



# The Text Publishing Company

## Frankfurt Rights Guide 2015

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## Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

Angel, Libby	Life Before Plastic	World	Author
Baram, Nir	Good People	World English	Liepman Agency
Baram, Nir	World Shadow	World English	Liepman Agency
Baram, Nir	Journey Along the Green Line	World English	Liepman Agency
Barbery, Muriel	The Life of Elves	ANZ	Gallimard
Beazley, Lisa	Keep Me Posted	UK & Comm.	Penguin Random House
Berthault, Jean-Yves (ed.)	The Passion of Mademoiselle S	ANZ	Susanna Lea Associates
Drabble, Margaret	The Dark Flood Rises	ANZ	Canongate
Garner, Helen	Everywhere I Look	World	Barbara Mobbs
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Trauma Cleaner	UK & Comm.	Curtis Brown UK
Lea, Caroline	When the Sky Fell Apart	UK & Comm.	Peters, Fraser & Dunlop
McBride, Eimear	The Lesser Bohemians	ANZ	The Wylie Agency
Perloth, Nicole	This is How They Tell Me the World Ends	UK & Comm.	Penguin Random House
Rash, Ron	Above the Waterfall	ANZ	Canongate
Reich, Anja	The Scholl Case	World English	Ullstein
Taylor, Cory	The White Experiment	World	Author
Vann, David	Woman, Desiring	ANZ	Rogers, Coleridge & White
Weston, Paula	The Undercurrent	World	Australian Literary Management

Barnard, Simon	Convict Tattoos	World	Author
Cohen-Scali, Sarah	Max	UK & Comm. excl. Canada	Gallimard Jeunesse
Currie, Chris	Clancy of the Undertow	World	Author
Griffin, Paul	Adrift	ANZ	Scholastic
Hall, Leanne	Iris and the Tiger	World	Author
Stead, Rebecca	Goodbye Stranger	ANZ	Penguin Random House

## Recent Adult and YA Publications

Andrew, Sally	Recipes for Love and Murder: A Tannie Maria Mystery	Canongate
Attwell, David	J. M. Coetzee and the Life of Writing: Face to Face with Time	Cossee
Ball, Jesse	A Cure for Suicide	Penguin Random House
Biss, Eula	On Immunity: An Inoculation	David Grossman Literary Agency
Clune, Michael	Gameline: A Memoir	Abner Stein
Coates, Ta-Nehisi	Between the World and Me	Penguin Random House
Davies, Carys	The Travellers and Other Stories (comprising The Redemption of Galen Pike and Some New Ambush)	Salt Publishing
Ferrante, Elena	The Story of the Lost Child	Europa Editions
Grenville, Kate	One Life: My Mother's Story	Barbara Mobbs
Jarosinski, Eric	Nein. A Manifesto	Regal Hoffman & Associates
Kurniawan, Eka	Beauty is a Wound	New Directions
Macmillan, Margaret	History's People: Personalities and the Past	House of Anansi
Miller, Michelle	The Underwriting	Penguin Random House
Modiano, Patrick	Paris Nocturne <i>and</i> Little Jewel	Gallimard
Roy, Lori	Let Me Die in His Footsteps	Penguin Random House
Watson, S. J.	Second Life	Conville & Walsh

Burton, David	How to Be Happy: A Memoir of Love, Sex and Teenage Confusion	Author
Griffin, Paul	Adrift	Scholastic
Levithan, David	Another Day	William Morris Endeavor Entertainment Ltd.
Lim, Rebecca	Afterlight	Author
Stead, Rebecca	Goodbye Stranger	Penguin Random House
Wakefield, Vikki	Inbetween Days	The Drummond Agency
Weston, Paula	Burn	Australian Literary Management

# *The Rules of Backyard Cricket* by Jock Serong

*I knew this in childhood, this feeling of the irretrievable past slipping away behind the car. I'm staring once again at the darkness. These things, gone and unrecoverable. The blackness chasing but never catching us.*

Darren Keefe is in the boot of a car. The gag, the cable ties, his bullet-shattered knee: all the signs point towards a shallow grave. Nonetheless, he thinks there's a chance he will be able to free himself. And although he will still be incapacitated and outnumbered, he sees no harm in trying.

As he does, he thinks of how he got here.

A cheeky kid with a pure talent; a mischievous boy growing into misadventure. A young man becoming a sporting star, gorging himself on fame seasoned with all the usual spices. A kid who got away with things, and just kept getting.

*The Rules of Backyard Cricket* is a literary thriller in the tradition of Peter Temple's *Truth*. Jock Serong's exhilarating prose drives a narrative that observes celebrity, masculinity—humanity—with wry lyricism.

Praise for Jock Serong and *Quota*:

'Serong's prose is evocative, his dialogue convincing, and the atmosphere of small-town life pungently suggested.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'A gripping work of literary suspense that blends tense courtroom drama with tight-lipped witnesses and brooding small-town strangeness.' *Kill Your Darlings*

**Jock Serong** lives and works on the far southwest coast of Victoria. He is a lawyer and features writer, and is the editor of *Great Ocean Quarterly*. His debut, *Quota*, won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Crime Novel in 2015.

Fiction • September 2016 • Manuscript available March 2016  
**Rights Held:** World

# *When the Sky Fell Apart* by Caroline Lea

*She turned to look at the sea. Flat stretch of water, blank and blue as the sky above. Pretty as a picture, except with black and grey craters where the bombs had fallen: as though some thuggish child had scrawled all over the picture out of spite alone...*

Jersey, June 1940.

On the beach a man is on fire. A German bomb. Hitler even wants the Channel Islands. Within weeks, twelve thousand German troops with their brutal commandant have occupied Jersey.

