



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

London Book Fair Rights Guide 2020

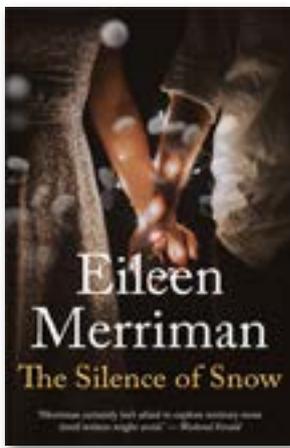
Fiction Frontlist

for rights queries

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THE SILENCE OF SNOW

Eileen Merriman

September 2020

Random House New Zealand

Trade paperback – 304 pp

Rights held: World

A compelling love story 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 anaesthetic 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 keep 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

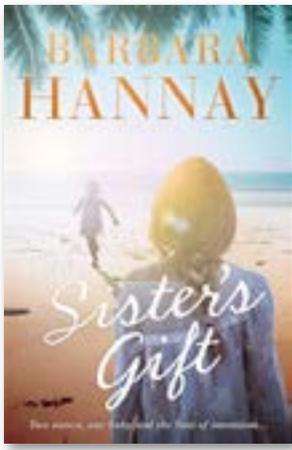
- Eileen Merriman's novel *Moonlight Sonata* was recently longlisted for the 2020 Ockham New Zealand Award
- A revealing insight into the pressures faced by doctors
- An accessible exploration of complex ethical issues – reminiscent of the works of Jodi Picoult

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 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 at North Shore Hospital. Author photo credit © Colleen Lenihan





THE SISTER'S GIFT

Barbara Hannay

August 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 400 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Rights sold previous title (*Meet Me in Venice*): Bulgaria (Hermes); Czech Republic (Baronet); Estonia (Eram Books)

The heartwarming new family drama by the bestselling author of *Meet Me in Venice*.

Two sisters, one baby and the best of intentions.

As a vibrant young woman with a lifetime of possibilities ahead of her, Freya grants her sister, Pearl, the ultimate gift of motherhood. However, this comes at a hefty price – an unexpected rift in her family and the loss of the man she loves.

Decades later, Freya is divorced, childless and homeless, at rock bottom after losing everything she's worked for. When her estranged niece, Billie, offers sanctuary, managing the family restaurant on beautiful Magnetic Island, Freya can hardly refuse.

Billie has never understood the tension between her mother and her aunt and now, with a newly broken heart, she is nursing a family secret of her own. All three women come together under the tropical Queensland skies, but can they let go of past regrets, or will old tensions tear them further apart?

By the bestselling author of *Meet Me in Venice*, this is a moving and inspiring novel in a stunning setting about choices and consequences and the redemptive power of love.

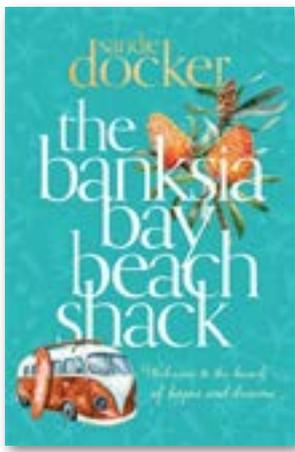
Sales points

- Barbara Hannay has been licensed in Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Estonia
- Perfect for fans of Rachael Johns
- Barbara is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed romance authors, with over six million books sold worldwide
- A heartwarming read for women of all ages, featuring young women and those in their later stages of life



A former English teacher, BARBARA HANNAY is a city-bred girl with a yen for country life.

Many of her forty-plus books are set in rural and outback Australia and have been enjoyed by readers around the world. She has won the RITA, awarded by Romance Writers of America, and has twice won the Romantic Book of the Year award in Australia. In her own version of life imitating art, Barbara and her husband currently live on a misty hillside in beautiful Far North Queensland where they keep heritage pigs and chickens and an untidy but productive garden.



THE BANKSIA BAY BEACH SHACK

Sandie Docker

March 2020

Michael Joseph Australia

Trade Paperback – 384 pp

Rights held: World

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

The heartwarming new family saga from the bestselling author of *The Kookaburra Creek Café*.

A year is a long time in the memory of a small town.

Stories get twisted, truths become warped, history is rewritten. When Laura discovers an old photo of her grandmother, Lillian, with an intriguing inscription on the back, she heads to the sleepy beachside town of Banksia Bay to learn the truth of Lillian's past. But when she arrives, Laura finds a community where everyone seems to be hiding something.

Virginia, the owner of the iconic Beach Shack Café, has kept her past buried for sixty years. As Laura slowly uncovers the tragic fragments of that summer so long ago, Virginia must decide whether to hold onto her secrets or set the truth free.

Young Gigi and Lily come from different worlds but forge an unbreakable bond – the 'Sisters of Summer'. But in 1961 a chain of events is set off that reaches far into the future. One lie told. One lie to set someone free. One lie that changes the course of so many lives.

Welcome to the Banksia Bay Beach Shack, where first love is found and last chances are taken.

