a simple life until her compulsion to write made-up stories complicated everything. She's now an award-winning and bestselling author of contemporary fiction. Tess also works as a physiotherapist in private practice. She shares a clinic and a home on the stunning Western Australian coast with her lovely and long-suffering husband. She's a mother of two brilliant grown-up children and one grumpy grown-up cat. She's obsessed with her little street library and her veggie patch, she hoovers desserts with complete disregard for all health advice, she's forever dreaming about moving to Italy, and she's the first to deep dive into any celebrity scandal.

MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY  
FICTION



# The Venice Hotel

## Tess Woods

2024  
BUZZ  
BOOK

- *Nine Perfect Strangers* meets *The White Lotus* in this breakout 'Buzz Book' of 2024.
- Commercial Fiction with intelligent, entertaining and character-based drama, filled with twists. Part romantic travel adventure, part family drama, part dark mystery.
- German translation rights sold in a pre-empt deal (PRH Verlagsgruppe).

When the lives of four very different women become entangled in a boutique Venice hotel, dark secrets unravel and not everyone who checked into the hotel will check out again. Signora Loretta Bianchi, the world-famous cook at Venice's Hotel Il Cuore, is forced to choose between once-in-a-lifetime passion and her devoted husband.

Sophie, on assignment in Venice as a food writer, finds a lot more than Signora Bianchi's secret recipes to love, but what is the charming Rocco hiding?

Law graduate Elena is sinking just like the endangered city she's returned home to, and she'll stop at nothing to be free from her marriage.

Grandmother Gayle's dream Venetian holiday turns sinister as she finds herself embroiled in a life-or-death escape.

Set against the backdrop of the romance and tragedy of magical Venice, *The Venice Hotel* explores the powerful bonds that develop between women in times of crisis, and the healing power of female connection.

### Praise for *The Venice Hotel*

**'The perfect combination of juicy drama and heartfelt emotion.'** – RACHAEL JOHNS

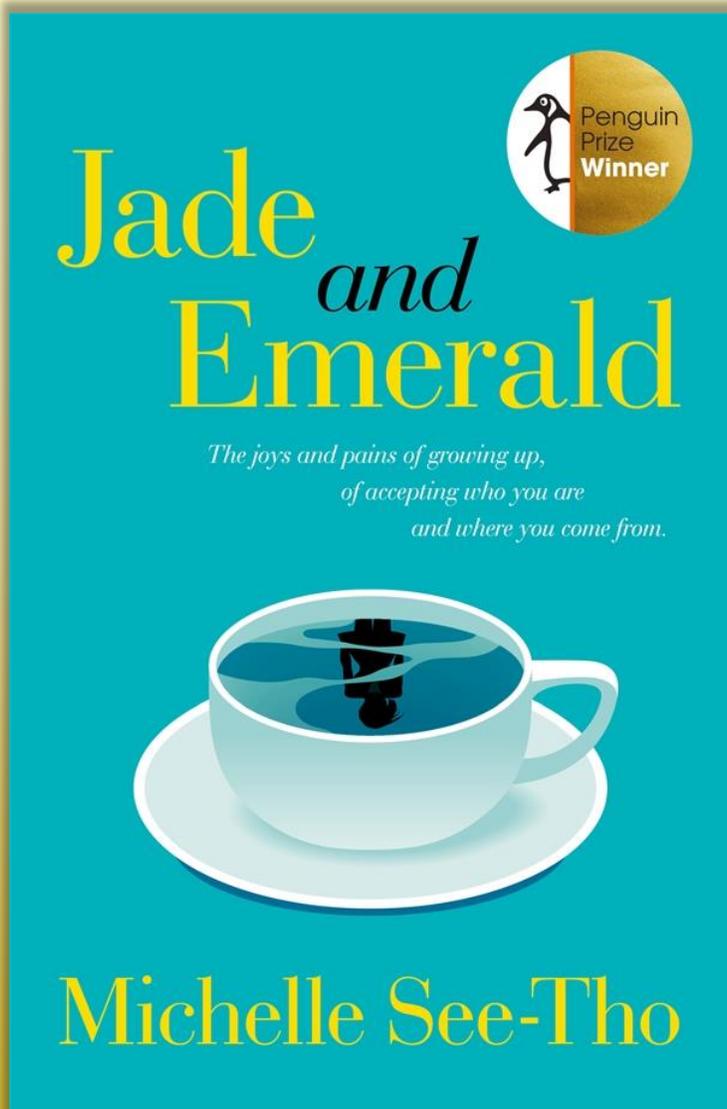


**TESS WOODS** once had a simple life until her compulsion to write made-up stories complicated everything. She's now an award-winning and bestselling author of contemporary fiction. Tess also works as a physiotherapist in private practice. She shares a clinic and a home on the stunning Western Australian coast with her lovely and long-suffering husband. She's a mother of two brilliant grown-up children and one grumpy grown-up cat. She's obsessed with her little street library and her veggie patch, she hoovers desserts with complete disregard for all health advice, she's forever dreaming about moving to Italy, and she's the first to deep dive into any celebrity scandal.



OCT 2024 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY  
FICTION



## Jade and Emerald

### Michelle See-Tho

- Winner of the 2023 Penguin Literary Prize.
- Written by an important new voice, *Jade and Emerald* bristles with life and powerful commentary around family, class and desire.
- Warm and accessible writing. The author, like her characters, is Chinese-Malaysian and raised in Australia.

---

Mei Cha Wen is lonely. Born in Australia, her Chinese-Malaysian mother insists on after-school tuition and violin lessons – cheap ones, at that. Not only is she frugal with finances, she's also frugal with affection.

Malaysian socialite Gigi Nui befriends Mei, encourages her to flout her rigid routines and shows her how to enjoy life's pleasures and luxuries. When Mei discovers her mother and Gigi were in love back in Malaysia, she questions the friendship that had become the primary force in her life.

Gigi's subsequent death brings the walls between Mei and her mother down. Finally, Mei learns how her mother came to be working two jobs in Australia to ensure her daughter could enjoy greater freedom in her life.



**MICHELLE SEE-THO** is a freelance writer and copywriter. She has had articles and stories published in *Kill Your Darlings*, *Meanjin*, *Overland*, *Time Out* and *The Big Issue*.  
Image © Penguin Random House Australia

JULY 2024 | Trade Paperback | 336pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY  
FICTION



# Blue

## Thomas Weatherall

- Thomas Weatherall is an actor who can be seen in the upcoming Australian Drama series *The Last Days of the Space Age* for Disney+, *Exposure* for Stan, and *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* for Prime Video. He is also one of the breakout stars of *Heartbreak High* on Netflix.
- Families are the central powerful core of your life. When they are gone, it is possible to build a new life, in a new place, with different people who love you.
- A vulnerable, tender and funny coming of age story from an exciting new voice in Australian fiction.

---

Somewhere, someone's drowning. Is it Mark? He doesn't think so. He worries it could be John, but he's been dead for years.

Now living and studying in the city with Effy, his enigmatic and curious housemate turned lover, away from the shoreline of his coastal home, Mark both grieves a former life once lived, and welcomes the prospect of a fresh start.

To find the motivation to continue, Mark must confront the unrelenting nature of life, and find meaning and joy in the dreary and grey skies that seem to fill his days. *Blue* is a story of a young man courageously making sense of the world and his place in it.



**THOMAS WEATHERALL** is a Kamilaroi writer and actor. His debut play *BLUE* premiered in 2023 at Belvoir Theatre in a sold-out season in which he also starred. Commissioned by Belvoir Theatre as part of the Balnaves Fellowship, the world premiere of *BLUE* received resounding critical acclaim. *BLUE* was chosen to take part in the 2023 Australian Theatre Festival in New York, before going on to be programmed by State Theatre Company of South Australia and La Boite Theatre Company in Brisbane for their 2024 seasons.

MODERN &  
CONTEMPORARY  
FICTION



HOLDING  
COVER

JUL 2025 | Trade Paperback | 288pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



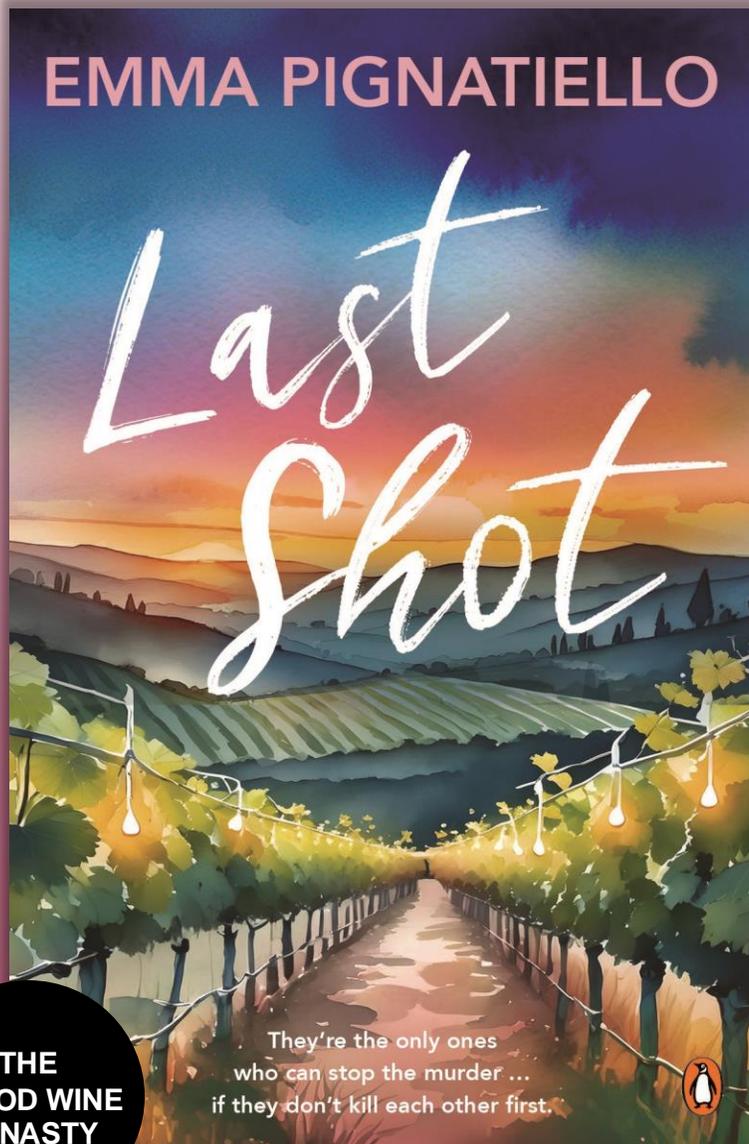
# FICTION

---

Romance



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand

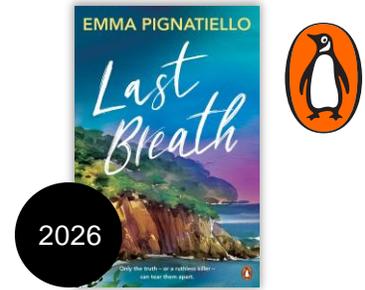


THE  
BLOOD WINE  
DYNASTY

JAN 2025 | Trade Paperback | 336pp  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE RIGHTS

## Last Shot

### Emma Pignatiello



- Book 1 in *The Blood Wine Dynasty* – a new romantic suspense series full of witty banter, simmering tension and a larger-than-life family dynasty that will become your new obsession.
- Slow burn romance, perfect for fans of Devney Perry and Lucy Score.

They're the only ones who can stop the murder... if they don't kill each other first.

Solving a murder that hasn't happened yet should be easy, right? But when Maxella Conrad barges her way onto the illustrious Barbarani Estate to warn them about a murder plot, her life becomes anything but easy.

For one thing, there's Greyson Hawke, the Barbarani family's 'fixer' who's lived and worked with the wine dynasty his whole life. He refuses to believe Max, especially when he realises who she is: a disgraced ex-cop who's just spent the last six months behind bars. But when it seems that Max might be telling the truth, Grey is forced to team up with her to save the Barbaranis.

But nothing is as it seems on the Barbarani Estate, and it soon becomes clear that they won't be able to stop this murder unless they solve the secrets of the past – and learn to trust each other.

Can Max and Grey confront their own demons before the last shot fires and they both lose everything?

*Last Shot* is a gripping enemies-to-lovers romantic suspense that is guaranteed to get your heart racing.

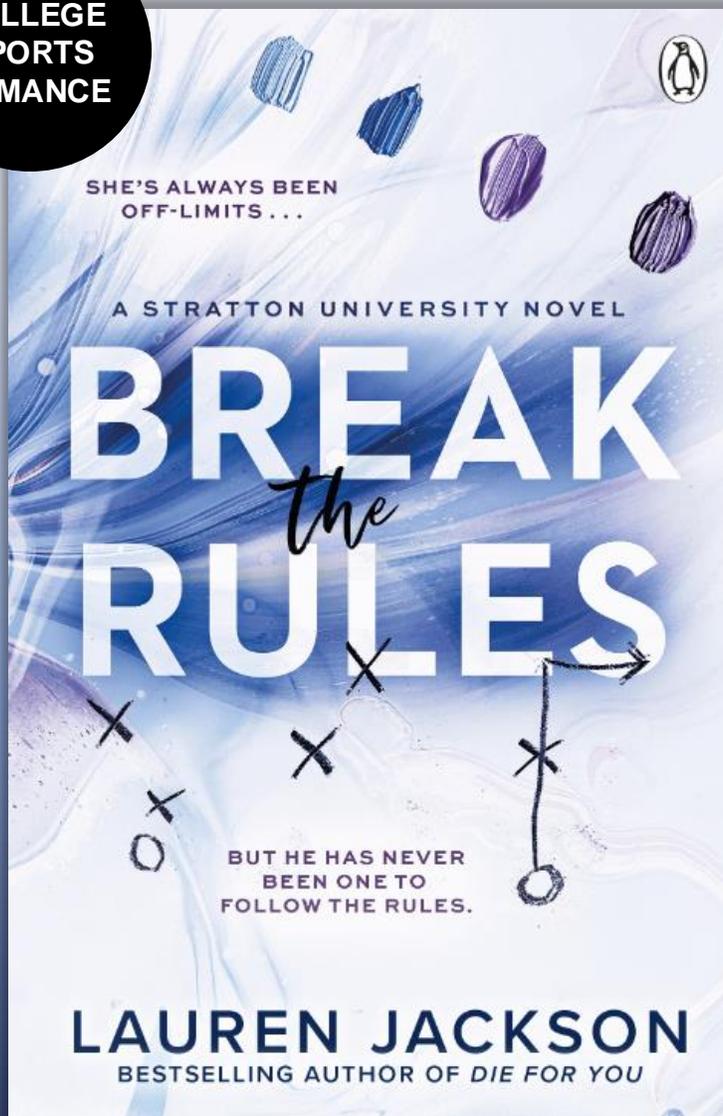


**EMMA PIGNATIELLO** wrote her debut romantic suspense novel, *Last Shot*, because not enough people were being murdered in the romance books she was reading. She lives by the coast in Western Australia near Walyalup (Fremantle) on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people. In disguise at her day job, she attempts to make teenagers care more about writing than about how many days she's worn her cringe millennial shoes in a row. Emma is dedicated to making her stories authentic – she frequented many wineries in the name of research for *The Blood Wine Dynasty* series but has not (yet) committed any murders.