For the locals everything changes. Ten-year-old Claudine has to study German at school—and when she befriends one of the soldiers she opens the door to devastating consequences.

Maurice, a fisherman, is determined to protect his sick wife at all costs, even if it means endangering his own life.

Edith, who knows every kind of medicinal plant and herb on the island, is a *Jèrriais* to her bones. But she can't help everyone.

And as for English doctor Tim Carter—the locals soon brand him a traitor, unaware of the torment he suffers in an effort to save them.

*When the Sky Fell Apart* tells a great story. It is a wonderfully readable novel by a writer who is intensely curious about the fate of her characters. This book is a heartbreaking tribute to their resilience. It introduces an exciting new voice in literary fiction.

**Caroline Lea** was born and raised in Jersey. She gained a First in English Literature and Creative Writing from Warwick University and has had poetry published in the *Phoenix Anthology* and an *Aston Anthology*, which she has also co-edited. *When the Sky Fell Apart* is her first novel.

Fiction • March 2016 • Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World English

**Other Rights:** Peters, Fraser & Dunlop

## *Our Magic Hour* by Jennifer Down

*All night Audrey woke again and again, and every so often Nick would be awake, too, and their bodies would shift into new shapes, and once Nick reached for her as if in a panic, and once Audrey thumped to the kitchen half-awake and stuck her head under the tap to drink, and once she turned over to face Nick, who was open-eyed, and they began to kiss in a dream, bodies just coming to, and she saw the dull shadows from the streetlights pass over his face as he came, and he covered her body with his and she felt his breath in her hair, and they held each other, and the whole time they never said a thing.*

Audrey, Katy and Adam have been friends since high school—a decade of sneaky cigarettes, drunken misadventures on Melbourne backstreets, heart-to-hearts, in-jokes.

But now Katy is dead. And, without her, Audrey is thrown off balance: everything she thought she knew, everything she believed was true, is bent out of shape.

Audrey's family—her neurotic mother, her wayward teenage brother, her uptight suburban sister—are likely to fall apart. Her boyfriend, Nick, tries to hold their relationship together. And Audrey, caught in the middle, needs to find a reason to keep going when everything around her suddenly seems wrong.

Evocative and exquisitely written, *Our Magic Hour* is a story of love, loss and discovery. Jennifer Down's remarkable debut novel captures that moment when being young and invincible gives way to being open and vulnerable, when one terrible act changes a life forever.

**Jennifer Down** was born in 1990. *Our Magic Hour* was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. Her work has appeared in the *Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review*, ABC's *The Drum* and *Blue Mesa Review*. She writes a monthly column on words and language for *Overland*.

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Fiction • March 2016 • Manuscript available December 2015

**Rights Held:** World

# *A Few Days in the Country and Other Stories* by Elizabeth Harrower

*Eric was brought to the house, and Eric and Alice were married before there was time to say 'knife'. How did it happen? She tried to trace it back. She was watching her mother performing for Eric, and then (she always paused here in her mind), somehow, she woke up married and in another house.*

Internationally acclaimed for her five brilliant novels, Elizabeth Harrower also wrote a number of extraordinary short stories. Only a handful of the stories have been previously published. *A Few Days in the Country* brings together all her stories for the first time.

This book underlines Harrower's standing as one of the great post-war Australian writers.

Praise for Elizabeth Harrower:

'For me, the great discovery of 2014 was the work of Elizabeth Harrower...I can't recommend this brilliant, austere writer strongly enough...Harrower is funny and elegant and devastating.' James Wood, *New Yorker*

'[Her] prose is watchful, witty, unillusioned, exultant...There's a note of elegy in all of Harrower's work, even as the adrenaline flows, and a lyricism reminiscent of F. Scott Fitzgerald at his desperate best.' Gwendoline Riley, *Times Literary Supplement*

'Harrower can pierce your heart.' Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

'Utterly hypnotic.' Eimear McBride, author of *A Girl Is a Half-Formed Thing*

**Elizabeth Harrower** is the author of the novels *Down in the City*, *The Long Prospect*, *The Catherine Wheel* and *The Watch Tower*—all of which have been republished as Text Classics—and *In Certain Circles*, which was published in 2014 and in early 2015 was a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime. Elizabeth Harrower's novels are now being acclaimed by a new generation of readers.

Fiction • November 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; Finland—Fabriikki; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau Verlag; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.



# *Skin* by Ilka Tampke

Southwest Britain, AD 43.

For the people of Caer Cad, 'skin' is their belief, their greeting, their ancestors, their land.

Fourteen-year-old Ailia does not have skin. Abandoned at birth, she serves the Tribequeen of her township. Ailia is forbidden to marry, left out of tribal ceremonies and, most devastatingly, barred from attending lessons. But an encounter with a mysterious fish sets Ailia on another path. The Mothers, the tribal ancestors, have chosen her to become their highest knowledge-bearer—the Kendra.

Lured by the beautiful and enigmatic young man, Taliesin, Ailia embarks on an unsanctioned journey to attain the knowledge that will protect her people from the most terrifying invaders they have ever faced.

Set in Iron-Age Britain, on the cusp of Roman invasion, *Skin* is a thrilling novel about the collision of two worlds, and a young woman torn between two men.

Ilka Tampke is currently writing the sequel to *Skin*. The sequel has already been sold in Germany, North America and the UK.

