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LORA FOUNTAIN & ASSOCIATES LITERARY AGENCY
Contact: agence@foundlit.com

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Kate McCormack
PO Box 6042
St Lucia
QLD 4067

Telephone +617 3365 2435
Fax +617 3365 7579
Email katem@uqp.uq.edu.au
Website www.uqp.com.au
From the 2016 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award-winning author of *Ghost River*

In this unforgettable new collection, Tony Birch introduces a cast of characters from all walks of life. These remarkable and surprising stories capture common people caught up in the everyday business of living and the struggle to survive. From two single mothers on the most unlikely night shift to a homeless man unexpectedly faced with the miracle of a new life, Birch’s stories are set in gritty urban refuges and battling regional communities. His deftly drawn characters find unexpected signs of hope in a world where beauty can be found on every street corner – a message on a T-shirt, a friend in a stray dog or a star in the night sky.

*Common People* shines a light on human nature and how the ordinary kindness of strangers can have extraordinary results. With characteristic insight and restraint, Tony Birch reinforces his reputation as a master storyteller.

**PRAISE FOR COMMON PEOPLE**

‘Common People *is a book of great empathy and even greater faith: in the goodness of people, even in bad circumstances, in the desire for, and power of, human connection, and in resilience and the ability to recover, regardless of whatever damage, half-understood or otherwise, has come before.*’ Australian Book Review

‘The stories are varied, sustained and filled with beautiful writing that shows a rare talent for getting inside the minds of a huge cast of characters. There is not one word out of place.’ The Herald Sun

**Tony Birch** is the author of *Ghost River*, which won the 2016 Victorian Premier’s Literary Award for Indigenous Writing and *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. He is also the author of *Shadowboxing*, and two short story collections, *Father’s Day* and *The Promise*. Tony is a frequent contributor to ABC local and national radio and a regular guest at writers’ festivals. He lives in Melbourne and is a Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University.

**Rights Available:** UK, US, Can, Trans, Audio, Film
Winner of the 2016 Queensland Literary Awards – David Unaipon Award for an Unpublished Indigenous Writer

‘When he was in gaol, he’d begun to prepare himself for the fight of his life, a showdown with the policeman, McWilliams … he’d face life with death, and see who blinked first.’

Blackie and Rips are fresh out of prison when they set off on a road trip back to Wiradjuri country with their mate Carlos. Blackie is out for revenge against the cop who put him in prison on false grounds. He is also craving to reconnect with his grandmother’s country.

Driven by his hunger for drugs and payback, Blackie reaches dark places of both mystery and beauty as he searches for peace. He is willing to pay for that peace with his own life.


Paul Collis is a Barkindji man, born in Bourke in far western NSW on the Darling River. Paul worked in Newcastle for much of his young adult life in the areas of teaching and in Aboriginal community development positions. He has taught Aboriginal Studies to Indigenous inmates at the Worimi and Mount Penang juvenile detention centres and in Cessnock and Maitland prisons. Paul has a Bachelor of Arts degree and a doctorate in Communications. He lives in Canberra and works as a Creative Writing academic at the University of Canberra. Dancing Home is his first novel and won the national 2016 David Unaipon Award for a previously unpublished Indigenous writer.
Shortlisted for the unpublished manuscript category in the Queensland Literary Awards

An art teacher sends four of her students on a guerrilla mission. A young runner struggles to make sense of his best friend’s death. A health-food company adopts a farcical promotional strategy. A factory worker spends her days applying radioactive paint to watches, while dreaming of a future with her new suitor.

With a keen eye for detail and rich emotional insight, Laura Elvery reveals the fears and fantasies of everyday people searching for meaning. Ranging from tender poignancy to wry humour, this beguiling collection marks the debut of one of Australia’s rising stars.

