



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

Frankfurt Book Fair Rights Guide 2020

Fiction Frontlist

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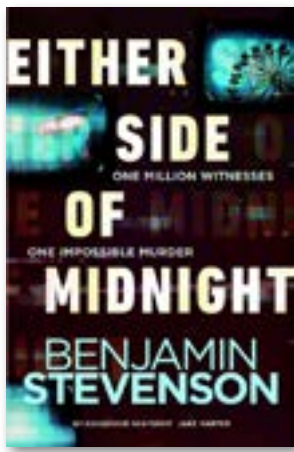
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EITHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT

Benjamin Stevenson

September 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 336pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Audible)

Rights sold previous title (*Greenlight*): Audio (Audible); North America (Sourcebooks); United Kingdom (Hachette)

An electrifying thriller with a mind-bending premise: one million viewers witness a popular TV presenter commit suicide live on air – yet his own brother is convinced it was murder.

How can it be murder when the victim pulled the trigger?

At 9.01 pm, TV presenter Sam Midford delivers the monologue for his popular current affairs show *Mr Midnight*. He seems nervous and the crew are convinced he's about to propose to his girlfriend live on air.

Instead, he pulls out a gun and shoots himself in the head. Sam's grief-stricken brother Harry is convinced his brother was murdered. But how can that be, when one million viewers witnessed Sam himself pull the trigger? Harry turns to Jack Quick, a disgraced crime podcast producer recently released from prison for withholding evidence on a previous case. Jack used to work at the TV channel where the tragedy happened – so maybe he can get Harry access to the crime scene and the tapes. Harry knows Jack is desperate for money so will take on the case, despite all the evidence to the contrary.

And Jack is sceptical – until, when studying the tapes of the final show, he catches sight of the words on the teleprompter reflected on the screen behind Sam. Did someone talk Sam into killing himself through the autocue? What secret did Sam have that would be enough to compel him to take his own life, and in such a public way? And how is this linked with the suicide of Sam's childhood sweetheart 20 years earlier?

Sales points

- A clever, original thriller by an exciting new voice in Australian crime fiction. Benjamin is a young, edgy writer who dares to try new things within the genre
- Fast-moving, concept-driven fiction that will quickly see Benjamin build a brand name
- Inspired by the real life case of Michelle Carter, convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison in 2014 for encouraging her friend Conrad Roy to commit suicide
- Perfect for fans of Michael Robotham, Candice Fox, Adrian McKinty and Dervla McTiernan

Praise for *Greenlight*

- 'An outstanding debut from an exceptional new talent, this is an absorbing thriller told with heart and wit.' – Jane Harper
- 'A hugely original premise, a guilt-ridden protagonist, a plot that won't lie down. A great debut.' – Chris Hammer
- 'Such an assured, intricately plotted novel full of mind-bending twists and turns.' – Candice Fox
- 'A gripping, densely knotted debut that kept me guessing until the very last page.' – Mark Brandi



Benjamin Stevenson is an award-winning stand-up comedian and author. His first novel, *Greenlight*, was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for Best Debut Crime Fiction, and published in the USA and UK. He has sold out shows from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival all the way to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has appeared on ABCTV, Channel 10, and The Comedy Channel. Off-stage, Benjamin has worked for publishing houses and literary agencies in Australia and the USA. He currently works with some of Australia's best-loved authors at Curtis Brown Australia. *Either Side of Midnight* is his second novel. Author photo © Amelia Dowd



THE LAST CONVICT

Anthony Hill

February 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia); Italy (Pessime Idee Edizioni)

A moving and insightful novel about the life and times of Samuel Speed, believed to be the last of the transported convicts to die in Australia, and a vivid recreation of life in Australia's penal era, by the bestselling author of *Soldier Boy*.

'It's a good story, Samuel. You're a piece of living history.'

Oxford, 1863: Young Samuel Speed sets a barley stack alight in the hope it will earn him a bed in prison for the night. He wants nothing more than a morsel of food in his belly and a warm place to sleep off the streets. What he receives is a sentence of seven years' servitude, to be served half a world away in the penal colony of Fremantle, Western Australia.

When Samuel boards the transport ship *Belgravia*, he is stripped of his clothing and even his name, and given regulations of when to rise, eat, clean and sleep. On arrival at Fremantle Prison, hard labour is added to the mix and he wonders if life can get any worse. The only solace he finds is a love of reading, which allows the likes of Tom Sawyer and *Oliver Twist* to become his lifelong friends.

Samuel is granted a ticket of leave in 1867 and full freedom in 1871, but what sort of life can a man forge for himself in the colony, with no skills, no money and no family? Will it be the beginning of the life he has always dreamed of, or do some sentences truly never end?

A colourful recreation of the life and times of the last known convict to be sent to Australia, *The Last Convict* is a moving study of old age and loneliness, as one social outcast finds meaning in his impoverished life through the power of literature. Meticulously researched and brilliantly woven into an engaging fictional account, it is an unforgettable story by an award-winning writer and historian.

Sales points

- A moving and evocative historical novel from an award-winning author
- A brilliant fictional recreation of one of Australia's most fascinating periods of history
- The literary reimagining of the last transported convict to die in Australia



Anthony Hill is a multi-award-winning, bestselling author.

