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Random House
Australia & New Zealand

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Rights Guide

2020

Highlights Catalogue

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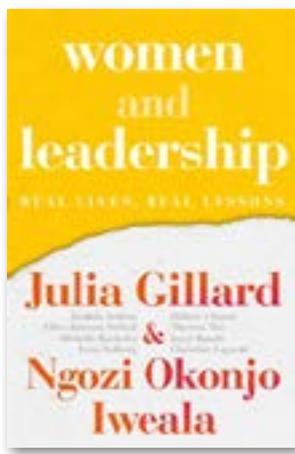
agence@fountlit.com

+33 1 43 56 21 96



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NON-FICTION



WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP: REAL LIVES, REAL LESSONS

Julia Gillard and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

July 2020

Vintage Australia

Trade paperback – 368 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

A robust and lively call to arms, *Women and Leadership* charts the impact of gender on political power, offering the first consistent, comprehensive approach to this timely issue through the words and experiences of contemporary women leaders.

Lean In progresses from Silicon Valley to Washington in this accessibly written and engaging book.

It will appeal to readers of Sheryl Sandberg, Gloria Steinem and Rebecca Solnit, ambitious women in any field, and anyone interested in gender equality. *Women and Leadership* is based on ideas explored through contributions from some of the most powerful and interesting women in the world, including **Hillary Clinton, Joyce Banda, Christine Lagarde, Michelle Bachelet, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Jacinda Ardern, Erna Solberg, Theresa May, Dilma Rousseff and Gloria Arroyo**. With this broad range of female leaders, *Women and Leadership* will also examine cultural differences in various political systems. These stories, along with commentary and analysis from Gillard and Okonjo-Iweala, reveal how gender and sexism affect perceptions of women as leaders, the trajectories of their leaderships, and the circumstances in which they come to an end. While the #MeToo movement has illuminated women's experiences in many environments, the political arena itself has been largely left out of in-depth gender analysis, in part because these are the women who have made it. But while they may, as they say, have smashed through the glass ceiling, we must remember that they are still picking up the shards.

This is not just a book for aspiring female politicians. It is for ambitious, driven women everywhere; a celebration of women's achievements and a call to arms.

Sales points

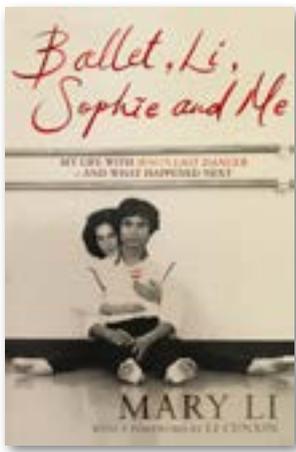
- Gillard and Okonjo-Iweala are extraordinary women with high profiles and huge social media followings
- Funny, smart, brutally honest and accessible to readers with all levels of political knowledge
- Women make up less than 10% of national leaders, and behind this lies a pattern of unequal access to the corridors of power. *Women and Leadership* teases out what makes things different for women
- An extremely timely issue post #MeToo, as yet not comprehensively explored in the political arena
- Featuring high profile female leaders from all over the world



JULIA GILLARD was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia in 2010 and served in that office until 2013. Ms Gillard is the first woman to ever serve as Australia's Prime Minister. She was central to the successful management of Australia's economy, the 12th biggest in the world, during the Global Financial Crisis. She currently serves as the Chair of Beyond Blue, one of Australia's leading mental health awareness bodies; is Chair of global funding body for education in developing countries, the Global Partnership for Education; and is the inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at Kings College in London, which is addressing women's under-representation in leadership. Author photo credit © Peter Brew-Bevan



NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA, a former finance minister of Nigeria and former managing director of the World Bank, is the Angelopoulos Global Public Leaders Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School. She was the longest-serving finance minister in her native Nigeria and the first woman to hold that position. She was also the first female foreign minister. A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, Okonjo-Iweala earned her doctorate from MIT and has been awarded 15 honorary degrees. She was recognized as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world by *Forbes* magazine for four years in a row, and by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Author photo credit © Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



BALLET, LI, SOPHIE AND ME: MY LIFE WITH MAO'S LAST DANCER AND WHAT HAPPENED NEXT (W/T)

Mary Li

September 2020

Viking Australia

Trade paperback – 352 pp

Rights held: World

The highly anticipated sequel to *Mao's Last Dancer*, one of the world's most beloved books, this is the memoir of Mary Li, Cunxin's partner in dance and in life.

In her official autobiography, Mary Li, world-renowned Australian ballerina and wife of Li Cunxin, tells a remarkable story of family, passion and dedication.

Penguin published Li Cunxin's landmark autobiography *Mao's Last Dancer* in 2003. That book has since sold into twenty-one territories and been made into a blockbuster international film. But *Mao's Last Dancer* left its millions of fans asking one question: whatever happened to Mary Li? Why, at the height of their international fame, did Li's partner seemingly disappear from public view? Now, almost twenty years on, fans will finally get their answer.