PRAISE FOR LAURA ELVERY

‘Talented and polished.’ Owen Richardson, Age/Sydney Morning Herald

‘Standout stories include the competition winner, Joiner Bay by Laura Elvery, in which a boy struggling with loss contemplates the extremes of life and is supported by a couple of briefly but beautifully drawn adult men.’ Kerryn Goldsworthy, Age/Sydney Morning Herald

Laura Elvery is a writer from Brisbane. Her work has been published in The Big Issue Fiction Edition, Review of Australian Fiction, Kill Your Darlings and Griffith Review. She has won the Josephine Ulrick Prize for Literature and the Margaret River Short Story Competition, and was awarded a Griffith Review Fellowship. She has been shortlisted for the Overland NUW Fair Australia, Neilma Sidney and Victoria University Prizes. In 2016, Laura was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Awards for an unpublished manuscript.
Jean Harley Was Here is a touching and original exploration of love, relationships, and the ways in which we need each other.

Jean Harley – wife, mother, lover, dancer – is a shining light in the lives of those who know and love her. But when tragedy strikes, what becomes of the people she leaves behind? Her devoted husband, Stan, is now a single father to their young son, Orion. Her best friends, Neddy and Viv, find their relationship unravelling at the seams. And Charley, the ex-con who caused it all, struggles to reconcile his past crimes with his present mistakes. Life without Jean will take some getting used to, yet her indelible imprint remains.

PRAISE FOR JEAN HARLEY WAS HERE

‘It’s a clever novel which somehow manages to avoid being overly emotional despite the premise. This said, the story did make me laugh and cry, and reminded me of people I know.’ Readings online

‘I just couldn’t put it down. I was engrossed immediately and tearing up by page two; it felt so real. This is a moving portrayal of the power of love and of friendship and it’s wonderful.’ Readings e-news

‘Taylor Johnson’s interweaving of her characters and management of chronology is particularly impressive.’ Sydney Morning Herald

Heather Taylor Johnson was born in the United States and has lived in Australia since 1999. Jean Harley Was Here is her second novel; her first was Pursuing Love and Death. She has published four volumes of poetry and is the poetry editor for Transnational Literature. She is also the editor of the anthology Shaping the Fractured Self: Poetry of Chronic Illness and Pain. Heather lives in Adelaide with her husband and three children.
In *Hinterland*, Steven Lang has created a gripping novel that captures contemporary Australia in all of its natural beauty and conflicting ambitions.

Tensions have been slowly building in the old farming district of Winderran. Its rich landscape has attracted a new wave of urban tree-changers and wealthy developers. But traditional loyalties and values are pushed to the brink with the announcement of a controversial dam project. Locals Eugenie and Guy are forced to choose sides, while newcomer Nick discovers there are more sinister forces at work. The personal and the political soon collide in ways that will change their fates and determine the future of the town.

**PRAISE FOR AN ACCIDENTAL TERRORIST**

‘Lang’s ear for conversation, his ability to lance the heart of a matter with a single word, and his darkly Wordsworthian vision of the natural world make *An Accidental Terrorist* a memorably impressive debut.’ *Sydney Morning Herald*

‘A terrific debut.’ *Overland*

‘His characters are diverse and believable, the writing taught. An impressive debut.’ *The Age*

**PRAISE FOR HINTERLAND**

‘A love story to the land and a tense exploration of the divisions arising from political alliances, personal beliefs and inherited ideals. Lang’s descriptions of the landscape are beautiful, evoking a stunning visual backdrop for the small hinterland town. His characters are vivid, revealing a true sense of their past and current allegiances, transgressions and ambitions.’ *Books + Publishing*

Steven Lang is the author of two novels, *An Accidental Terrorist*, which won Premiers’ Literary Awards in two states, and *88 Lines about 44 Women*, which was shortlisted for both the NSW and Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards for Fiction. He co-directs *Outspoken*, an extended writers’ festival which takes the form of occasional conversations with major Australian and international writers. Steven lives in Maleny in South East Queensland. [http://stevenlang.com.au/](http://stevenlang.com.au/)
The haunting, exquisite debut of a gifted writer, set during the Big Freeze of 1963.

England, 1962. Seventeen-year-old Radford arrives at Goodwin Manor, a home for boys who have ‘been found by trouble’. Watched over by the enigmatic Teddy, life at the Manor offers a fragile peace at best, as the coldest winter in three centuries sets in.

