Awards and Nominations 2019 & 2018

*Greenlight* by Benjamin Stevenson
- Shortlisted: Ned Kelly Award 2019

*Under Your Wings* by Tiffany Tsao
- Longlisted: Ned Kelly Award 2019

*The Second Cure* by Margaret Morgan
- Finalist: Aurealis Awards 2018

*The Man Who Would Not See* by Rajorshi Chakraborti
- Longlisted: Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2019

*This Mortal Boy* by Fiona Kidman
- Winner: Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2019
- Winner: New Zealand Booklovers Award 2019
- Shortlisted: Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel 2019
- Winner: New Zealand Heritage Book Awards 2018

*The Tea Gardens* by Fiona McIntosh
- Longlisted: Australian Book Industry Awards 2018

*The Girl in Kellers Way* by Megan Goldin
- Shortlisted: Ned Kelly Awards 2018
- Shortlisted: Davitt Awards 2018
- Shortlisted: Australian Book Designers Awards 2018

*All Day at the Movies* by Fiona Kidman
- Longlisted: International Dublin Literary Award 2018

*Billy Bird* by Emma Neale
- Longlisted: International Dublin Literary Award 2018
The Pearl Thief
Fiona McIntosh
United Kingdom (Penguin Random House – Ebury)
Italy (DeA Planeta)
Audio (Penguin Random House Australia)

Greenlight
Benjamin Stevenson
North America (Sourcebooks)
United Kingdom (Hachette)
Audio (Audible)

The Mannequin Makers
Craig Cliff
United Kingdom (Melville House)
Also licensed to:
North America (Milwaukee Editions)
Romania (Editura Univers)

The Kookaburra Creek Café
Sandie Docker
Germany (Verlagsgruppe Random House)
Audio (W F Howes)

Jane in Love
Rachel Givney
North America (HarperCollins)

The Escape Room
Megan Goldin
Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta)
Also licensed to:
North America (St Martin’s)
United Kingdom (Hachette)
The Netherlands (Ambo Anthos)
Germany (Piper Verlag)
Spain (Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Bukowy Las)

Love Song
Sasha Wasley
Germany (Droemer Verlag)
Audio (Ulverscroft)
Large Print (Ulverscroft)

Meet Me in Venice
Barbara Hannay
Czech Republic (Baronet)
Audio (WaveSound)
Large Print (W F Howes)
RIGHTS SOLD – Recent Highlights

- **A Life of Impossible Days**
  - Tabitha Bird
  - Audio (WaveSound)

- **Moonlight Sonata**
  - Eileen Merriman
  - Audio (Ulverscroft)

- **Sixty Summers**
  - Amanda Hampson
  - Audio (W F Howes)
  - Large Print (Ulverscroft)

- **The Country Wedding**
  - Barbara Hannay
  - Czech Republic (Baronet)
  - Also licensed to: Audio (W F Howes)

- **The Blue Rose**
  - Kate Forsyth
  - Large Print (Ulverscroft)

- **An American Marriage**
  - Tayari Jones
  - Large Print (W F Howes)

- **The Gift of Life**
  - Josephine Moon
  - Large Print (W F Howes)

- **The Roadhouse**
  - Kerry McGinnis
  - Audio (Bolinda)

- **The Yellow Villa**
  - Amanda Hampson
  - Italy (Newton Compton Editori)
  - Czech Republic (Baronet)
  - Audio (W F Howes)

- **Heart of the Grass Tree**
  - Molly Murn
  - Audio (W F Howes)

- **The Desert Midwife**
  - Fiona McArthur
  - Audio (Bolinda)
  - Large Print (Ulverscroft)
The Spill
Imbi Neeme

Pub date: June 2020
Format: 320pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Viking Australia

Winner of the 2019 Penguin Literary Prize.

In 1981, a car overturns on a remote West Australian road. Nobody is hurt, but the impact is felt for decades. The Spill explores how two people never experience or remember the same event in the same way, especially when they are sisters.

Following a car crash, sisters Nicole and Samantha each for different reasons blame themselves and carry that guilt into adulthood. It also proves the final act in the tumultuous relationship of their parents. Nicole spends her teenage years living with her mother (who was driving the car at the time of the crash), Samantha living with their father and his new wife.

After the death of their mother, secrets come out and the sisters interrogate why they have been busy misunderstanding each other and sabotaging their own opportunities for happiness.

IMBI NEEME is a recovering blogger, impending novelist and compulsive short story writer.

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.

Awards for Imbi Neeme’s Writing

• Winner – 2019 Penguin Literary Prize
• Winner – 2019 Newcastle Short Story Awards
• Winner – 2019 Henry Handel Richardson Fellowship
• Winner – 2018 Boroondara Literary Awards
• Shortlisted – 2018 Peter Carey Short Story Awards
• Commended – 2015 Victorian Premier’s Unpublished Manuscript Awards
• Selected – 2015 Hachette/Queensland Writer’s Centre Manuscript Development Program
• Finalist – 2011 Sydney Writers’ Centre’s Best Australian Blogs
• Winner – 2010 Bloggies Awards
**The Drover’s Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson**
Leah Purcell

Pub date: December 2019  
Format: 272pp – 153mm x 234mm  
Rights held: World  
Film Rights: Optioned  
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia  
Imprint: Hamish Hamilton Australia

**The Drover’s Wife** is undeniably authentic, brilliantly plotted, thoroughly harrowing and entirely of our times exploring race, gender, violence and inheritance.

The novel’s inspiration is the play of the same name, a theatrical and ground-breaking retelling of Henry Lawson’s famed *The Drover’s Wife*. The play caused a sensation on performance and won the NSW Premier’s Prize Book of the Year. That play has now been extended into a film and book that are both still ‘Tarantino meets *Deadwood*’, but so much more.

In Leah Purcell’s novel she reimagines Lawson’s story vividly and deeply to portray the drover’s heroic wife as a righteous avenger – on behalf of herself, her children and what turns out to be her race – in a savage male world.

A taut thriller of our pioneering past, *The Drover’s Wife* is full of fury, power and has a black sting to the tail, reaching from our nation’s infancy into our complicated present.

**LEAH PURCELL** is one of this nation’s most eminent cultural figures. She is arguably Australia’s most outstanding cultural polymath – a multi award-winning author, director, playwright, actor, filmmaker, theatre-maker and screenwriter. That she directs her prodigious talents towards Indigenous and First Nations themes, characters and issues, has resulted in a body of work already considered canonical in our library and stage history.

Leah will write, direct and star in the film adaptation. It is to be released in 2020.

Her awards culminated in Leah being placed in the *Australian Financial Review* Top 10 Power List for Culture.