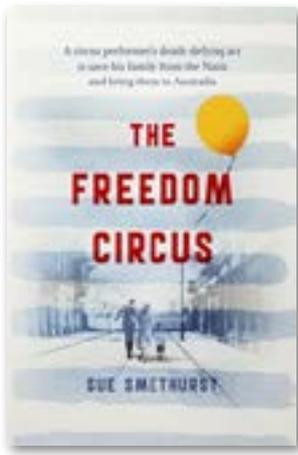
Mary Li gave up her career on the world stage when their daughter Sophie was born profoundly deaf. She sacrificed her stellar position as Principal Artist at the Houston Ballet for her first-born daughter, and her memoir reveals how the decision affected her life and her relationships. First, Mary takes us back to her childhood in small-town Australia, growing up in a rambunctious family, through to her accidental discovery of ballet and the lifelong passion that ensued, her remarkable early success dancing in London with the likes of Nureyev, and a career that soon saw her become Principal Artist at the Houston Ballet, where she danced and fell in love with the world-renowned Chinese ballet dancer Li Cunxin. We follow the couple as they tour the world, and learn of their unplanned pregnancy and the Chinese grandparents who travelled from their village to care for baby Sophie in Houston, until the dreadful day a party balloon popped and Sophie didn't flinch – leading to her devastating diagnosis. Converting her drive for dancing into a drive for her daughter's health, Mary relinquished her career in the hope that she could one day have a conversation with her daughter.

In this powerful, uplifting story about mothers and daughters, dedication and devotion, Mary reveals the heartaches and triumphs of her extraordinary relationship with Sophie, and picks up on the story – which readers have been crying out for all these years – of 'what happened next' to the beloved family of *Mao's Last Dancer*.

Sales points

- *Mao's Last Dancer* has sold into twenty-one territories and sold 800,000 copies in Australia alone
- As the 'sequel' to *Mao's Last Dancer*, there is existing worldwide demand for this story
- A remarkable, heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting story of lives we already care deeply about
- There is a treasure-trove of photographs and videos for illustrative content and promotional materials
- The Li family are already darlings of the international media, and incredibly well connected, with ex-US Presidents and media moguls among their close friends
- Li Cunxin will be heavily involved with the promotion of the book, and has written the foreword
- Detailed insight into living with a hearing disability

MARY LI (formerly Mary McKendry) joined the London Festival Ballet in 1977 and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 1981. She later joined Houston Ballet as Principal Dancer, and danced principal roles in all the major classical ballets, such as *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Nutcracker*. She worked with legendary teachers and artists including Rudolf Nureyev, Glen Tetley, Margot Fonteyn, Christopher Bruce and Ben Stevenson. After returning to Melbourne when Sophie was six, Mary spent fifteen years as a coach with the Australian Ballet, and for the past six years has been Ballet Mistress with the Queensland Ballet where her husband is artistic director.



THE FREEDOM CIRCUS

Sue Smethurst

November 2020

Ebury Australia

Trade paperback – 320 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

A circus performer's death-defying act to save his family from the Nazis and bring them to Australia.

When I first sat down with Nanna Mindla and asked how she survived the Holocaust, she shooed me away.

'Why do you care?' she asked. By that time she was in a Melbourne Jewish nursing home with other survivors, her body ageing but mind still razor sharp.

'What about her?' she said, pointing a freshly painted purple nail towards the woman having soup opposite. 'Or her, or her.' Arms waving around. 'All the same.'

As death began approaching I became a little more pushy. I knew her story had to be recorded and we were running out of time. Each week I'd bring cake from her favourite shop in St Kilda, a bottle of the brightest nail polish I could find, a handful of old pictures and my tape recorder. We'd chat and with each 'chat' her story unfolded. It was beyond anything I could imagine.

The story of how Mindla and her husband Michael Horowitz, a circus performer for the famous Staniewski Brothers, escaped from Poland with their son and embarked on a terrifying journey across Russia, is nothing short of extraordinary.

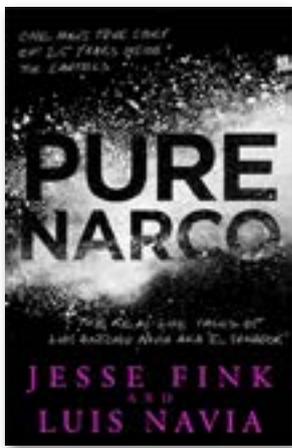
Written by award-winning author and journalist Sue Smethurst, whose husband is Mindla and Michael's grandson, *The Freedom Circus* is an epic tale of courage, love, hope, humanity, suffering and, ultimately, survival.