Radford learns that the boys are to care for each other, since their families and the law have been unable to do so. But will this be enough when tragedy strikes?

At once both beautiful and brutal, The Everlasting Sunday is an unforgettable debut novel about growing up, growing wild and the shifting nature of friendship.

PRAISE FOR THE EVERLASTING SUNDAY

‘Robert Lukins’ powerful, assured writing cuts like a knife into a world crackling with secrets and tension.’ Lucy Treloar, author of Salt Creek

Robert Lukins lives in Melbourne and has worked as an art researcher and journalist. His writing has been published widely, including in The Big Issue, Rolling Stone, Crikey, Broadsheet and Overland. The Everlasting Sunday is his first novel.
A rich and gripping novel about the secrets our parents leave behind.

Daniel Whittaker’s will has some unusual instructions: in order for his three children to collect their generous inheritance, they must hand-deliver letters addressed to strangers from their father’s past. Who are these people and what was their significance to Daniel?

For his eldest son, Richard, there are hidden motives for his impatience to settle the will. His sister Evonne is still hurting from decades of her parents’ disapproval. The youngest sibling, Kelly, believes she knew her father best.

As Daniel’s children carry out his last wishes, each of them must confront their entrenched ideas about their father, and reconsider their own lives. What they discover is beyond anything they imagined.

PRAISE FOR CASS MORIARITY

‘The novel deftly illustrates the emotion sometimes experienced after a death: the feeling that you knew that person most intimately and profoundly, yet mystery has intervened, and your understanding of that life seems curiously limited, incomplete, even after a lifetime. ... this novel is heartfelt, episodic, occasionally didactic and sometimes sentimental, but I enjoyed it and I admire how Moriarty transforms stock material — letters from the dead, a withheld bequest, heirs in distress — into an intriguing investigation of contemporary issues and desires’ The Weekend Australian

Cass Moriarty lives and writes in Brisbane. Her debut novel, The Promise Seed, was longlisted for the 2017 International DUBLIN Literary Award, and shortlisted for the 2016 People’s Choice category and the 2013 Emerging Queensland Author category in the Queensland Literary Awards. She has a Bachelor of Business – Communication degree from Queensland University of Technology, and has worked in public relations, advertising and marketing. She and her husband have six children.
The Last Days of Ava Langdon
Mark O’Flynn

Shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2017

A piercing and witty portrait of a true maverick.

If only she had another life. If only she could have been born someone else; it’s a small enough change. Another woman. A child. Oscar Wilde, for instance. Why not? What might that have been like? To be someone else.

Ava Langdon is often not herself. Having fled her early life in New Zealand and endured the loss of her children, she now lives as a recluse in the Blue Mountains. Regarded by locals as a colourful eccentric, she dresses in men’s clothes and fearlessly pursues her artistic path.

All that matters to Ava is her writing. Words offer beauty and a sense of possibility when so much has been lost. But can they offer her redemption in her last days?

PRAISE FOR MARK O’FLYNN

‘The Last Days of Ava Langdon may be a novel, but it is also a perfectly judged poetic work … O’Flynn’s portrait of Langley/Langdon is deeply moving.’ Books + Publishing

‘It’s O’Flynn’s mastery of voice and character that makes reading White Light such a pleasure … Funny, tragic and beautifully crafted.’ Newtown Review of Books

‘O’Flynn … writes with wit and clarity. He has an eye for making stories from unlikely situations.’ The Australian

Mark O’Flynn has published six collections of poetry, most recently the chapbook Shared Breath. His poetry and short fiction have appeared in many Australian journals as well as overseas. His novels include Grassdogs and The Forgotten World. He has also published the comic memoir False Start and a collection of short fiction, White Light. He lives in the Blue Mountains.
When three women return for a five-day hike through the bush where their friendship fractured years earlier, they are forced to face up to their past and the haunting legacy of the man who changed their lives forever.

Lisa, Samantha and Nicole have known each other since high school. Their friendship is based on their differences more than their similarities. Lisa is a fighter, Samantha a peacekeeper and Nicole a rule follower. United they bring out the best in one another.