ROMANCE



COLLEGE  
SPORTS  
ROMANCE



DEC 2024 | Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

# Break the Rules: Stratton University Book 1

## Lauren Jackson

- Filled with simmering tension and a shocking twist!
- Romance tropes: college football + brother's best friend + second chance romance + forced proximity.
- An addictive second-chance college sports romance for fans of Elle Kennedy and Hannah Grace.

Anya's carefully planned life has spun out of control overnight. Lost, confused and desperate, she seeks refuge at her brother's house. She is determined to leave her past heartbreak behind and take control of her life. Little does she know that the boy she's always loved – but now despises – has also moved in.

Mason has never settled down. Due to an unstable upbringing, he has always done what he wants, when he wants – partying, disappearing for days at a time, booking flights and leaving the country without telling anyone. After it all gets too much, he decides to stay with his best friend and focus his energy on football. The last thing he needs is his best friend's sister distracting him, especially since he's sworn he would never lay a hand on her.

Will Anya and Mason be able to heal the wounds of their past before their undeniable chemistry takes over?



**LAUREN JACKSON** lives in a small coastal town in Australia. Her hobby of writing stories developed into a passion when she discovered the website Wattpad at age fourteen. Since 2012, she has garnered thousands of followers and millions of views on her stories, which have helped grow and develop her love of writing. She lives close to the beach with her partner and her little dog, Ace. Lauren loves to write sweet, steamy romances, and is always writing a new book.

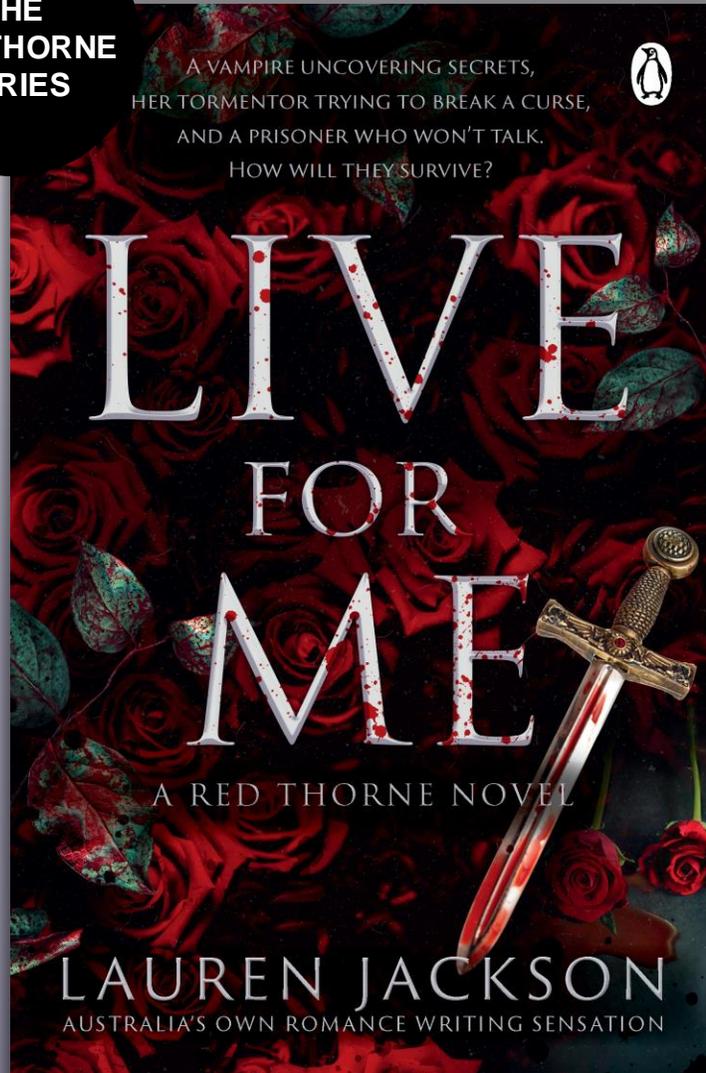
Small town +  
grumpy x  
sunshine



ROMANCE



THE  
RED THORNE  
SERIES



SEPT 2024 | Paperback | 432pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Live For Me Lauren Jackson

- The highly addictive *Red Thorne* series continues!
- A dark, spicy vampire romantasy for lovers of *True Blood* and *The Vampire Diaries*, from the bestselling author of *Die For You*.
- Romance tropes: morally grey hero + enemies to lovers + touch her and die.

A vampire uncovering dark secrets to save the town, her tormentor trying to break a witch's curse, and a prisoner who won't provide any answers. How will they survive?

### THE FIGHTER

I'm being hunted while trying to save a town that wants me dead. No one is safe from him. I know what I need to do to secure their safety, but I don't know if I can end him. My tormentor, my nemesis, the one who consumes me. He hurt me in so many ways, so why do I find myself wanting to save him?

### THE ENFORCER

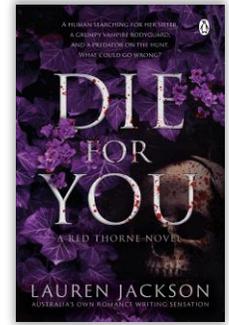
It's always been my duty to stop vampire hunters. But since being cursed to die by a coven of witches, I can't focus on my mission. To make matters worse, someone is hunting Cora. No one touches what is mine. I need to keep her safe without letting her know all my secrets.

### THE PRISONER

They want information from me. I can't remember what they're after. Or maybe I never knew in the first place. I need to escape, but it's impossible when my mind is what's trapped.



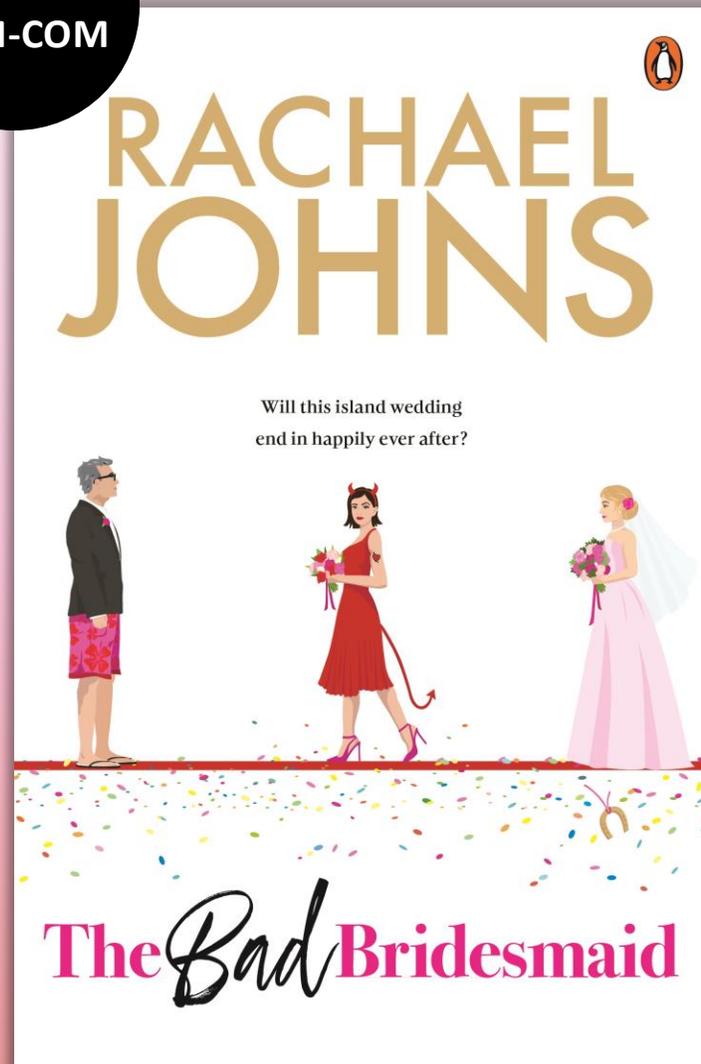
**LAUREN JACKSON** lives in a small coastal town in Australia. Her hobby of writing stories developed into a passion when she discovered the website Wattpad at age fourteen. Since 2012, she has garnered thousands of followers and millions of views on her stories, which have helped grow and develop her love of writing. She lives close to the beach with her partner and her little dog, Ace. Lauren loves to write sweet, steamy romances, and is always writing a new book.



ROMANCE



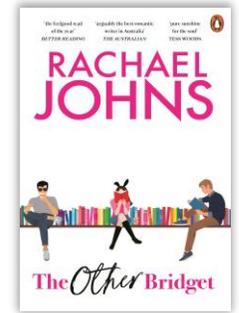
FEEL-GOOD  
ROM-COM



JAN 2025 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## The Bad Bridesmaid Rachael Johns

- The sparkling new romance by the bestselling author of *The Other Bridget*.
- A “reverse parent trap” friends-to-lovers romantic comedy.
- World English Language rights for *The Other Bridget* and *The Bad Bridesmaid* sold to Bloodhound Books.



When serial dater Winifred Darling – Fred – is asked to be the maid of honour at her mother’s sixth wedding, she’s determined to do everything in her power to stop it. As the author of a forthcoming book called *21 Rules for Not Catching Feelings*, she knows better than most about the perils of falling in love.

On arrival at the island wedding destination, Fred is delighted to discover that the groom’s hot muso son Leo is just as set against the wedding as she is. Together, they come up with ‘Operation Break-Up’ to prevent their parents from making what they believe will be a catastrophic mistake.

But as Fred and Leo get to know each other better, their unexpected feelings for each other create further complications, and Fred is forced to rethink her own rigid rules about romance and family. Maybe not every relationship has to play by the book, and could Fred become the star in a rom-com of her own?

A heart-warming friends-to-lovers romance about the magic and mayhem of weddings – and what happens when everything you thought you knew about love is turned upside down.



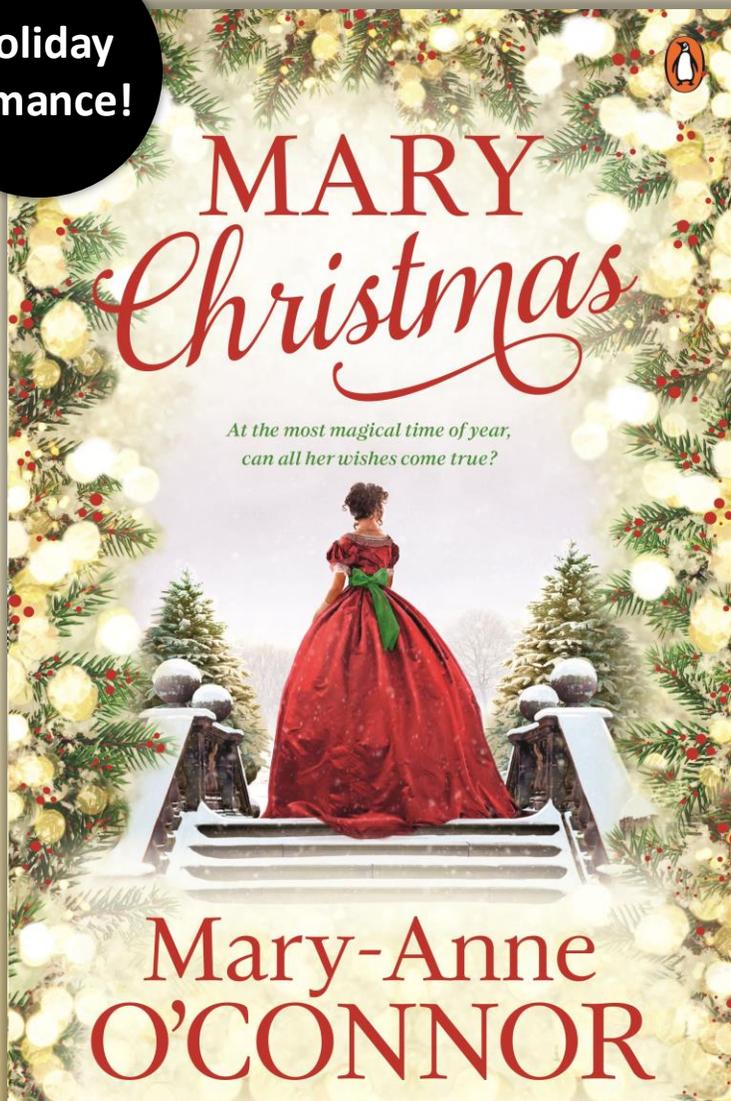
Once Upon a time (briefly) **RACHAEL JOHNS** was an English teacher, then her dreams of becoming a novelist came true. Now she spends her days writing romance and women’s fiction in the Swan Valley, Western Australia. Her book *The Patterson Girls* won the ABIA Award in 2016 for General Fiction and she has also won the prestigious Romance Writers of Australia RUBY Award twice.

ROMANCE





Holiday romance!



# Mary Christmas

## Mary-Anne O'Connor

- A charming holiday romance set in an age-old snow-covered English village.
- ‘So breathtakingly beautiful . . . Mary-Anne O’Connor truly is the Queen of Australian Historical Romance.’ GOODREADS
- ‘Beautiful, engaging storytelling.’ *SUNDAY TELEGRAPH*

At the most magical time of the year, will Mary choose independence or love?

It's 1909 and Mary Richards has worked hard to gain an education and become a teacher in her close-knit, picturesque village in the Cotswolds, but not everyone approves of her modern ways.

When her sister Emily becomes engaged to David Christmas, it seems fate will intervene in the form of the best man: his eligible brother Johnathon. Mary finds herself in danger of falling for this handsome, almost too perfect stranger, only married women have to give up their careers as soon as they're wed and there's no way Mary is going to sacrifice her dreams for a man.

Yet the ancient village of Bibury has a way of weaving its enchantments over them all, and as the winter snows fall and Emily's Christmas-Day wedding approaches, Mary isn't immune to the romance of the season. In the end she must decide whether she's ready to embrace love or not, and if she can truly have the best of both worlds on the eve of what could well be the most magical Christmas of them all.

'You need to find a way to have your independence and love too. A Christmas miracle.'



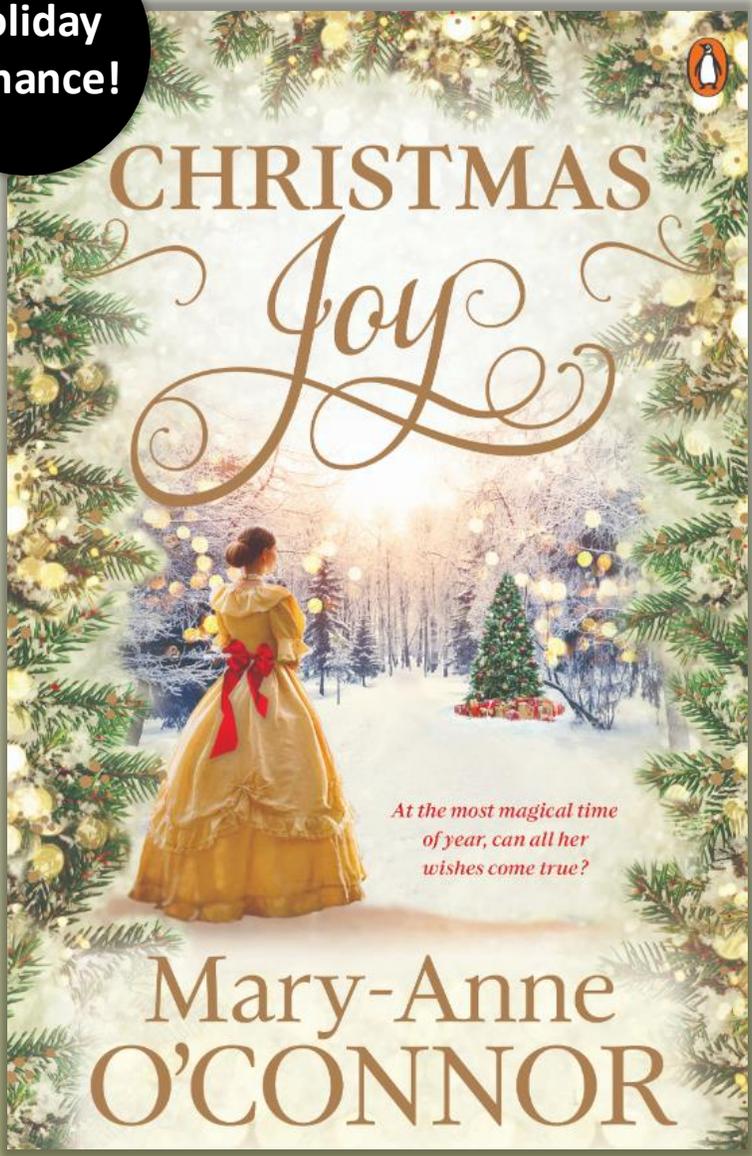
**MARY-ANNE O'CONNOR** has a combined arts education degree with specialities in environment, music and literature. After a successful copywriting and marketing career she now focuses on writing fiction and non-fiction as well as public speaking. Mary-Anne lives in a house overlooking her beloved bushland in northern Sydney with her husband Anthony and their two sons Jimmy and Jack.