Sales points

- For readers of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*
- A true story – the author's husband is the grandson of Mindla and Michael Horowitz
- Mindla and Michael not only escaped from Poland, they came to Australia and started a new life. Michael became a clown on television and none of the cast knew of his past



SUE SMETHURST is an award-winning author and journalist who has spent more than twenty years working in the media across television, radio and magazines. She is currently a senior writer with the *Australian Women's Weekly* and has written eight books, including *Behind Closed Doors*, *Spartacus and Me*, *Blood on the Rosary* and *A Diamond in the Dust*.



PURE NARCO

Jesse Fink and Luis Navia

August 2020

Ebury Australia

Trade paperback – 496 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: United Kingdom (John Blake Books)

Careers in the cocaine trafficking business are usually short. Not for Luis Navia.

Luis worked in one of the most dangerous professions in the world and handled ‘merchandise’ worth billions of dollars as a matter of routine but, incredibly, never carried a weapon. What made him good at his job was amassing trusted contacts, losing very few shipments, and maintaining a low profile. He was the best of the best.

Pure Narco begins in 1950s Cuba but spans the globe from the United States to South America, to the Caribbean, to Mexico, to Central America and finally Europe. It tells the story of Luis’s unprecedented career working with the biggest cocaine cartels in Colombia and Mexico – a veritable who’s who of evil, including Pablo Escobar’s Medellín Cartel. Luis stayed at the finest hotels and dated the most beautiful women, but amid the glitz and glamour, he was not far removed from the most brutal violence imaginable. An associate was kidnapped and got his head cut off. A good friend and fellow criminal, Joey Martino, was put in a 55-gallon drum full of cement and dumped in a canal. Luis himself was kidnapped three times, including one occasion in Mexico where he was about to be fed to crocodiles. His life was spared with a last-minute phone call. Eventually Luis came onto the radar of US Customs agent Robert Harley, who slowly built a case against him. Luis progressed from trafficking on light aircraft and fishing boats to ocean freighters. The stakes and profits got higher, but so did the risks. Drug agents from twelve nations banded together in Operation Journey, a historic takedown of the ‘Los Mellizos’ Cartel, which saw the capture of Luis Navia.

Today, remarkably, Luis Navia and Robert Harley are friends. Luis has gone full circle: from being an internationally wanted fugitive, to now working as a consultant for the US Government in the ‘war on drugs’.

Sales points

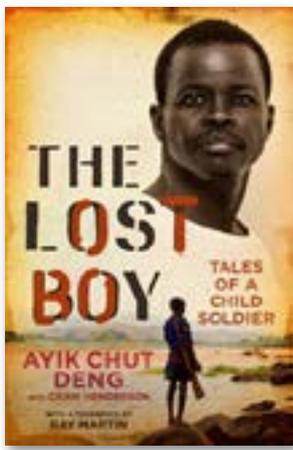
- A topic that has garnered worldwide fascination, as demonstrated by the popularity of Netflix’s *Narcos*
- Written with the cooperation of a dozen antinarcotics law-enforcement agents in the US and UK
- Foreword by DEA Special Agent (retired) Eric Kolbinsky
- A story with global reach and a variety of international settings and figures
- Jesse Fink already has a big international fan base. His book *The Youngs* has sold in fifteen territories



JESSE FINK is a British-Australian author of four books, best known for his two AC/DC biographies: *Bon: The Last Highway: The Untold Story of Bon Scott and AC/DC’s Back In Black* (2017) and *The Youngs: The Brothers Who Built AC/DC* (2013). Fink’s books have been translated into twelve languages and *Bon* was a bestseller in Australia, the UK and France. *The Youngs* was a bestseller in the United States, Denmark, Italy and Germany, chosen for PRI Public Radio International’s Best Books of 2014 and featured in *The New Yorker*. Author photo credit © Jesse Fink



Cuban-American LUIS NAVIA, born 1955, aka ‘El Senador’, was one of America’s most successful cocaine traffickers and unique for his ability to work with different cartels in Colombia and Mexico. He served five years in a federal prison in Florida and was released in 2005. He now works as a US Government consultant in fighting the war on drugs and lives in Miami. Author photo credit © Jesse Fink



THE LOST BOY: TALES OF A CHILD SOLDIER

Ayik Chut Deng

March 2020

Vintage Australia

Trade paperback – 320 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

After life as a boy soldier in South Sudan, fighting battles in Ethiopia and Sudan, Ayik Chut found himself a refugee in Australia.

As a boy living in a tribe in what is now South Sudan, the youngest country in the world, Ayik Chut Deng was a member of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

During his time as a child soldier, he witnessed unspeakable violence and was regularly tortured by older boys. At age nineteen, he and his family escaped the conflict in Sudan and resettled in small-town Australia. But adjusting to this new life was more difficult than he anticipated. He was struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder that was misdiagnosed as schizophrenia, leading to years of erratic behaviour on the wrong medication. He struggled with drugs and alcohol, fought with his family and found himself in trouble with the law before he came to the painful realisation that his behaviour was putting his life, as well as the lives of his loved ones, at risk.