Leah is a proud Goa-Gunggari-Wakka Wakka Murri woman from Queensland.

**A note from the publisher**

‘... [Leah Purcell] has created a figure, Molly Johnson, who is as resonant and significant as Ned Kelly, whose story speaks to many of our nation’s contemporary themes. Penguin Random House is very proud to be working with Leah on this project and bringing *The Drover’s Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson* to the widest possible readership.’ – Nikki Christer, Publisher at Large

**Awards for The Drover’s Wife, the play**

NSW Premier’s Literary Awards  
- Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting  
- Book of the Year  

Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards  
- Prize for Drama  
- Victorian Prize for Literature  

Sydney Theatre Awards 2017  
- Best New Australian Work  
- Belvoir Production Best Mainstage Production  

Helpmann Awards 2017  
- Best Play  
- Best New Australian Work  

AWGIE Awards 2017  
- Major Award across all writing genres  
- Stage Award  
- David Williamson Prize for excellence in writing
The Origin of Me
Bernard Gallate

Pub date: March 2020
Format: 400pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Vintage Australia

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

Lincoln Locke’s fifteen-year-old life is turned upside down when he’s thrust into bachelor-pad living with his dad, after his parents’ marriage breaks up, and into an exclusive new school. Crestfield Academy offers him 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 relay team with a bunch of thugs in Speedos. Homunculus, the little voice inside Lincoln’s head, doesn’t make life any easier; nor does Lincoln’s growing awareness of a genetic anomaly that threatens to humiliate him at every turn.

On a search for answers to the big LIFE questions, he turns to the hallowed school library, where he spies Edwin Stroud’s nineteenth-century memoir, My One Redeeming Affliction. The book weaves itself into Lincoln’s life in ways more fascinating and alarming than he could have imagined.

When he meets Bert McGill, the local junkyard hermit, Lincoln finds among the detritus of Bert’s life tantalising glimpses of the enigmatic Stroud, star of Melinkoff’s Astonishing Assembly of Freaks. He begins to piece together a time past, of dubious relationships and, it turns out, of redeeming afflictions.

Audacious, funny and wonderfully inventive, The Origin of Me is a story of friendships, of young love, of imagination, and of celebrating differences, past and present.

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 historic sites across the city. The Origin Of Me is his first novel.

Sales Points

- **AUTHOR’S STORY:** As well as being superbly researched, this is a really personal novel – elements of Lincoln’s story parallel Bernard’s.
- **STYLE:** Bernard’s writing is visual and colourful; his take on a coming-of-age story distinctive: there are magical elements to the story that he brings to life in sweet, funny ways.

Extract

‘According to family lore, exactly forty weeks after my father won the prestigious and fiercely contested GravyLog® Pet Food account for his advertising agency, I was born. Whether his victory had inspired the little guys to swim harder or it had more to do with the favourable position my parents had found themselves in is a disputed part of the story. But the date of my birth is not. It was 12 February, the same day that Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born. I know – incredible. Three illustrious figures sharing a birthday. My parents couldn’t decide between Abe and Charlie, so they settled on Lincoln.’
The Night of All Souls
Philippa Swan

Pub date: April 2020
Format: 304pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Vintage New Zealand

A clever and revealing novel about Edith Wharton.

Greatly 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 . . .

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*. Another, more recent story was selected for the LitCrawl short story competition. She has been a freelance writer for a number of lifestyle magazines for more than 15 years, including a columnist for *NZ Gardener* and *Cuisine* magazines.

Sales Points

• A satirical look at the biographical novel and appropriation of lives of the famous, a fascinating insight into how writers’ experiences of life and love influence their writing, an intriguing story about a couple trying to find their place in the world and a cautionary novel about fame.

• This is a fabulous read – a very lively, funny, entertaining, multi-faceted novel, following two different but connected stories.

• A novel 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*. The Mount – the house that Wharton and her husband built in Massachusetts – is open to the public.

Praise for Philippa Swan’s previous titles

‘Philippa Swan’s is an original voice that is articulate, humorous and disarming.’
- NZ Books
Fake Baby
Amy McDaid

Pub date: April 2020
Format: 304pp – 234mm x 153mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Penguin Random House New Zealand

The lives of a socially awkward pharmacist, a grieving mother, and a troubled homeless man, collide in a darkly funny novel.

Stephen McDakelyd would never surrender! . . . He was not the most elegant of runners. His legs were gangly and his arms flopped up and down like a giant inflatable cartoon from the front of a car yard. But he was fast. My god he was fast. The wind rushed through his hair. Never had he felt more alive. Never had he felt freer.

Fake Baby follows three people over nine days in Auckland: Lucas, Jaanvi and Stephen crisscross an indifferent city as none of their dreams go to plan.

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. She 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.

Sales Points

• She won the 2017 Sir James Wallace Master of Creative Writing Prize (New Zealand’s richest prize for a creative writing student) and read from this novel at the 2018 Going West Festival
• The novel captures contemporary everyday life and people struggling with mental health issues, but this is not a depressing read as she follows each character with humour and a warm, light touch.
Sweetness and Light
Liam Pieper

Pub date: March 2020
Format: 320pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: Translation
Rights sold previous titles: The Toymaker Italy (De Agostini Libri Spa), Russia (Family Leisure Book Club), Czech Republic (Nakladatelstvi Domino s.r.o)
Mistakes Were Made Czech Republic (DILA Theatre, Literary, Audiovisual Agency Association)
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Hamish Hamilton Australia

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

India, monsoon season.
Connor, an Australian expat with a brutal past, spends his time running low-stakes scams on tourists in a sleepy beachside town. Sasha, an American in search of spiritual guidance, heads to an isolated ashram in the hope of mending a broken heart.

When one of Connor’s grifts goes horribly wrong, it sets in motion a chain of events that brings the two lost souls together – and as they try to navigate a world of gangsters, gurus and secret agendas, they begin to realise that within the ashram’s utopian community, something is deeply, deeply wrong . . .

Racing from the beaches of Goa to the streets of Delhi to the jungles of Tamil Nadu, Sweetness and Light is an intoxicating, unsettling story of the battle between light and dark, love and lust, morality and corruption. This is an explosive and unforgettable novel that confirms Liam Pieper’s place as one of Australia’s finest, sharpest writers.