'I loved the depth, sincerity and beauty of *Skin*. It gives a name and a shape to our capacity for yearning.' Isobelle Carmody

'Myth, mystery, history and romance are artfully intertwined in Ilka Tampke's enticing and immensely satisfying debut.' *Good Reading*

'[Tampke's] vision is clear and brought to life vividly through the strength of her singular heroine. We have not heard the last from this resonant new voice.' *Readings*

'*Skin* will appeal to lovers of historical fiction and lovers of literary fiction equally as well. It is an accomplished, absorbing and powerful debut.' *The Hoopla*

**Ilka Tampke** was awarded a Glenfern Fellowship in 2012. Her short stories and articles have been published in several anthologies. She lives in Woodend, Australia, with her family. *Skin* is her first novel.

Fiction • March 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Blanvalet; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; North America—Thomas Dunne; Sweden—Forum; UK & Comm. excl. ANZ & Canada—Hodder & Stoughton.

# *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion

## **The sequel to the international smash hit *The Rosie Project***

*Greetings. My name is Don Tillman. I am forty-one years old. I have been married to Rosie Jarman, world's most perfect woman, for ten months and ten days.*

*Marriage added significant complexity to my life. When we relocated to New York City, Rosie brought three maximum-size suitcases. We abandoned the Standardised Meal System and agreed that sex should not be scheduled in advance.*

*Then Rosie told me we had 'something to celebrate', and I was faced with a challenge even greater than finding a partner.*

*I have attempted to follow traditional protocols and have sourced advice from all six of my friends, plus a therapist and the internet.*

*The result has been a web of deceit. I am now in danger of prosecution, deportation and professional disgrace.*

*And of losing Rosie forever.*

'A funny novel that also made me think about relationships: what makes them work and how we have to keep investing time and energy to make them better. A sweet, entertaining, and thought-provoking book.' Bill Gates

'Don Tillman has almost transcended the boundaries of fiction to become a geek icon...and this new instalment offers plenty more laugh-out-loud moments.' *Guardian*

graemesimsion.com

@GraemeSimsion

Fiction

• October 2014

• Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Record; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; China—China South Booky Culture Media; Czech—Otava; Estonia—Eesti Rameat; Finland—Otava; France—Editions Robert Laffont; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Hungary—Libri Kaido; Indonesia—Gramedia Pustaka Utama; Israel—Achuzat Bayit; Italy—Longanesi; Macedonia—Ars Lamina; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Poland—Media Rodzina; Portugal—Presenca; Spain—Salamandra; Slovakia—Fortuna Libri; Slovenia—Mladinska Knjiga Založba; Sweden—Forum; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; Thailand—Earnest Publishing; UK & Comm. excl. ANZ & Canada—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—Simon & Schuster; Vietnam—Women's Publishing House.

**Option Publishers:** See over page

# *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

## The much-loved international bestseller

'It's an extraordinarily clever, funny, and moving book about being comfortable with who you are and what you're good at... This is one of the most profound novels I've read in a long time.'

Bill Gates

'The hero of *The Rosie Project* is one of those rare fictional characters destined to take up residence in the popular consciousness. Don Tillman... seems set to join Adrian Mole and Bridget Jones as a creation with a life beyond the final chapter.' *Guardian*

'Adorable and really funny and heart-warming, a gem of a book.' Marian Keyes

'I couldn't put this book down. It's one of the most quirky and endearing romances I've ever read.' Sophie Kinsella

'Graeme Simsion has achieved the impossible and created an entirely new kind of romantic hero... A lovely, original, and very funny read.' Jojo Moyes, author of *Me Before You*

'[Don Tillman is] one of the most endearing, charming and fascinating literary characters I have met in a long time.' *The Times*

'Don Tillman is my favorite new protagonist in all of contemporary fiction. This man will exasperate, delight and immerse you in a world so original, in a story so compelling, I defy you not to read through the night.' Adriana Trigiani, bestselling author of *The Shoemaker's Wife*

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Fiction • February 2013 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Albania—Dudaj Publishing; Arabic—El-Arabi; Brazil—Record; Bulgaria—Bard; Canada—HarperCollins Canada; Catalan—La Campana; China—China South Booky Culture Media; Croatia—Skloska Knjiga; Czech—Fortuna; Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; Film—Sony Pictures; Finland—Otava; France—Editions Robert Laffont; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Greece—Metaichmio; Hungary—Libri; Iceland—Bjartur Veröld; Indonesia—Gramedia Pustaka Utama; Israel—Achuzat Bayit; Italy—Longanesi; Japan—Kodansha; Korea—BIR; Latvia—Apgads Zvaigzne ABC; Lithuania—Alma Littera; Macedonia—Ars Lamina; Netherlands—Luitingh-Sijthoff; Norway—Aschehoug; Poland—Media Rodzina; Portugal—Presenca; Romania—Editura Polirom; Russia—Sinbad Books; Serbia—Alnari; Slovak—Fortuna; Slovenia—Mladinska Knjiga Zalozba; Spain—Salamandra; Sweden—Forum; Taiwan—Emily Publishing; Thailand—Earnest Publishing; Turkey—Pegasus; UK & Comm. excl. ANZ & Canada—Michael Joseph/Penguin; USA—Simon & Schuster; Vietnam—Women's Publishing House.

# *The Heat* by Garry Disher

Wyatt needs a job.

A bank job would be nice, or a security van hold-up. As long as he doesn't have to work with cocky idiots and strung-out meth-heads like the Pepper brothers. That kind of miscalculation buys you time. Long stretches of time.

And Wyatt doesn't make miscalculations. Which is why he declines the job an old associate is setting up with the Peppers.

Fortunately, a man Wyatt knows in Noosa has a client who wants a painting stolen. Right up Wyatt's alley: case the premises, set up escape routes and failsafes, get in and get out with the goods unrecognised. Make a good plan; back it up with another. And be very, very careful. But then, Wyatt's always careful. Unlike Jack Pepper—or the entire Noosa operation. Consequently things are about to go completely pear-shaped on both fronts.