As they set off to hike through a wilderness area, an altercation with a man at the trailhead car park quickly escalates. Over the next five days, as they traverse the challenges of the terrain and their survival skills in the bush, it soon becomes clear that they are not alone. The freedom they feel soon turns to fear. Only once it is too late for them to turn back do they appreciate the full threat of the man. As their friendship is tested, each of the girls must make an irrevocable choice.

PRAISE FOR GRACE’S TABLE

‘Delightfully insightful … a highly credible and readable story.’ Good Reading

‘[A] beguiling novel. Grace’s Table is involving, moving, amusing and genuinely entertaining.’ Books + Publishing

‘Piper has written an enjoyable domestic mystery and has mastered the art of keeping readers interested while ostensibly telling the tale of just one day in a life.’ Weekly Times

Sally Piper is a former nurse who lives and writes in Brisbane. Her debut novel Grace’s Table (UQP) was shortlisted for the 2011 Queensland Premier’s Literary Award – Emerging Queensland Author category and in 2013 she was awarded a Varuna Publishing Fellowship for her manuscript. She holds a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from Queensland University of Technology. She currently mentors other writers on the Queensland Writers Centre ‘Writer’s Surgery’ program.
A powerful and honest work, *Traumata* intellectually and emotionally explores the ways childhood trauma reverberates over a lifetime, unearthing its deep roots in socio-economic, patriarchal and political realities.

Meera Atkinson uses her own personal history as a touchstone, and her self-reflection leads her not only to memory and neuroscientific studies, but to a contemplation on the causes of trauma and its contribution to many social ills and individual and family tragedies.

Utterly compelling, the story of Meera’s difficult family life isn’t all grim and full of impending doom. The bohemian life of Sydney in the 1970s and 80s is captured with colour and energy. And *Traumata* isn’t a handbook for survivors of childhood abuse. Rather, it makes clear the connections between the kind of life a child has lived and the impact that has on their developing brain and the implications that then has for our community.

*Traumata* deals with issues of our time – intergenerational trauma, family violence, alcoholism, child abuse, patriarchy – and finds a new path through the complexity of humanity.

**Meera Atkinson** has published widely: her writing has appeared in over sixty publications, including Salon.com, *Meanjin*, and *Southerly*, and she contributes to the quarterly journal *Griffith Review*. She is a PhD graduate from the Writing and Society Research Centre at Western Sydney University, with a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Queensland and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Technology Sydney.

A brave, heartrending memoir of family love and longing in the turbulent era of Apartheid South Africa.

During the terrifying years of Apartheid in South Africa, Shelley Davidow’s family was a crime. At a time when it was illegal for black and white people to live together, Shelley’s social activist parents took in Rosie, an abandoned black three-year-old. Rosie grew up as a beloved daughter and sister in a white household. Against the backdrop of racist laws and ever-present threats of violence, Shelley’s parents did all they could to provide a safe, happy home for their five children. But when Rosie was sixteen, devastating truths came to light, shattering the family’s understanding of the past.

In this haunting memoir, Shelley Davidow sifts through the memories of her early life, searching for hope and reconciliation. *Shadow Sisters* leaves us with a deeper understanding of family love and how, sometimes, that love is not enough.

**PRAISE FOR SHADOW SISTERS**

‘Shadow Sisters takes us on a beautiful, heartrending, unflinching voyage to a South Africa we have seldom if ever seen in contemporary literature.’ *Molly Gloss*, award-winning author of *The Hearts of Horses* and *The Jump-off Creek*

*Shelley Davidow* is originally from South Africa but has spent the last two decades living and teaching in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. The author of forty books, she writes across genres. Her work includes children’s fiction, award-winning young adult fiction, and adult non-fiction. Now based in Australia, she lives on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast with her husband and son. Visit her website at www.shelleydavidow.com

One woman’s powerful story of how her mother’s death saved her life.

When Josie was 21, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Ten years later her mother was dead. Four years after Josie’s mother’s death, the disease reared up in Josie’s own cells; this time more aggressively. She was 35, and her high-needs baby son was not yet one. As the daughter of a woman who had sought out alternatives to conventional medicine, Josie used her own knowledge and her mother’s experience to find solutions for herself. Later she also used this experience to help her son rise up out of his profoundly autistic state.