His novel *Soldier Boy*, about Australia's youngest known Anzac, was winner of the 2002 NSW Premier's Literary Award for Books for Young Adults. More recently, his children's book, *Captain Cook's Apprentice*, won the 2009 NSW Premier's Young People's History Prize. *Young Digger*, *Animal Heroes* and *For Love as Country* follow as further testimony to his remarkable ability to extensively research historical material and, from wide-ranging sources, piece together a moving and exciting story. He is also the author of two novellas, the beautiful *Shadow Dog*, and the award-winning *The Burnt Stick*, illustrated by Mark Sofilas, as well as the picture book, *Lucy's Cat and the Rainbow Birds*, illustrated by Jane Tanner. Anthony lives in Canberra with his wife, Gillian. Their daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter, Emily, live in Melbourne. Author photo © Sandy Spiers



THE CHAMPAGNE WAR

Fiona McIntosh

November 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 448pp

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold previous titles: *The Diamond Hunter* – United Kingdom (Ebury); Germany (Blanvalet); *The Pearl Thief* – United Kingdom (Ebury); Italy (DeA Planeta); *The Tea Gardens* – United Kingdom (Ebury); Lithuania (Alma littera); *The Chocolate Tin* – Bulgaria (SoftPress); *The Perfumer's Secret* – Portugal (Estrela Polar); Czech Republic (Baronet); Poland (Wydawnictwo Folia); Bulgaria (SoftPress)

The heart-stopping new blockbuster by the bestselling author of *The Diamond Hunter*.

‘Make these little vines count. Love them as I love you.’

In the summer of 1914, vigneron Jerome Mea heads off to war, certain he'll be home by Christmas. His new bride Sophie Delancre, a fifth generation champenoise, is determined to ensure the forthcoming vintages will be testament to their love and the power of the people of Épernay, especially its strong women who have elevated champagne to favourite beverage of the rich and royal worldwide. But as the years drag on, authorities advise that Jerome is missing, considered dead.

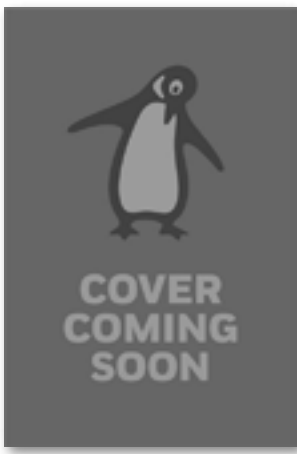
When poison gas is first used in Belgium by the Germans, British chemist Charles Nash jumps to enlist, refusing to be part of the scientific team that retaliates. A brilliant marksman, Charlie is seen by his men as a hero, but soon comes to feel that he'd rather die himself than take another life. When he is injured, he is brought to the champagne cellars in Reims, where Sophie has set up an underground hospital, and later to her mansion house in Épernay, now a retreat for the wounded. As Sophie struggles with strong feelings for her patient, she also battles to procure the sugar she needs for her 1918 vintage and attracts sinister advances from her brother-in-law. However, nothing can prepare her for the ultimate battle of the heart, when Jerome's bloodstained jacket and identification papers are found in Belgium, and her hopes of ever seeing her husband alive again are reignited. From the killing fields of Ypres to the sun-kissed vineyards of southern France, *The Champagne War* is a heart-stopping adventure about the true power of love and hope to light the way during war.

Sales points

- Evocatively described setting of northeastern France – the very best way to armchair travel while present restrictions are in place
- Fiona McIntosh has sold over 680,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand alone
- With unforgettable dramatic scenes from the battlefields of Ypres, this book has the potential to widen Fiona's readership even further
- As well as being an incredibly successful commercial fiction author, Fiona is also the author of adult fantasy titles (published by HarperCollins) with rights sold in France, and has also written titles for children
- Her books *The Tea Gardens*, *The Chocolate Tin* and *The Perfumer's Secret* have all been shortlisted or longlisted in the ABIA awards



Fiona McIntosh is an internationally bestselling author of novels for adults and children. She co-founded an award-winning travel magazine with her husband, which they ran for fifteen years while raising their twin sons before she became a full-time author. Fiona roams the world researching and drawing inspiration for her novels, and runs a series of highly respected fiction masterclasses. She calls South Australia home. Author photo © Anne Stropin



THE EIGHTH WONDER

Tania Farrelly

July 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368pp

Rights held: World

An exciting new author of romantic historical fiction in the style of Fiona McIntosh and Natasha Lester.

New York, 1897. Manhattan is in the grip of money fever. It's the richest city in the world and wizards of progress like Edison, Tesla, Vanderbilt, Pulitzer and Twain walk the streets daily, illuminating life's expansive possibilities one household at a time.

Rose Kingsbury Smith is a well-heeled young woman, expected to play by the strict rules of social etiquette; to marry for familial advantage and forfeit any career aspirations. But she has a quietly rebellious streak and is determined to become an architect, in a field dominated by men. She's well on track to fulfil her ambition when the theft of a family heirloom plunges her family into financial difficulty. Rose finds herself as her family's most tradeable asset, quickly being railroaded into advantageous betrothal to a dashing millionaire, Chet Randall, who seems too good to be true.