Garry Disher takes the incomparable Wyatt and his larcenous sang froid to the Sunshine Coast. The *Sydney Morning Herald* described Wyatt in his last outing as 'wicked and wonderful'. This latest instalment sees him right at the peak of his form.

Praise for Garry Disher and *Wyatt*:

'Smooth, assured mastery.' *New York Times Book Review*

'Disher turns out to be a superb chronicler of macho pop culture.' *Sunday Times*

'*Wyatt* is so compelling it simply has to be read in one sitting.' *Australian*

'Peter Temple and Garry Disher will be identified as the crime writers who redefined Australian crime fiction in terms of its form, content and style.' *Age*

'Wyatt is genre fiction at its best.' *The Week*

'Everything about him is hard boiled and Disher's writing is short, dry and fast-paced to match. The story is thorough and rounds out perfectly.' *West Australian*

**Garry Disher** has published almost fifty titles—fiction, children's books, anthologies, textbooks, the Wyatt thrillers and the Mornington Peninsula mysteries. He has won numerous awards, including the German Crime Prize (twice) and two Ned Kelly Best Crime Novel awards, for *Chain of Evidence* (2007) and *Wyatt* (2010). Garry lives on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

Fiction • November 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World excl. Germany

## *Dangerous to Know* by Anne Buist

Natalie King is back: back from a stay on the psych ward. Her reluctance to live a quiet life has contributed to a severe manic episode, and now it's time for a retreat to the country. A borrowed house on the Great Ocean Road; a low-key research job in Geelong.

But Natalie and trouble have a strange mutual fascination. Her charismatic new boss Frank is friendly, even attractive. But it turns out his pregnant wife is an old enemy of Natalie's. And when Frank's tragic personal history is revealed—then reprised in the most shocking way—Natalie finds herself drawn deep into a mystery. And even deeper into danger.

Anne Buist, herself a leading forensic psychiatrist, has created an edge-of-the-seat mystery with a hot new heroine—backed by all the expert knowledge of a career in criminal minds.

Praise for *Medea's Curse*:

'A psychological thriller with all the ingredients.' *Australian Women's Weekly*

'*Medea's Curse* is a gripping ride of crime and tension, with a Lisbeth Salander-like lead roaring through danger and intrigue at a million miles an hour.' *Adelaide Advertiser*

'Buist has used her twenty-five years' experience in perinatal psychiatry to good effect in her first psychological thriller...King is a lively new character with a good mix of appealing characteristics and interesting flaws.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Forensic psychologist Natalie King is not your average heroine nor is *Medea's Curse* a predictable by-the-numbers thriller...An intelligent, thought-provoking tale.' *Courier Mail*

'An intelligent thriller.' *Who Weekly*

'Buist brings her considerable experience as a perinatal psychiatrist to bear in this novel, giving it authenticity and gravitas.' *Daily Telegraph*

**Anne Buist** is the Chair of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and twenty-five years of clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry. She works with Protective Services and the legal system in cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder. She has published ten erotic romance-suspense novels under the pseudonym Simone Sinna. Professor Buist is married to novelist Graeme Simsion and has two children. *Medea's Curse*, the first mystery featuring Natalie King, was published in February 2015.

Fiction • April 2016 • Manuscript available December 2015

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** United Kingdom—Legend Press

## ***The Scholl Case* by Anja Reich, translated by Imogen Taylor**

*Brigitte Scholl disappeared on 29 December 2011, the day after her forty-seventh wedding anniversary. The flowers her husband had given her—red roses—were still on the living-room table; in the corner stood the Christmas tree, straight as a die and lavishly decorated. Everything had to be just so.*

*It was to be perfect, right up to the end.*

In December 2011, a female corpse is found in a forest in Ludwigsfelde, a small and peaceful town south of Berlin. The victim is Brigitte Scholl, 67, cosmetician and wife of Ludwigsfelde's former mayor Heinrich Scholl.

Rumours spread that Brigitte was raped and killed by a serial killer. While the police look for the murderer, parents forbid their children leaving the house, while local joggers change their usual trails, away from the woods.

But when the police arrest the victim's husband, the town is shocked. Is Heinrich Scholl a cold-blooded killer? This charming and honest man had it all: the most successful mayor in East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall, influential friends and a marriage of almost fifty years.

But behind closed doors, it was a very different story. Scholl's wife was in control and took pleasure in making her husband's life miserable.

In 2012, Heinrich Scholl is pronounced guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison. But to this day, he maintains his innocence.

*The Scholl Case* is a gripping story about marriage, sex and politics, where nothing is as it seems.

**Anja Reich**, a Berlin native, studied journalism and wrote for *Die Welt* and *Berliner Zeitung*. Her first book, *Wo warst du? Ein Septembertag in New York* (*Where were you? A Day in September in New York*) was co-written with her husband, Alexander Osang, author and New York correspondent for *Der Spiegel*. Anja was awarded the *German Reporter Award* in 2012. *Der Fall Scholl, The Scholl Case*, was published by Ullstein Buchverlage in 2014.

**Imogen Taylor** is a freelance literary translator and academic based in Berlin. Her translations include Sascha Arango's *The Truth and Other Lies* and Melanie Raabe's *The Trap*.