*In Danger* is Josie’s journey through life with breast cancer from inside the experience, capturing her energy and force-of-nature personality. She reflects on the literary works that inspired her, from cancer literature to other medical memoirs, works that helped her to explore disease and the human condition, and shed light into its darker aspects.

At its heart, this moving memoir delves deep into how it feels when everything you love is in danger.

**PRAISE FOR IN DANGER**

‘In Danger is much more than a breast cancer memoir – though it covers that territory eloquently and courageously. It is also an insightful meditation on the push and pull of mother-daughter relationships, on what we inherit through blood and example.’ Kristina Olsson

Josie is a cancer patient advocate with CanSpeak Qld. She sits on the Community Board Advisory Group to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service that oversee six hospitals in Queensland. Josie currently works as a research assistant for Griffith University Menzies Health Institute’s Women’s Wellness After Cancer Program (WWACP). Her former job was for UQ’s School of Medicine, Psychiatry faculty implementing a quality improvement project – to improve the discharge planning process in psychiatric inpatient units – in Logan and PAH hospitals.

Everything you need to know about the digital revolution and how it affects your life.

David Fagan was at the forefront of this revolution as he helped take one of Australia’s largest media organisations from print to digital. In *Wake Up*, he explores the challenges and opportunities of the digital age from his position on the front line. He chronicles the rise of social media, online shopping, the Uber and Airbnb phenomena and the upending of traditional industries. Fagan observes the big emerging trends and examines the technologies leading this change, as the arrival of robots and artificial intelligence affects the way we live, work and play. If you haven’t been paying attention, now is the time to wake up.

PRAISE FOR WAKE UP

‘David Fagan has nailed it. He has written an engaging book about the digital revolution without fear of the future, or favour for any technology.’ George Megalogenis, political commentator, author, journalist

‘An entertaining and perceptive insight into the challenges and opportunities of our changing digital world – an important call to action for us all.’ David Thodey, Chair of CSIRO and former CEO of Telstra

David Fagan has lived and breathed the digital revolution for almost two decades – first as editor-in-chief of *The Courier-Mail*, designing and driving one of the biggest online news sites in the country, and now as Director of Corporate Transition and an Adjunct Professor of Business at the Queensland University of Technology. In this role, he uses his breadth of experience to run the Real World Futures program, which is dedicated to exploring and explaining how digital disruption is changing how we think, work and live. The Brisbane-based father of three is also a convert, of course, to Uber, Airbnb, social media, online shopping and drone racing.
A gritty true story of anti-authoritarian youth – graffiti, drugs and violence, sex and alcohol – and the redemptive power of love.

In *Scoundrel Days* Brentley Frazer tells the story of his youth – wild, disillusioned, impassioned and desolate. Born into a Christian cult in outback Queensland, Frazer escapes through literature and poetry, drugs and violence, sex and alcohol; and his ensuing rejection of religion, authority and the ‘way things are’ leads to adventures, desperation and, just possibly, redemption.

Beautifully written and urgently told, *Scoundrel Days* is a visceral, compelling assault on the senses. An at times brutal story articulated with a poet’s sensibility, it portrays a walker of edges exploring the dark side while searching for the love essential to build a soul.

**PRAISE FOR SCOUNDREL DAYS**

‘Scoundrel Days is the compelling memoir from poet Brentley Frazer about his misspent adolescence in Queensland, a roller-coaster ride of wild excess and anti-authoritarian adventures told in urgent and beautiful prose.’ *Sun Herald and Sunday Age*

‘Can’t remember the last time I read anything this gritty and compelling. Frazer doesn’t write like an angel. He writes like a demon. Scoundrel Days is one of the finest Australian works in years.’ *Brett D’Arcy*, winner of WA Premier’s Book Award for *Mindless Ferocity of Sharks*

**Brentley Frazer** is an Australian author whose poems, prose and academic papers have been published in numerous national and international anthologies, journals, magazines and other periodicals since 1992. He holds an MA (writing) from James Cook University and authored *Scoundrel Days* as part of a submission for a PhD in creative writing at Griffith University. He is also a lecturer at Griffith University and the editor-in-chief of *Bareknuckle Poet Journal of Letters*. www.brentley.com

Rights Available: UK, US, Can, Trans, Audio, Film
This ground-breaking book will change the way we farm, eat and think about food.