Sales points

- Docker has developed a strong brand for herself, writing warm, feelgood stories set in evocative places
- Ideal as a Mother's Day gift
- Perfect for fans of Barbara Hannay and Sophie Green

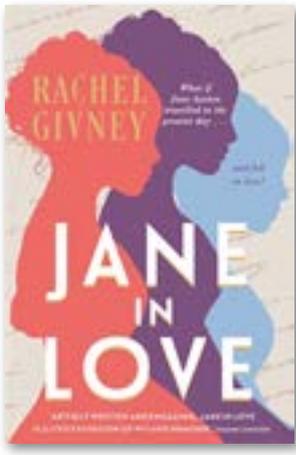
Praise for Sandie Docker

- '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 traveled 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 credit © Naomi Bartlett Photography



JANE IN LOVE

Rachel Givney

February 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 416 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: North America (HarperCollins); Brazil (Editora Pausa); Indonesia (Republika); Romania (Rao Distributie); Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

‘Artfully written and engaging, *Jane in Love* is a lively effusion of wit and humour.’ – Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Project*

Jane Austen time-travels to the future and falls in love. But will she choose happiness in the present, or her career as a writer in the past?

If Jane Austen had to choose between the heart and the pen, what would she do? Bath, England, 1803. At age twenty-eight, Jane Austen should be seeking a suitable husband, but all she wants to do is write. She is forced to take extreme measures in her quest to find true love – which lands her in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

Magically, she finds herself in modern-day England, where horseless steel carriages line the streets and people wear very little clothing. She forms a new best friend in fading film star Sofia Wentworth, and a genuine love interest in Sofia’s brother Fred, who has the audacity to be handsome, clever *and* kind-hearted. She is also delighted to discover that she is now a famous writer, a published author of six novels and beloved around the globe. But as Jane’s romance with Fred blossoms, her presence in the literary world starts to waver. She must find a way to stop herself disappearing from history before it’s too late.

A modern-day reimagining of the life of one of the world’s most celebrated writers, this wonderfully witty romantic comedy offers a new side to Jane’s story, which sees her having to choose between the heart and the pen.

Sales points

- A fun romantic comedy that sophisticated, bookish readers will also enjoy
- This is entertaining and engaging commercial fiction from a smart new television writer who is very well-connected and promotable
- A crossover novel that’s perfect for book clubs and fans of Graeme Simsion
- *Jane in Love* was shortlisted for the Virginia Prize for Fiction, a UK prize for an unpublished manuscript for women’s fiction

Praise

- ‘A superb idea, with a strong female lead, romance and a tense dilemma at its heart’ – Caroline Overington, author of *The Ones You Can Trust*
- ‘The premise of Jane Austen time-travelling and having to choose between her books and real love is touching and resonant, charming and funny and tragic. And very clever’ – Posie Graeme-Evans, author of *The Dressmaker*



RACHEL GIVNEY is a writer and filmmaker originally from Sydney, Australia (currently based in Melbourne). She has worked on television shows including *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. Author photo credit © Tegan Louise



THE LAST CONVICT

Anthony Hill

June 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 320 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

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.

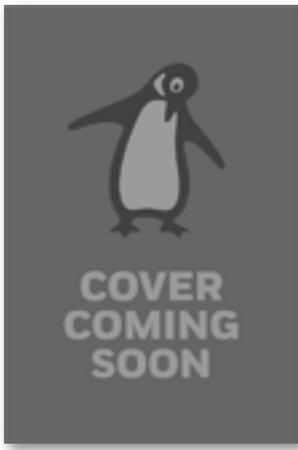
Sales points

- 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 credit © Sandy Spiers



THE CHAMPAGNE LOVERS

Fiona McIntosh

November 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold previous titles: *The Pearl Thief* - United Kingdom (Ebury); Italy (Dea Planeta); *The Tea Gardens* - United Kingdom (Ebury); Lithuania (Alma Littera); *The Chocolate Tin* - Bulgaria (Soft Press); *The Perfumer's Secret* - Portugal (Estrela Polar); Czech Republic (Baronet); Poland (Wydawnictwo Filia); Bulgaria (Soft Press)

Forthcoming new novel from the internationally bestselling Fiona McIntosh.

Fifth-generation champenoise Sophie Delancre finds love with wealthy vigneron Jerome Méa in the summer of 1914.

But just as married life begins, Jerome is torn away by war and less than a year later Sophie receives news that he is missing, presumed dead. Sophie divides her time between helping to set up an underground hospital in the champagne cellars below the city and turning her mansion house in Epernay over to a retreat for the wounded.

As a senior chemist, Charles Nash is considered an essential serviceman and is withheld from joining up as World War I breaks out. However, when poison gas is first used in Belgium in 1915 for mass murder, Charlie is fearful that his skills will be put to use to develop an even more toxic version of the killing gas in response. He flees his work and enlists, quickly showing a talent for being a top marksman. His men see Captain Nash as heroic but Charlie knows he'd rather die than kill any more soldiers. When he is badly wounded fighting in the Marne region of France, he finds himself in the Reims underground hospital, being tended to by the beautiful Sophie Delancre.