Non-Fiction • September 2016 • Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World English

**Other Rights:** Ullstein Buchverlage

# *Everywhere I Look* by Helen Garner

*I pedal over to Kensington just after dark. As I roll along the lane towards the railway underpass, a young Asian woman on her way home from the station walks out of the tunnel towards me. After she passes there's a stillness, a moment of silent freshness that feels like spring.*

Helen Garner is one of Australia's greatest writers. Her short non-fiction has enormous range. Spanning fifteen years of work, *Everywhere I Look* is a book full of unexpected moments, sudden shafts of light, piercing intuition, flashes of anger and incidental humour. It takes us from backstage at the ballet to the trial of a woman for the murder of her newborn baby. It moves effortlessly from the significance of moving house to the pleasure of re-reading *Pride and Prejudice*.

*Everywhere I Look* includes Garner's famous and controversial essay on the insults of age, her deeply moving tribute to her mother and extracts from her diaries, which have been part of her working life for as long as she has been a writer.

*Everywhere I Look* glows with insight. It is filled with the wisdom of life.

Praise for *This House of Grief*:

'Helen Garner is an invaluable guide into harrowing territory and offers powerful and unforgettable insights.' Kate Atkinson

'Garner's spare, clean style flowers into magnificent poetry.' *Australian Book Review*

'Her voice—intimate yet sharp, wry yet urgent—inspires trust.' *Atlantic*

**Helen Garner** is an award-winning author of novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction. In 2006 she received the inaugural Melbourne Prize for Literature. Her most recent novel, *The Spare Room*, published in 2008, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Barbara Jefferis Award, and has been translated into many languages.

Non-Fiction • April 2016 • Manuscript available November 2015

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publisher:** Germany—Berlin Verlag

# *Wasted: A Story of Alcohol, Grief and a Death in Brisbane*

## by Elspeth Muir

*Maybe it was fitting to get shitfaced at Alexander's wake. 'He would have wanted it,' people said. And they were probably right, because he was only twenty-one. We drank with a sad urgency, turning the reason for our grief into its elixir.*

In 2009 Elspeth Muir's youngest brother finished his last university exam in Brisbane and went out to get drunk. Later that night, he left the group he was with and wandered to the city's Story Bridge. He put his phone, wallet, T-shirt and shoes on the pedestrian walkway, climbed over the railing, and jumped thirty metres into the water below.

Three days passed before police divers pulled Alexander's body out of the Brisbane River. His blood-alcohol reading had been almost 0.3, but he'd executed the dive well: he broke no bones on impact. The river, it seemed, had sucked him down to its muddy bed.

Why do some of us drink so much, and what happens when we do? Surveys show that fewer young Australians are drinking heavily, but the rates of alcohol abuse and its associated problems—from blackouts to sexual assaults and one-punch killings—are undiminished.

In *Wasted*, Muir mixes memoir with reportage to illuminate the sorrows and the joys of drinking. She traces her family's story and her own history with the bottle. And she searches for the truth about her much-loved little brother.

Intimate, heartbreaking and beautifully told, *Wasted* marks the arrival of a bold new voice in Australian writing.

**Elspeth Muir** is a Brisbane author whose writing has appeared in *Voiceworks*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Bumf* and *Griffith Review*. She is a postgraduate student at the University of Queensland. *Wasted* is her first book.

Non-Fiction • June 2016 • Manuscript available February 2016  
**Rights Held:** World



## *Something for the Pain* by Gerald Murnane

*I never met anyone whose interest in racing matched my own. Both on and off the course, so to speak, I've enjoyed the company of many a racing acquaintance, as I'd call him or her. I've read books, or parts of books, by persons who might have come close to being true racing friends of mine if ever we had met. For most of my long life, however, my enjoyment of racing has been a solitary thing: something I could never wholly explain to anyone else...*

Growing up in the bush, Gerald Murnane became obsessed with horse racing. He had never ridden a horse, nor seen a race, and he had no interest in gambling. Yet he was entranced by the pictures in the *Sporting Globe*, the horses' racing colours, their names—the incantation of them in radio broadcasts of race commentary from towns near and far. Murnane discovered in these races more than he could find in religion or philosophy. They were the gateway to a world of imagination—'The word Icene above the blurred image of a racehorse brought to mind a long silver-white robe...Tamerlane denoted for me a grassy pathway overhung by rows of tamarisk trees.'

Much later, by now an internationally acclaimed author, he pinned three pictures to his office wall: of Emily Brontë, Marcel Proust, and the 1946 T. M. Ahern Memorial Handicap, run in Brisbane. This last showed the greatest horse of all, Bernborough—'a better horse than Phar Lap'—which inspired Murnane's first novel, *Tamarisk Row*. Gerald Murnane is like no other writer, and *Something for the Pain* is like no other Murnane book. In this unique and spellbinding memoir, he tells the story of his life through the lens of horse racing. It is candid, droll and moving—a treat for lovers of literature and of the turf.

Praise for Gerald Murnane:

'Unquestionably one of the most original writers working in Australia today.' *Australian*

'Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' Teju Cole

**Gerald Murnane** was born in Melbourne in 1939. He began training for the Catholic priesthood but soon abandoned this in favour of becoming a primary-school teacher. His acclaimed debut novel, *Tamarisk Row*, was published in 1974 and was followed by nine other works of fiction, the most recent of which is *A Million Windows*. He has also published a collection of essays, *Invisible Yet Enduring Lilacs* (2005). In 1999 Murnane won the Patrick White Award and in 2009 he won the Melbourne Prize for Literature.

Non-Fiction • October 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** Catalan—Miniscula; France—P.O.L.; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Spain—Miniscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag.

# *Atmosphere of Hope: The Search for Solutions to the Climate Crisis*

by **Tim Flannery**

*The 'third way', as I've come to think of it, is a very new concept encompassing proposals and experiments that shed light on how Earth's system might be used to draw CO2 out of the air and sea at a faster rate than occurs presently, and to store it safely. The third way is about creating our future out of thin air.*

Earth's climate system is fast approaching a crisis. Public understanding has not kept up. There is an absence of political leadership. Many people are less engaged with the issue of climate change than they were a decade ago, and opinion is divided between technological optimists and pessimists who feel that catastrophe is inevitable.