As an adult now living in Brisbane, Ayik is a father, working as an actor and volunteering at his local youth centre. Overcoming a childhood filled with torture and war was a process of lifelong learning, choices and challenges that included a remarkable chance encounter with a figure from his past, and an appearance on national television.

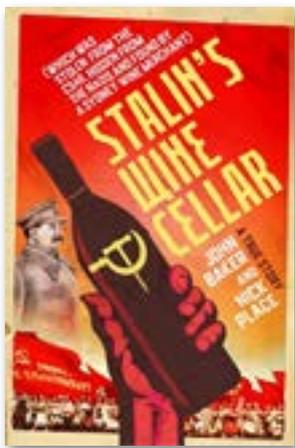
The Lost Boy is an honest and revealing account of the complexities of trauma, and one man's story of how he got to where he is today.

Sales points

- An incredibly honest, challenging memoir of selling drugs, driving cars too fast and too drunk, behaving badly, and learning to do better
- A different child soldier story to Deng Adut's *Songs of a War Boy*. Ayik Chut went off the rails when he was suddenly a young man in Australia, and has slowly clawed his way back
- Explores the horrors of war, the details of a misspent youth, and the slow inexorable awakening to how you are risking your life and that of those around you
- After stewing for years about his mistreatment as a boy soldier, Ayik Chut had the opportunity to confront the training camp tormentor he most clearly remembered, Anyang, on national television in an acclaimed episode of SBS's *Look Me In The Eye*



AYIK CHUT was a boy soldier in South Sudan who eventually made his way to Australia as a refugee. He lives in Brisbane where he does acting work, looks after his baby daughter, and volunteers at the local Police and Community Youth Club. Author photo credit © Ayik Chut Deng



STALIN'S WINE CELLAR

John Baker and Nick Place

August 2020

Viking Australia

Trade paperback – 320 pp

Rights held: World

Stalin's Wine Cellar – which was stolen from the Czar, hidden from the Nazis and found by a Sydney wine merchant. A dangerous story of life, death, and (very expensive) broken bottles.

Two Aussies go chasing a wine treasure that sounds too good to be true and discover thousands of bottles of rare and extremely valuable century-old wine owned by the last Czar of Russia and Josef Stalin.

In the late 1990s, John Baker was known as a purveyor of quality rare and old wines. Always entrepreneurial and up for adventure, he was the perfect person for an occasional business partner, Andrew Simon, to approach with a mysterious wine list that was foreign to anything John, or his second-in-command, Kevin Hopko, had ever seen. The list was discovered to be a catalogue of the wine collection of Nicholas II, last Czar of Russia. The wine had become property of the state after the Russian Revolution, during which Nicholas and his entire family were executed. Now owned by Stalin, the wine was discretely removed to a remote Georgian winery amid concerns about the advancing Nazi army. Half a century later, the wine was rumoured to be hidden underground and off any known map.

John and Kevin embarked on an audacious, colourful and potentially dangerous journey to Georgia to discover if the wines actually existed and if the collection could be bought and transported to a major London auction house.

Stalin's Wine Cellar is a wild, sometimes rough ride in the glamorous world of high-end wine, from Sydney to Tbilisi Georgia, via Paris, Bordeaux, and New York. A multi-million dollar cellar and a breathtaking wine collection is the elusive treasure. The cast of characters includes Stalin, Hitler, Czar Nicholas II and a motley bunch of Georgian businessmen, in the early days of Russian business development that led to the world of Putin and oligarchs.

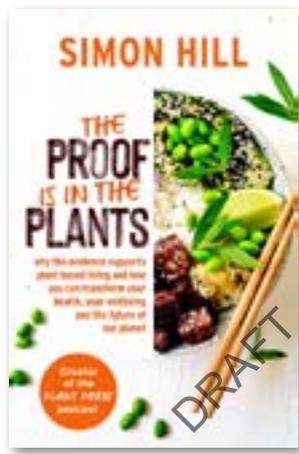
Sales points

- Incredible true story of discovering some of the world's most covetable wines
- Fast-paced, accessible and adventurous
- Weaves in history and culture of Europe in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, Russian history and WWII history, in a readable and entertaining style
- Perfect for wine-lovers, food-lovers, history buffs and international travellers
- High-end wine is a subject of universal intrigue. Will appeal to readers of Bianca Bosker's *New York Times* bestselling *Cork Dork* and fans of Netflix's *Sour Grapes*. *Stalin's Wine Cellar* brings an extraordinary angle to the topic



NICK PLACE is a published author across fiction and non-fiction, of several genres, as well as an occasional screenwriter and a more than occasional career journalist. His most recent crime novel was *Roll With It*. He lives in Melbourne and has learned a lot about wine over the past year. Author photo credit © Nick Place

JOHN BAKER was a rock n' roll promoter in the 80s era of Midnight Oil, INXS and Cold Chisel. He became a wine merchant creating the Newport Bottler, Quaffers Double Bay Cellars, The Lambton Fridge and Grapefellas. He resides in the Southern Highlands and likes wine from anywhere (as long as it's good), and is now more involved with the business of olive oil as he says 'it's good for my health and less punishing the next day.'