She takes him back to her home in Epernay to recuperate, and a close friendship develops. Charlie's chemistry background delivers the solution to her problem of having no more stocks of sugar to make the 1918 vintage, and their relationship slips helplessly into love.

When news arrives in 1918 that Jerome's bloodstained jacket and identification papers have been found in Belgium, Sophie's hopes of seeing her husband alive again are reignited.

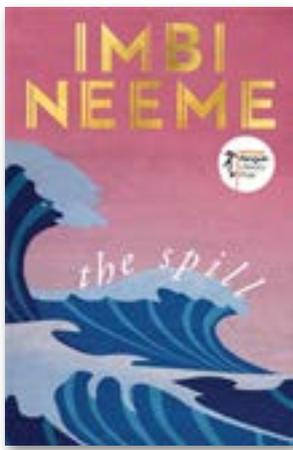
As the Allies seem to be prevailing, Sophie decides that before she commits fully to Charlie, she will try one last time to find Jerome.

Sales points

- Fiona McIntosh has sold over 600,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand alone
- Fiona's titles are published in the United Kingdom, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia, Poland, Italy and Bulgaria
- As well as being an incredibly successful commercial fiction author, Fiona is also the author of adult fantasy titles (published by HarperCollins Australia) with rights sold in France, and has also written titles for children, including *The Whisperer*, which was shortlisted in the 2010 Children's Book of the Year Awards and published in North America by Random House in 2015
- Her books *The Tea Gardens*, *The Chocolate Tin* and *The Perfumer's Secret* have all been shortlisted or longlisted in the ABIA awards
- *The Diamond Hunter* (2019) was Fiona's biggest title yet, reaching new fans around the world



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. Her most recent novel, *The Diamond Hunter*, was published in 2019. Author photo credit © Anne Stropin



THE SPILL

Imbi Neeme

June 2020

Viking

Trade paperback – 336 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Winner of the 2019 Penguin Literary Prize.

In 1982, a car overturns on a remote West Australian road. Nobody is hurt, but the impact is felt for decades.

Nicole and Samantha Cooper both remember the summer day when their mother, Tina, lost control of their car – but not in quite the same way. Tina is an alcoholic, and the circumstances surrounding the crash remain murky to everyone involved. It is only after Tina's death, almost four decades later, that the sisters are forced to reckon with the repercussions of the crash. Their deeply troubled relationship is fraught with guilt, blame, ignorance and misunderstandings.

Nicole, after years of disappointments and frustrations, seems finally content. Laid back but lacking in direction, she lives happily with her wealthy partner, Jethro. Samantha – controlling, wary of alcohol, and struggling to connect with her teenage daughter – is hiding something that might just tear apart the life she's worked so hard to build.

With family secrets drifting to the surface in the wake of Tina's death, the sisters start to interrogate their differences and the self-sabotaging behaviours that have kept them apart.

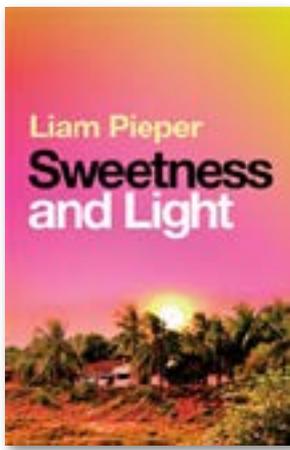
The Spill is told in chapters that alternate between Nicole and Samantha's perspectives, and between the past and the present day. It explores the cycles of love, loss and regret that can follow a family through the years – moments of joy, things left unsaid, and things misremembered. Above all, it is a deeply moving portrait of two sisters falling apart and finding a way to fit back together, and of the legacies of alcoholism and splintered families.

Sales points

- Perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and Sally Hepworth
- Winner of the Penguin Literary Prize 2019
- A multi-layered story confronting tough family situations, ending with enormous uplift, hope and love
- About the subject of perennial bestsellers, SISTERS
- A great summer read featuring car trips, pubs, hot weather and beaches, with an evocative sense of place

IMBI NEEME is a recovering blogger, impending novelist and compulsive short story writer. Her manuscript *The Spill* was awarded the 2019 Penguin Literary Prize. She was also the recipient of the 2019 Henry Handel Richardson Fellowship at Varuna for excellence in Short Story Writing. Her short fiction has won prizes in the 2019 Newcastle Short Story Awards, the 2018 Boroondara Literary Awards, and has been shortlisted for the 2018 Peter Carey Short Story Award. Her first manuscript, *The Hidden Drawer*, made the judges' commended list in the 2015 Victorian Premier's Unpublished Manuscript Awards and was selected for the 2015 Hachette/Queensland Writers Centre Manuscript Development Program. She blogged for many years at Not Drowning, Mothering, which won the 2010 Bloggies award for best Australian/New Zealand Weblog. She lives in Melbourne with her partner, kids and largely indifferent pets. Author photo credit © Miles Standish





SWEETNESS AND LIGHT

Liam Pieper

March 2020

Hamish Hamilton

Trade paperback – 336pp

Rights held: Translation

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Rights sold previous title (*The Toymaker*): Czech Republic (Nakladatelstvi Domino); Italy (De Agostini); Russia (Family Leisure Book Club)

An intoxicating, unsettling story of the battle between light and dark, love and lust, morality and corruption.