Catastrophe is not inevitable, but time is running out. Around the world people are already living with the consequences of an altered climate—with intensified or more frequent storms, heatwaves, droughts and floods. For some it's already a question of survival.

*Atmosphere of Hope* is timed for publication in the lead-up to the United Nations Climate Change Summit to be held in Paris in December 2015. There will be enormous coverage of the Paris conference, which is widely acknowledged as our last chance to take decisive action on a global treaty to limit warming to 2°C. This book will influence the debate generated by the Paris conference.

*Atmosphere of Hope* is both a snapshot of the trouble we are in, and an up-to-the-minute analysis of some of the new possibilities for mitigating climate change. In his inimitable style, Tim Flannery makes this urgent issue completely accessible, a decade after his groundbreaking book *The Weather Makers*.

**Tim Flannery** is a scientist, explorer, conservationist and leading writer on climate change. A frequent presenter on ABC Radio, NPR and the BBC, he has also written and presented several series on the Documentary Channel. He has written over a dozen books, including *Here on Earth*, and the award-winning bestsellers *The Future Eaters*, *The Eternal Frontier* and *The Weather Makers*. Flannery was named Australian of the Year in 2007 and was the Head of the Australian Climate Commission from 2011–13.

Non-Fiction • September 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Canada—HarperCollins Canada; France—Bouché Chastel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Corbaccio; UK & Comm. excl ANZ & Canada—Penguin Press; USA—Grove/Atlantic.

## ***The Road to Winter* by Mark Smith**

*When I get closer I see he's as small as me, thin as a whippet. Rangy. Hair long and ropey right down his back and falling across his face. He's got an old pair of shorts on and a jumper way too big for him.*

*Then he starts talking and it hits me. He's a girl. Voice real high and panicky.*

*'You gotta help me,' she says. 'They're coming. They're tracking me.'*

Finn is a shy sixteen-year-old orphan living alone on the edge of town. He has survived the pandemic that killed his mother and saw his father die in the ensuing chaos by hunting and fishing and trading food. He has also learnt to stay out of the way of the Wilders, a roving gang who control the North Country.

Then Finn meets Warda. She's eighteen, and on the run. She's a *siley*, as they're called, an asylum seeker who with her sister Kas has been enslaved by a brutal man named Ramage. Warda is pregnant and she's desperate. Her life, and the life of her unborn child, depends on Finn.

And now Ramage wants them back—at any cost.

*The Road to Winter* is an extraordinary story of survival, and of finding out what matters most when there are no rules any more. It marks the arrival of an exciting new writing talent.

**Mark Smith** works with teenage boys in his job running an outdoor education residential campus on the west coast of Melbourne. His short stories have been published in various literary journals and in 2012 he won both the EJ Brady and the Alan Marshall short story awards.

Young Adult Fiction • July 2016 • Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World

## *Clancy of the Undertow* by Christopher Currie

*We're sitting there with matching milkshakes, Sasha and me. Somehow, things aren't going like I always thought they would. Firstly, she invited me—when in fact our first date was meant to be the result of a concerted campaign I would wage to convince her of my attractiveness and worth. Secondly, we're sitting face to face under twenty-four-hour fluorescents with the thoroughly unromantic buzz of aircon in our ears and endless flabby wedges of seated trucker's arsecrack as our only visual stimulus.*

'Awkward, tit-less, something approaching hopeless.' That's how Clancy describes herself. Actually she's just your typical sixteen-year-old loser dropkick gay misfit. But in a dead-end town like Barwen you only have to be a little different to feel like a freak. And Clancy, with a moderately dysfunctional family, a genuine interest in Nature Club and a major crush on the local hot girl, is packing a capital F.

As the summer begins, Clancy's dad is involved in a road smash that kills two local teenagers. While the family is dealing with the reaction of a hostile town, Clancy meets someone who could possibly—at last—become a friend. Not only that, the unattainable Sasha starts to show what may be a romantic interest.

In short, this is the summer when Clancy has to figure out who the hell she is.

Praise for Chris Currie and *The Ottoman Motel*:

'An assured debut.' *Canberra Times*

'An engrossing and deeply creepy read.' *Age*

'With this assured, emotionally sophisticated debut, Christopher Currie proves himself to be one of the brightest young novelists in Australia.' *South East Advertiser*

'An excellent first novel. Part thriller, part crime story and part analysis of the meaning of loss, all told through the eyes of a small boy.' *Otago Daily Times*

**Christopher Currie** is a Brisbane writer. His first book, a novel for adults called *The Ottoman Motel*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize and the Queensland Literary Awards in 2012.

*Clancy of the Undertow* is his first young adult novel. He blogs at [furioushorses.com](http://furioushorses.com)

Young Adult Fiction • December 2015 • Manuscript available October 2015

**Rights Held:** World

# *Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars* by Martine Murray



Molly's mother is not like other mothers: she rides a yellow bike and collects herbs and makes potions, perhaps even magical potions. Molly wants to be normal, like her friend Ellen, and watch television and eat food that comes in packets. But when Molly's mother accidentally turns herself into a tree, Molly turns to the strange and wonderful Pim for help. And as they look for a way to rescue her mother, Molly discovers how to be happy with the oddness in her life.

Martine Murray's new illustrated middle-grade novel *Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars* is a whimsical story about friendship and individuality and learning to see the freshness and wonder in the world.