THE PROOF IS IN THE PLANTS

Simon Hill

September 2020

Penguin Life Australia

Trade paperback – 368 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

An informative and accessible guide to reaping the many benefits of fuelling your body with plants.

Before transitioning from animal foods to a plant-based diet, trained physiotherapist Simon Hill shared many of the common fears among men and women in the same position: Am I going to lose muscle? Will I gain fat and feel bloated? Will I get enough iron and protein?

By undertaking a masters in nutrition, poring over countless research articles and books, talking to others who are happily leading a plant-based lifestyle and tuning into hundreds of hours of podcasts, Simon has been able to answer all of those questions and more. Thanks to Simon's unusual ability to break down the science in a clear and digestible way, the Plant Proof blog and podcast have rapidly become leading resources on plant-based nutrition. After nearly two years of day-to-day engagement with the public, Simon has come to understand that people are more confused than ever when it comes to their dietary choices. With the onslaught of conflicting advice and misinformation being marketed to us each day, it's almost impossible for the average person to separate fact from fiction.

Now, Simon's goal is to share genuine, agenda-free nutritional information more widely with people looking to improve their health and quality of life. Combining all of his research on the latest scientific papers with everything he has learned from his podcast guests about plant-based nutrition, lifestyle and sustainability, this book presents the evidence that a whole-food, plant-dominant diet is the best option for your health, for the planet, and for animal welfare – and explains how you can make the shift.

Sales points

- Simon has a huge and growing community of followers: 236k Instagram followers and 200k weekly podcast listeners. He has already been featured widely in mainstream Australian media outlets
- Simon is the plant-based food contributor on Chris Hemsworth's fitness app, Centr, and has interviewed Dr Michael Greger, Rich Roll, Gaz Oakley and many more
- While there are many plant-based recipe books available, there is a distinct lack of books about the science that backs this diet and lifestyle
- Simon is passionate about public health and will be donating his author proceeds from the book to charity



SIMON HILL is the founder of the Plant Proof blog and host of the popular podcast of the same name. He is a qualified physiotherapist and is currently completing a Masters in Nutrition at Deakin University, in addition to a specific Plant Based Nutrition Course at Cornell University. On top of this formal education, Simon spends hours and hours deciphering clinical and scientific studies so he can break down how to fuel your body to promote longevity and reduce the chance of developing disease while at the same time being able to achieve whatever health and fitness goals you may have. He has just opened a plant-based restaurant in Bondi, Sydney, called Eden. Author photo credit © Zac Heath



THE SPACE BETWEEN

Zara McDonald and Michelle Andrews

September 2020

Viking Australia

Special paperback – 272 pp

Rights held: World

Relatable ruminations on the mess, the madness and the magic of life in the limbo of not-quite adulthood, from the creators of the hit podcast *Shameless*, hailed by the *New York Times* as a 'great pop culture discussion [that] taps into bigger themes that hide beneath'.

There's this weird gap in life that's often fuelled by cheap tacos and even cheaper tequila and doesn't make any sense whatsoever – also known as your twenties.

It's a specific limbo we all have the joy of going through between being a teenager and being a Proper Adult, and though it's wildly confusing, often lonely, sometimes infuriating and frequently daunting, there's also a whole lot of magic to be found in the chaos. It's a time when we're finding our voices, making up our minds, growing into (and out of) relationships and starting to fulfil our big ambitions (or simply working out what they are).

Described by *The Guardian* as 'the voice of two generations', Michelle Andrews and Zara McDonald, creators of the award-winning pop culture podcast *Shameless*, are two of the many twenty-something women trying to make sense of it all. They don't have all the answers (hell, Michelle only just found out about that little arrow next to the petrol light in her car showing which side to fill up on). But they know that mapping out our place in the world is a little bit easier when we make space to sift through what doesn't matter, to find out what we really care about.

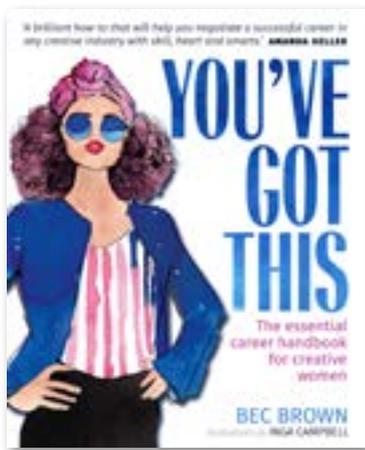
Brimming with wit and unflinching honesty, here are their stories and puzzles about life as twenty-somethings: from heartbreak and mental health challenges to overcoming career setbacks and letting go of fear. Whip-smart and deeply relatable, Zara and Michelle's debut book will explore the grit and glory of finding your way in the uncertain years of early adulthood. Join them as they navigate their journeys – and you just might find tiny pieces of yourself in the space between the first page and the last.