India, monsoon season.

Connor is an Australian expat with a dark past, who lives in a sleepy beachside tourist town on the west coast of India. He's a part-time diving instructor and a part-time conman – running low-stakes scams on lonely tourists who pass through the town on their own spiritual journeys. When one of his scams goes horribly wrong, a local gangster offers him a chance at redemption, if he'll agree to smuggle a drug package across the country.

On the train he meets Sasha, a kind-hearted New Yorker recovering from a painful divorce, on her way to an isolated ashram where she hopes to find comfort and direction from a famous Guru. Acting on her attraction to him, she invites Connor to accompany her on her spiritual journey – and he implicates her in his crime without her knowledge.

In the ashram, against the backdrop of the monsoon season, these two lost souls share a connection – and a desire to find, in each other or in India itself, the happiness that eluded them in their own countries.

But their relationship, and their morality, are tested as Sasha falls under the sway of the Guru. Navigating a world of gangsters, tourists, seekers and secret agendas, they both begin to realise that within the ashram's utopian community, something is deeply, deeply wrong.

From suburban Australia after the mining bust to the seamy world of spirituality tourism in developing countries, Liam has a sharp eye for place. This is a globetrotting book that spans Chennai, Newcastle, Brooklyn and the Amalfi Coast – perfect for vicarious immersion; for losing yourself in other worlds.

An explosive, unforgettable novel that confirms Liam Pieper's place as one of Australia's finest, sharpest writers.

Sales points

- *Shantaram* meets *Eat Pray Love* in this dark, rollicking literary thriller from the bestselling author of *The Toymaker*
- While Liam's writing is literary, he has solid commercial appeal, and with its bold characters, seductive settings and gripping plot, *Sweetness and Light* will capture an even wider audience
- A great book-club pick, with rich content for discussions of moral ambiguity, ethics and values
- Liam undertook a writer's residency in India and has stayed on several ashrams. He can speak well to the expat/research angle of travel, and *Sweetness and Light* offers a nuanced take on the ethics of tourism

LIAM PIEPER is an author and journalist. His first book was a memoir, *The Feel-Good Hit of the Year*, and was shortlisted for the National Biography Award and the Ned Kelly Best True Crime Award. His second book, the Penguin Special *Mistakes Were Made*, was a volume of humorous essays. He was co-recipient of the 2014 M Literary Award, winner of the 2015 Geoff Dean Short Story Prize, the inaugural creative resident of the UNESCO City of Literature of Prague, and the 2018 National Library of Australia Creative Arts Fellow for Australian Writing. His first novel, *The Toymaker*, received the 2016 Christina Stead Fiction Award from the Fellowship of Australian Writers. Author photo credit © Matt Collins





FAKE BABY

Amy McDaid

April 2020

Penguin New Zealand

Trade paperback – 304 pp

Rights held: World

***Fake Baby* is a tender and funny exploration of the power of words, our perception of resilience, and what it means to be real.**

Nine Days. One City. Three Oddballs. Stephen's dead father is threatening to destroy the world. If Stephen commits the ultimate sacrifice and throws himself into the harbour, he will save humanity. The last thing he needs is a Jehovah's Witness masquerading as a school boy and an admission to a mental health facility.

Jaanvi steals a life-like doll called James and cares for him as if he were her dead child. Her husband demands she return him. But she and James have already bonded, and it's nobody's business how she decides to grieve.

Lucas, pharmacist and all-round nice guy, is having one of the worst weeks of his life. His employees forgot his birthday, his mother's gone manic, and now his favourite customer is in hospital because of a medication error he made. Can he make things right? Or is life all downhill after forty?

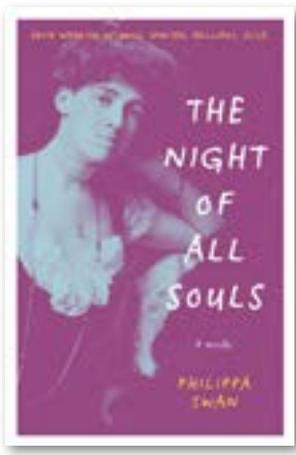
'A darkly funny satire that's both moving and wise.' – Paula Morris

Sales points

- Dark humour from an exciting new novelist
- Challenges perceptions of mental illness and resilience
- Amy is an exciting new writer: part Rarotongan, with family experience of mental illness (both of which play a part in the novel)
- Amy won the 2017 Sir James Wallace Master of Creative Writing Prize for most outstanding manuscript (New Zealand's richest prize for a creative writing student)
- The novel addresses mental health issues, but remains upbeat as Amy follows her three ordinary characters with humour, understanding and a warm, light touch



AMY MCDAID has a Master of Creative Writing (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor's degree in English and History from the University of Auckland. The first draft of *Fake Baby* was awarded the Sir James Wallace Prize - New Zealand's richest prize for a creative writing student. Amy works part-time as a Newborn Intensive Care Nurse and has work published in *The Spinoff* and Auckland University's *Three Lamps Journal*. Her short story 'Kowhai' was shortlisted for the Katherine Mansfield Short Story Novice Award in 2008. Author photo credit © Colleen Maria Lenihan



THE NIGHT OF ALL SOULS

Philippa Swan

March 2020

Random House New Zealand Vintage

Trade paperback – 352 pp

Rights held: World

In this unique and entertaining novel, Edith Wharton is variously reimagined: as a host in the afterlife, a historical figure in a modern novella, and as an elusive presence in the pages of her own writing.