'Magical—a delight.' Rebecca Stead

'*Molly and Pim* is wild, whimsical and wonderful. It makes you fall in love with the world and everyone in it.' Sally Rippin

'A beautiful, magical story, full of surprises and brimming with wisdom.' Karen Foxlee

'This novel is The Loveliest. Sweet and splendid and magical, while still being of-this-world.' Steph Bowe

'Sensitive and wonderfully eccentric... This is a beautiful, hopeful book.' *Readings*

**Martine Murray** writes and illustrates picture books, middle-grade fiction and young adult fiction, including *The Slightly True Story of Cedar B Hartley*, *The Slightly Bruised Glory of Cedar B Hartley* and *How to Make a Bird*. Her books have been published internationally and translated into seventeen languages.

Children's Fiction • July 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** North America—Penguin Random House Children's Books (Knopf)

# *How to Be Happy: A Memoir of Love, Sex and Teenage Confusion* by David Burton

WINNER, TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING, 2014

*Even though I had never had a kiss, let alone a sexual experience with either a man or a woman, I was unwilling to tolerate even the faintest notion that I might be simply confused. I was so sick of confusion. I needed certainty.*

A funny, sad and serious memoir, *How to Be Happy* is David Burton's story of his turbulent life at high school and beyond. Feeling out of place and convinced that he is not normal, David has a rocky start. He longs to have a girlfriend, but his first 'date' is a disaster. There's the catastrophe of the school swimming carnival—David is not sporty—and friendships that take devastating turns. Then he finds some solace in drama classes with the creation of 'Crazy Dave', and he builds a life where everything is fine. But everything is not fine.

*How to Be Happy* tackles depression, friendship, sexual identity, suicide, academic pressure, love and adolescent confusion. It's a brave and honest account of one young man's search for a happy, true and meaningful life that will resonate with readers young and old.

'I'm blown away by Burton's raw honesty and admirable wit.' *Alpha Reader*

'[Burton] delivers some devastating truth bombs. Sexuality is hard. Identity is hard. Love is hard. School is hard... This book shines a much-needed light back through the tunnel. It is a call-out to teenagers still struggling to find their way. *How to Be Happy* says "here's the path I took, hope it helps."' *Books+Publishing*

**David Burton** is a twenty-seven-year-old award-winning playwright from Brisbane. His work *April's Fool* (Playlab Press) toured nationally in 2012. He has recently co-written *Hedonism's Second Album* for La Boite Indie, and *The Landmine Is Me* for Queensland Theatre Company. A speaker and presenter in schools across Queensland, David is passionate about sharing his remarkable story with young people. *How to Be Happy* won the 2014 *Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing*.

daveburton.com.au

@dave\_burton

Young Adult Non-Fiction • September 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Taiwan—China Times Publishing Company

## Text Classics

***Wake in Fright* by Kenneth Cook** introduced by Peter Temple

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback mining town of Bundanyabba, planning to stay overnight before catching the plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five and he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original and the greatest outback horror story. *Wake in Fright* was made into a film in 1971, arguably the greatest film ever made in Australia. Lost for many years, the restored film was re-released to acclaim in 2009.

'A true dark classic of Australian literature.' J. M. Coetzee

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Brazil—Grua Livros; France—Autrement; Germany—BTB Verlag; Netherlands—Podium; Spain—Seix Barral; Turkey—Ayrinti.

***The Quiet Earth* by Craig Harrison** introduced by Bernard Beckett

John Hobson, a geneticist, wakes one morning to find his watch stopped at 6.12. The streets are deserted, there are no signs of life or death anywhere, and every clock he finds has stopped: at 6.12. Is Hobson the last person left on the planet? Inventive and suspenseful, *The Quiet Earth* is a confronting journey into the future—and a dark past.

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Film—Triptych Pictures; Turkey—Ayrinti.

***The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower** introduced by Joan London

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit in his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control. Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney in the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power. 'It is a brilliant achievement.' Michael Dirda

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; Germany—Aufbau Verlag; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Univers Ltd; Turkey—Metis.

***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie** introduced by David Malouf

Fifteen-year-old Charles Fox is sent away to boarding school, innocent, alone and afraid. There one of his masters develops an intense attachment to him. But when Charles meets Margaret, a girl staying at a nearby farm for the holidays, he is besotted, and a passionate, unforgettable romance begins. Published in London in 1937 to wide acclaim, *The Young Desire It* is a stunning debut novel about coming of age: an intimate and lyrical account of first love, and a rich evocation of rural Australia. 'Why isn't this stunning novel famous?' Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Germany—Hanser Verlag

***The Scarecrow* by Ronald Hugh Morrieson** introduced by Craig Sherborne

Fifties pop culture meets Gothic thriller in a brilliant, hallucinatory mixture. There's a killer on the loose. Can Neddy Poindexter save his sister Prudence, the prettiest girl in Klynham? There isn't another novel on the planet like *The Scarecrow*.

**Rights Held:** World excl. New Zealand

**Rights Sold:** France—Editions Rivages; French graphic adaptation—Editions Payot; Latvia—AGB.

***The Plains* by Gerald Murnane** introduced by Wayne Macauley

A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail, 'a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself'. Gerald Murnane is unquestionably one of the most original writers alive today.

'One of the strangest novels I've ever read...The real plains are the folds of the brain, which contain the elusive matter of memory. Murnane, a genius, is a worthy heir to Beckett.' Teju Cole

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** Catalan—Miniscula; France—Editions P.O.L.; Hungary—Libri Kiadó; Spain—Miniscula; Sweden—Albert Bonniers Forlag.