Sales points

- With over 4 million downloads since launch, and 200k+ weekly listens, *Shameless* has clearly struck a chord – it's even caught the attention of the *New York Times*
- *Shameless* was one of Apple's Best Podcasts of 2018 and 2019. It has been featured in *Marie Claire* and *The Guardian*, and was *The Age* Winner of the Most Popular Podcast at the Australian Podcast Awards 2019
- Huge online following – 34k members in the *Shameless* Facebook group, with a whopping 97% engagement rate; 100k Instagram followers across their three accounts; 13k newsletter subscribers
- Zara and Michelle's voices are warm, friendly, funny and earnest. This book will tap into the market for young adult female voices like Lena Dunham, Dolly Alderton and Mindy Kaling, but for the slightly younger generation



MICHELLE ANDREWS and ZARA MCDONALD are Melbourne-based journalists and broadcasters, aged 26. They met working as writers at *Mamamia*, and in March 2018 launched Australia's top pop-culture podcast *Shameless* to speak directly to their fellow Millennial and Gen Z women about the topics that really interest them but aren't sufficiently covered by traditional media – a podcast 'for smart women who like dumb stuff'. They now run *Shameless Media* and are the producers of three other highly popular podcasts including *Love Etc.* in collaboration with Bumble.



YOU'VE GOT THIS

Bec Brown (illustrated by Inga Campbell)

September 2020

Penguin Australia

Flexi paperback – 168 pp

Rights held: World

A career hack for clever and creative Gen Zs, Millennials and start-ups. Two successful creative founders short-cut what they've learned in over 20 years of doing business, in an illustrated career guide for young women.

With the practical, achievable steps in this book you can build your dream career in the creative industries.

You've Got This is a career (and life) guide, for the thousands of young women who want to learn the secrets to flourishing in any career in creative industries like entertainment, media, marketing, advertising, PR, design, fashion or the arts. Full of practical advice and savvy tips, this book will help women earn great money and have a job they love, without it sucking the life out of them. It's designed and formatted to appeal to 16–30-year-olds who like to receive their information in bite-sized pieces. And with a diverse range of women included in the illustrations, women of all ethnicities, shapes and sizes will see themselves in its pages.

Penned by Bec Brown, self-made PR success and founder of The Comms Department, and beautifully illustrated by Inga Campbell, former Deputy Art Director of *Cosmopolitan* and Art Director for *Grazia*.

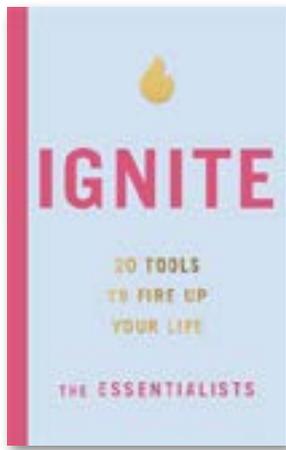
Sales points

- A friendly and inspiring career guide that is specifically tailored to young women in the creative industries
- Magazine-like design, with illustrations of diverse, relatable women and bite-sized advice that's easy to absorb and try out
- Bec and Inga both have strong online followings across Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook
- Herself a savvy PR strategist at the top of her game, Bec has a comprehensive plan for the promotion of the book
- Beautiful illustrations make this stand out from other self-help, career-oriented titles for women. The aesthetic is chic yet approachable, practical, upbeat and stylish



BEC BROWN has been working as a professional communicator for 20 years, beginning as a vocalist and vocal coach, then re-training to become a PR professional. She's the Founder and Managing Director of The Comms Department, a PR, corporate communications and crisis management agency. Bec was one of five finalists for the 'PR Professional of the Year' at the 2019 Mumbrella CommsCon Awards, Australia and New Zealand's most prestigious PR industry awards. Bec's previous communications experience includes half a decade as Senior National Publicity and Promotions Manager for the world's largest record company, Universal Music. Author photo credit © The Comms Department

INGA CAMPBELL is an illustrator and designer, and the Founder of Inkling Design, a design studio that offers art direction, branding, and custom illustration. Inga has worked as a professional designer for 17 years, with her first job at *Girlfriend* magazine before moving on to roles such as Deputy Art Director of *Cosmopolitan* and Art Director for *Grazia*. She now works with clients all over the globe.