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

Praise for Liam Pieper’s previous titles
‘Hugely memorable. The Toymaker is an unflinching examination of the dark instinct for survival that lies in all of us.’ - Hannah Kent, author of Burial Rites
‘The Toymaker is a bold and compelling tale, from a writer properly assured of his skills.’ - Weekend Australian
‘As the novel draws to a close and Pieper reveals his narrative hand, a shocking twist gives The Toymaker an entirely new dimension, one that asks the reader to think long and hard about the price of secrets, and what morality really means. Read it once, then read it again.’ - Readings.com.au
‘It’s clear within pages of The Toymaker that he is a professional writer of prodigious talent. This is a juicy book with an intricate, layered plot, three-dimensional characters, and with brio – it is at once a Holocaust novel, a family drama, and a contemporary literary treat . . . Issues of identity plague this novel, and by the end, Pieper has choreographed an exquisite twist.’ - The Age
‘Powerfully affecting . . . An important new testament to the horrors and secrets of the Holocaust.’ - Australian Women’s Weekly
‘Pieper writes superbly. The Toymaker gives immediate and absorbing pleasure, and has similarities to J M Coetzee’s Disgrace in terms of the main character’s wretched search for redemption, both for himself and for humanity.’ - Books+Publishing
Scented
Laurence Fearnley

Pub date: September 2019
Format: 256pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Penguin Random House New Zealand

A fascinating novel about following one’s nose . . .

A compelling and poignant search for identity through perfume.

Granny Seren told me I had a natural talent for perfume making, and I believed her because she seemed to know what she was talking about and she never lied. It was Seren who introduced me to the idea of a signature scent.

As a university lecturer, Siân didn’t need a signature scent to know who she was. But, prompted by her job loss following restructuring of the humanities – and the effect this has on her identity – she begins to construct a perfume of herself. Note by perfume note, referencing scent memories and recent events, she rebuilds herself, Scented.

LAURENCE FEARNLEY is an award-winning novelist. Her novel The Hut Builder won the fiction category of the 2011 NZ Post Book Awards and was shortlisted for the international 2010 Boardman Tasker Prize for mountain writing. Her 2014 novel Reach was longlisted for the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, Edwin and Matilda was runner-up in the 2008 Montana New Zealand Book Awards and her second novel, Room, was shortlisted for the 2001 Montana Book Awards. In 2017 she was the joint winner of the Landfall essay competition and in 2016 she won the NZSA/Janet Frame Memorial Award. In 2004 Fearnley was awarded the Artists to Antarctica Fellowship and in 2007 the Robert Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago. In 2019 she was awarded the Arts Foundation Laureate for Literature.

Sales Points

• A compelling and poignant story of a woman trying to reclaim her identity and self-worth after being made redundant.
• It is also all about perfume: details of perfume making; details of how we respond to scents; the smells around us; remembered fragrances; the perfume of NZ; even discovery of a recipe to an old Maori perfume.
• It has an innovative structure and unique angle (smelling our way through the book and looking at defining oneself through scents) and yet it seems so natural, fitting and apt.
• A timely novel in reflecting what is happening in universities with the savage cuts to the humanities.

Praise for Laurence Fearnley previous titles

‘You know you are reading a good book when you find that the author seems to be inside your own head, and knows your secret thoughts’ – Booksellers Blog on Laurence’s previous novel and a perfect reflection of this book and her writing in general.
Nailing Down the Saint
Craig Cliff

Pub date: August 2019
Format: 400pp - 156mm x 233mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous title: The Mannequin Makers
North America (Milkweed Editions), United Kingdom (Melville House), Romania (Editura Univers)
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Vintage New Zealand

A novel about the pursuit of dreams, the moral calculus this entails, and the possibility that the rational, materialist worldview isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Struggling filmmaker Duncan Blake is given a lifeline when he is asked to scout locations for a much more successful director’s biopic of Saint Joseph of Copertino. This seventeenth-century Franciscan friar had a troubled life, brought before the Inquisition and continually moved around Italy because, among various miraculous abilities, he could levitate.

Duncan sets out on his quest with his oldest friend Mack, a female e-sports commentator with her own set of troubles. The first time they have spent any real time together since Duncan became a father.

“Mack was right, kind of. Having a kid had fucked him up.

Exhibit A: He cried like a baby when he finally got around to seeing Interstellar. Those times Matthew McConaughey’s character was forced to miss great chunks of his children’s lives in a matter of minutes of his own biological time.”

Duncan and Mack have two weeks to scout the necessary locations and wow the biopic’s director when they meet in Rome, but their roadtrip is littered with disastrous church tours, road incidents, unhelpful locals and colourful characters... some of whom believe humans can fly.

Duncan must re-evaluate his own role as he negotiates the long roads and steep curves of family, career and the metaphysical.

Contemporary issues are baked into the DNA of this smart, funny and thought-provoking novel: spirituality, science and scepticism; gender and privilege; as well as story-telling, video-gaming and filmmaking in the age of CGI, 4chan and Pornhub.

CRAIG CLIFF is the author of the novels Nailing Down the Saint and The Mannequin Makers, and the story collection A Man Melting, which won the 2011 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Best First Book.

In addition to fiction, Craig has published poetry, essays and reviews, been a newspaper columnist and judged poetry and short story competitions. His work has been translated into German, Spanish and Romanian and he participated in the University of Iowa’s International Writers Program in 2013.

He was Robert Burns Fellow at the University of Otago in 2017.

Awards and Accolades

A Man Melting
• Winner – Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book
• Named Sunday Star-Times’s ‘Hot Writer of 2011’

The Mannequin Makers
• One of The Listener’s 100 Best Books of 2013
• One of The Hoopla’s Best Books of 2013

Writing Programs
• 2013 - University of Iowa’s International Writers Program
• 2017 - Robert Burns Fellow at the University of Otago

Praise for Craig Cliff’s previous titles

‘A book that makes grand promises and delivers... [The Mannequin Makers] takes flight in a way that comes close to magic realism, with the characters and events falling into a gothic swoon... Craig Cliff adds to the canon, but with such ambition, creativity and sheer energy that he shows there’s still something new to say.’— NEW YORK TIMES

‘[The Mannequin Makers] is a strikingly vivid tale full of startling yet believable twists anchored by the compassionate portrayal of lives overrun with obsession and the drive for perfection. It is an original and gripping read, a rich book by an accomplished writer.’—LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS

‘Cliff altogether offers a quirky voice that falls outside of much American commercial fiction. This esotericism, along with determined prose, clever bits of timeless social critique, and an eye for setting, makes The Mannequin Makers a pleasurable read.’—CHICAGO REVIEW OF BOOKS
All the Way to Summer: Stories of Love and Longing  
Fiona Kidman

Pub date: March 2020
Format: 336pp – 132mm x 210mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous title: This Mortal Boy: United Kingdom (Aardvark), Audio (Bolinda), Film Option (South Pacific Pictures); All Day at the Movies: United Kingdom (Aardvark), Audio (Bolinda); The Trouble with Fire, The Captive Wife and The Book of Secrets: all licensed to France (Sabine Wespieser); The Infinite Air: Germany (Weilde Verlag), United Kingdom (Aardvark), France (Sabine Wespieser), Audio (Bolinda)
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Vintage New Zealand

A book to treasure from one our literary greats.