OCT 2024 | Trade Paperback | 288pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

ROMANCE



**Holiday  
romance!**



NOV 2025 | Trade Paperback | 256pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

# Christmas Joy

## Mary-Anne O'Connor



- Another charming 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday romance from the author of *Mary Christmas*.
- A wholesome holiday romance drawing inspiration from classics like *Little Women*, *Pollyanna* and *Anne of Green Gables*, to weave a tale of optimism, kindness and selflessness – celebrating the true spirit of Christmas.
- ‘So breathtakingly beautiful.’ GOODREADS

Prudence Parker always considered her name to be a curse. Since the loss of her husband, she has been forced into a prudent life in every way and the Parker family have struggled to make ends meet. When Prudence named her daughter, Joy, it was in the hope that her life would be blessed with happiness.

When Joy is forced to leave school at a young age to help the family survive, she finds a way to see the positive side of things. She always tries to live up to her name, doing everything with joy, including working as a companion for Hyacinth Montague – a cantankerous woman as tight with money as she is with a kind word. Somehow, Joy manages to make herself indispensable to Hyacinth and soon finds herself in charge of Christmas at Highgrove.

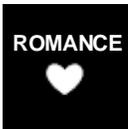
Joy is comfortable on the sidelines, quietly managing things from behind the scenes. However, Hyacinth’s disreputable rogue of a nephew, Peter Montague, seems determined to pull her into the spotlight.

As the snow falls on this picturesque village on Christmas Eve, Joy sprinkles her own brand of comfort and love on everyone around her, sacrificing her own heart in the process.

At this most joyful time of year, will Joy finally receive the gift of true love?



**MARY-ANNE O'CONNOR** has a combined arts education degree with specialities in environment, music and literature. After a successful copywriting and marketing career she now focuses on writing fiction and non-fiction as well as public speaking. Mary-Anne lives in a house overlooking her beloved bushland in northern Sydney with her husband Anthony and their two sons Jimmy and Jack.



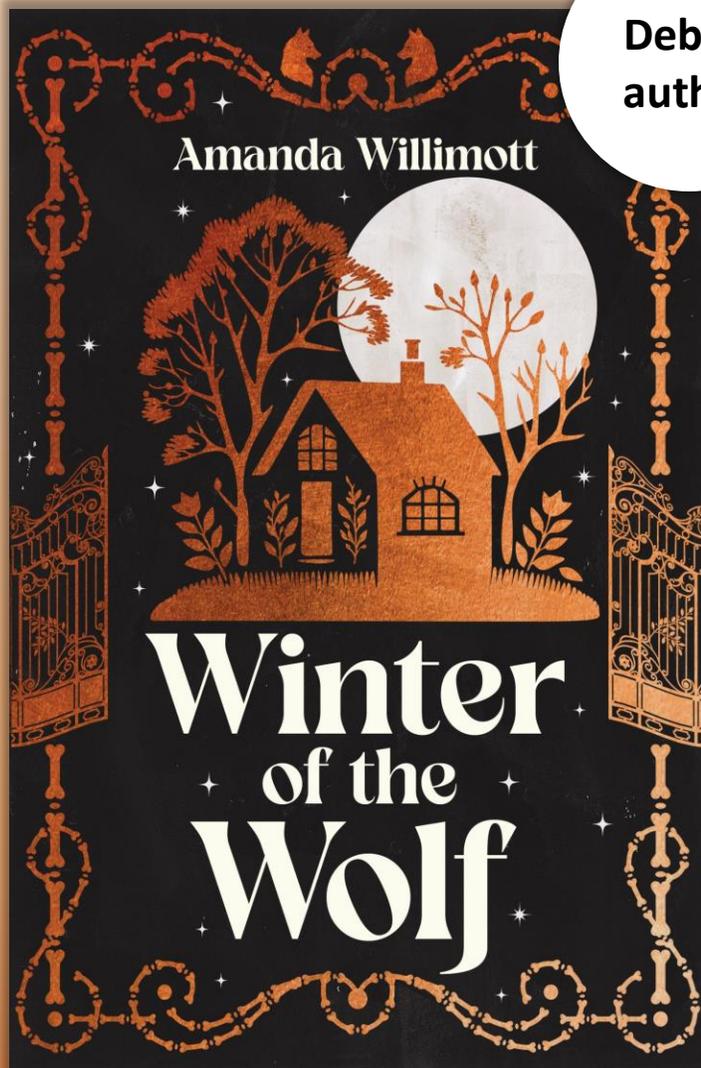


# FICTION

Historical  
Fiction



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



Debut author

# Winter of the Wolf

## Amanda Willimott

- Historical Fiction meets Fantasy in this unmissable debut, inspired by a notorious werewolf trial, with a blend of history, paranormal and feminist themes, and a moving queer romance.

---

### Eastern France. Winter. 1572.

When Sidonie's guardian dies, she flees Paris rather than submit to a forced marriage, seeking sanctuary in the home of her estranged aunt in Dole.

### A town consumed by fear and superstition.

Apolline left behind a violent and troubled past, hoping for a new life with her husband, where she can sell her herbs and assist women from the privacy of her forest home. But it is dangerous to be different, and as Sidonie and Apolline's lives become intertwined, they are soon both being hunted.

### The hunt for a werewolf.

Aspiring witch-hunter Pierre is drawn to Dole amid rumours of a werewolf hunting children. Desperate for respect and power, he allies himself with a priest who is fanning the flames of fear and hatred.

Set in a time when women's lives were not their own, and to be different was to be suspect, *Winter of the Wolf* is a sweeping tale of family secrets, betrayal and the abuse of power, the redeeming power of friendship, and finding your true home.



**AMANDA WILLIMOTT** writes historical fiction centring the experiences of women. She has always been captivated by history, mythology and folklore, which led to her pursuing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Anthropology with Honours in Anthropology, where she wrote her thesis on witchcraft and paganism. Her first novel, *Winter of the Wolf*, is based on a real werewolf trial that took place in eastern France in the winter of 1572-1573. When she's not researching, writing or editing, you can find her singing popular show tunes, reading from or adding to her to-read pile of books, or trying to find gluten-free bread that tastes like real bread. Amanda lives in Melbourne, Australia with a large, co-dependent rescue tabby named Titus.

AUG 2024 | Paperback | 368pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

HISTORICAL  
FANTASY



# The Occupation

## Chloe Adams

- Winner of the 2024 Penguin Literary Prize.
- A young Australian woman travels to Japan to join the Allied occupation force. There to rebuild services after the bombing of Hiroshima, she is confronted with moral ambiguity, and behaviours she has not encountered in her middle-class life. She must come face to face with the consequences of her own freedoms and transgressions.

In the autumn of 1949, two women convene in the parlour of an upmarket Melbourne hotel. At first glance, this is nothing more than a casual social engagement. But the miasma of ladies' perfume and clink of teacups hides something far bleaker. One woman, Tess, is married and childless, while the other, Mary, is unwed and pregnant. Over the course of the next thirty minutes, Mary agrees to a life-altering pact to hand over her child.

One year earlier . . . an Australian naval ship makes its way down Japan's astonishingly beautiful inland sea. It's destined for the ruined port of Kure where many thousands of Australians, working under the auspices of the Americans, have established an occupation of the Hiroshima prefecture. There, 29-year-old Mary Vaughan finds a carefree expat world where parties, picnics and touring are the norm, while the local people are diminished and dehumanised. Quickly though, Mary's idealised notion of the campaign falls apart, and she begins to wrestle with a growing uncertainty about the Allies' decision to drop the atom bomb.

It's in this context that Mary encounters Sullivan (Sully) Darling, an Australian journalist deployed to Japan. After a weekend trip to the mountains, they become lovers. But the relationship is borne from a mutual unease and as the pair confront moral ambiguity on a grand scale, Mary finds herself making more and more reckless decisions.

Once home, Mary feels the echo of occupation in her own life as she fights to keep her unborn child in a society hell-bent on possessing her.



**CHLOE ADAMS** is the winner of the Penguin Literary Prize 2024. She is a journalist and fiction writer and has been published widely by Australian news mastheads and literary journals. She holds a master's degree in Creative Writing and a Graduate Certificate of International and Community Development. Her love of literature was shaped by her mother who was an actress, playwright, and passionate second-hand bookstore owner. Chloe has lived in the UK, Timor-Leste and Adelaide, and now calls Naarm/Melbourne home.

DRAFT  
COVER

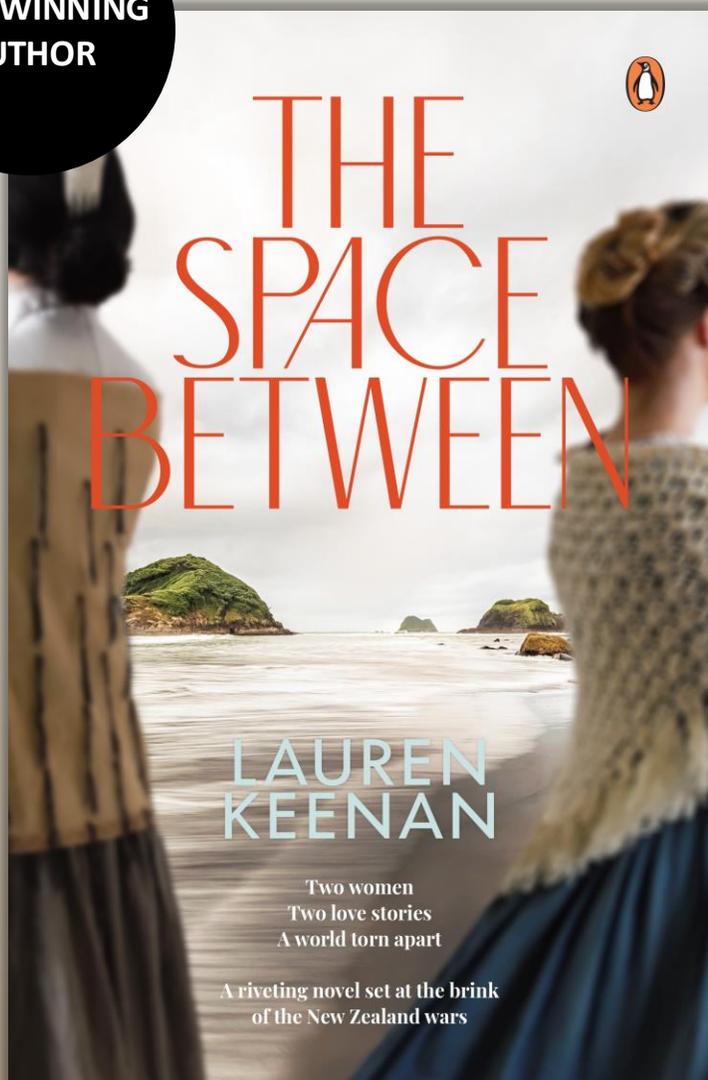


JUL 2025 | Trade Paperback | 320pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

HISTORICAL  
FICTION



PRIZE-WINNING  
AUTHOR



## The Space Between Lauren Keenan

- A gripping historical novel set amidst the New Zealand Wars in 1860.
- A story of the transformative power of hope, the unbreakable bonds of land and family, and the discovery of love in the least likely of places.
- A stunning breakout historical fiction writer, prize winning in other genres.

As English settlers wage war upon local tribes in colonial New Zealand, two women confront their pasts to survive the present.

Frances is an unmarried Londoner newly landed in New Zealand, 1860, at the dawn of the First Taranaki War. Once well-regarded, her family's fall from grace sees them struggling to learn the strange etiquette of settler life.

When Frances comes face-to-face with Henry White, the man who jilted her a decade earlier, he's standing outside Thorpe's General Store with a sack of flour in his arms. Henry is married now – to the proud and hardy Matāria, who is shunned by her family due to this controversial marriage.

As conflict between settlers and iwi rises, both women must find the courage to fight for what is right, even if it costs them everything they know. As their lives intersect in surprising and catastrophic ways, the question remains – will they ever belong, or do their fates lie in the uncomfortable space between?



**LAUREN KEENAN** (Te Āti Awa ki Taranaki) is a writer of creative non-fiction, novels, short stories and popular psychology. Lauren was a winner at the 2017 Pikihiua Awards for Māori writers and a finalist in the 2019 awards. She was also a participant in Te Papa Tupu mentoring programme. Her short stories have appeared in Huia Short Stories collections in 2015, 2017 and 2019. In 2020 her book *The 52 Week Project: How I Fixed My Life by Trying a New Thing Every Week for a Year* was published, and in 2022 her children's novel *Amorangi and Millie's Trip Through Time* was published. It was a finalist in the 2022 NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults and longlisted in the ARA Historical Novel Prize. It also won the 2023 Book Lovers Award. Lauren has a Master of Arts in Taranaki Māori History.

MAR 2024 | Trade Paperback | 320pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

HISTORICAL  
FICTION

# FICTION

---

Crime



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



# When the Deep, Dark Bush Swallows You Whole

Geoff Parkes

- A missing woman . . . a townful of suspects. The haunting debut crime novel that transports the reader back to the 1980s and a small coastal town in New Zealand.
- Set in the 1980's tapping into the current popularity of late 20<sup>th</sup> century nostalgia.
- Rural noir set in New Zealand with a Finnish main character – Jane Harper meets Henning Mankel.

---

**She wasn't the first and she wouldn't be the last; swallowed into the deep, dark recesses of the King Country bush, never to be seen again.**

It's January 1983. During his university summer break, Ryan Bradley returns to the remote town of Nashville in New Zealand's rugged King Country.

It's a bittersweet trip: he's working long, punishing hours as a woolpresser, he needs to sell his late mother's house, and he's increasingly feeling like an outcast in his childhood town.