Hugely acclaimed during her lifetime, writer Edith Wharton is back – with the most extraordinary opportunity.

Summoned to a room in the afterlife, Edith finds the manuscript of a modern novella inspired by her life. An accompanying letter from her editor advises Edith to consider carefully whether to destroy the novella or allow its publication. Is this her chance to correct the misrepresentations of her haughtiness and privilege, and to reignite interest in her writing?

Edith sets out to read the novella, but she is joined by others who are fearful about what it might reveal.

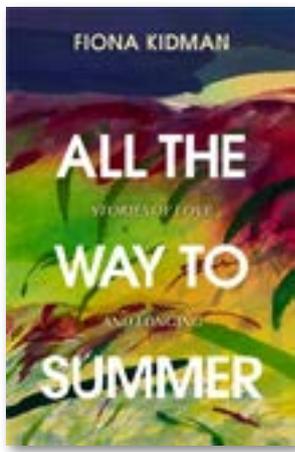
Sales points

- A satirical look at the biographical novel and appropriation of the lives of the famous, and a fascinating insight into how writers' experiences of life and love influence their writing
- A lively, funny, entertaining, multi-faceted novel, following two different but connected stories – there is the story about Edith Wharton's life, her secret love affair (and the reality of the man she fell for), her writing and gardens; also a novella about a contemporary American couple in Italy meeting an enigmatic young New Zealand woman
- Pulitzer-winning writer Edith Wharton was a significant figure in early twentieth-century American literature and a witty, astute critic of upper-class society. She wrote 15 novels, 7 novellas, 85 short stories, poetry, 11 nonfiction titles on Italian gardens, design, memoir, travel, literary and cultural criticism, and there have been at least a dozen films, plus four TV adaptations and two plays made of her novels. The most well-known productions are *The House of Mirth* (starring Gillian Anderson) and *The Age of Innocence*.

'Philippa Swan is an original voice that is articulate, humorous and disarmingly refreshing' – *NZ Books*



Wellington writer PHILIPPA SWAN trained as a landscape architect, with degrees from Otago and Melbourne. Her nonfiction book, *Life (and Death) in a Small City Garden* was published in 2001 to critical acclaim. In 2006 her award-winning short story 'Life Coach' was selected for the NZ Book Month publication *The Six Pack*. She has been a freelance writer for a number of lifestyle magazines for more than 15 years, including *NZ Gardener* and *Cuisine*. Author photo credit © Rebecca McMillan



ALL THE WAY TO SUMMER: STORIES OF LOVE AND LONGING

Fiona Kidman

March 2020

Random House New Zealand Vintage

Hardback – 368 pp

Rights held: World

A book to treasure from one of New Zealand's literary greats – a powerful collection of stories exploring love and longing, from the award-winning author of *This Mortal Boy*.

Fiona Kidman's early stories about New Zealand women's experiences scandalised readers with their vivid depictions of the heartbreaks and joys of desire, illicit liaisons and unconventional love.

Her writing made her a feminist icon in the early 1980s, and she has since continued to tell the realities of women's lives, her books resonating with many readers over the years and across the world. To mark her 80th birthday, this volume brings together a variety of her previously published stories as well as several that are new or previously uncollected; all moving, insightful and written with love. The final stories trace her own history of love, a memoir of significant people from childhood and beyond.

Sales points

- In 2019, Dame Fiona Kidman's book *This Mortal Boy* won the Acorn Foundation Prize, the Booklovers Award, the Heritage Award and the Ngaio March Award
- This gorgeous hardback collection will mark Fiona's 80th birthday
- Kidman's stories have often been compared to those of Alice Munro
- Stories that capture New Zealand – its people and its land past and present, in an unapologetically New Zealand voice
- A range of vivid settings – Wellington, Rotorua, Ohakune, the Kaipara, KeriKeri, Waipu, Auckland, Australia, Canada and Vietnam

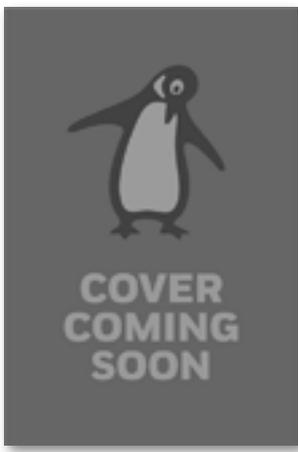
Praise for *This Mortal Boy*

'Her honourable title is well deserved and she is ranked amongst the best in New Zealand authors. A truly rewarding read.' – *Wairarapa Times-Age*