Meanwhile, the enigmatic Ethan Salt's inglorious carnival days are behind him. He lives a quiet life on Coney Island with his beloved elephant Daisy, and is devoted to saving animals who've been brutalised by show business. When Ethan hires fledgling architect and suffrage advocate Rose to design a Winter House for his elephant, he promises himself that their relationship will remain professional, but as their work takes shape, so too does the bond between them. And it's on the verge of their shared success that the ghosts of Rose's past re-emerge, threatening to destroy everything they've worked for.

From Fifth Avenue mansions to the Lower East Side tenements, from the palaces of Newport, Rhode Island, to the side-shows of Coney Island, Rose must navigate prejudice and betrayal to live the life she chooses.

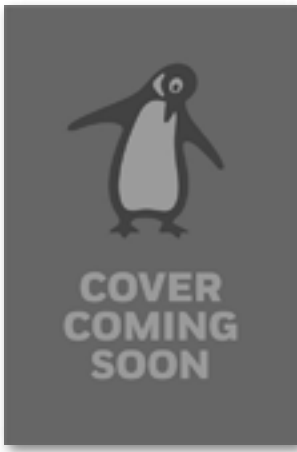
The Suffragette meets *The Greatest Showman*, this story explores the brilliance and brutality of one of the world's most progressive eras, and celebrates those who dare to rebel.

Sales points

- For fans of Fiona McIntosh and Natasha Lester, this is blockbuster historical fiction at its finest
- *The Eighth Wonder* is inspired by the events and the pioneering women of the Gilded Age, and by the author's own family connection to New York and interest in science (thanks to her physics teacher father)
- An excerpt from *The Eighth Wonder* was placed in the top 6 in the Romance Writers of Australia First Kiss Competition



Tania Farrelly is a well-awarded advertising strategist who has spent over twenty-five years working in Australia's leading advertising agencies, telling stories for the world's biggest brands; Nike, Cadbury, Nestlé, L'Oréal and Brand Victoria to name a few. She has more recently built her own successful, brand consultancy iSPY and contributed articles published in industry journals such as *B&T* and *Ad News*. With a background specialising in research and brand narrative, she has turned her hand from brand stories to human stories and with the help of creative writing courses at RMIT and Fiona McIntosh's Masterclass, completed *The Eighth Wonder*.



SECRETS MY FATHER KEPT

Rachel Givney

June 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 304pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous title (*Jane in Love*): North America (HarperCollins); Indonesia (Republika); Romania (RAO Distributie)

A captivating historical novel set in Poland on the eve of the Second World War, from the author of *Jane in Love*.

Krakow, Poland, 1938.

As the Führer keeps looking east and total war threatens to break out across Europe, Marie Karski dreams of becoming a doctor – something unthinkable in Poland at that time. She also longs to know what happened to her mother, who disappeared fifteen years ago. She clashes with her secretive father, Dominick Karski, himself a doctor, who refuses to talk about what happened to her mother. He won't even tell her her mother's name, and seems more concerned with Marie finding a husband, which he tells her is the only way to keep her safe when a war is coming. Only after she fights for it does he finally reveal her mother's name: Helen.

With her father refusing to give her more information, Marie instead enlists Ben Rosen, her childhood friend, to help find her mother. Having returned to Marie's home town after a long, unexplained absence, Ben confesses that he has loved Marie since they were children. Ben is kind, clever and handsome and the two fall in love. But Marie is a Roman Catholic and Ben is a Jew, and her father refuses to permit the marriage.

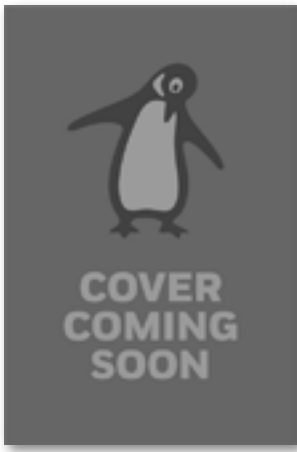
Marie must explore who she is and what she stands for, just as the threat of the German invasion becomes all too real.

Sales points

- Crossover historical women's fiction, great for the book club market
- A story with many talking points – the countdown to war before Germany's invasion of Poland, the plight of Jewish people during the Second World War, pioneering women in medicine and science, father-daughter relationships, and the search for a lost mother
- Rachel is an experienced scriptwriter with a fresh and captivating voice
- A strong central character, Marie is an ambitious and determined woman who not only wants to become a doctor (something almost impossible at the time for a woman) but also converts to Judaism in 1939 in order to marry the man she loves



Rachel Givney is a writer and filmmaker originally from Sydney, Australia (currently based in Melbourne). She has worked on the shows *Offspring*, *The Warriors*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *Rescue: Special Ops* and *All Saints*. Her films have been official selections at the Sydney Film Festival, Flickerfest and many more. Her debut novel, *Jane in Love*, was published in February. Author photo © Tegan Louise



LOVEBIRDS

Amanda Hampson

May 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 288pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Sixty Summers* – Audio (WF Howes); *The Yellow Villa* – Audio (WF Howes); Italy (Newton Compton); Czech Republic (Baronet); *The French Perfumer* – Audio (WF Howes); Czech Republic (Baronet); Italy (Newton Compton); *Two For the Road* – Germany (Random House)

All love stories have a happy beginning, but what about the middle – and the end?