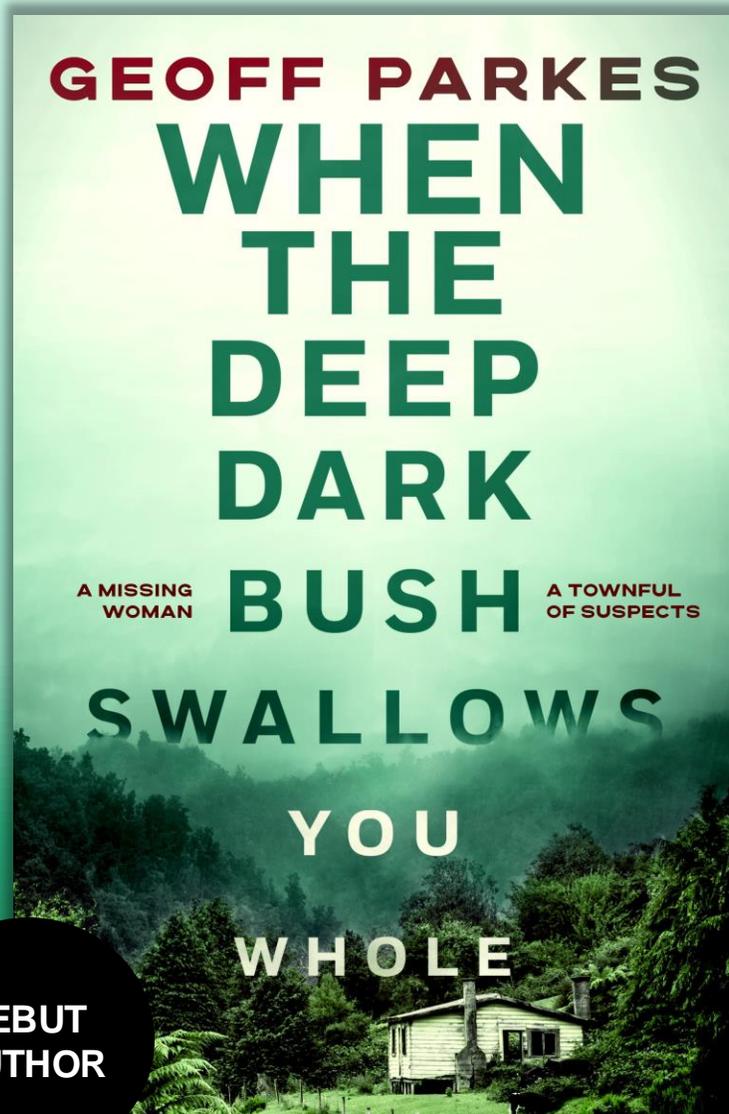
But mostly he's haunted by memories of Sanna Sovernen, a Finnish backpacker and his secret lover, who worked with him in the shearing shed the summer before - then vanished without trace.

Now Sanna's sister Emilia has arrived from Finland, determined to get answers - and as he's the workmate who reported Sanna missing, she wants Ryan's help. Because Emilia knows her sister was not the first female traveller in the area to disappear . . .

A stunning, atmospheric debut crime novel and a very exciting debut.



Born and raised in rural New Zealand, **GEOFF PARKES** now lives in Melbourne. For the last twelve years he's written a weekly opinion column for The Roar, Australia's leading on-line sports website. This is his first novel.



**DEBUT  
AUTHOR**

FEB 2025 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

CRIME



FROM THE  
AUTHOR OF  
*THE FALL  
BETWEEN*

Five friends went up.  
Four came down.



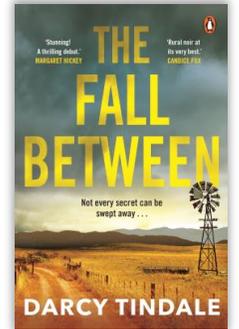
# BURNING MOUNTAIN

DARCY TINDALE

APR 2025 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Burning Mountain Darcy Tindale

- Detective Rebecca Giles returns in Darcy Tindale's second crime novel.
- 'Rural noir at it's very best.' Candice Fox
- 'Unpredictable, authentic, a thrilling debut.' Margaret Hickey
- 'Full of heart while keeping you on the edge of your seat.' Kyle Perry



**'It's like Oliver Lavine has been forgotten. Or the people who know something have chosen to forget.'**

In April 2006, fifteen-year-old Oliver went hiking to the lookout on Burning Mountain – and vanished without trace.

His schoolfriends – Bob, Bell, Phil and Paul – were the last ones to see him on the trek, yet the teenagers were never able to explain his disappearance.

Almost twenty years later, Detective Rebecca Giles is called to bushland on nearby Mount Wingen. There a skull has been dug up, reviving the mystery that has haunted the Upper Hunter area for years.

Giles is convinced that they have finally found the missing boy, and that his four friends – all now in their mid-thirties – have always known much more than they revealed. In particular, about the argument that caused Oliver to head down the mountain on his own.

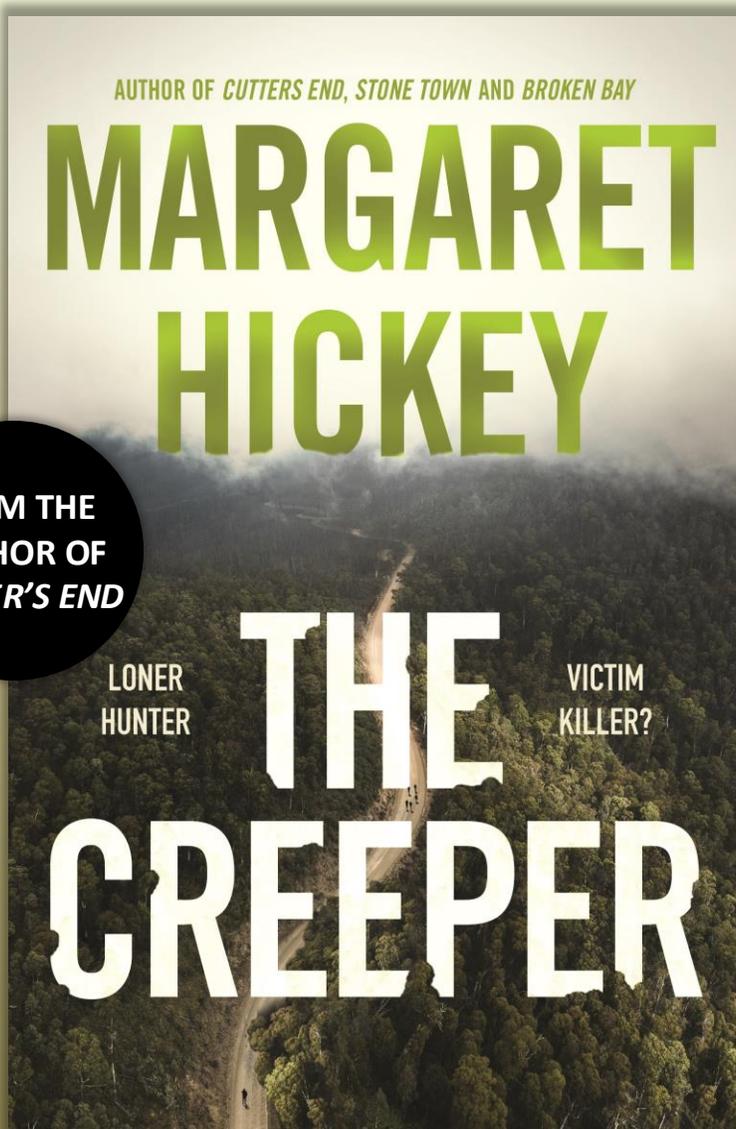
But when Detective Rebecca Giles discusses the case with her father, retired Superintendent Benjamin Giles, another suspect is thrown into the mix. One that for Rebecca is uncomfortably close to home . . .



**DARCY TINDALE** is an actor, author, theatresports player and director, and has appeared in television commercials, film and on stage. She has written comedy for radio, stage, media personalities, comedians, and theatre restaurants. Her short stories, plays and poems have been published in anthologies, journals, and magazines. She is also the author of *The Fall Between*, which introduced readers to Detective Rebecca Giles.

CRIME





# The Creeper

## Margaret Hickey

- The chilling new mystery novel from the award-winning author of bestsellers *Cutters End*, *Stone Town* and *Broken Bay*.

Victim . . . or killer?

For the last decade, the small mountain town of Edenville in Victoria's high country has been haunted by the horrific murders of five hikers up on Jagged Ridge.

Also found dead near the scene was Bill 'Creeper' Durant, a bushland loner, expert deer-hunter, and a man with a known reputation for stalking campers . . .

Conclusion: murder-suicide. Case closed.

But, as the ten-year anniversary of the massacre draws near, Detective Constable Sally White – the only officer at Edenville's modest police station – finds herself drawn into the dark world of the notorious Durant family.

Lex Durant has started to publicly protest his brother's guilt and accuse the police of persecution.

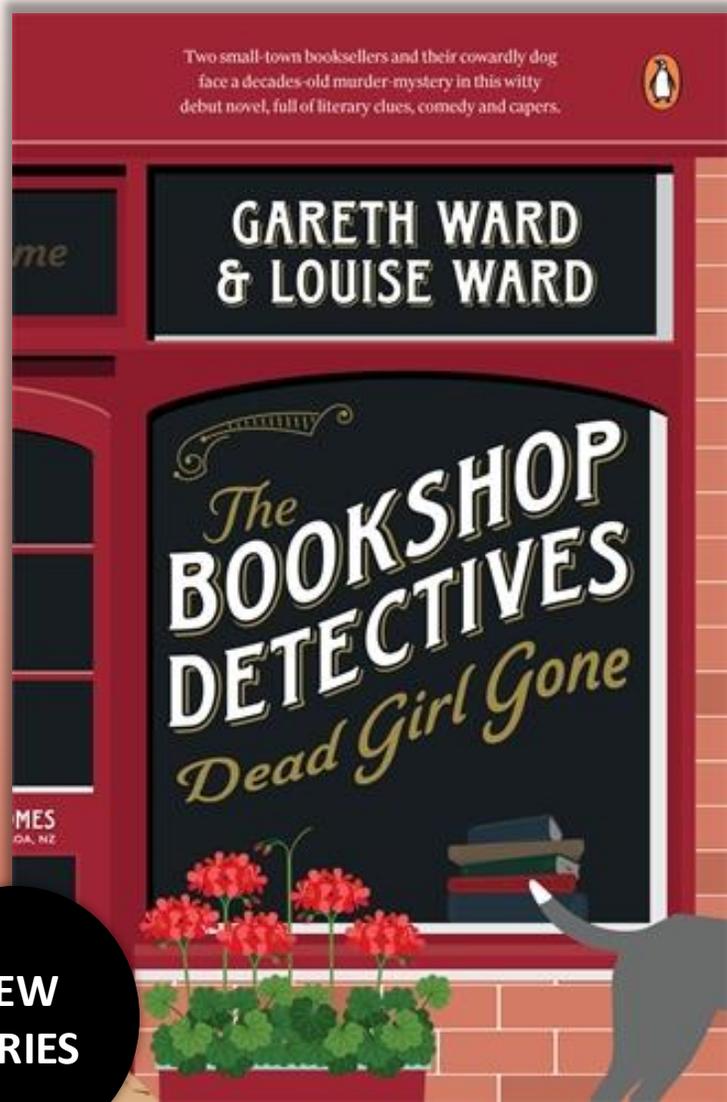
As Sally combs the investigation to prove him wrong, it becomes all too clear that each murdered hiker had skeletons in their own closet - and possible enemies in their past . . .



**Margaret Hickey** is an award-winning author and playwright from North-East Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and is deeply interested in rural lives and communities. *Cutters End* won the BAD Sydney Danger Prize and was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for Best Debut.

Image © Charlotte Guest

JULY 2024 | Trade Paperback | 352pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



# The Bookshop Detectives: Dead Girl Gone

## Gareth Ward & Louise Ward

- *Diary of a Bookseller* meets *Thursday Murder Club* in this witty and charming cosy crime debut from real life bookshops owners (and husband and wife team), Gareth Ward and Louise Ward.
- Gareth and Louise are both UK born and previously worked in the police force.
- Two small-town booksellers (and their cowardly dog) solve a decades-old murder-mystery in this witty debut novel, full of literary clues, sparkling dialogue, and comedic insights into the world of bookshops.

Introducing . . . the Bookshop Detectives!

When a mystery parcel arrives at Sherlock Tomes bookshop in small-town Havelock North, New Zealand, husband-and-wife owners Garth and Eloise (and their petrified pooch, Stevie) are drawn into the baffling case of a decades-old missing schoolgirl.

Intrigued by the puzzling, bookish clues the two ex-cops soon become tangled up in a web of crime, drugs, and floral decapitations, while endeavouring to pull off the international celebrity book launch of the century.

With their beloved shop on the chopping block, and the sinister suspect who forced them to run away from Blighty re-emerging from the shadows, have Garth and Eloise Sherlock finally met their Moriarty?



**GARETH AND LOUISE WARD** are the real-life owners of independent bookshop Wardini Books in New Zealand. Louise is known among the staff as Fearless Leader and Gareth is the author of the *Tarquin the Honest* and *The Rise of the Remarkables* book series, as well as being the bestselling and award-winning author of *The Traitor and the Thief* and *The Clockill and the Thief*.

Gareth and Louise met at police training college in the UK and are both ex-coppers. Louise has one murder arrest to her name, is an English Literature Graduate and as an ex-teacher inflicted Shakespeare on inner-city twelve-year-olds. She regularly reviews books on RNZ. Both are obsessed with their rescue dog Stevie, avoid housework and gardening, and live in the cultural centre of the universe that is Hawke's Bay, Aotearoa New Zealand. The *Bookshop Detectives* is Gareth and Louise's first book together.