'Believable, insightful and about us. . . captures the mindset of New Zealand citizens at a time when old ways were being challenged by new. . . This is an important book which reminds us of the fragility of youth and how devastatingly lives can be altered by a moment's action.' – *Australian Women's Weekly*

DAME FIONA KIDMAN has published over 30 books, including novels, poetry, non-fiction and a play. The *New Zealand Listener* wrote: 'In her craft and her storytelling and in her compassionate gutsy tough expression of female experience, she is the best we have.' She has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. Her novel *This Mortal Boy* won the 2019 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards Acorn Foundation Fiction Prize, the NZ Booklovers Award, the NZSA Heritage Book Award for Fiction and the Ngaio Marsh Crime Writing Award for Best Novel. Kidman was made a Dame (DNZM) in 1998 in recognition of her contribution to literature, and more recently a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour. 'We cannot talk about writing in New Zealand without acknowledging her,' wrote *New Zealand Books*. 'Kidman's accessible prose and the way she shows (mainly) women grappling to escape from restricting social pressures has guaranteed her a permanent place in our fiction.' Author photo credit © Random House New Zealand





LANDMARKS

Owen Marshall, Grahame Sydney and Brian Turner

November 2020

Random House New Zealand

Hardback – 160 pp

Rights held: World

A landmark book celebrating the work of three of New Zealand's literary and artistic heavyweights.

In 1995 *Timeless Land* was published, bringing together the complementary work of artist Grahame Sydney, short-story writer Owen Marshall and poet Brian Turner.

Twenty-five years later, a lavish new collection of material from these three literary and artistic heavyweights will showcase further work, including newly written, previously unpublished pieces. Encompassing paintings, poetry, short stories and some non-fiction, the book presents varied aspects of the South Island, celebrating the landscape, exploring the threats posed to it, and showcasing its people and varied voices.

Sales points

- A large, stunning, high-production book featuring over sixty images, poems and stories, and two non-fiction pieces. A companion to *Timeless Land*
- From three multi-prize winners with huge reputations and large bodies of work to their names
- A love story to Central Otago and the surrounding areas

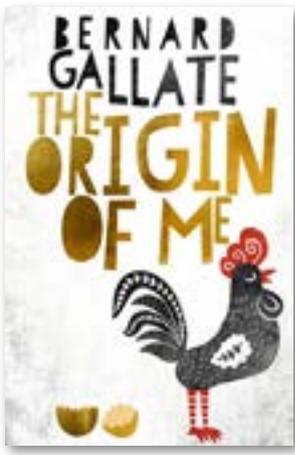


OWEN MARSHALL is an award-winning novelist, short story writer and poet who has been described as 'New Zealand's best prose writer'. His works include the bestselling novel *The Larnachs*, and awards for his fiction include the New Zealand Literary Fund Scholarship in Letters, fellowships at Otago and Canterbury universities, and the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship in Menton, France. In 2000 he became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to literature; in 2012 was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) and in 2013 received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Fiction. Author photo credit © Jackie Jones



BRIAN TURNER is a former Te Mata Poet Laureate and one of New Zealand's best loved poets. An ardent and accomplished sportsman, conservationist and champion of New Zealand's wild places, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Otago in 2011. He is the author of several books and lives in the Ida Valley in central Otago. Author photo credit © Gilbert van Reenan

GRAHAME SYDNEY is one of New Zealand's major artists, best known for his glorious landscapes of Central Otago. Working in oils, watercolours, egg tempera, etchings and lithographs, his paintings have been widely exhibited and are held in private and public collections worldwide. In 2003 Sydney was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to painting.



THE ORIGIN OF ME

Bernard Gallate

March 2020

Vintage Australia

Trade paperback – 400 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

A beguilingly original and satirical debut novel of friendships, imagination, and the bodies we live in.

Lincoln Locke is fifteen years old when his parents get a divorce and his life is turned upside down. He moves into a bachelor-pad in inner-city Sydney with his father, and to Crestfield Academy, an elite and exclusive school full of rich kids.

Crestfield offers Lincoln a new set of peers – the crème de la crème of gifted individuals, who also happen to be financially loaded – and a place on the swim team with a bunch of thugs in Speedos who ‘befriend’ him but make his life hell. Homunculus, the little voice inside his head, doesn’t make life any easier, nor does Lincoln’s growing awareness of a genetic anomaly that threatens to humiliate him – he appears to be growing a tail!

As he searches for answers to his big life questions, he turns to the school library, where he finds a nineteenth-century memoir titled *My One Redeeming Affliction*. As Lincoln slowly reads this peculiar, life-changing book, the past reaches into his present in fascinating and alarming ways. Ways that defy imagination . . .

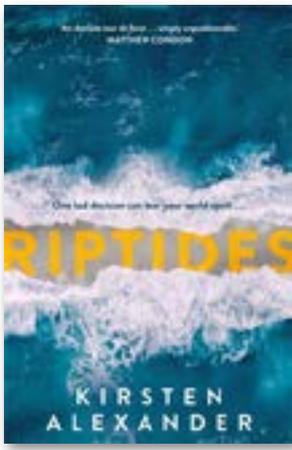
Audacious, funny and wonderfully inventive, *The Origin of Me* is a song to friendship, to young love, to the joy of imagination, and to celebrating differences, both past and present.