***An Iron Rose* by Peter Temple** introduced by Les Carlyon

The classic thriller by the winner of the Gold Dagger. Mac Faraday has left a dangerous job to live and work down a country lane. But then gentle Ned, his father's best friend, is found hanging from a beam in his machine shed. It's 2.45 a.m. And Mac is back in a world where the questions he asks are first answered with lies—and then with violence.

'His images catch in the mind like things glimpsed under lightning.' *Observer*

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** France—Rivages; UK & Comm excl. ANZ & Canada—Quercus.

***Happy Valley* by Patrick White** introduced by Peter Craven

The magnificent debut novel of Patrick White, Australia's first Nobel Prize winner, available for the first time since its initial publication in 1939. Based on his own experiences in the early 1930s as a jackaroo at Bolero, near Adaminaby in south-eastern New South Wales, it paints a portrait of a community in a desolate landscape.

'One of the most mature first novels of recent years.' Graham Greene

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** China—Chongqing Green Culture Co.; Estonia—Eesti Raamat; France—Gallimard; Israel—Am Oved; UK & Comm. excl. ANZ & Canada—Random House.

To view the full list, visit [www.textpublishing.com.au](http://www.textpublishing.com.au)



## Film Rights Highlights

### ***Zac & Mia* by A. J. Betts**

The last person Zac expects in the room next door is a girl like Mia, angry and feisty with questionable taste in music. In the real world, he wouldn't—couldn't—be friends with her. In hospital different rules apply, and what begins as a knock on the wall leads to a note—then a friendship neither of them sees coming. You need courage to be in hospital; a different kind of courage to be back in the real world. In one of these worlds Zac needs Mia. And in the other Mia needs Zac. Or maybe they both need each other.

'Zac and Mia are unforgettable—they put hooks into my heart that are still there.' Fiona Wood

### ***Alex As Well* by Alyssa Brugman**

*Alex As Well* is a confronting and heartfelt story of adolescent experience—of questioning identity, discovering sexuality, navigating friendships and finding a place to belong. Alex is a strong, vulnerable, confident, shy and determined character, one you will never forget. With the same tenderness and insight as young adult stars such as John Green and David Levithan, Alyssa Brugman has crafted a knockout story about identity, sexuality and family that speaks effortlessly to a universal teen experience.

'Brugman's beautiful writing offers a startlingly accurate portrayal of teenage life and is a remarkable exploration of gender and sexuality. *Alex as Well* tackles its subject matter with fearless honesty as well as with strong insight and a delightful sense of humour.' *Books+Publishing*

### ***In Certain Circles* by Elizabeth Harrower**

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, 'a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel'. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful, 'a little orphan'. Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other's shadow. Set amid the lush gardens and grand stone houses that line the north side of Sydney Harbour, *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

### ***The Watch Tower* by Elizabeth Harrower**

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit with his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control. Set in the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney during the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a novel of relentless and acute psychological power.

'This is a harrowing novel, relentless in its depiction of marital enslavement, spiritual self-destruction and the exploited condition of women in a masculinist society...It is a brilliant achievement.' *Washington Post*

### ***The Snow Kimono* by Mark Henshaw**

Set in Paris and Japan, *The Snow Kimono* tells the stories of Inspector Jovert, former Professor of Law Tadashi Omura, and his one-time friend the writer Katsuo Ikeda. All three men have lied to themselves, and to each other. And these lies are about to catch up with them. *The Snow Kimono* is an intricate psychological thriller that is also an unforgettable meditation on love and loss, on memory and its deceptions, and the ties that bind us to others.

### ***Nine Days* by Toni Jordan**

One family. Nine momentous days. An unforgettable novel of love and folly and heartbreak. In *Nine Days* Toni Jordan has harnessed all the spiky wit, compassion and lust for life that drew readers in droves to *Addition* and *Fall Girl*. Ambitious in scope and structure, triumphantly realised, this is a novel about one family and every family. It is about dreams and fights and sacrifices. And finally, of course, it is—as it must be—about love.

‘A witty and wise family saga...gorgeously layered...a treasure.’ *Kirkus Reviews*

### ***The Young Desire It* by Kenneth Mackenzie**

Fifteen-year-old Charles Fox is sent away to boarding school, innocent, alone and afraid. There one of his masters develops an intense attachment to him. But when Charles meets Margaret, a girl staying at a nearby farm for the holidays, he is besotted, and a passionate, unforgettable romance begins. *The Young Desire It* is a stunning debut novel about coming of age: an intimate and lyrical account of first love, and a rich evocation of rural Western Australia.

‘One of the great stories of first love...Why isn’t this stunning novel famous?’ Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*

### ***Skin* by Ilka Tampke**

AD 43. Iron-Age Britain is on the cusp of Roman invasion. For the people of Caer Cad, ‘skin’ is their totem, their greeting, their ancestors, their land. Ailia does not have skin. Abandoned at birth, she serves the Tribequeen of her township. Ailia is not permitted to marry, excluded from tribal ceremonies and forbidden to learn. But the Mothers, the tribal ancestors, have chosen her for another path. *Skin* is a thrilling, full-blooded, mesmerising novel about the collision of two worlds, and a young woman torn between two men.

### ***My Beautiful Enemy* by Cory Taylor**

Arthur Wheeler is haunted by his infatuation with a Japanese youth he encountered in the enemy alien camp where he worked as a guard during World War II. Abandoning his wife and baby son, Arthur sets out on a doomed mission to rescue his lover from forced deportation back to Japan, a country in ruins. Thus begins the secret history of a soldier at war with his own sexuality and dangerously at odds with the racism that underpins the crumbling British Empire. Like *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence* and *Snow Falling On Cedars*, *My Beautiful Enemy* explores questions of desire and redemption against the background of a savage racial war.

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