In *Call of the Reed Warbler*, Charles Massy explores regenerative agriculture and the vital connection between our soil and our health. Using his own farming experience as a touchstone, Massy tells the real story behind industrial agriculture and the global profit-obsessed corporations driving it. He shows how innovative farmers are finding a new way, regenerating their land and witnessing astounding transformations. He captures what it truly means to live in connection with the land and offers a powerful affirmation of our potential to change.

**PRAISE FOR CALL OF THE REED WARBLER**

‘This is a marvellous book, full of wonder and wisdom, and both visionary and deeply practical. A magnificent achievement.’ **Professor Tom Griffiths, ANU**

‘Profound, complex, anecdotal, *Call of the Reed Warbler* wants to change the world. It could be the most important book you will ever read.’ **Bill Gammage**

‘Its gentle yet compelling voice, its depth of feeling and honesty, its sense of purpose and vision, is sure to make it an Australian classic.’ **Books+Publishing**

**Charles Massy** gained a Bachelor of Science (Zoology, Human Ecology) at ANU (1976), before going farming for 35 years, developing the prominent Merino sheep stud ‘Severn Park’. Concern for ongoing land degradation and humanity’s sustainability challenge led him to return to ANU in 2009 to undertake a PhD in Human Ecology. Charles was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service as Chair and Director of a number of research organisations and statutory wool boards. Charles has authored several books on the Australian sheep industry, the most recent being the widely acclaimed *Breaking the Sheep’s Back* (UQP, 2011).
If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, how do you plan for the best possible death?

In April 2008 Sarah Winch’s husband, Lincoln, died from kidney cancer that had been diagnosed just four months earlier. He was 48.

Sarah and Lincoln prepared as best they could for his death. Her 30 years as a registered nurse and ethicist, specifically focused on end-of-life care, did not fully prepare Sarah for Lincoln’s death, but it did help them plan for the best death possible.

This book advocates taking control of the final stages of life. It opens up the conversation around death, and encourages us to become more informed about how we want to die.

This is an intimate, compassionate and practical guide, from someone with uniquely relevant personal and professional experience.

PRAISE FOR THE BEST DEATH

‘In my decades as a medical practitioner, I have come to know that while death is inevitable, few people understand how to approach the physical, emotional and spiritual experience of dying. The Best Death is a practical and valuable resource for people who are facing the final challenge of their lives.’ Professor Kerryn Phelps AM

Dr Sarah Winch is head of the Medical Ethics, Law and Professionalism discipline at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland. She is also the CEO of Health Ethics Australia, a charity that aims to improve death literacy for everyone and raise compassion awareness among clinicians. She teaches healthcare ethics and researches end-of-life care. Sarah’s professional health ethics advice is sought nationally and internationally by clinicians and government agencies. A widely published author, she draws on her expertise and experiences in end-of-life healthcare to help others get the best death possible.
Winner of the 2016 Thomas Shapcott Prize for Poetry

With its wildness and originality, *The Agonist* is an exhilarating collection. Exploring the languages of anatomy, etymology and incantation, these poems spark conversations about fracture and repair, energy, love and danger.

PRAISE FOR *THE AGONIST*

‘Full of the beautiful music of fracture and repair … Exhilarating in its risk and energy, surprising in its evocations and work with form, this is a distinctive collection.’ **J udges’ comments, Thomas Shapcott Prize**

‘Grounded in the body and its pain, Deo’s stunning poems move beyond the merely philosophical. The agonists of this book – bodies damaged by conflict or ideology, love or loss – are viscerally and exquisitely real.’ **Maria Takolander**

‘Precise, incisive and surreal, Shastra Deo’s poems govern the space between beauty and terror. Without doubt, a remarkable new voice has arrived.’ **Bronwyn Lea**