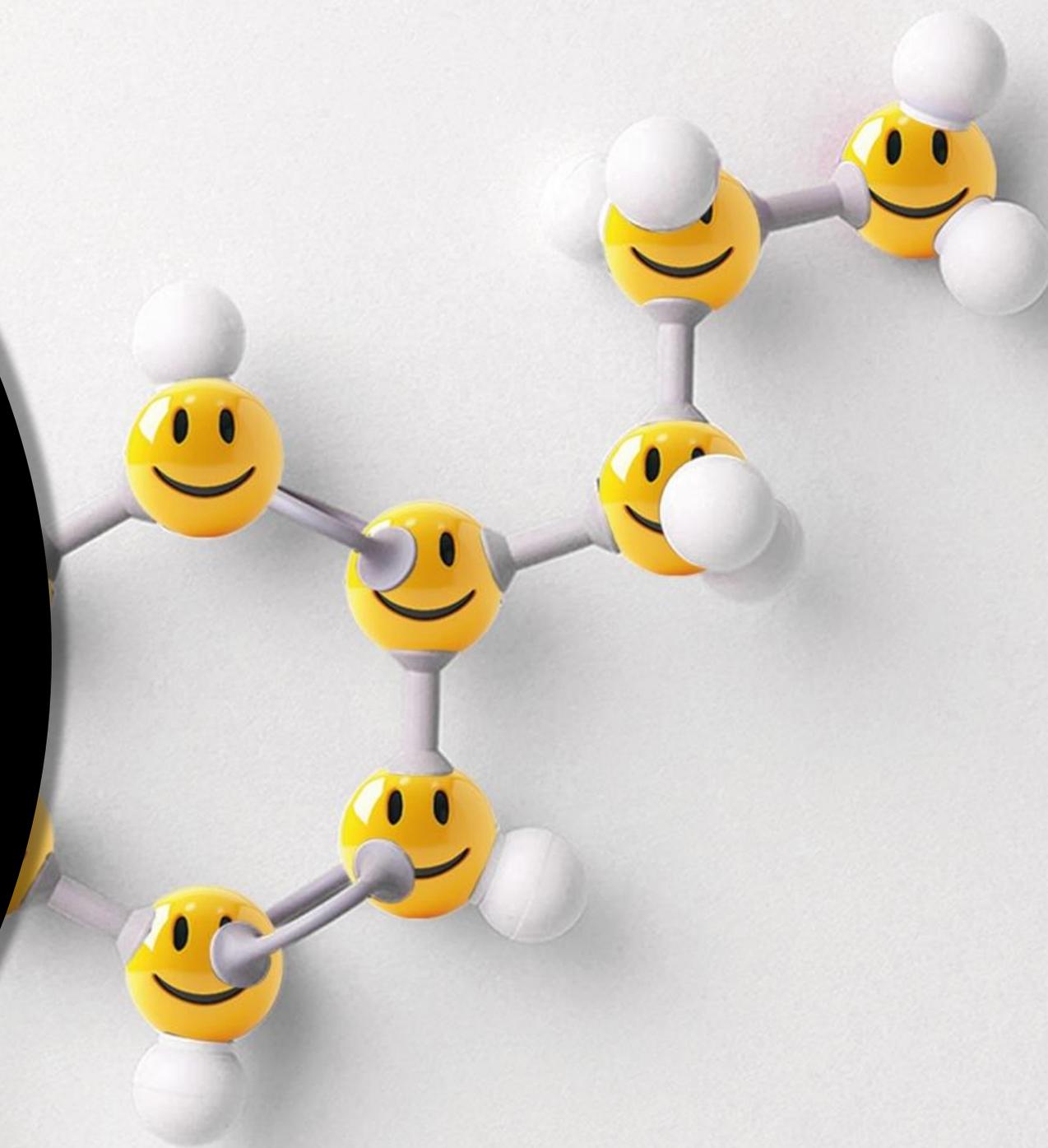
JUL 2024 | Trade Paperback | 336pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

CRIME



# NON-FICTION

Self-Help



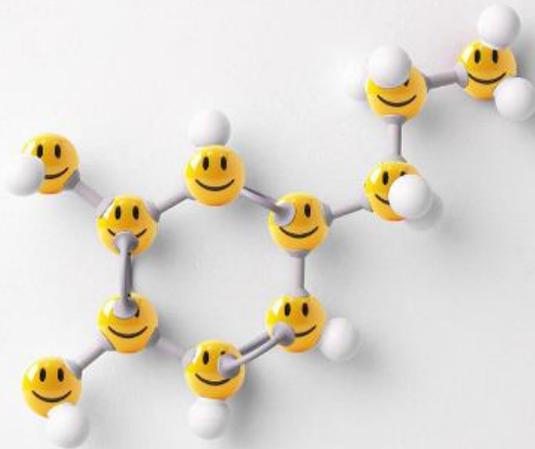
Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand

From the  
founder of the  
Australian  
Institute of  
Human  
Wellness



# The Dopamine Brain

Your Science-backed Guide to  
Balancing Pleasure and Purpose



Dr Anastasia Hronis

SEP 2024 | Trade Paperback | 224pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



## The Dopamine Brain Dr Anastasia Hronis

- Feel empowered to make both pleasurable and purposeful choices, leading to a full, rich and meaningful life!
- Translation Rights sold to China (China Machine Press Co., Ltd.).

Sex, shopping, eating, social media, drugs and gambling are just some of the things that can trigger a release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter in the brain that is involved in the brain's reward system. The overindulgence of certain pursuits can disrupt the level of dopamine in our brain, which can steer us towards habits that do not align with our core values.

Fortunately, *The Dopamine Brain*, by clinical psychologist and founder of the Australian Institute of Human Wellness Dr Anastasia Hronis, offers a clear and practical way to help people find balance and harmony in their lives.

The book is divided into three parts, each made up of chapters that explore a specific topic in a clear, understandable way, weaving in the latest research in neuroscience and psychology, case studies and reflective questions. By the end of this guide, Dr Hronis will help you feel empowered to make both pleasurable and purposeful choices, leading to a full, rich and meaningful life.



**DR ANASTASIA HRONIS** is a clinical psychologist and founder of the Australian Institute for Human Wellness in Sydney. Her main area of research is in addictions, with a specific focus on gambling. Anastasia also provides individual psychological therapy, group therapy programs, coaching courses and workshops. She has wide range of experience working in both the public and private sectors. She has presented at many national and international conferences and has published research in top rated journals. She also lectures and researches at the University of Technology Sydney.

SELF-  
HELP

The Queen of  
Confidence

**ERIKA  
CRAMER**

**BECOMING  
MAGNETIC**

**COVER TO BE REVEALED**



JAN 2025 | Trade Paperback | 256pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



## Becoming Magnetic

### Erika Cramer

- Magnetism is in the zeitgeist. Forthcoming books show a demand in this space – *The Magnetic Mind* by Rochelle Fox and *You Are a Magnet* by Amber Lyon. Erika’s approach is less spiritual, more straight-talking and grounded.
- Think Gabrielle Bernstein x Mark Manson. Erika is charismatic, and refreshingly down-to-earth and plain-speaking.

Magnetism is the harmonious blend of essence, energy and presence that radiates from the core of your being.

It’s the illuminating force fuelled by authenticity, charisma and personal power that not only attracts and draws in others but also inspires and uplifts them.

In this empowering guide from internationally acclaimed confidence coach Erika Cramer, you’ll learn to tap into the five principles of magnetism:

1. Self-mastery
2. Outward expression
3. Connection with others
4. Magnetic effect
5. Radiant aura

Complete with coaching exercises, and conveyed in Erika’s no-bullshit style, this is a down-to-earth toolkit for creating incredible energy and charisma that will transform your life.

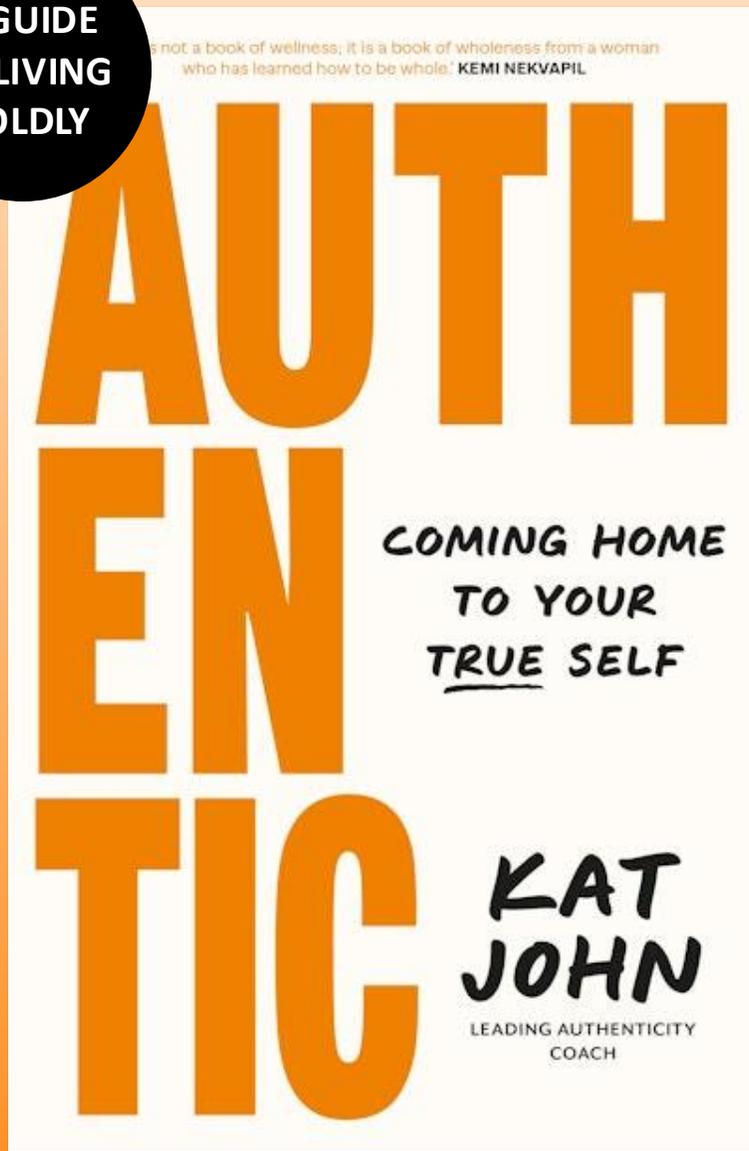


**ERIKA CRAMER** is renowned as The Queen of Confidence, a global leader in the world of confidence coaching, empowering women to reclaim their lives. She is an award-winning life coach and psychotherapist and to date, her programs and podcast *The Confidence Chronicles* have transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of women globally.

**SELF-  
HELP**



A GUIDE  
TO LIVING  
BOLDLY



AUG 2024 | Trade Paperback | 240pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Authentic: Coming Home to Your True Self

### Kat John

- A guide to getting back in touch with your true nature and what matters to you, so you can live as who you were really meant to be.
- Kat has a strong online following, with 533k Instagram followers, and hosts the highly successful podcast *Real Raw Relatable*.

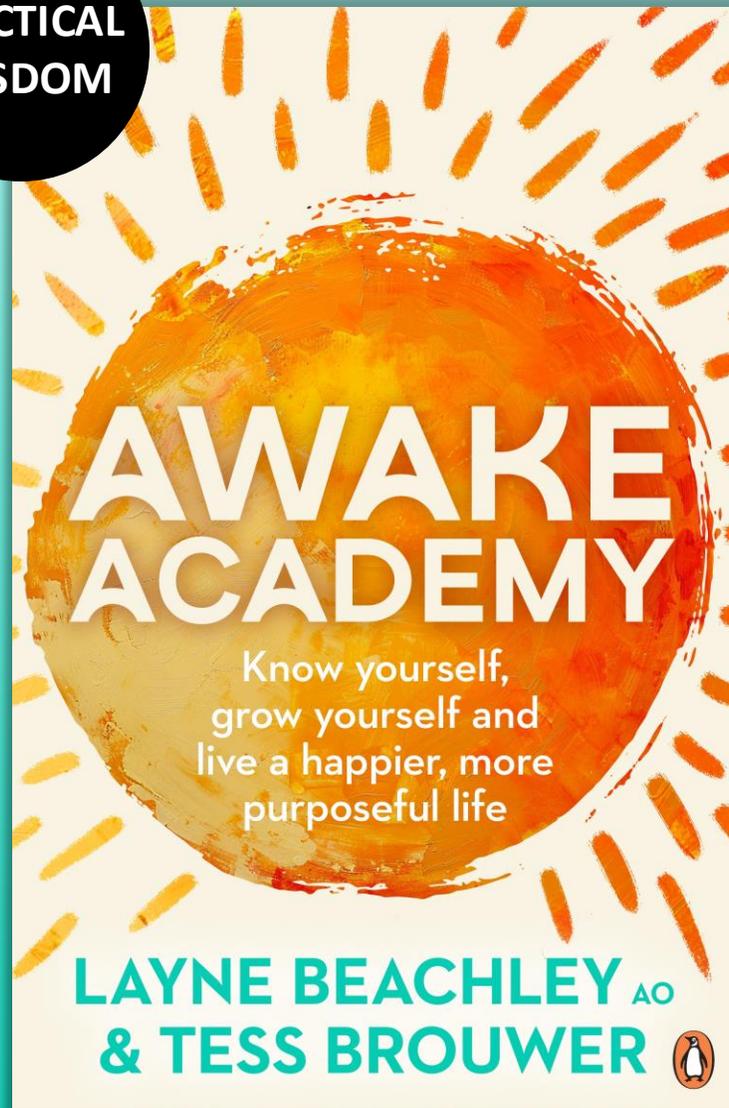
Kat John is a coach, keynote speaker and podcaster with irresistible energy – loved as much for her fun and uplifting dance videos as for her candid and raw insights about her own growth and healing. Having overcome her own struggles, from eating disorder and drug addiction to chronic pain and an unexpected brain surgery, Kat has walked the talk of learning how to find and live as her real self. And she's on a mission to help others do the same.

Many women turn to Kat for her advice when they reach a crisis point in their thirties and forties. This inspiring guide to cultivating authenticity will be the toolkit they can turn to in order to reclaim who they are and what they want.



**KAT JOHN** is a catalyst for transformation, empowering individuals to shed societal shackles and reclaim their authenticity. As an authenticity coach and host of the *Real Raw Relatable* podcast, she guides others on a journey of self-discovery, challenging limiting beliefs and encouraging radical self-acceptance. With her signature 'zerofks' approach, Kat emboldens her audience to break free from conformity, embracing their true essence with unwavering courage. Through her work, she ignites a ripple effect of empowerment, inspiring others to live boldly, authentically and unapologetically. Kat is not just a coach; she is a beacon of light, guiding souls back to their innate power and helping them to lead lives of profound purpose and fulfilment. Image © Alexandra Drewniak

PRACTICAL  
WISDOM



NOV 2024 | Trade Paperback | 336pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



# Awake Academy

## Layne Beachley AO & Tess Brouwer

- This book will enable you to unlock your internal GPS. It's your complete toolkit to overhaul your mindset and radically transform your life.
- A self-help guide perfect for readers of *The Resilience Project* and *The Mindful High Performer*.

Are you feeling tired, lost or in need of a boost? Are you ready to feel more centred, connected and confident?

Layne Beachley, one of the world's most successful surfers, and Tess Brouwer, once Virgin Australia's Head of Partnerships, created Awake Academy to deliver world-class transformational programs to people and businesses globally. Their lived-and-learned method has since helped thousands wake up with a renewed sense of purpose and deeper self-love, even – often especially – following heartbreak, loss and trauma.

Structured by the three main pillars – Awareness, Alignment and Awakening – this book features their inspiring personal stories along with easy-to-apply positive psychology principles, and practical exercises to boost your energy, emotional intelligence (EQ) and empathy.

With their guidance, you will develop a deeper understanding of yourself while gaining skills to combat uncertainty, strengthen connections, boost your confidence to embrace challenges, and live a happier, more purposeful life.



**LAYNE BEACHLEY AO** is a seven-times world surfing champion and mental wellness advocate. Layne brings her unique insights to Awake Academy. Having battled self-doubt, chronic fatigue and debilitating injuries during her surfing career, she knows the importance of mental resilience, determination and overcoming challenges. Layne's journey from adversity to greatness inspires her to guide others on their path to authenticity and empowerment.



**TESS BROUWER** is the CEO of Awake Academy and a practitioner of positive psychology and wellbeing. A corporate athlete and mental wellness mentor, Tess has deep understanding of corporate dynamics and mental wellbeing. With a background in rebuilding her life from a life-changing spinal cord and brain injury, Tess specialises in fostering resilience, mental fitness, and effective communication within corporate and home environments.

SELF-  
HELP



**SUSIE BURRELL & LEANNE WARD**

Leading Australian dietitians and hosts of *The Nutrition Couch* podcast

# RESET NOURISH BURN

The 3 dietitian-backed principles  
for lasting weight control

EASY-TO-MAKE  
RECIPIES



SEP 2024 | Trade Paperback | 288pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Reset, Nourish, Burn Susie Burrell & Leanne Ward

- ***Reset, Nourish, Burn*: The three dietitian-backed principles for lasting weight control.**
- **Designed by dietitians, discover this accessible guide to the three simple principles that will help you manage your weight with ease – for good.**
- **Practical, realistic, supportive and informative, *Reset, Nourish, Burn* is all the information and motivation you need to get back in control of your health for good.**

Do you dream of taking charge of your weight once and for all?