IGNITE: 20 TOOLS TO FIRE UP YOUR LIFE

The Essentialists

March 2020

Michael Joseph Australia

Hardback – 240 pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: The Netherlands (Royal Jongbloed); Russia (Portal Publishing)

Rights sold previous titles: *Shine* - Turkey (Eğitim Yayınevi); Taiwan (China

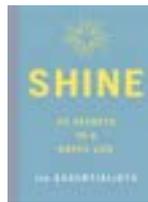
Times); Audio (Bolinda); *Chaos to Calm* - Turkey (Eğitim Yayınevi); Audio

(Bolinda); *The Life Plan* - Turkey (Eğitim Yayınevi); Audio (Bolinda)

Are you sick of settling for average? Ready to raise the bar? The Essentialists are here to spark you into action.

Ignite is your vital resource if you want to energise your life and upgrade your game.

With twenty powerful, practical skills for those in need of zest and inspiration, you'll learn how to use stress to your advantage, challenge your comfort zone, set hard-hitting goals, find your purpose and much more. So, if you're ready to empower yourself and optimise your life, it's time to IGNITE! From bestselling authors Shannah Kennedy and Lyndall Mitchell, aka The Essentialists, this is the third in their stunning series of gift books - *Shine*, *Restore*, and now *Ignite*! *Ignite* is a beautifully designed book that will sit nicely alongside *Shine* and *Restore*, as gifts or for personal development and self care, easy to hold and a pleasure to read. It's full of practical, engaging and easily digestible wisdom, great for anyone who wants to lift their game, increase productivity, and refresh their life.



Sales points

- There is a strong and still-growing appetite for small, well-designed and digestible wellbeing gift books. The Essentialists' clean, stylish branding will make this book stand out from the pack
- *Ignite*, *Restore* and *Shine* are short, stylish, contemporary books of life skills, building on the content from *The Life Plan* (over 60,000 copies sold) and *Chaos to Calm* (over 12,000 copies sold)
- Perfect for Christmas or Mother's Day, or as a self-purchase for those new to the area of wellbeing
- Irresistible A-format hardbacks with gorgeous design and foiled covers
- The Essentialists have strong online branding, and are very active in promotion through all channels

SHANNAH KENNEDY is the definition of a high achiever, with ten successful years in the corporate world – two in the money market and eight in high-level sports management. Shannah worked with more than 100 world-class athletes in her management, PR and sponsorship roles. She juggled fitness, finances and relationships with her demanding career. And then, her body delivered a devastating reminder, in the form of a Chronic Fatigue diagnosis, that she needed time to 'breathe'. Ten years on, Shannah is an Advanced Certified Coach and NLP Practitioner. Her ability to directly empathise with high achievers has her in constant demand among entrepreneurs, executives, celebrities and athletes.



LYNDALL MITCHELL is a coach, wellness expert, and founder of the Aurora Spa Group, Australia's pioneering, award-winning urban spa. She is a leading coach, speaker and consultant with over twenty years of experience and expertise in the health and wellbeing industry. Lyndall is a passionate wellness advocate and a regular contributor on lifestyle, spa and wellness topics for the media. Through her spas, coaching and speaking, Lyndall helps clients achieve their biggest, best and happiest lives by working with them to create a 'big picture' plan and then shows them how to turn that dream into a reality, one puzzle-piece at a time. Author photo credit © The Essentialists



STOP SURVIVING START FIGHTING

Jazz Thornton

April 2020

Penguin New Zealand

Trade paperback – 272 pp

Rights held: World

A hard-hitting, thought-provoking account of surviving suicidal thoughts and moving on to a better life, which provides practical help and inspiration to anyone affected by depression or suicide.

Jazz Thornton first attempted to take her own life at the age of twelve. Multiple attempts followed and she spent time in psychiatric wards and under medical supervision as she rode the rollercoaster of depression and anxiety through her teenage years. The attempts continued.

In *Stop Surviving Start Fighting*, Jazz tells readers what she learned about how her negative thought patterns came to be, and how she turned those thoughts – and her life – around. Who and what helped, and what didn't? The insights she gives will help create greater understanding of those grappling with mental illness, and those around them who desperately want to help.

Jazz brings a relatable, direct approach to these issues. An internationally sought-after media star, Jazz has had recent speaking gigs at the UN General Assembly (with Lady Gaga) to help launch a global mental health campaign; in the UK to launch the Museum of Lost and Found Potential alongside Global Mental Health and at the One Young World Leaders Summit with Michelle Obama and Emma Watson in London. She also met with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex (Harry and Meghan) during their visit to New Zealand in 2018.

Jazz has already touched so many lives around the world and is shining light on an epidemic that crosses boundaries and cultures.