Liz, in her early 60s, is long estranged from her ex-husband Ray, who returned from the war a broken man determined to set her free from a tortured life with him. She rarely sees her two adult sons, and has strained relationships with her daughter-in-law, Louise, now a single parent, and her 14-year-old grandson, Zach, whom she adored as a small child. When Zach gets into trouble with the police, Louise turns to Liz for help.

She decides to take Zach on a road trip to see his grandfather, a recluse who went bush 25 years earlier. Two less compatible travelling companions would be hard to find. Everything his nana does is deeply embarrassing to Zach, and all her attempts to draw him out are met with silent resistance or one-word sentences.

Liz and Zach find that Ray has been living off the grid in a remote and primitive shack. Visitors to his kingdom are tolerated, but not welcome. Upon their arrival, Ray is nowhere to be found. Ray, it turns out, is in hospital battling a terminal illness, with weeks to live. Liz insists on taking him home with her to pass his final days. As Liz and Ray begin to open up to each other about the intervening years, they rediscover what drew them together all those years ago and cautiously rekindle their relationship. Liz realises that to save Zach, she and Ray need to mend the cracks that have broken their family apart.

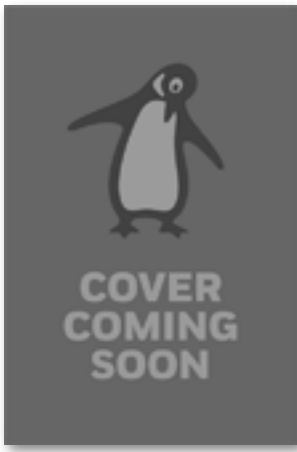
Vignettes from the past alternate with the current-day story. Perfect for the commercial women's fiction market, this story crosses generations and explores family life and relationships.

Sales points

- Warm, witty, wise and wonderful, Amanda Hampson is an entertaining and insightful writer whose novels have broad crossover appeal
- *Lovebirds* is an astute, moving contemporary women's read, ideal for the older, 'Helen Mirren movie' market
- Multi-generational characters in a transformational, heartwarming story
- For fans of Liane Moriarty
- Beautifully written, escapist, bookclub-ready fiction



Amanda Hampson grew up in rural New Zealand. She spent her early twenties travelling, finally settling in Australia in 1979 where she now lives, in Sydney's Northern Beaches. Writing professionally for more than 20 years, she is the author of two non-fiction books and the novels *The Olive Sisters*, *Two for the Road*, *The French Perfumer* and *The Yellow Villa*. Author photo © Christian Trinder



THE EMPORIUM OF IMAGINATION

Tabitha Bird

March 2021

Viking

Trade paperback – 400pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous title (*A Lifetime of Impossible Days*): Audio (WF Howes); Italy (Biplane Edizioni)

A new novel of magical realism from the author of *A Lifetime of Impossible Days*.

A fantastical shop and its magical custodian arrive in the small town of Boonah to inspire the various townsfolk and, in particular, to help a young boy who has recently been orphaned.

A little bit of magic is about to appear. Earlatidge Hubert Umbray can sense it. He has the nose for it. After all these years of being the custodian who travels with The Emporium of Imagination, he would. He's sixty-something years old, but he's dying. This most unusual shop needs a new custodian.

When the shop sets up in Boonah, no one can understand why it only sells antique telephones. They soon discover that the phones would connect them to whomever they are grieving for. A last chance to speak with a loved one. Many people in town are desperate for this gift. But the store is locked. The new custodian will be the person able to unlock the door and make that first phone call.

Enoch Raye is eleven years old and has just lost his father, Isaac Raye, in a flood. What only Enoch knows is that it wasn't an accident – he is the one responsible. And the last person he'd want to talk with is his father.

Earlatidge must help a grieving family face their secrets and find the new custodian to his shop before he dies. Or it won't only be Enoch who will miss the opportunity for that one last conversation with a loved one.

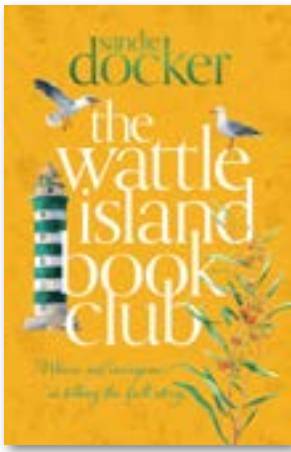
A beautiful, uplifting story of magical realism that will make you laugh and make you cry.

Sales points

- Bird's writing is lyrical, poetic and full of vivid imagery
- Unique commercial women's fiction with crossover literary appeal
- Ideal for book clubs, with plenty of topics for discussion
- Bird's previous novel, *A Lifetime of Impossible Days*, was shortlisted for the MUD Literary Prize



Tabitha Bird is a writer and poet who lives and works in the rural township of Boonah, Queensland. By day Tabitha may be found painting, working on her next book or with her husband, three beautiful boys and Chihuahua. Author photo © Mr Matthew Willmann



THE WATTLE ISLAND BOOK CLUB

Sandie Docker

March 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 384pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous title (*The Kookaburra Creek Café*): Germany (Random House)

The heartwarming new family drama from the bestselling author of *The Banksia Bay Beach Shack*.

Grace loves her job as the librarian of Wombat Warf Central Library. She has been surrounded by books all her life and her work gave her something to hold onto while she underwent chemotherapy for breast cancer. Now in remission, Grace is determined to build the library's book club membership and share her love of reading with more people. She will fight the funding cuts and prove how vital the library is to the local community. When her cancer returns, Grace's resolve is even stronger.