Sales points

- Visual and colourful writing gives a magical twist to the coming-of-age story
- Features a diverse cast of brilliant characters
- A distinctive and universally relatable voice
- A timely story exploring high-school politics, male friendship, homophobia, sexism, body image and the search for identity and belonging
- One of our big debuts on the 2020 list



BERNARD GALLATE began his professional life in the animation industry with Hanna-Barbera, later working for Walt Disney and a multimedia agency. After studying acting, he ran climbing tours of the Sydney Harbour Bridge for six years while writing and illustrating books for younger readers. Bernard currently teaches programs on early Sydney life and archaeology at historical sites across the city. *The Origin of Me* is his first novel. Author photo credit © Penguin Random House Australia



RIPTIDES

Kirsten Alexander

February 2020

Bantam Australia

Trade paperback – 352 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Rights sold previous title (*Half Moon Lake*): North America (Hachette)

Set in Queensland during a time of tremendous social upheaval, *Riptides* is a gripping family drama about dreams, choices and consequences, from the acclaimed author of *Half Moon Lake*.

A rainy night, a dark road, an accident. One bad decision can tear your world apart...

December 1974. Abby Campbell and her brother Charlie are driving to their father's farm on a dark country road when they swerve into the path of another car, forcing it into a tree. The driver – a young pregnant woman – is killed instantly. At the time of the crash, Charlie is jetlagged after flying home from Bali, and probably drunk. Abby is exhausted from her hectic mothering duties, while her journalist husband Mark works around the clock.

In the heat of the moment, Abby and Charlie make a fateful decision. They flee, leaving the woman's body in a ditch to be discovered by police, and hoping that heavy rainfall will erase their tracks. Both of them simply have too much to lose. But it is only after driving away and arriving at the farm that they discover who they have killed, and how many lives will be affected. Soon, the truth is like a riptide they can't escape, as their terrible secret pulls them down deeper by the day, shaking the foundations of their family and their futures. How will Abby hide the accident from her husband? How was this woman linked to the mysterious commune that Mark is investigating? And what will happen if their crime is revealed?

Sales points

- A suspenseful, heart-in-your-mouth family drama, perfect for holiday reading
- A great book-club choice – lots of 'what would you do?' moments and questions of moral ambiguity
- An early version of *Riptides* was a 2014 finalist for the PEN/Bellwether Prize, received High Commendation in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, and gained Alexander entry to the Banff Center

Praise for *Riptides*

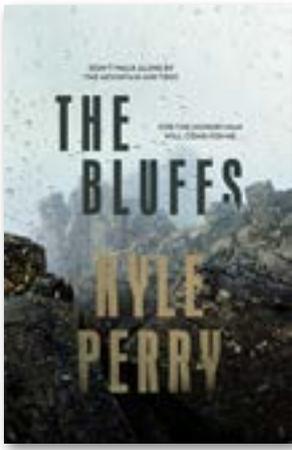
'*Riptides* is an absolute tour de force, a tempest of a novel that examines the fragility and strength of the family, the impacts of our decisions, truth and lies, loyalty and betrayal, set against the backdrop of the pyrotechnic mid-1970s Queensland. Beating beneath it all is that universal question – what does it mean to be human? I found *Riptides* simply unputdownable' – Matthew Condon, author of *The Night Dragon* and *Jack and Jokers*

Previous title: *Half Moon Lake*

We published Kirsten's previous novel, *Half Moon Lake*, in January 2019, and it was longlisted for the Australian Crime Writers Association Ned Kelly Awards 2019. Inspired by a real case, it is a captivating historical novel, set in America's Deep South, about a lost boy – and the two mothers who both seek to claim him. *Half Moon Lake* received widespread acclaim, and will be published by Hachette in North America in 2020 (under the title *Lost Boy Found*).



KIRSTEN ALEXANDER was born in San Francisco, raised in Brisbane, and now lives in Melbourne with her partner and two sons. She is co-founder of the short story site Storymart, and has written for *The Age*, *The Daily Beast* and *Atticus Review*, and worked as a reviewer for ABC Radio National's *The Book Show*. Her acclaimed debut novel *Half Moon Lake* was published in January and will be released in North America in 2020. *Riptides* is her second novel. Author photo credit © Janis House



THE BLUFFS

Kyle Perry

July 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 368 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Don't walk alone by the mountain and tree, for the hungry man will come for me...

It is a land of rugged wilderness, of ice and snow and blistering heat. They say extinct tigers still roam there. They say other things roam, too.

When a group of teenage girls go missing in the remote wilderness of Tasmania's Great Western Tiers, the people of Limestone Creek are immediately on alert. Not long ago, six young girls went missing in the area of those dangerous bluffs, and the legends of 'The Hungry Man' haunt locals to this day. Now, authorities can determine that the teacher, Eliza Ellis, was knocked unconscious, so someone on the mountain was up to foul play. Jordan Murphy, father of missing student Jasmine and the town's local drug dealer, instantly becomes a prime suspect, but Detective Con Badenhorst knows that in a town this size – with corrupt cops, small-town politics, and a teenage YouTube sensation – anyone could be hiding something, and bluffing comes as second nature.