Maintaining a healthy weight is one of the foundations of optimal health. And, as dietitians Susie Burrell and Leanne Ward know from more than 35 years of combined clinical experience, for lasting weight loss, energy and vitality you need to do three things:

- Reset your mindset around ‘dieting’ and change your relationship to food.
- Nourish your body using strong foundational principles.
- Burn unwanted fat using four simple hacks that will become part of your daily routine.

This science-backed guide is complete with easy-to-make, nutritionally balanced recipes and meal plans plus helpful case studies that illustrate the powerful effects of Susie and Leanne’s dietary coaching.



**SUSIE BURRELL** is a Sydney-based leading dietitian with qualifications in nutrition and psychology. She specialises in weight loss and the dietary management of hormone disorders in women. She is the author of *Losing the Last 5kg*, *Lose Weight Fast*, and *The Monday to Friday Diet*.

**LEANNE WARD** is a nutritionist, sports dietitian and influencer. She specialises in coaching women about emotional eating, gut health, and sustainable fat loss. She has twelve years of clinical nutrition and dietetics experience in both public hospitals and private practice.



THE  
MIDWIFE  
MUMMA

EVERYTHING new  
mums need to know  
for the crucial first  
12 weeks after birth

# the fourth trimester

Amelia  
Lamont

THE  
MIDWIFE MUMMA

MAR 2025 | Trade Paperback | 304pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## The Fourth Trimester Amelia Lamont

- A must-have guide to the all-important and often neglected first twelve weeks after your baby is born by midwife, mother and certified sleep consultant Amelia Lamont (aka The Midwife Mumma).

In her authentic and down-to-earth voice Amelia will guide new mums through this time of great physical and emotional change. After all the build-up and focus on pregnancy and birth, the fourth trimester is often swept aside.

However, as every new mum knows, the first twelve weeks after birth is possibly the most challenging and important part of becoming a mum. Honest and unfiltered, Amelia's professional and personal experience will support mums with humour and heart as they adjust to life as a mum.



**AMELIA LAMONT** is a midwife, lactation and sleep consultant, and entrepreneur. She has been termed 'out there and real' by her purchasers and a 'sleep and baby whisperer' by her clients after selling close to 10,000 guides that educate women and their partners about pregnancy, birth, sleep and beyond.

Amelia started her career in midwifery almost ten years ago, but soon realised there is a gap in the market for help for new families and babies that extends beyond the hospital and into the fourth trimester. After attending a sleep school facility with her first child, she naturally went on to assist thousands of families after certifying herself as a sleep consultant and assisting them via her social media platforms which resulted in well rested, happier family units. Today, her knowledge extends well beyond sleep and midwifery practice with recently becoming a certified IBCLC consultant. Her passion is helping ease the burden that a challenging pregnancy may bring along by ensuring families are well educated about their birth, the postnatal period, sleep and beyond. When Amelia is not sharing her wealth of knowledge with her clientele or chasing her kids in and out of the car you will find her front and centre of her Instagram account giving a frank account of the day that was. From the highs and lows of motherhood, Amelia has no filter when it comes to sharing her life with the wider audience, and she wouldn't have it any other way.



COVER  
COMING  
SOON

# BROKEN BRAINS

Jamila Rizvi  
&  
Rosie Waterland

MAY 2025 | Trade Paperback | 320pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Broken Brains Jamila Rizvi & Rosie Waterland

- *Broken Brains* is a generous, sometimes funny, sometimes brutal insight into the lives of people whose brains betrayed them but who lived to tell the tale.

**Jamila Rizvi** was 31 years old when doctors diagnosed the rare brain tumour she'd unknowingly had since birth. At the time, Jamila assumed the pain and shock of that day couldn't be equalled. She was wrong. What followed were years of surgeries, radiation treatments and visits to the emergency department, along with the accumulation of complex disabilities that changed Jamila's brain and body forever.

**Rosie Waterland** doesn't have a 'diagnosis day' story because her broken brain is the result of childhood trauma, abuse and neglect. Mental illness has influenced every aspect of Rosie's life, shaping her relationships, career and body, as much as her brain.

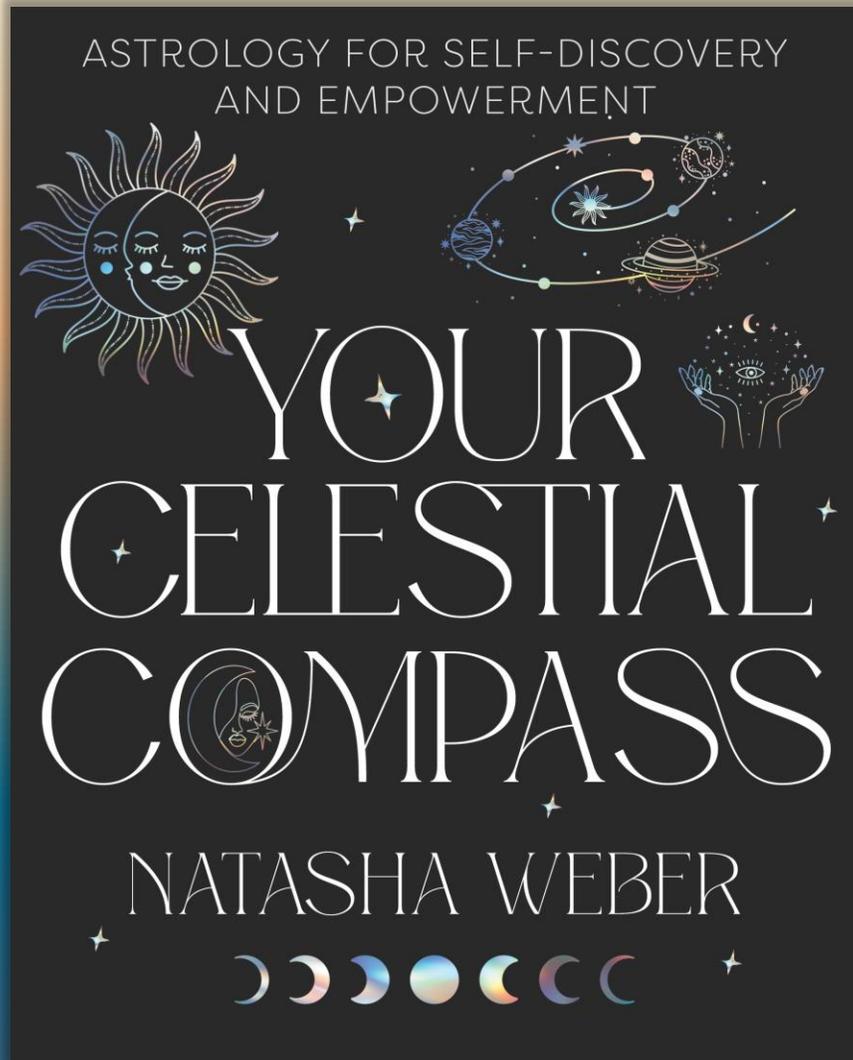
In this honest and revealing memoir, Jamila and Rosie share their parallel experiences of becoming and being sick, alongside those of others who've been there before. Together, they ask why we still take mental illness less seriously than physical illness and what it would mean for that to change.



**JAMILA RIZVI** is the author of the bestselling *Not Just Lucky*, a career manifesto for millennial women, and *The Motherhood*, an anthology of letters about life with a newborn. Jamila is Editor-at-Large of the Nine Network's *Future Women*, host of their podcast *Future Women Weekly* and weekly columnist for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. She is also a regular commentator on *The Project*, *Today*, *The Drum* and *Q+A*, and an occasional host on ABC Radio Melbourne.



**ROSE WATERLAND** is an author, columnist, screenwriter and comedian. Her first book, *The Anti-Cool Girl*, was a critically acclaimed national bestseller. Her second book, *Every Lie I've Ever Told*, published in 2017 also went on to become a national bestseller. She has since co-hosted two award-winning podcasts, *My Mum Says My Memoir Is A Lie* and *Just the Gist*.



OCT 2024 | Hardback | 384pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Your Celestial Compass Astrology for self-discovery and empowerment Natasha Weber

- Unlock the power of astrology to understand yourself, your relationships and your soul's purpose.
- For newbies and astrology Buffs alike! Natasha's warm, clear, accessible explanations are perfect for newbies who may only know their star sign, and her knowledge of birth charts, moon signs, rising signs, cusps, compatibility and cosmic events such as Saturn return and Mercury retrograde will satisfy even the most enthusiastic astrology devotee!

Award-winning astrologer Natasha Weber (also known as AstroTash) is your guide to unravelling the secrets of your astrological blueprint. With her down-to-earth stellar insights, Natasha unpacks the Zodiac signs, explores the mysteries of the Moon, clarifies cusp signs, and demystifies those challenging celestial shifts (Mercury retrograde, anyone?) so you can harness the knowledge of the cosmos for greater personal growth and success.

*Your Celestial Compass* is your essential astrological guidebook to help you take on life's pitfalls and pressures, amplify your strengths, and decode the magnificent cosmic puzzle that is you.

Empower yourself with the ancient wisdom of astrology and steer your course by the stars.



**NATASHA WEBER** has more than twenty years of experience in astrology and is a Professional Member of the Australian Academy of Astrology and Cosmobiology (PMAAAC), as well as a Member of the American Federation of Astrologers (MAFA) and the Federation of Australian Astrologers. Notably, she is a recipient of the prestigious AAAC Diploma, in recognition of her significant contribution to astrological research.

Natasha is the Resident Astrologer for Channel 7's The Morning Show and horoscope columnist for Marie Claire Australia and Mamamia. A keynote speaker for Soul Star, Natasha's insights and predictions have also been published in Body+Soul, news.com.au, Elle and the Herald Sun, and her personal story has featured in Forbes.



# NON-FICTION

Food & Drink



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand





From the creator of the internet's favourite cookies!

# BAKE WITH



# BROOKI

BROOKE BELLAMY

OCT 2024 | 265x205mm HB | 320pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Bake with Brooki Brooke Bellamy

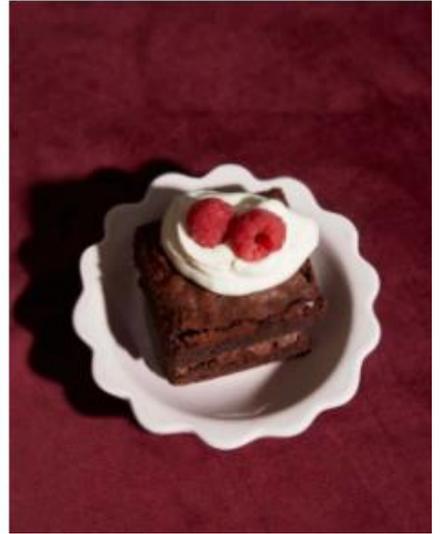
- A stunning book of bakes by Brooke, owner of virally popular Brooki Bakehouse, beloved for its sellout iconic cookies, heart-shaped celebration cakes and so much more.
- With 1.8M Followers on TikTok, 695K on Instagram and 345K subscribers on YouTube and a newsletter with 58K subscribers, Brooke has a loyal and engaged online community and ships orders globally.
- Brooke's online announcement resulted in over 6K pre-orders, practically overnight!



**BROOKE BELLAMY** is the owner of Brooki's Bakehouse. Before following her dream of owning an online bakery, Brooke was travelling the world in search of the best bakeries to bring together ideas from around the globe. Brooke's first book, *World of Wanderlust*, was inspired by her travel blog of the same name.

Brooke has amassed an incredible following online – including lots of followers from around the world who buy cookies from Brooki's Bakehouse for international shipping.

FOOD  
&  
DRINK





TikTok sensation!

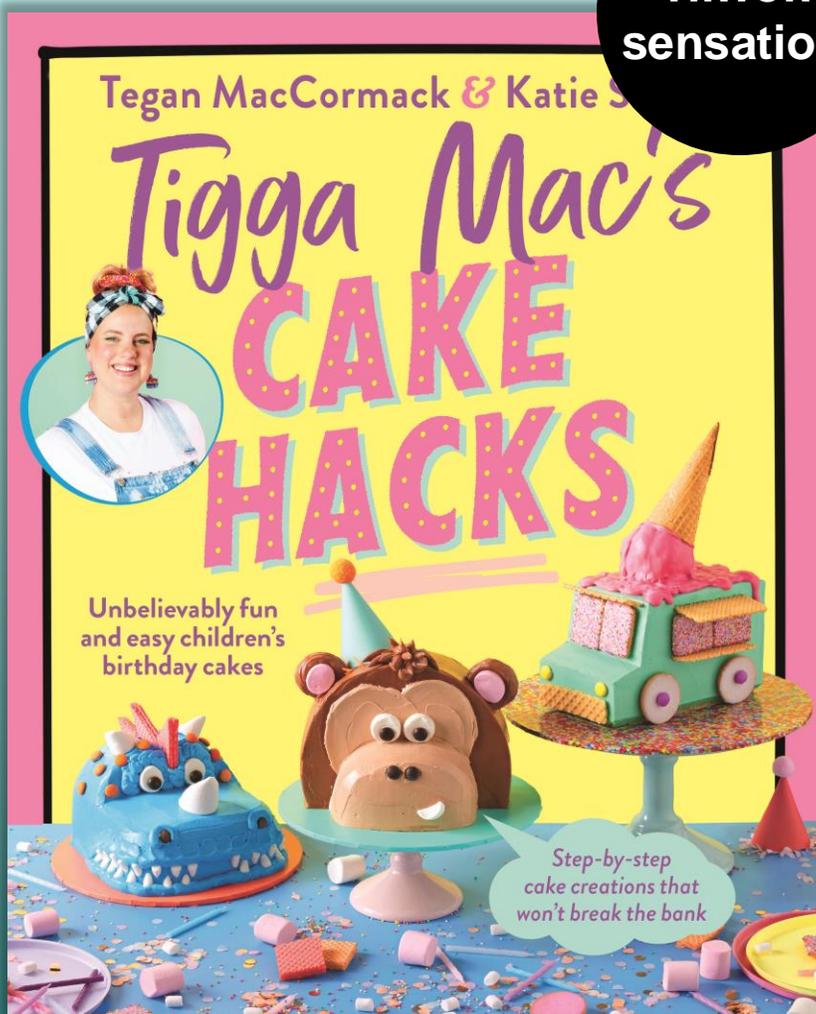
# Tigga Mac's Cake Hacks

## Tegan MacCormack

- The ultimate DIY guide to cake decorating – a no-nonsense, simple, affordable approach to creating the centrepiece to any kids' celebration.
- UK + Commonwealth English Language rights sold (Ebury).
- Tigga has 1.8M TikTok followers, 855K YouTube Followers and 442K Instagram followers.

Tigga has over two million online followers worldwide who love her creative and colourful cake designs, and now she's on a mission to bring these showstoppers to families around Australia and beyond with this book.

There will be recipes for her ultimate sponges and icings for those who wish to bake from scratch, as well as decorating magic. Even a readymade sponge cake from the supermarket can be transformed into something that will make a child's special day!