Five hundred kilometres off the coast is the quiet community of Wattle Island. Quiet until town matriarch, Leonie, decides to shake things up and broaden the town's horizons. She reaches out to Grace, the librarian on the mainland, and starts up the Wattle Island Book Club. They work out the logistics of getting the books across the ocean on the supply boat that services the island. The book club has a slow start, but when Leonie requests *The Bride Stripped Bare* as the next read, membership increases. If only she could get her broody nephew Sean to join. But ever since his wife was killed in a terrible boating accident two years before, he has shut himself off from the outside world, and the only motivation to get him out of bed is his 14-year-old daughter Eliza.

When Leonie is diagnosed with an illness she decides to keep from everyone, she asks Sean to help her run the book club. He agrees, reluctantly, and sends a note back to the mainland with the month's returned book-box, introducing himself. Grace is intrigued and replies and the two form a friendship through the notes they pass back and forth. Eliza notices a change in her usually melancholy dad but she knows he'll never leave the island to meet Grace – the only way on or off being by boat. So she stows away on the *Sea Trader* to try to convince Grace in person to come to Wattle Island. A moving and heartfelt story of taking risks and finding a new lease on life.

Sales points

- Docker has developed a strong brand for herself, writing warm, feelgood stories set in evocative places
- Ideal as a gift
- Perfect for fans of Barbara Hannay

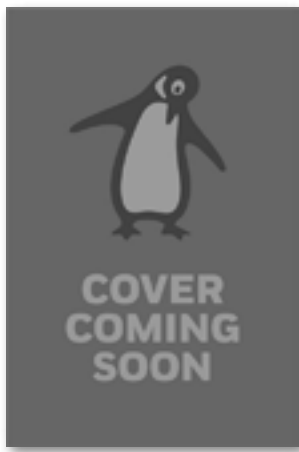
Praise for Sandie Docker

- 'Docker soars from the absolute heart' – *Australian Women's Weekly*
- 'The best of heart-wrenching yarns' – *Woman's Day*



Sandie Docker grew up in Coff's Harbour, and first fell in love with reading when her father introduced her to fantasy books as a teenager.

But it wasn't until she was taking a translation course at university that her Mandarin lecturer suggested she might have a knack for writing – a seed of an idea that sat quietly at the back of her mind while she lived overseas and travelled the world. Sandie first decided to put pen to paper (yes, she still writes everything the old-fashioned way before hitting a keyboard) when living in London. Now back in Sydney with her husband and daughter, she writes every day. Author photo © Naomi Bartlett Photography



HUNTERS RIDGE

Kerry McGinnis

July 2021

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 352pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Secrets of the Springs* – Audio (Bolinda); *The Heartwood Hotel* – Audio (Bolinda); *The Roadhouse* – Audio (Bolinda)

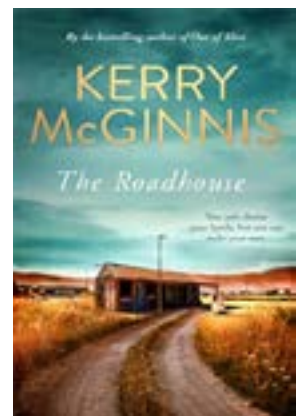
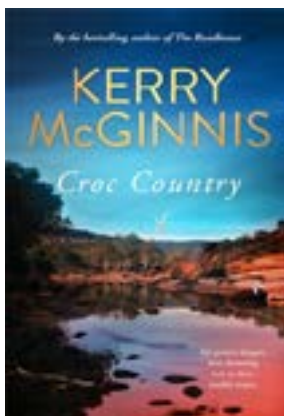
The new rural drama from the bestselling author of *Croc Country*.

Meg Morrissey, orphaned at ten and raised by her grandmother, is called back to her home in the Adelaide Hills by her fearsome grandmother, who has now moved into a nursing home. Meg has just lost her job, and her partner, a photo-journalist, has been sent on assignment to New Guinea, leaving her free to reluctantly answer the summons. When she arrives she learns that the family land is up for sale and she is expected to care for the property with its extensive garden, while packing up the contents of the house.

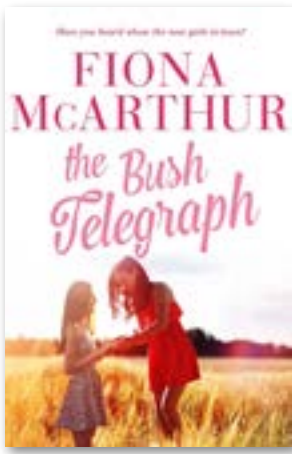
She has scarcely started work when her partner returns, injured. A tragedy in New Guinea has killed his colleague; he himself escaped with bruises and broken bones. During the weeks that follow, the relationship between Meg and her grandmother is explored to uncover the hurtful question that has plagued Meg all her life: why did nobody love her as a child?

Gradually, the house reveals the history of an earlier age, along with secrets Meg had never imagined – of a tyrannical man who bullied and bought and trampled his way to success. Of an unhappy marriage and a daughter who wouldn't conform. Meanwhile a bushfire threatens, and the truth brings horror in its wake.