A special collection of short stories exploring love and longing to mark the 80th year of an exceptional writer.
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 80s, and since then she has continued to tell the realities of women’s lives. Her books have inspired, challenged and touched many readers over the years and across the world. This volume brings together a variety of her previously published work, as well as, some new stories; all moving, insightful and written with love.

The final stories trace her own history of love, a memoir of people she has loved from childhood and beyond.

FIONA KIDMAN has published over 30 books, including novels, poetry, non-fiction and a play. She has worked as a librarian, radio producer and critic, and as a scriptwriter for radio, television and film. 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; in more recent years The Captive Wife was runner-up for the Deutz Medal for Fiction and was joint-winner of the Readers’ Choice Award in the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Awards, and her short story collection The Trouble with Fire was shortlisted for both the NZ Post Book Awards and the Frank O’Connor Short Story Award. Her novel This Mortal Boy won the 2019 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards Acorn Foundation Fiction Prize, the NZ Booklovers Award and the NZSA Heritage Book Award for Fiction.

She was created 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.’

**Sales Points**

- Fiona’s stories have been compared to those by Alice Munro, and for good reason. Her stories unfold with such ease while also showing such depth and giving lasting pleasure.
- This will be a gorgeous, hardback collection to mark Fiona’s 80th birthday, containing previously published stories about love and some new ones, a book to treasure and to gift.

**Praise for Fiona Kidman previous titles**

‘Like Hilary Mantel, she writes with acute observation and attention to detail, getting inside the skin of her characters to establish a deeper truth about their thoughts and feelings than any official record can.’ - NZ Books

‘Kidman richly and eloquently brings the world of mid-1950s New Zealand to life. This is a tale about violent acts that is infused with humanity and compassion. And although it may be set more than half a century ago, there’s a lot here that seems relevant to our modern times.’ - NZ Listener

‘We have come to expect a high level of research in Kidman’s novels. She does not disappoint here. . . . The most impressive aspect of this deeply moving novel is Kidman’s control of the facts. She lets them speak for themselves. She does not sentimentalise Black or his situation. Nor does she condemn the judge or jury. That heightens the strength of this expose of the vulnerability of capital punishment to the pressure of public opinion, and of its ineffectiveness as a deterrent.’ - Sunday Star-Times
The Debt Collector: Penguin Specials
Wang Shou and John Frederick Franz (Translator)
Pub date: August 2019
Format: 100pp – 111mm x 181mm
Rights held: World
Imprint: Penguin Specials

There was one thing that Chen Sheng knew for certain – the only person who could help him was Zhang Guoliang. As his former boss, Chen Sheng would simply ask him to enter the house of a businessman who owed him money and request the full sum. It was not extortion, it was not a robbery, it was just debt-collection. At least that's what Chen Sheng told himself until he opened the Rezhou Informer the morning after his plan's execution. The front page of the paper told a different story, and there was no one else Chen Sheng could call on now.

WANG SHOU is a contemporary Chinese writer who began his work in the 1980s. He is the winner of the Chinese Literature Prize from Selected Works of Chinese Literature and the Short Story Award from People’s Literature.

JOHN FREDRICK FRANZ has been studying and working in China for almost 40 years now.

Fleeing Xinhe: Penguin Specials
Zhe Gui and Ana Padilla Fornieles (Translator)
Pub date: August 2019
Format: 100pp – 111mm x 181mm
Rights held: World
Imprint: Penguin Specials

In a town where everyone has secrets, Wang Wuxian is the original conman. With a huge heart and a house full of strays, he scams everyone on Xinhe Street by getting them to invest in the One Plus One Guarantee Company. Hu Weidong is a fool that bites the bait, leaving his shoe business at risk of ruin while his wife Jiang Lina tries to pick up the pieces. Chen Naixing is the brains behind the whole operation and has the most at stake when things turn sour. All the while, Ai Mengya is the only one that has a handle on the situation. In the end, there is no easy way for anyone to run away from the trouble on Xinhe Street.

ZHE GUI was born in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province. A journalist by profession, he is also a renowned author of several works of fiction. His novel Metal Heart was selected for the 2010 list of 21 Century Star Books.

ANA PADILLA FORNIELES graduated in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the University of Granada. She is based in Beijing, where she combines her work in the cultural field with her literary and artistic career and her involvement in the local literary scene.

Professor Su Jingan’s Conversation in His Later Years: Penguin Specials
Dong Jun and Sid Gulinck (Translator)
Pub date: August 2019
Format: 100pp – 111mm x 181mm
Rights held: World
Imprint: Penguin Specials

Professor Su Jing’an is a respected academic and a man of habit. He follows his routine to the tick of the clocks in his study and nothing can stop him from having his afternoon coffee. Nothing, that is, but old age. When a young academic caretaker is sent to look after Su Jing’an, he is barely the man everyone remembers. Questioning his identity, Professor Su questions all of us – who are we, and where do we belong?

DONG JUN’s works are widely published in renowned Chinese literary magazines and have won the 2010 Café Short Story Prize, 2011 October Literature Prize, People’s Literature Short Story Prize, and the Second Yu Dafu Novel Prize.

SID GULINCK is a Belgian sinologist and certified interpreter who has spent over a decade researching Chinese language and culture. Currently based in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin, he specializes in translation and interpreting with a focus on the Chinese cultural, literary and artistic fields.
The Road Home: Penguin Specials
Ai Wei and Alice Xin Liu (Translator)
Pub date: August 2019
Format: 100pp – 111mm x 181mm
Rights held: World
Imprint: Penguin Specials

Jiefang is a boy who has a peculiar fascination with gunpowder and is gifted with a nose that can find it from miles away. Trouble follows when his father paints a picture of a war hero bomber below the portrait of Chairman Mao and is quickly labelled a Counter-Revolutionary. Despite his loyal devotion to the Party, his father is taken away and Jiefang faces bullying from a clique of classmates. As the feud between them escalates, Jiefang’s unexpected discovery of a bomb leads him to continue exploring his unusual affinity for gunpowder, and what it means to truly be a ‘hero.’

AI WEI was born in Shangyu, Zhejiang. He is the first Zhejiang Literature Star and one of the Fifty Best Writers of Zhejiang. He is also the winner of People’s Literature Biennial Awards and Contemporary Literature Awards.