When the body of one of the girls is found, mauled, at the bottom of a cliff, suspicion turns to a wild animal – but that can't explain why she, like all victims past and present, was discovered barefoot, with her shoes found nearby, laces neatly tied.

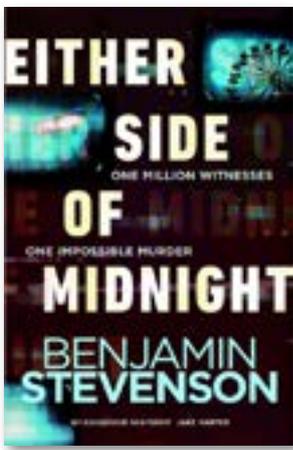
Could it be that this particular group of adolescent girls are not as innocent as they seem? What happened up there on the bluffs? Somebody knows. Unless the local legends are true...

Sales points

- Gritty, contemporary rural crime, set in Tasmania's wilderness
- Perfect for fans of Jane Harper
- Big debut from a young, up-and-coming Australian talent

KYLE PERRY is a counsellor and youth worker who has worked extensively in high schools, youth shelters and drug rehabs. In his work he encounters stories and journeys that would fill a hundred books. Kyle's mother grew up in the foothills of the Great Western Tiers, in Tasmania's heartland, where his grandfather was called on for search and rescues in the mountains. Kyle himself has been lost in Tasmanian mountains twice, and once used ripped pages of a journal stuck on branches to find his way back out. He has also seen strange things in the bush that defy explanation and are best not spoken about. Kyle divides his time between his small country hometown in Tasmania's North West and Hobart. *The Bluffs* is his debut novel. Author photo credit © James Brewer





EITHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT

Benjamin Stevenson

September 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 336 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Audible)

Rights sold previous title (*Greenlight*): North America (Sourcebooks);

United Kingdom (Hachette); Audio (Audible)

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

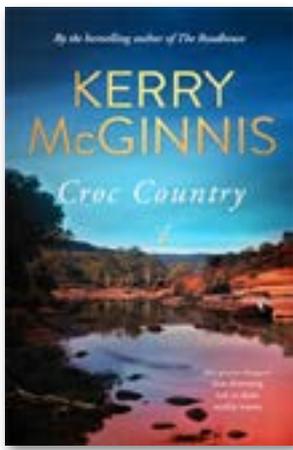
- A clever, original thriller by an exciting new voice in Australian crime fiction. Benjamin is a young, edgy writer who dares to try new things within the genre
- Fast-moving, concept-driven fiction that will quickly see Benjamin build a brand name
- Inspired by the real life case of Michelle Carter, 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 credit © Amelia Dowd



CROC COUNTRY

Kerry McGinnis

July 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 352 pp

Rights held: World

The new outback mystery from the bestselling author of *The Roadhouse*.

Why would the police come back looking for a dead man?

Young widow Tilly is making a new life for herself, keeping house for the rangers at the Binboona Wildlife Sanctuary in the isolated wilderness of the north-western Gulf Country. Caring for injured wildlife and helping to run the popular tourist campsite are just the distraction she needs from everything she left behind when her husband, Gerry, and young daughter were lost at sea.

But when the police show up asking questions about Gerry, the peaceful routine she's built is disrupted as she begins to question what really happened to her family. The arrival of botanist Connor stirs up even more emotion and has Tilly questioning who she can trust. When she and young ranger Luke stumble across evidence of wildlife smugglers on a visit to the local caves, suddenly her sanctuary is no longer safe and it becomes clear the past has well and truly come back to haunt her.

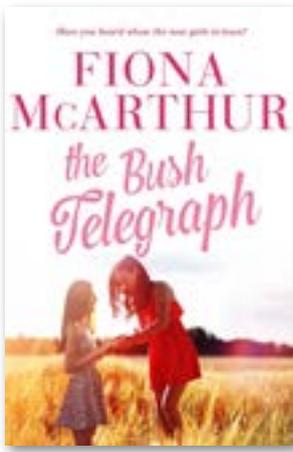
Set against the lush backdrop of the Northern Territory with its vibrant birds and deadly wildlife, this is a chilling and highly evocative family mystery about the wild and dangerous things that can happen in the most remote and untamed corners of Australia.

Sales points

- New outback mystery from a perennial favourite author
- Kerry is a bestselling author with strong backlist sales
- Fabulous subject matter of crocodiles and wildlife trafficking gives the book a strong commercial hook
- Kerry is one of the most enduring and authentic writers of rural stories in Australia



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 Bowthorn, north-west of Mt Isa. 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* and *The Roadhouse*. Kerry now lives in Bundaberg.



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

Fiona McArthur

September 2020

Michael Joseph

Trade paperback – 336 pp

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 the author of 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 credit © Fiona McArthur