Previous titles:



Kerry McGinnis was born in Adelaide and at the age of twelve took up a life of droving with her father and four siblings. The family travelled extensively across the Northern Territory and Queensland before settling on a station in the Gulf Country. Kerry has worked as a shepherd, droving hand, gardener and station cook on the family property. She is the author of two volumes of memoir, *Pieces of Blue* and *Heart Country*, and the bestselling novels *The Waddi Tree*, *Wildhorse Creek*, *Mallee Sky*, *Tracking North*, *Out of Alice*, *Secrets of the Springs*, *The Heartwood Hotel*, *Croc Country* and *The Roadhouse*. Kerry now lives in Bundaberg. Author photo © Paul Beutel



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

Fiona McArthur

September 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 336pp

Rights held: ANZ + Translation

Rights sold previous titles (*Red Sand Sunrise*, *The Homestead Girls*, *Heart of the Sky*, *The Baby Doctor*, *The Desert Midwife*, *Aussie Midwives*): Audio (Bolinda)

‘Small towns and gossip go together like trees and birds.’

It’s been more than ten years since Maddy Locke left Spinifex, the small outback town where she gave birth to her daughter, Bridget. Now she’s back to prove she’s got what it takes to run the medical centre and face the memories of that challenging time in her life. But everything’s changed – the old pub is gone, her new colleagues aren’t pleased to see her, and it’s drier and hotter than ever.

Station owner Connor Fairhall thought he’d left the drama behind in Sydney, but moving back to Spinifex with his rebellious son, Jayden, hasn’t been the fresh start he’d envisioned. His brother Kyle is drinking too much and the only bright spot on the horizon is meeting Nurse Maddy, who’s breathing new life into the weary town, little by little.

Can Maddy ignore the rumours about Connor and risk her heart again? Or will the bush telegraph spread along the wire fences and stand in the way of trust?

From Australia’s renowned midwife and bestselling author of *The Desert Midwife*, *The Bush Telegraph* is a romantic drama about love, friendship, community and the joys and challenges of life in the outback.

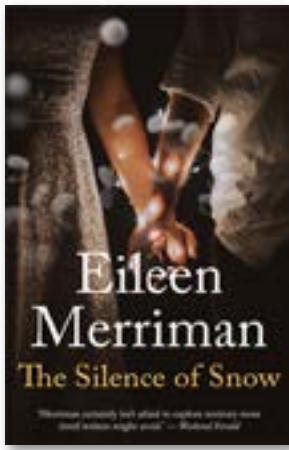
Sales points

- Heartwarming new romance from a bestselling author
- Fiona is a former midwife and educator who brings great authenticity to her novels
- Highly accessible commercial fiction
- Topical themes of drought, struggling country towns, and older people in the workforce

Drawing from her life as a rural midwife, Fiona McArthur shares her love of working with women, families and health professionals in her books.

In her compassionate, pacey fiction, her love of the Australian landscape meshes beautifully with warm, funny, multigenerational characters as she highlights challenges for rural and remote families, and the strength shared between women. Happy endings are a must. Fiona is also the author of the non-fiction book *Aussie Midwives*, and lives on a farm with her husband in northern New South Wales. She was awarded the NSW Excellence in Midwifery Award in 2015. Author photo © Fiona McArthur





THE SILENCE OF SNOW

Eileen Merriman

September 2020

Random House New Zealand

Trade paperback – 352pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *Pieces of You* – Turkey (Indigo); *A Trio of Sophies*

– Germany (Oetinger Verlag)

A novel about facing one's own demons, self-medication and finding the strength to carry on, even when it seems that all is lost.

Almost qualified as an anaesthetic consultant, Rory McBride is adrift. Since a routine procedure went horribly wrong, he has been plagued by sleeplessness, flashbacks, and escalating panic attacks.

Jodi Waterstone has only just started work as a first-year doctor at the same hospital in Nelson, and the night shifts, impossible workload and endless hours on duty make learning the multiple new procedures difficult.

Both are trying to stay in control of their lives, but Rory starts to self-prescribe sleeping pills and sedatives to help him get through the nights, and the days, especially when having to administer anaesthetics to children in theatre. Before long, the sedatives aren't enough and he begins to inject propofol, a potent anaesthetic agent. Can Jodi save him from himself?

Sales points

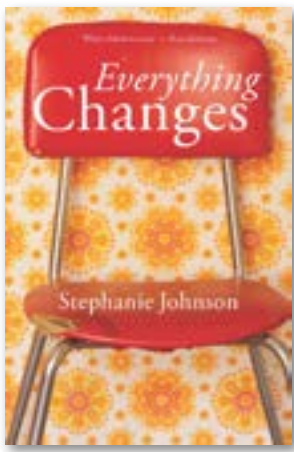
- Eileen Merriman's novel *Moonlight Sonata* was longlisted for the 2020 Ockham New Zealand Award
- A revealing insight into the pressures faced by doctors
- An accessible exploration of complex ethical issues, reminiscent of the works of Jodi Picoult

Praise for *Moonlight Sonata*

- 'The plot is propulsive ... only the most disciplined of readers will put the book down and turn the light off at a sensible time of night' – *Weekend Herald*
- 'The pivotal emotions are those of love and foreboding. Merriman does an excellent job of concealing the dreadful climax until the end, a climax that when it happens, feels entirely right' – *Otago Daily Times*