Sales points

- Jazz created *Jessica's Tree*, a web series that follows the 24 hours between a friend, Jess, going missing, and the discovery of her body. *Jessica's Tree* was viewed more than 230,000 times in the two months following its release in March 2019. It immediately received international recognition and awards, including the Huawei Mate30 Pro New Zealand Television Awards 2019 Best Web Series, and nominations/selections for Cinema l'DEA Italy, Seoul Webfest, and other film festivals
- *The Girl on the Bridge*, a movie about Jazz set for 2020 release, will raise her profile further. The movie looks at the making of *Jessica's Tree*
- Jazz was recently announced as a semi-finalist for the Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero of the Year award

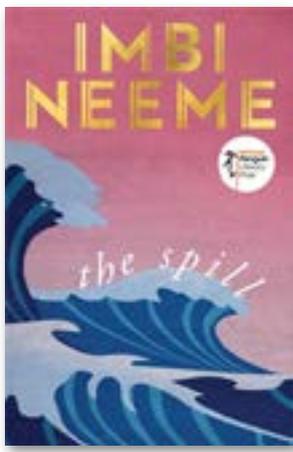


JAZZ THORNTON is a young New Zealander who is the co-founder of Voices of Hope, which provides help and hope to those struggling with mental illness. She advocates for those with depression, anxiety and suicidal thinking all around the world. Author photo credit © Maddie Graeme



Penguin
Random House
Australia & New Zealand

FICTION



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





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*

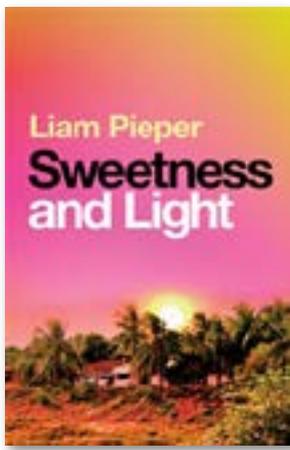
'*Riptides* is an absolute tour de force, a tempest of a novel that examines the fragility and strength of the family, the impacts of our decisions, truth and lies, loyalty and betrayal, set against the backdrop of the pyrotechnic mid-1970s Queensland. Beating beneath it all is that universal question – 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



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.

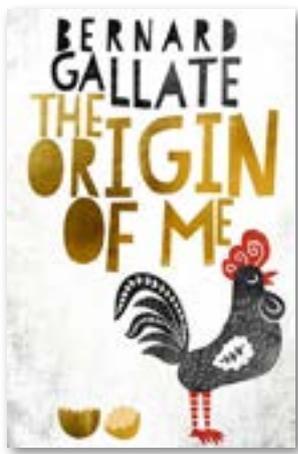
An explosive, unforgettable novel that confirms Liam Pieper's place as one of Australia's finest, sharpest writers.

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



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 . . .

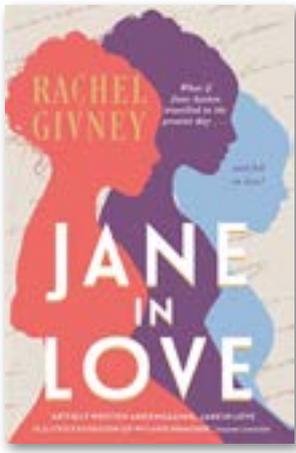
Audacious, funny and wonderfully inventive, *The Origin of Me* is a song to friendship, to young love, to the joy of imagination, and to celebrating differences, both past and present.

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



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



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?

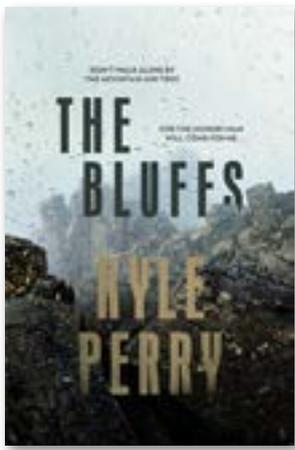
'A darkly funny satire that's both moving and wise.' – Paula Morris

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 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.

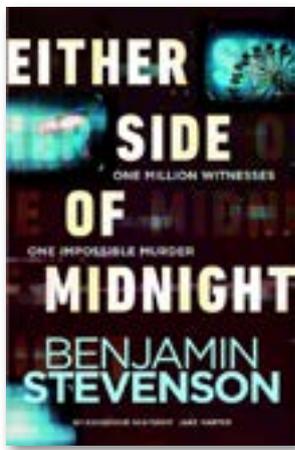
Could it be that this particular group of adolescent girls are not as innocent as they seem? What happened up there on the bluffs? Somebody knows. Unless the local legends are true...

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

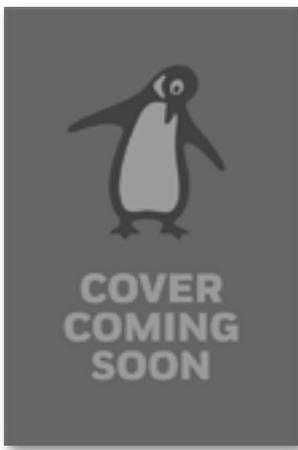
- A clever, original thriller by an exciting new voice in Australian crime fiction. Benjamin is a young, edgy writer who dares to try new things within the genre
- Fast-moving, concept-driven fiction that will quickly see Benjamin build a brand name
- Inspired by the real life case of Michelle Carter,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



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