ALICE XIN LIU is a writer and translator living in Beijing. Born in China, she left aged seven and was educated in Britain, graduating from Durham University studying English Literature. Since arriving in Beijing in 2007 she has worked as a news assistant for the Guardian, China Editor for Index on Censorship, editor at the Financial Times-affiliated Danwei.org (founded by Jeremy Goldkorn), and as Managing Editor of Pathlight: New Chinese Writing, with Paper Republic. Alice has translated two books: The Letters of Shen Congwen (Yilin Publishing House) and The Problem with Me: And Other Essays on Making Trouble in China by Han Han (Simon and Schuster).

The Postman: Penguin Specials
Bi Yu and Jesse Field (Translator)
Pub date: August 2019
Format: 100pp – 111mm x 181mm
Rights held: World
Imprint: Penguin Specials

When in 1936 a brutally tortured body of a local postman is found outside of Shanghai’s St. Theresa’s church, the local constable brushes off the case. Zhongliang, however, comes to find out that his father’s death was no mistake. Giving up his studies, Zhongliang stumbles into a secret world where he is known as ‘Catfish’. His new postman duty takes him to the streets of Shanghai where he delivers coded letters to cryptic addresses, conspires against the invading Japanese forces, falls in love, and eventually gets completely absorbed by his own sense of righteousness.

BI YU is a critically acclaimed novelist who is widely published in major literary magazines including People’s Literature, Harvest and October. The Postman was remade into a TV series for which he also wrote the script. Bi Yu has won the 2014 People’s Literature Award, Sina Literature Outstanding Novella Award and was nominated for the Lu Xun Literature Prize.

JESSE FIELD is Dean of Studies at Bard Early College at Houde Academy, Shenzhen, where he also teaches courses on writing, literature, history and philosophy. He has translated works by Yang Jiang, Mo Yan, Bi Feiyu, Ge Zhaoguang, and many others.
**Jane in Love**
Rachel Givney

Pub date: February 2020
Format: 384pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Rights Sold: North America (HarperCollins)
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

**What if Jane Austen had to choose between the heart and the pen?**

*Jane in Love* is a charming, romantic, cinematic, feminist, Jane Austen time traveling love story. An adventure built on a simple question: what if Jane had to choose between the heart and the pen?

Bath, England, 1803. At 28 years old, Jane Austen prefers walking and reading to balls and assemblies, she dreams of being a published author someday, and worst of all, she is also the oldest unmarried woman in the West Country. In grave danger of becoming a spinster, Jane goes searching for a radical solution—and as a result, seemingly by accident, time-travels. She lands in . . .

Bath, England, present day. The film set of *Northanger Abbey*. Sofia Wentworth is a Hollywood actress starring in a new period film, an attempt to reinvent her flagging career and, secretly, an attempt to reinvent her failing marriage.

Sofia meets Jane, marveling at the young woman who can’t seem to break “historical” character, even off set. And Jane—acquainting herself with the horseless steel carriages and seriously shocking fashion of the twenty-first century—meets Sofia, a woman unlike anyone she’s ever known before. Then she meets Fred, Sofia’s brother, who has the audacity to be handsome, clever and kind-hearted.

What happens when Jane, against her better judgement, falls in love with Fred? — and when Sofia learns the truth about her new friend Jane (*“the”* Jane Austen? beloved by readers around the world *Jane Austen?? THAT Jane!!*)? Rachel Givney is a television writer from Australia who turns history and literature upside down, in a hilarious, moving first novel of friendship, art and love.

RACHEL GIVNEY is a writer and filmmaker. Her films have been official selections at the Sydney Film Festival, Flickerfest, Tropfest and many more.

**Sales Points**

- The novel was shortlisted for the Virginia Prize for Fiction, a UK prize for an unpublished manuscript for women’s fiction.

**Advance praise for *Jane in Love***

‘Rachel Givney has written some of the most delicious lines for our favourite characters on our most loved TV shows. Now she’s written a novel, based on a superb idea, with a strong female lead and romance and a tense dilemma at its heart. I can’t wait to see it out there in the world, being pursued by readers who already know that Rachel can tell a marvellous story. It’s definitely her turn to shine.’ — CAROLINE OVERINGTON, AUTHOR OF *I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE*

‘What’s to resist? To me, 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 *WILD WOOD*
Khaki Town

Judy Nunn

Pub date: October 2019
Format: 400pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous titles:
- Araluen: Germany (S. Fischer Verlag), Kal: Czech Republic (Alpress, s.r.o.), Territory: Germany (S. Fischer Verlag), Beneath the Southern Cross: Bolinda (Audio), Pacific: United Kingdom (Piatkus), Germany (S. Fischer Verlag), Floodtide: Germany (S. Fischer Verlag), Bolinda (Audio), Maralinga: United Kingdom (Piatkus), Germany (S. Fischer Verlag), Bolinda (Audio), Elianne: Bolinda (Audio), Tiger Men: Spain (La Esfera De Los Libros), Bolinda (Audio), Spirits of the Ghan: Bolinda (Audio)
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: William Heinemann Australia

Khaki Town, Judy Nunn’s exciting new novel, is inspired by a true wartime story that has remained a well-kept secret for over seventy years.

‘It seems to have happened overnight,’ Val thought. ‘How extraordinary. We’ve become a khaki town.’

It’s March 1942. Singapore has fallen. Darwin has been bombed. Australia is on the brink of being invaded by the Imperial Japanese Forces. And Val Callahan, publican of The Brown’s Bar in Townsville, could not be happier as she contemplates the fortune she’s making from lonely, thirsty soldiers.

Overnight the small Queensland city is transformed into the transport hub for 70,000 American and Australian soldiers destined for combat in the South Pacific. Barbed wire and gun emplacements cover the beaches. Historic buildings are commandeered. And the dance halls are in full swing with jazz, jitterbug and jive.

The Australian troops begrudge the confident, well-fed ‘Yanks’ who have taken over their town and their women. There’s growing conflict, too, within the American ranks, because black GIs are enjoying the absence of segregation. And the white GIs don’t like it.

As racial violence explodes through the ranks of the military, a young United States Congressman, Lyndon Baines Johnson, is sent to Townsville by his president to investigate. ‘Keep a goddamned lid on it. Lyndon,’ he is told, ‘lest it explode in our faces . . .’

JUDY NUNN’s career has been long, illustrious and multifaceted. After combining her internationally successful acting career with scriptwriting for television and radio, Judy decided in the 1990s to turn her hand to prose. Her first three novels, The Glitter Game, Centre Stage and Araluen, set respectively in the worlds of television, theatre and film, became instant bestsellers, and the rest is history, quite literally. She has since developed a love of writing Australian historically based fiction and her fame as a novelist has spread rapidly throughout Europe.