SEP 2024 | 260x210mm PB | 224pp  
US & TRANSLATION RIGHTS



**TIGGA MAC** is an Aussie cake decorator who has become a viral phenomenon for her incredible decorating skills and iconic voiceovers. Tigga created the perfect hook in her online content with her signature catch phrase 'Okie Dokie,' and her social media audience has grown into a global following of over two million people across multiple platforms. Image © Tegan MacCormack

FOOD & DRINK



# NON-FICTION

Memoir & Biography



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



**HIGHLY  
ANTICIPATED  
SEQUEL**

**The Lucky  
Son**

OCT 2026 | Trade Paperback | 448pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

# The Lucky Son: The Sequel to Mao's Last Dancer

## Li Cunxin

- The highly anticipated follow up to one of the world's best-selling memoirs of all time!
- *Mao's Last Dancer* was published into over 20 territories and was adapted into a blockbuster film.
- 'This may well be the last time we see each other – go and live your good life in Australia. You were always our hope and we are so proud of all your success. You are our lucky son.'

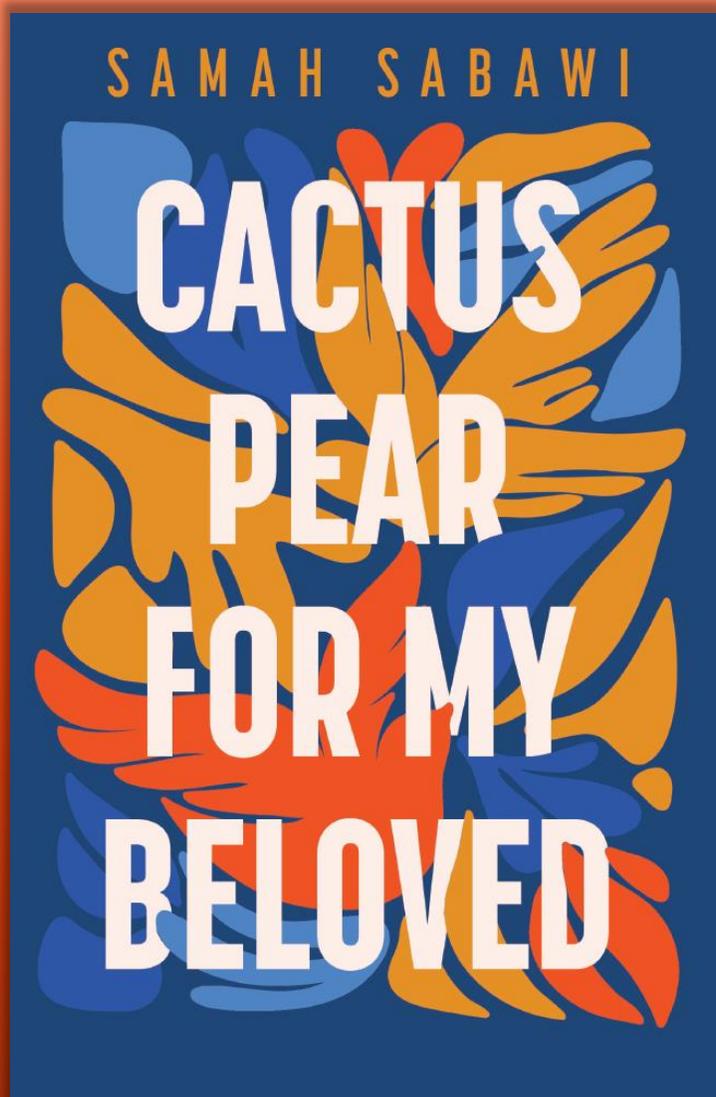
Picking up the story in 1988, where *Mao's Last Dancer* left off, Li has at last been able to return to China after his earlier defection had denied him that opportunity. He and Mary are at the top of their game working with the world's best choreographers at Houston Ballet when devastating circumstances lead Mary to walk away from her career. They relocate to Melbourne where Li must prove himself with the Australian Ballet and Australian audiences. Their star-filled lives are now very different as they face challenges they could not have foreseen.

From here, Li takes readers on this new journey, from the struggle of his early days as a new father in a new country, through a dramatic switch in careers to enable him to better provide for his growing family as well as his family in China via stockbroking, through a breakdown that led to the writing of his first book, and from there to the speaking circuit and the movie that followed and, ultimately to a return to his first love, the ballet world.

By the end of the book we have come to see that whatever happened through Li's life, serendipity would step in and draw him back to what he was best at and what he loved most, and we see the incredible legacy.



**Li Cunxin** AO was born in 1961 in the Li Commune, near the city of Qingdao on the coast of north-east China. The sixth of seven sons in a poor rural family, Li's peasant life in Chairman Mao's communist China changed dramatically when, at the age of eleven, he was chosen by Madame Mao's cultural advisers to become a student at the Beijing Dance Academy. Li went on to become one of the best male dancers in the world. Li's autobiography, *Mao's Last Dancer*, has received numerous accolades including the Australian Book of the Year Award and has been published around the world. It was adapted onto a 2009 blockbuster film.



## Cactus Pear For My Beloved

### Samah Sabawi

- The story of a family over the past 100 years, starting in Palestine under British rule, and ending in Queensland, Australia.
- A moving and optimistic memoir from an award-winning author, playwright and poet.

---

Samah Sabawi shares the story of her parents, and many like them, who were born as their families were being forced to leave their homelands.

Filled with love for land, history and people, it is more than anything else a family story and a love story told with enormous humanity and feeling.

It follows the story set during the time of displacements, where one son of six, born to a disabled father and illiterate mother, became a leading poet and writer in Palestine, and an advocate for peaceful resistance. He was eventually forced, with his own young family in tow, to flee his homeland, and start a new life in Australia.

One of the gifts of Samah Sabawi's Baba is to remain open-hearted and optimistic.



**Samah Sabawi** is an author, playwright and poet and a recipient of multiple awards both nationally and internationally. Her theatre credits include the critically acclaimed and award-winning plays *Tales of a City by the Sea* and *THEM*. In 2020 Samah received the prestigious Green Room Award for Best Writing in the independent theatre category and was shortlisted for both the NSW and Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. With Stephen Orlo Samah edited the anthology *Double Exposure: Plays of the Jewish and Palestinian Diasporas*, winner of the Patrick O'Neill Award and she co-authored *I Remember My Name: Poetry* by Samah Sabawi, Ramzy Baroud and Jehan Bseiso, edited by Vacy Vlazna, winner of the Palestine Book Award. Samah received a Doctor of Philosophy from Victoria University for her thesis titled *Inheriting Exile, transgenerational trauma and the Palestinian Australian Identity*.

SEP 2024 | Trade Paperback | 336pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

MEMOIR



OCT 2024 | Trade Paperback | 304pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

# MACCA

## Mackenzie Arnold

- Australia's own 'Minister of Defence', Mackenzie Arnold, shares the inspiring story of the winding road that led to her becoming the Matildas top goalkeeper, including the magical World Cup run that captivated a nation, and what it takes to take on the world.

Heroes don't just fall from the sky. Storybook endings often belie a lifetime's work, and the making of Mackenzie Arnold AKA 'The Brick Wall' began well before the 2023 World Cup.

Macca's story is one of dizzying heights and hard-won lessons. Whether it's facing down her doubts and fears to find the courage to be her truest self on and off the pitch; using her temporary setbacks to inspire others; or shouldering the hopes of a nation to deliver moments that transcend sport, Mackenzie Arnold has packed a lot into her life so far.

Honest, funny, brave and inspired, Macca shares her story here for the first time: the family and first-believers who supported and challenged her from the beginning; the coaches and mentors who pushed her beyond her comfort zone and provided the blueprint of a champion; the rivals and teammates who transformed the Matildas into a global force to be reckoned with.

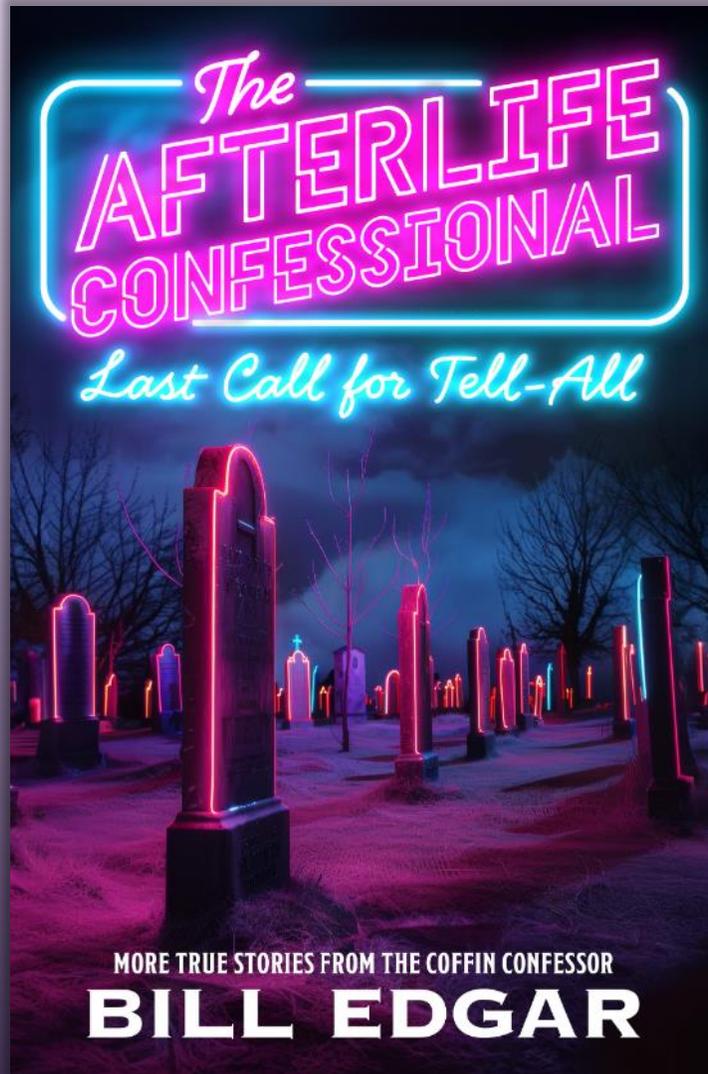
And for her next act? Heroics and storybook endings are best left unscripted, but if Mackenzie Arnold has taught us one thing, it's this: Don't blink.



**MACKENZIE ARNOLD** made her debut for the Matildas in 2012 at age 18. Over the following decade, Macca has risen to the top as number one goalkeeper both at an international level and throughout her Australian W-League career.

In 2023, Macca's heroic performance in a record-breaking 7–6 penalty shootout against France to secure the Matildas a spot in the FIFA Women's World Cup semi-finals was watched by millions of Australians. In 2024, Macca will put on the gloves at the Paris Olympics, where the Matildas will go for gold.

Nicknamed the Brick Wall and Australia's Minister of Defence, she is currently goalkeeper for Portland Thorns FC in the United States.

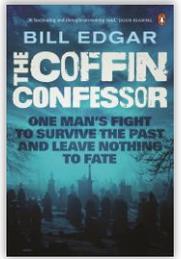


JUL 2024 | Trade Paperback | 240pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

# The Afterlife Confessional

## Bill Edgar

- A new memoir from the author of *The Coffin Confessor*.
- *The Coffin Confessor* (currently being adapted as a TV series) has become a world-wide phenomenon. Bill is regularly interviewed on television, radio and podcasts across the globe: major US markets and rural radio – including an appearance on NPR's *This American Life*.



A private investigator with a haunting past, Bill Edgar's life was never destined to be ordinary. Rising to international fame as the 'Coffin Confessor' – the man who crashes funerals on behalf of the deceased, giving voice to their last wishes – Bill dismantled many of the assumptions we hold about truth, dignity and the business of dying.

Swindlers, cheaters, vultures, liars and con-artists – there isn't a musty corner of the human soul Bill hasn't confronted. Loved and loathed in equal measure, his only concern is being the caretaker of the secrets and desires his clients have entrusted to him. Shame and outrage, healing and comfort are left to those who have been left behind.

But it's a request from one woman to hand-deliver a bottle of wine to her husband on the anniversary of her death that raises deeper questions: What do we make out of the handful of days we're given? If hate and injustice are so hard to bury, why does love have a knack for triumphing? Are the most profound acts in life sometimes the most quiet ones?

*The Afterlife Confessional* follows Bill's journey for answers as he looks through the dizzying kaleidoscope of his clients' lives – the widower who escaped an aged-care trap to take her husband's ashes on the road trip of a lifetime; the man who spent his life paying it forward to try to make up for one shameful act; the closet dominatrix who quietly confronts her husband's infidelity by comforting those truly in need; the devoted couple who insist on going hand-in-hand into the afterlife.



**BILL EDGAR** is the one they call 'The Coffin Confessor' – he's a successful businessman, counsellor, author and one of Australia's leading private detectives, who's known for doing what most lawyers, accountants and professionals won't, can't or fear: speak the truth of those silenced.

Becoming A Woman Who Likes Herself

# Goodbye Good Girl, Hello Me



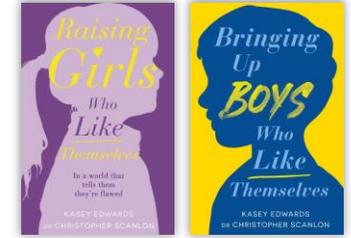
a memoir

KASEY EDWARDS

MAR 2025 | Trade Paperback | 304pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

## Goodbye Good Girl, Hello Me Kasey Edwards

- From the bestselling author of *Raising Girls Who Like Themselves* and *Bringing Up Boys Who Like Themselves*.
- Weaving together credible academic research, expert advice, enlightening revelations and practical strategies, Kasey Edwards challenges the unwritten 'rules' of womanhood.



What happens when you want to stop feeling like you're never enough?

In *Goodbye Good Girl, Hello Me* Kasey Edwards highlights all the subtle ways little girls are taught toxic rules about womanhood when they are too young to think critically about them. These rules became as natural and as invisible as the air we breathe.

How can women trust their own judgement when from a young age they aren't encouraged to form their own opinions or trust their own instincts? From early childhood, girls are given strict guidelines for how they should look and what they should wear. They are taught that they cannot be trusted to manage their own appetites ('that's quite enough dessert for you, young lady'), or that they must ignore their own feelings and boundaries to avoid offending others – always with a priority placed on how they are perceived by others rather than how they feel about themselves.

We teach girls that other people's opinions and feelings matter more than their own, and then wonder why they suffer from low self-esteem? It isn't possible to feel secure or to like yourself when you have been taught that other people get to decide your worth. It isn't possible to please everyone all the time, and yet these impossible standards are precisely what we teach girls to strive for.

In *Goodbye Good Girl, Hello Me*, Kasey Edwards critically examines the concept of modern femininity and rewrites all the 'invisible rules' for being a 21<sup>st</sup> century woman.



**KASEY EDWARDS** has a Masters degree and over ten years' experience as a management consultant. She has worked with large organisations in Australia, the United States, Europe and Asia, and has written industry-related articles for newspapers and magazines, as well as articles for the women's consumer press. She lives in Australia and is a frequent visitor to the UK. She is also thirty-something and over it.

MEMOIR



AWARD-WINNING  
PORTRAIT  
ARTIST



# Unveiled Vincent Fantauzzo

- The incredible true story of how a street-fighting petty criminal, who was kicked out of school at fourteen, became one of Australia's most celebrated and successful portrait artists.
- Vincent has won the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize twice, the Archibald Packing Room Prize, and the Archibald People's Choice Award four times.

Raised amid poverty and violence on the poor streets of Melbourne, Vincent Fantauzzo was just a boy when he accepted that he would either die very young, become a gangster or end up behind bars. Tormented by a troubled home life and dismissed as a simpleton at school where he struggled to read and write, Vincent projected a violent and frightening persona as a means of self-protection. Inside that tough exterior, however, lived a thoughtful, sensitive and creative boy whose only wish was to be loved – and to one day break free of the intergenerational dysfunction he seemed doomed to inherit. He could never have imagined how far his dream of a better life – and an uncanny knack for drawing – would take him.