Eileen Merriman's first three young adult novels, *Pieces of You*, *Catch Me When You Fall*, and *Invisibly Breathing* were finalists in the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2018 and 2019, and both *Pieces of You* and *Catch Me When You Fall* are Storylines Notable Books. Her first adult novel, *Moonlight Sonata*, was released in July 2019, with reviewers calling it 'skilfully crafted', and a 'carefully layered and thoughtful drama, with beautifully observed and believable Kiwi characters'. Her other awards include runner-up in the 2018 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Award, third for three consecutive years in the 2014-2016 *Sunday Star-Times* Short Story Awards, second in the 2015 Bath Flash Fiction Award, commended in the 2015 Bath Short Story Competition, and first place in the 2015 Graeme Lay Short Story Competition. She works full-time as a consultant haematologist. Author photo © Colleen Lenihan





EVERYTHING CHANGES

Stephanie Johnson

March 2021

Random House New Zealand Vintage

Trade paperback – 288pp

Rights held: World

'Not many people shift house because the dog killed the neighbour's cat, a blue-eyed Himalayan worth a thousand dollars, but that is what we're doing.'

There are other reasons for the move, but this was what finally drove Col to move her reluctant husband, Davie, and disapproving daughter, Liv, to the crumbling tearooms at the top of a steep hill. The view is spectacular, but their new home is not. Liv would run if she could, but as she is single, pregnant and broke she doesn't have much choice. She must grin and bear it, or rather scowl and bear it, despite being plagued by her mother to reveal the father of her unborn child – an uncomfortable truth that Liv has absolutely no intention of sharing.

Col wants to set up the old tearooms as a soothing retreat free from wifi. While their renovations are underway, their first customers arrive: a mother with her anorexic daughter, Julia; and Aidan, a reclusive man that Col realises is the author and producer of the hit TV series and books *War of Thorns*. What would such a wealthy, successful man be doing in a dump like theirs? As it turns out, his intentions are about to turn everything upside down.

'What a fabulous read. Stephanie Johnson's characters choose an old motel with little to offer except an amazing view in order to start a "new life". Their first guests are a classic cast of the sorrowful and dysfunctional that everyday life throws at us these days. They are joined by their pregnant daughter, a mysterious young criminal from next door and a dog that knows more than all of them put together. The story is fast paced and unpredictable, it's smart, contemporary and heartbreaking all at once. And, just when it was about to make me cry, Johnson startled me into wild laughter. This is her best book ever, and I loved every page of it.' – Fiona Kidman, award-winning author of *This Mortal Boy*



Stephanie Johnson is an accomplished writer whose work includes plays for stage and radio, poetry, scriptwriting and novels. She was shortlisted for the 1999 Montana Book Awards for her novel *The Whistler*. Her novel *The Heart's Wild Surf* was a great success in the UK, Australia and New Zealand. She is co-founder of the Auckland Writer's Festival and was the 2000 Katherine Mansfield Fellow.



ABOUT THE ADULT PUBLISHING TEAMS

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Justin Ractliffe
Publishing Director

Justin Ractliffe is the Publishing Director at Penguin Random House Australia. His previous role was Managing Director of Hachette Australia and he has held a variety of senior executive roles across publishing. At Hachette Justin oversaw a period of growth and critical acclaim on the Australian list and worked with authors including Geraldine Brooks, Peter FitzSimons, Shaun Tan, Jessica Townsend and Michael Robotham. He is the recipient of the 2019 Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund Publisher Fellowship.



Nikki Christer
Publisher at Large

Nikki Christer is Publisher at Large at Penguin Random House Australia. Authors she works with include Peter Carey, Tim Winton, Anna Funder, Richard Flanagan, Elliot Perlman, Chloe Hooper, Stephanie Alexander and Evie Wyld. In 2014, Richard Flanagan's *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* won the Man Booker Prize. Nikki also sits on the board of the Sydney Writers' Festival.



Beverley Cousins
Publisher, Commercial Fiction

Before moving to Australia with her family in 2007, Beverley Cousins had twenty years of experience in London publishing (first for Pan Macmillan and then Penguin Books UK). Following a year's secondment with Penguin Australia, she moved to Random House Australia as Fiction Publisher. During her career she has published a number of brand-name authors, including Minette Walters, Colin Dexter and Janet Evanovich, and currently looks after bestselling authors Judy Nunn, Loretta Hill, Deborah Rodriguez, Nicole Alexander, Candice Fox and M.L. Stedman, among others.



Meredith Curnow
Publisher, Literary Fiction

Meredith Curnow is a literary publisher working across Knopf, Vintage and Hamish Hamilton, publishing fiction and non-fiction. The authors she is delighted to work with include Thomas Keneally, Julia Gillard and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Philipp Meyer, David Malouf, Kate Forsyth, Tara June Winch and Kathy Lette. Meredith is involved in a number of fellowship programs. She is also a member of the board of youth arts organisation Express Media.



Alison Urquhart
Publisher, Non-Fiction

Alison Urquhart is a commercial non-fiction publisher. Before joining Penguin Random House, Alison was Associate Publisher, Non-Fiction at HarperCollins Australia. She has also worked as a literary agent, both in Britain and Australia. Alison broadly publishes across the areas of history, military history, sport, true crime, memoir and biography. She publishes many bestselling authors, including Jesse Fink and Turia Pitt, and highly acclaimed historians Paul Ham, Mike Carlton and Garry Linnell.