Her subsequent bestsellers, Kal, Beneath the Southern Cross, Territory, Pacific, Heritage, Floodtide, Maralinga, Tiger Men, Elianne and Spirits of the Ghan confirm Judy’s position as one of Australia’s leading fiction writers.

In 2015 Judy was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her ‘significant service to the performing arts as a scriptwriter and actor of stage and screen, and to literature as an author’.

Praise for Spirits of the Ghan
‘What Nunn does best is to create the Outback itself as a character: living, breathing, and beautiful.’ – ADELAIDE ADVERTISER
‘Vivid and diverting.’ – CANBERRA TIMES
‘Judy Nunn weaves a breathtaking tale, journeying deep into the red heart of Australia in her latest book.’ – ECHO (PERTH)
The Diamond Hunter
Fiona McIntosh

Pub date: November 2019
Format: 432pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Rights sold previous titles:
The Pearl Thief: United Kingdom (Ebury), Italy (DeA Planeta), Audio (Penguin Random House Australia); The Perfumer’s Secret: Portugal (OficinaDo Livro), Czech Republic (Baronet, a.s.), Poland (Wydawnictwo FiliaSp. Z.o.o.), Bulgaria (Soft Press Publishing House), Audio (Bolinda); The Last Dance: Poland (Wydawnictwo FiliaSp. Z.o.o.), Audio (Bolinda), Nightingale: Czech Republic (Baronet, a.s.), Russia (Eksmo), Greece (Oceanida), Audio (Bolinda); The Tailor’s Girl: Brazil (Editora Fundamento), Russia (Eksmo), Audio (Bolinda), The French Promise: United Kingdom (Allison & Busby), Russia (Eksmo), Germany (Blanvalet), Audio (Bolinda); The Lavender Keeper: United Kingdom (Allison & Busby), Russia (Eksmo), Germany (Blanvalet), Audio (Bolinda); Fields of Gold: Germany (Blanvalet), Russia (Eksmo), Audio (Bolinda)
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

Bound by courage and friendship, torn apart by jealousy and greed.

‘It won’t matter how many diamonds you find if you lose the love of your child.’

When six-year-old Clementine Knight loses her mother to malaria during the 1870s diamond rush in southern Africa, she is left to be raised by her destitute, alcoholic father, James. Much of Clementine’s care falls to their trusty Zulu companion, Joseph One-Shoe, and the unlikely pair form an unbreakable bond.

When the two men uncover a large, flawless diamond, James believes he has finally secured their future, but the discovery of the priceless gem comes at a huge cost. A dark bargain is struck to do whatever it takes to return Clementine to a respectable life at the Grant family’s sprawling estate in northern England – while the diamond disappears.

Years on, long-buried memories of Clementine’s childhood in Africa and her beloved Joseph One-Shoe are triggered, as she questions who she can trust. To solve the mystery of what happened to her loved ones all those years ago, she must confront a painful history and finally bring justice to bear.

From the harsh desert of Africa’s Kimberley diamond mine to the misty, green plains of northern England, The Diamond Hunter is a breathtaking adventure story about trust and betrayal, the ultimate quest for truth, and a love that is truly priceless.

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.

Praise for The Pearl Thief

‘Fans of Fiona McIntosh’s evocative and richly researched historical narratives will fall in love with The Pearl Thief. In equal parts intriguing and devastating, this Holocaust survival story turned cat and mouse chase through 1960s Paris and London will have you desperately reading late into the night . . . The Pearl Thief is laced with nugget upon nugget of historical gold, with the author weaving a grand sense of time and place throughout the action. Reading this book makes you feel as though you’ve lived and breathed 1963 London and Paris. Fans and new readers of McIntosh alike will be savouring every moment.’ – Booktopia

‘The Pearl Thief is a stunning work of historical fiction, laced with layers of research and rich detail. As a writer, Fiona is committed to the historical integrity of her work – she researches incessantly, and refuses to write about a place until she has set foot there. This diligence and eye for detail shines through in all of her works, particularly in The Pearl Thief, which might well be her best novel to date. Fans of historical fiction – along with those who simply enjoy a rattling good yarn – will love The Pearl Thief, a rare and marvellous gem from one of Australia’s bestselling authors.’ – Better Reading
The Cake Maker’s Wish
Josephine Moon

Pub date: June 2020
Format: 384pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: United Kingdom
Rights sold previous title: The Gift of Life: Large Print (W F Howes)
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

The new feel-good ‘foodies fiction’ novel from bestselling author Josephine Moon.

Life in a village isn’t always sweet and simple . . .

When single mum Olivia Clark uproots her young son, Darcy, from their life in Tasmania for a new start in the English Cotswolds, she isn’t exactly expecting a bed of roses – but nor is she prepared for the challenges that life in the picturesque village throws her way.

The Renaissance Project has been designed to bring the dwindling community back to life – to welcome migrants from around the world and to boost the failing economy – but not everyone is as pleased about the initiative as the newcomers have been led to believe.

For cake-maker Olivia, it’s a chance for Darcy to finally meet his Norwegian father Helge, and to trace the last blurry lines on what remains of her pitiful family tree. It’s also an opportunity to move on from the traumatic event that tore her loved ones apart and left her baking career in tatters.

After seven years on her own, she is completely surprised to stumble upon something – from the very last place she’d expect it – and empowered by the strength of humanity, and the healing power of love.

A moving and soulful story about the moments that change your life forever, and the true human kindness that is out there in the world.

JOSEPHINE MOON was born and raised in Brisbane, and had a false start in Environmental Science before completing a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and then a postgraduate degree in education. Twelve years and ten manuscripts later, her first novel The Tea Chest was picked up for publication and then shortlisted for an Australian Book Industry Award. Her bestselling contemporary fiction is published internationally. Her books include The Tea Chest, The Chocolate Promise, The Beekeeper’s Secret, Three Gold Coins and The Gift of Life.

In 2018, Josephine organised the ‘Authors for Farmers’ appeal, raising money to assist drought-affected farming communities. She is passionate about literacy, and is a proud sponsor of Story Dogs and The Smith Family.

She now lives on acreage in the beautiful Noosa hinterland with her husband and son, and a tribe of animals that seems to increase in size each year. She wouldn’t have it any other way.