‘The Agonist exists somewhere between a haunted forest and a dissecting bench, demonstrating that the realities of the physical body are just as strange (and terrifying) as anything in fable or myth. At once tender and forensic, Shastra Deo’s poems ask what it means to inhabit a body which collects its own souvenirs of experience, and from which it is impossible to gain reprieve. This is a poetry of blood, smoke and communion – where one is as likely to encounter a boxer’s knuckles as the velvet of antlers; where tiny fish swimming in the lungs of the drowned are as present as a lover’s hands. A striking and memorable debut.’ **Chloe Wilson**

**Shastra Deo** was born in Fiji, raised in Melbourne, and lives in Brisbane. She holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts in Writing and English Literature, First Class Honours, a University Medal in Creative Writing, and has a master’s degree in Writing, Editing and Publishing from The University of Queensland. *The Agonist* is her first book.
Brazil
Laura Riff
Agência RIFF Avenida Calógeras, nº 6, sala 1007, 20030-070 – Centro Rio de Janeiro, RJ Brasil
55 21 2287-6299
laura@agenciariff.com.br

China
Amanda Chen
Big Apple Agency
Zhongshan Bei Road, No.838, 3F Zhubei District Shanghai 200070 China
86 21 6658 0055
bigapple-china@bigapple-china.com

France
Lora Fountain
Agence Littéraire Lora Fountain & Associates
7, rue de Belfort 75011 Paris France
+33 (0)1 43 56 21 96
lora@loufount.com

Greece
Nike Davarinou
Read n’ Right Agency
26, Dimitriou Street 34132 Chalkida Greece
302210 29798
readrght@hol.gr

Hungary
Judit Hermann
Nurnberg (Budapest)
Győri út
20 Hungary
+36 1 302 64 51
j.hermann@nurnberg.hu

Italy
Valentina Martello
book@ literary agency
Seconda Strada 7, San Felice Milano Italy
+ 39 3479803359
valentina.martello@bookat.it

Japan
Hamish Macaskill
Japan Uni Agency (non-exclusive)
Minami Aoyama 6-7-3 Minato-Ku Tokyo 107-0062 Japan
+81 3 3406 5385
hamish@eaj.co.jp

Korea
Duran Kim
Duran Kim Agency
2F-NA, 1586-5 Seocho-dong, Seocho-ku
Seoul 137-070 Korea
+82 2 583 5724
duran@durankim.com

Netherlands
Jeanine Langenberg
Sebes & van Gelderen Literary Agency
Herengracht 162
1016 BP Amsterdam The Netherlands
+31 (0)20 616 0940
langenberg@sebes.nl

Poland
Ryszard Turczyn
AKF Literary Agency
ul. Hoza 21/23 m. 30 00-521 Warszawa Poland
+48 22 621 8860
akf.agency@hot.pl

Portugal
Patricia Seibel
Seibel Publishing Services
Rua da Alegria 2005,
2o E Porto, 4200-026 Portugal
patricia@seibelpublishingservices.com
SUBAGENTS

Russia & Ukraine
Ludmilla Sushkova
ANA Russia
Flat 72, Stroenie 6 21 Tsvetnoy Boulevard
127051 Moscow Russia
+7 495 625 8188
sushkova@awax.ru

Scandinavia
Ia Atterhom
Ia Atterholm Fersens väg
14 211 42 Malmö Sweden
+46 40 30 58 83
ia.atterholm@telia.com

Spain & Latin American
Antonia Kerrigan
Antonia Kerrigan Literary Agency
Travessera de Gracia 22, 1º 2ª 08021 Barcelona
Spain
+34 93 209 38 20 antonia@antoniakerrigan.com

Taiwan
Wendy King
Big Apple Agency
16F, No. 866-8, Zhongzheng Road Zhonghe
City, Taipei County 235 TAIWAN
+886 2 8228 7211
wendy-king@bigapple1-china.com

Turkey
Dilek Kayi
Kayi Literary Agency Ltd
Yesilcesme Sokak
7/5 Sahinoglu Apt Goztepe 34730 Istanbul
Turkey
dilek@nkliteraryagency.com