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA CONTINUED



Ali Watts

Publisher, Commercial Fiction and Commercial Non-Fiction

Ali Watts is a publisher of commercial fiction and select non-fiction, publishing into our Penguin and Michael Joseph imprints. With over twenty-five years' experience at Penguin, she has worked with some of Australia's most beloved and successful writers and personalities. She has a particular passion for commercial fiction, and her internationally bestselling authors include Monica McInerney, Fiona McIntosh, Katherine Scholes, Megan Goldin, Josephine Moon and Kyle Perry.



Sophie Ambrose

Publisher, Non-Fiction

Sophie Ambrose moved to Australia from England in 1998 and joined Penguin Books Australia. In 2002 she moved to Random House Australia as a Senior Editor, then Managing Editor, Commissioning Editor and now Publisher. In her various roles she has worked with some of Penguin Random House's biggest authors across all genres. She currently focuses on memoirs, parenting books, gift books and self-help.



Isabelle Yates

Commissioning Editor, Non-Fiction

Having previously worked at Penguin Random House UK, Izzy now commissions non-fiction at Penguin Random House Australia. Her areas of interest are pop culture, health and wellbeing, self-help and personal development, and cookery. She is always on the lookout for inspiring books with a valuable application to real life. Izzy's authors include Professor Valter Longo, plant-based nutritionist Simon Hill, comedian Nat's What I Reckon and the creators of the hit podcast *Shameless*, Michelle Andrews and Zara McDonald.



Brandon VanOver

Commissioning Editor

Brandon VanOver moved from Curtis Brown in the US to Random House Australia in 2004, starting as Editorial Assistant and eventually becoming a Senior Editor and then the Managing Editor at Penguin Random House Australia. After a time as Associate Publisher, Non-Fiction, at Simon & Schuster Australia, Brandon returned to PRH in 2020 as a Commissioning Editor, focusing on narrative non-fiction, memoir, sport, popular culture, history, true crime and humour.



Radhiah Chowdhury

Commissioning Editor

Radhiah Chowdhury has worked as a children's editor with Scholastic Australia, Allen & Unwin and Giramondo, before joining the PRH Australia audio program in 2019. She is currently a commissioning editor in the Young Readers and Adult teams, with a focus on inclusive publishing. Radhiah is also the recipient of the 2019-2020 Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship, awarded for her ongoing research project: 'It's hard to be what you can't see: Diversity Within Australian Publishing'.



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NEW ZEALAND



Claire Murdoch
Head of Publishing

As Head of Publishing, Claire Murdoch directs the Penguin Random House New Zealand list across non-fiction, fiction and children's books. With broad experience in the Australian and New Zealand book trade, including roles at Allen & Unwin, Te Papa Press and PRH, her books have won dozens of awards. Claire has particular expertise in illustrated non-fiction and art books, Maori books, popular culture, biography and memoir. Her authors include Chelsea Winter, Ruby Jones and Kyle Mewburn.



Harriet Allan
Publisher, Fiction

Harriet Allan has been working for Penguin Random House and its earlier incarnations for over thirty years. She publishes many of New Zealand's pre-eminent writers, including Fiona Kidman, Owen Marshall, Witi Ihimaera and Charlotte Grimshaw, among numerous others who regularly feature on the New Zealand bestseller list. Over the years her authors have won the New Zealand Book Awards, the Montana Book Awards, the New Zealand Post Awards and the Best First Book in the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and several have been shortlisted for the prestigious Frank O'Connor Award. She publishes both literary and commercial fiction under the imprints of Penguin, Vintage and Black Swan. She also publishes Young Adult fiction.



Margaret Sinclair
Publisher, General Non-Fiction

Margaret Sinclair commissions general trade non-fiction titles, including cookbooks, lifestyle, health and wellbeing, heartland and parenting titles. She also works with a range of organisations including charities, schools and corporates to produce professional and attractive books for and about them. She has worked for several publishers in New Zealand and the UK over the last thirty years, including Heinemann Educational, Macmillan, Fodor's and Random House.



Jeremy Sherlock
Publishing Contractor, Non-Fiction

Jeremy Sherlock (Tainui, Ngati Awa) acquires and develops select titles exclusively for Penguin Random House New Zealand as publishing consultant. Beginning his career in 2005 as an editor at New Zealand's oldest publisher, Reed Publishing, Jeremy's most recent in-house role was as senior non-fiction publisher with Penguin Random House New Zealand working across biography and memoir, pop culture, history and Māoritanga. This included 13 bestselling books with Scotty Morrison, beginning with The Raupō Phrasebook of Modern Māori in 2011 and including 2015's Māori Made Easy, as well as other works with Hēmi Kelly, Waikato-Tainui, Te Uru Taumata (Ngāi Tūhoe) and Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori/The Māori Language.

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NORTH ASIA



Patrizia van Daalen
Publishing Director

Patrizia van Daalen is the Publishing Director of Penguin Random House North Asia. Based in Beijing, she oversees both Chinese and English language publishing operations in North Asia. Together with her multicultural editorial team, she has been responsible for introducing bestselling non-fiction and fiction to the Chinese market and to international audiences. Having lived and worked in China for numerous years, as well as having worked in several roles in publishing, she speaks fluent Mandarin.