Praise for The Gift of Life

‘A moving novel about family, grief and hope . . . Josephine Moon is a vivid, direct storyteller who grapples with big life questions with subtle grace. She gives her two complex heroines complicated histories and distinguishing quirks, making their journeys particularly gripping. The novel offers a moving exploration of the joys and difficulties of family and motherhood.’
- Apple Books

‘I was really surprised at the direction this story took. The plot was interesting, allowing characters to show a genuine human fragility and compassion . . . A lovely Australian novel from an accomplished writer.’
- Good Reading magazine

‘A truly moving tale about loss and love and connection, with a wonderful cast of well developed characters, with layered storylines.’
- Better Reading

‘The Gift of Life truly is a gift to any reader . . . It is moving, uplifting, intriguing and life affirming.’
- Mrs B’s Book Reviews

‘Part mystery, part romance and all heart. Moon has crafted a great novel about the power of friendship, love and second chances.’
- Q Weekend
The Banksia Bay Beach Shack
Sandie Docker
Pub date: March 2020
Format: 384pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous title: The Kookaburra Creek Café: Germany (Verlagsgruppe Random House), Audio (W F Howes)
The Cottage at Rosella Cove: Audio (W F Howes)
Audio: Rights Available
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

The heartwarming new family drama 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.

MYSTERIES
When Laura discovers an old photo of her grandmother, Lillian, with an intriguing inscription on the back, she heads to the sleepy seaside 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.

SECRETS
Virginia, 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 on to her secrets or set the truth free.

LIES
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.

A moving and heartfelt story of first love and last chances by the bestselling author of The Kookaburra Creek Café and The Cottage at Rosella Cove.

SANDIE DOCKER grew up in Coffs Harbour, and first fell in love with reading when her father introduced her to fantasy books as a teenager. Her love of fiction began when she first read Jane Austen for the HSC, 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 in the back of her mind while she lived overseas and travelled the world. Sandie first decided to put pen to paper (yes, she 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.

Praise for Sandie Docker previous titles
‘Docker soars from the absolute heart, as she rebuilds all our lost souls in a cafe to call home.’ - Australian Women’s Weekly
‘The best of the best of heart-wrenching yarns.’- Woman’s Day
‘The Cottage at Rosella Cove is a deeply moving read, a joyful snapshot of human connection and the way people can save each other through kindness and empathy. Sandie has a deep understanding of contemporary social issues and she weaves these into her story with finesse.’ - Theresa Smith Writes
When a school 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. It’s not that long ago that a number of young girls were killed in the area of that dangerous escarpment, and local legends regarding ‘the hungry man’ still haunt locals to this day.

Authorities can determine only that a teacher was knocked unconscious: clearly someone on the mountain that night was up to foul play. Stephen Murphy, father of missing student Jasmine and the town’s local drug dealer, instantly becomes a prime suspect, but Inspector Con Badenhorst has more than one reason to trust him.

Have the girls simply gone missing, or was it the restless spirits of the Aboriginal people massacred on ‘the Mountain of the Spirits’ in ancient times? With reports of a strange white light emanating from limestone methane, perhaps there is some more inexplicable, supernatural power at play?

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 doesn’t explain why all victims, past and present, were discovered barefoot, their shoes placed neatly nearby, laces tied.

Could it be that this particular group of adolescent girls aren’t as innocent as they seem?

KYLE PERRY is a youth worker and drug and alcohol counsellor who has worked extensively in high schools, youth shelters and rehabs. Kyle himself has been lost in the Tasmanian mountains twice, and once used ripped pages of a journal stuck on branches in order to find his way out. Kyle holds a Bachelor of Counselling (Coaching), and lives in Tasmania’s North West.

In-house Feedback

‘Loved it! It is fantastic and I couldn’t put it down. It’s a murder mystery like Picnic at Hanging Rock but it is totally plot driven – it will reach a whole new generation of readers with all the current themes in it. Such a young and talented writer and it is just gob-smackingly good. The best thing I’ve read since Scrublands.’

- Debbie McGowan, Account Manager

‘I read this over a weekend, and totally see why it’s got people excited. It’s super pacy and gripping, just as you’d hope for from this kind of book. I love the big range of characters, and just that feeling of – the whole town getting sucked up into this business.’ - Johannes Jakob, Editor

‘I read this and really enjoyed it. Desperately wanted to know what happened! Very clever ending too. Great characters, and good surprises.’ - Bev Cousins, Fiction Publisher

‘Wow! The first page of this made me literally physically shiver. It is so atmospheric – you lose yourself in his storytelling. I read the first maybe 50 pages while I was waiting for my son’s piano lesson to finish and was startled when they emerged – it felt as though I’d been there five minutes. I know in a way it’s an age-old premise, children/girls disappearing, but if it’s done well, as it is here, it’s never going to be anything but utterly nail-biting and chilling. One of many elements I am so impressed about in this novel is how he brings the landscape to life and makes it another character. And I love how he’s seeding some interesting and sinister subplots. That opening – terrifying! You can see instantly he’s a brilliant writer and storyteller. It’s quite rare to feel a frisson like I did from two fragments on pages one and two. CLEVER!’ - Catherine Hill, Managing Editor
Either Side of Midnight
Benjamin Stevenson

Pub date: August 2020
Format: 352pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous title: Greenlight North America (Sourcebooks), United Kingdom (Hodder & Stoughton), Audio (Audible)
Audio: Penguin Random House Australia
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

A compelling new thriller from the author of Greenlight. When a popular TV presenter shoots himself live on air, his twin brother calls on the help of Jack Quick (from Greenlight) to help him search for answers – and they uncover a disturbing link to a suicide in their past . . .

One million witnesses. One impossible murder.

At 9.04pm, Sam ‘Midnight’ Midford delivers his light entertainment monologue to kick off his nightly current affairs show. He’s nervous and his assistant is convinced he’s about to propose to his girlfriend live on air. But instead of a ring, he pulls out a gun and shoots himself in the head.

When child pornography is discovered on his work laptop, it is assumed that Sam killed himself before his dark secret was revealed.

But Sam’s grief-stricken twin brother Harry is adamant that the porn was planted and is convinced Sam was murdered. He may have pulled the trigger on live TV, watched by millions, but Harry believes someone made Sam do it. He hires Jack Quick, TV producer and true crime podcaster, to help him discover the truth.

Together Harry and Jack watch Sam’s final broadcast more closely and in a reflection on the TV monitor behind Sam they see the scrolling words from the teleprompter: I thought you wanted this. Don’t back out on me now.

Did someone talk Sam into killing himself via the teleprompter? And what could someone say to make a person shoot themselves in front of one million viewers? What secret did Sam have that would be enough to compel him to take his own life? And what is the link with the suicide of Sam’s girlfriend Lily 13 years before?

BENJAMIN STEVENSON is an award-winning stand-up comedian and author. He has sold out shows from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival all the way to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has appeared on ABC TV, 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. Greenlight was his first novel.

Sales Points
• A nail-biting, original thriller, from a brilliant new voice in Australian fiction: young, edgy and highly imaginative, playing around with conventions of the genre.
• This novel is inspired by the real life case of Michelle Carter, convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison in 2014 for encouraging her friend Conray Roy to commit suicide.
• Greenlight has been longlisted for the Ned Kelly Award 2019 for First Fiction.