Virtually illiterate, Vincent used forged papers to hustle his way into art school where dark secrets threatened to sink his brilliant career before it even began. Today his work hangs in galleries around the world including the National Portrait Gallery and Federal Parliament House in Canberra. He's sold-out international exhibitions, won the Archibald Prize People's Choice Award more times than any artist and taken out the Doug Moran Portrait Prize. Twice.

Arguably Vincent's most impressive and important achievement is his survival, and the remarkable, sometimes ridiculous and occasionally glamorous life he willed into existence – despite severe and undiagnosed dyslexia that left him with no formal education and debilitating memory problems. Sometimes tragic, often hilarious but always deeply moving, *Unveiled* is a paint-spattered, star-studded, white-knuckle ride from the Housing Commission ghettos of Australia to the art galleries of Hong Kong, through the back roads of India and into the nightclubs of New York, as Vincent chases his dream with humility, humour and a boundless love for people and a life better lived.



**VINCENT FANTAUZZO** is a Melbourne-based Australian portrait artist known for his award-winning portraits of Heath Ledger, Brandon Walters, Matt Moran, Emma Hack, Baz Luhrmann, Asher Keddie and his son Luca.

MAR 2025 | Trade Paperback | 304pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



# A Woman's Eye: How Women Artists of the Twentieth Century Reframed the Narrative

Drusilla Modjeska

- This beautiful book, richly illustrated and elegantly written, shines a spotlight on the work of hitherto sidelined women artists.

Our struggles as women in the twenty-first century are not new. Some of our most interesting women artists had to eschew all accepted social norms in order to find a life of art. For some, it was catastrophic; for others, a liberation. But how did they view themselves through the prism of their art, and what do we, as modern women, take from their struggle?

A *WOMAN'S EYE* looks back to the lives and art of six European modernist women, who literally recast the ways in which women's bodies, and art, could be seen, and asks why they still matter. These artists were painting and creating art and photography across sexuality, artform, generations, movements, culture and heritage.

**Paula Modersohn-Becker.** **Clara Westhoff** – and her marriage to writer Rainer Maria Rilke. Surrealist photographer and writer **Claude Cahun**, with her partner Marcel Moore. **Gabriele Munter** – and her relationship with Kandinsky. Photographer and muse to many, **Lee Miller**. Photographer and Picasso muse, **Dora Maar**.

In the vein of Drusilla Modjeska's seminal and internationally bestselling work, *STRAVINSKY'S LUNCH*, these fascinating reflections connect the past to the present. Modjeska examines the pitfalls of gender through the medium of art and the way that society and, to some extent, the patriarchy have assumed a level of ownership of women's bodies.



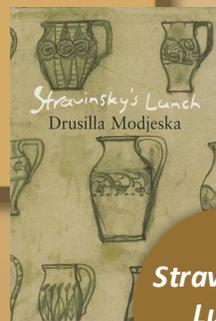
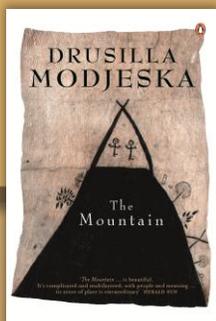
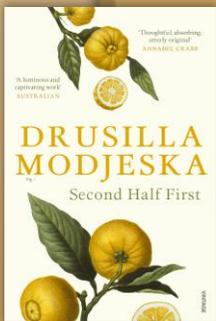
**DRUSILLA MODJESKA** is one of Australia's most acclaimed writers. She was born in England but lived in Papua before arriving in Australia in 1971. Her books include *Exiles at Home*; the NSW Premier's Award-winning *Poppy*; *Sisters*, which she co-edited; the Nita B. Kibble, NSW Premier's Award and Australian Bookseller's Book of the Year Award-winner *The Orchard*; *Timepieces*; and *Secrets* with Robert Dessaix and Amanda Lohrey. She is also the author of the bestselling *Stravinsky's Lunch* and her first novel, *The Mountain*, which was shortlisted for the 2013 Miles Franklin Award, the Western Australia Premier's Award and the Barbara Jefferis Award.

NON-FICTION

COVER  
COMING  
SOON

Acclaimed  
Author

## A WOMAN'S EYE



*Stravinsky's  
Lunch*  
Picador 1999

JUN 2025 | Hardback | 528pp  
WORLD RIGHTS



# The Mermaid Chronicles

## Megan Dunn

- 'Her voice is so strong. It's wonderful' – LORDE
- Including stories from dozens of professional mermaids (as seen in recent documentaries like *MerPeople* on Netflix) and cover art featuring Instagram star, Hannah Mermaid.
- Beautifully written midlife memoir, for readers of *Leviathan* by Philip Hoare and *Out of Sheer Rage* by Geoff Dyer.

Forty, freckled and facing infertility, writer and disgruntled project manager Megan Dunn hears the siren call that reawakens her lifelong obsession and sets off in pursuit of mermaids. Real mermaids.

From Coney Island and Copenhagen to Courtenay Place, Wellington, New Zealand; from Waterhouse's classic painting *A Mermaid* to the 1984 romantic comedy *Splash* to Skyping the first freelance mermaids of the new millennium, her odyssey takes her to strange and unlikely places, probing the collective unconscious and asking the question that has plagued humans for millennia: What *is* it about mermaids?

Diving into the caves of her own life, Megan loses the plot but finds her voice and hears the mermaids singing.

Shimmeringly intellectual and devastatingly deadpan, tragicomic and true, *The Mermaid Chronicles* is an off-the-hook tale about sex and marriage, mothers and daughters, middle age, women's work, obsession, the stories we tell ourselves and the myths that define us all. (And Daryl Hannah, too.)



**MEGAN DUNN** is the author of two irreverent works of non-fiction: *Tinderbox* (Galley Beggar Press, 2017) and her memoir in essays *Things I Learned at Art School* (Penguin Random House New Zealand, 2021). Megan graduated with a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. In 2006, she won an Escalator award from the New Writing Partnership (now the National Centre for Writing.) In 2022 she was the annual Writer in Residence at the International Institute of Modern Letters, based at Victoria University of Wellington, Te Herenga Waka. During this residency she worked on the first draft of her mer-moir and also curated an art exhibition *The Mermaid Chronicles*, based on her journeys to meet the world's leading professional mermaids. You can watch a short clip of Megan speaking about mermaids on TVNZ.

# The Mermaid Chronicles

A Midlife Mer-moir  
Megan Dunn

'Her voice is so strong.  
It's wonderful.'  
— Lorde

From the  
author of  
*Things I  
Learned at  
Art School*

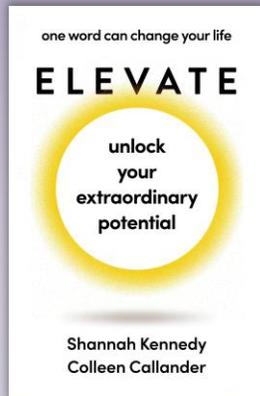
AUG 2024 | Paperback | 336pp  
WORLD RIGHTS

NON  
FICTION

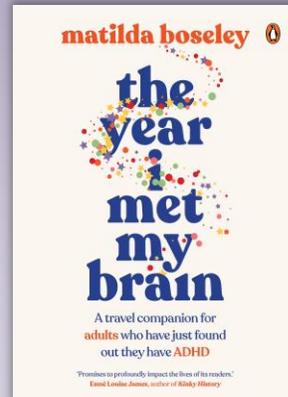
# NON-FICTION HIGHLIGHTS



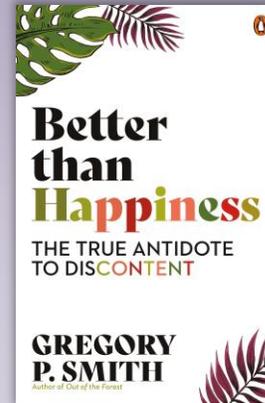
Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



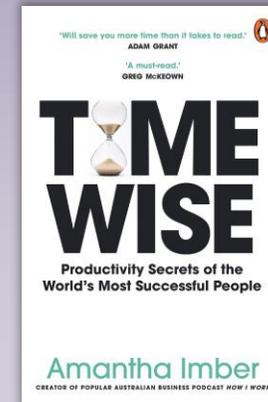
[Click here for product details](#)



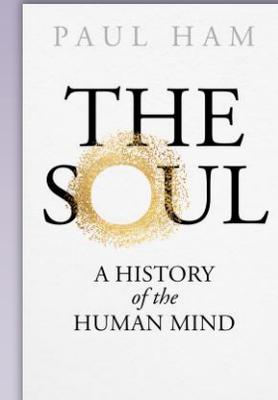
[Click here for product details](#)



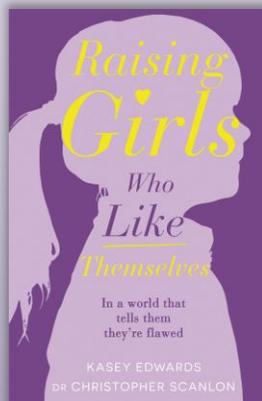
[Click here for product details](#)



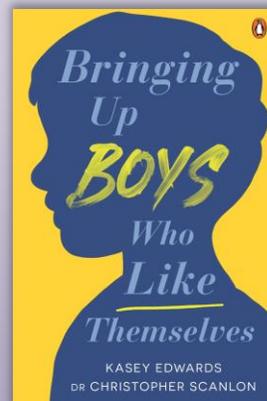
[Click here for product details](#)



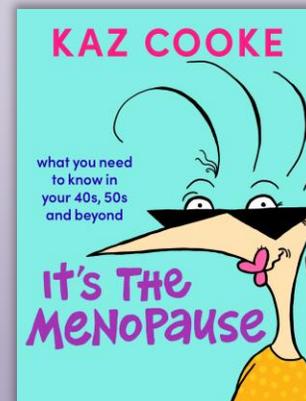
[Click here for product details](#)



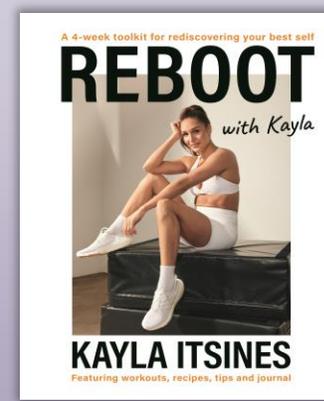
[Click here for product details](#)



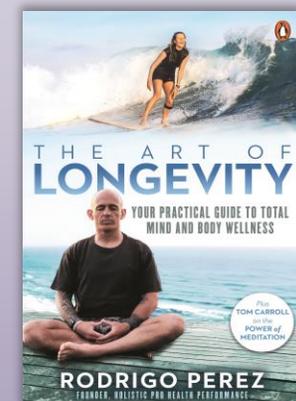
[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)

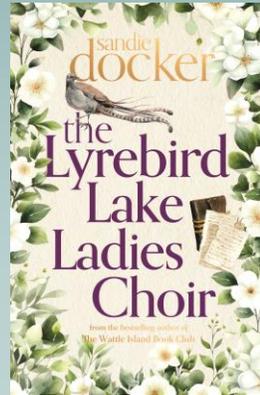
# FICTION HIGHLIGHTS



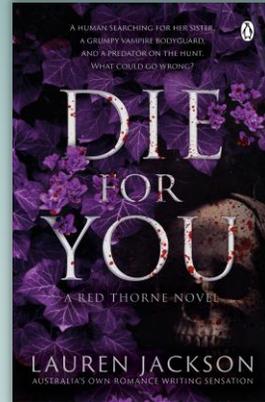
Penguin  
Random House  
Australia & New Zealand



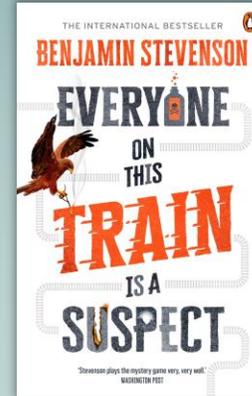
[Click here for product details](#)



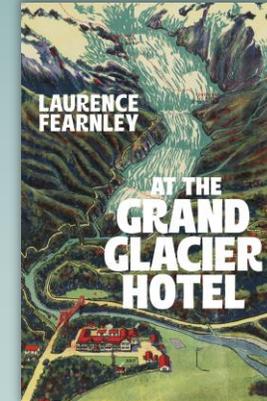
[Click here for product details](#)



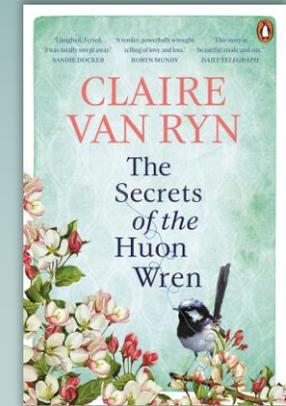
[Click here for product details](#)



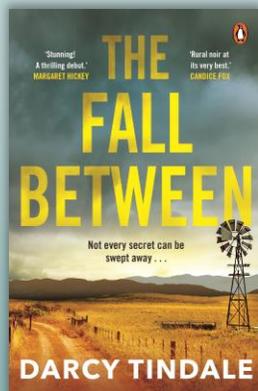
[Click here for product details](#)



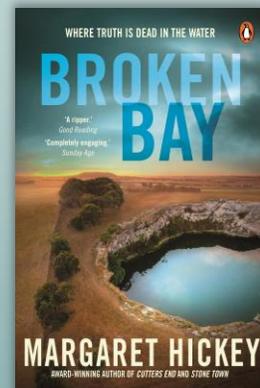
[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



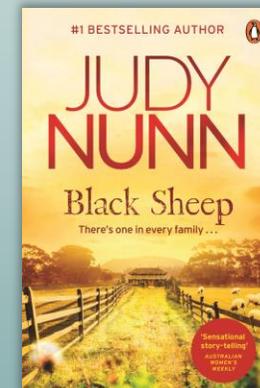
[Click here for product details](#)



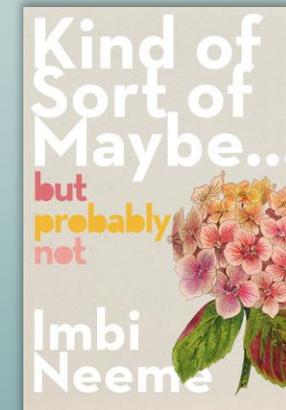
[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)



[Click here for product details](#)

# Rights Team



**Sarah McDuling**  
Rights Manager



**Anna Ristevski**  
Rights Executive



**Debra Van-Tol**  
Rights Administrator

# Publishers



**Holly Toohey**  
Adult Publishing and  
Audio Director



**Beverley Cousins**  
Publisher Commercial  
Fiction



**Meredith Curnow**  
Publisher – Vintage  
Knopf



**Nikki Christer**  
Publisher at Large



**Isabelle Yates**  
Head of Penguin  
Publishing Labs



**Ali Watts**  
Publisher Commercial  
Fiction & Non-Fiction



**Ali Urquhart**  
Publisher  
Non-Fiction



**Brandon Van Over**  
Publisher  
Non-Fiction



**Ashwin Khurana**  
Commissioning Editor –  
Penguin Publishing Labs



**Christine Ebbs**  
Publishing Executive &  
Optimisation Manager



**Grace Thomas**  
Publisher - New Zealand