Praise for Benjamin Stevenson previous titles
‘An outstanding debut from an exceptional new talent, this is an absorbing thriller told with heart and wit. Morality and ambition clash on a journey full of twists as Greenlight takes readers from the cut-throat media landscape to a sleepy town full of secrets. Confident, compelling and with a surprise around every corner, I loved it’ - Jane Harper, author of The Dry
‘Thought-provoking and densely plotted, Greenlight is compelling and timely’ - Sydney Morning Herald
‘A hugely-original premise, a guilt-ridden protagonist, a plot that won’t lie down. A great debut’ - Chris Hammer, author of Scrublands
‘A clever, heart-racing read. Fresh and contemporary.’ - Courier Mail

© AMELIA DOWD SEPTEMBER 2018
The Last Convict
Anthony Hill

Pub date: June 2020
Format: 320pp – 153mm x 234mm
Rights held: World
Rights sold previous title: Forbidden France (Flammarion Jeunesse)
Imprint: Michael Joseph Australia

For fans of historical fiction, this is a moving and insightful story 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 Australia’s penal era by award-winning writer and historian Anthony Hill.

‘It’s a good story, Samuel. You’re a piece of living history. Here we are in 1938, seventy years after transportation to Western Australia ceased, and you’re still alive. Hale and hearty.’

In Oxford 1863 Samuel Speed and his companion Tommy Jones were convicted of burning a barley rick because they were starving and wanted to go to prison to get something to eat. It wasn’t a political act, but one of desperation and survival. Speed arrived in Western Australia on the convict ship Belgravia in July 1866, got his ticket-of-leave in 1867, and full freedom in 1871.

Very little is known about his subsequent life here, except that he spent the final decades of his life in an Old Men’s Home and institutions for the blind in Perth. He gave a newspaper interview in August 1938, which is used as the basis of the novel and Hill’s fascinating interpretation of his life.

The book is in part a study of the convict system, in part social commentary, especially on the justice system of the day; but mainly, it is a study of old age, and loneliness of our common humanity and the attempt by this individual ‘social outcast’, Sam Speed, to find meaning in his life through the power of literature.

Meticulously researched and brilliantly woven into an engaging and insightful fictional account, The Last Convict is a moving and insightful story by award-winning writer and historian Anthony Hill.

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. Soldier Boy, 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.

Praise for Anthony Hill previous titles

‘Anthony Hill has done it again with Captain Cook’s Apprentice. It is a cracking good read...an adventure story of detail and nuance.’ – The Weekly Times

‘This epic boy’s-own adventure story imagines what life must have been like on Cook’s historic voyage.’ – Daily Telegraph

Awards for Anthony Hill

Captain Cook’s Apprentice
Winner - NSW Premier’s Young People’s History Prize 2009
Soldier Boy
Winner - Books for Young Adults - NSW Premier’s Literary Award 2002
ABOUT THE ADULT PUBLISHING TEAMS
PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

Justin Ractliffe
Publishing Director

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

Nikki Christer
Publisher at Large

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

Meredith Curnow
Publisher, Literary Fiction

Meredith Curnow is a literary publisher working across Knopf, Vintage and Hamish Hamilton, publishing fiction and non-fiction. The authors she is delighted to work with include Tom Keneally, Don Watson, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Frank Moorhouse, David Malouf, Kate Forsyth, Tara June Winch and J.M. Coetzee. Meredith is involved in a number of fellowship programs. She is also a member of the board of youth arts organisation Express Media.

Alison Urquhart
Publisher, Non-fiction

Alison Urquhart is a non-fiction publisher of Ebury Press and William Heinemann Australia. Before joining Penguin Random House, Alison was associate publisher of non-fiction at HarperCollins Australia. She has also worked as a literary agent, both in the UK and Australia. Alison broadly publishes across the areas of history, military history, sport, true crime, memoir and biography. She publishes many bestselling authors, including the wonderful and highly acclaimed historians Paul Ham and Mike Carlton.
Sophie Ambrose  
**Commissioning Editor, Non-fiction**

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

Isabelle Yates  
**Commissioning Editor, Non-fiction**

Having previously worked at Penguin Random House UK, Izzy now commissions non-fiction as part of the General Adult team at Penguin Random House Australia. Her areas of interest are health and wellbeing, self-help and personal development, and cookery – she is always on the lookout for inspiring books with a valuable application to real life. Izzy’s authors include Professor Valter Longo, health campaigner Dr Peter Brukner and chefs Guy Grossi and Tobie Puttock.

**PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NEW ZEALAND**

Claire Murdoch  
**Head of Publishing**

As Head of Publishing, Claire Murdoch directs the Penguin Random House New Zealand list across non-fiction, fiction and children’s books. With broad experience in the Australian and New Zealand book trade, including roles at Allen & Unwin, Te Papa Press and PRH, her books have won dozens of awards. She has served as a member of the Council of the Publishing Association of NZ, the Victoria University Press advisory board, Whitireia Publishing School and various literary and arts grants panels. Claire has particular expertise in illustrated non-fiction and art books, popular culture, biography and memoir.

Harriet Allan  
**Publisher, Fiction**

Harriet Allan has been working for Penguin Random House and its earlier incarnations for over thirty years. She publishes many of New Zealand’s pre-eminent writers, including Fiona Kidman, Owen Marshall, Witi Ihimaera and Charlotte Grimshaw, among numerous others who regularly feature on the New Zealand bestseller list. She lost count, after reaching twenty, of the number of award-winning books she has published, but over the years her authors have won the New Zealand Book Awards, the Montana Book Awards, the New Zealand Post Awards, the Best First Book in the Commonwealth Writers Prize and several have been shortlisted for the prestigious Frank O’Connor Award. She publishes both literary and commercial fiction under the imprints of Penguin, Vintage, Black Swan and Bantam. She also publishes Young Adult fiction.
Margaret Sinclair
**Publisher, General Non-fiction**

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

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Jeremy Sherlock
**Senior Publisher, Non-fiction**

Jeremy Sherlock is Senior Publisher, Non-fiction. Beginning his career in 2005 as an editor at New Zealand’s oldest publisher, Reed Publishing, Jeremy went on to work as an editor then commissioning editor with Penguin, then as a managing editor for Penguin Random House Australia, before returning to the New Zealand business late in 2016. His areas of focus are biography and memoir, sports, maori language, pop culture, history and the outdoors.

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**PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE NORTH ASIA**

Patrizia van Daalen
**Publishing Director**

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

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Anya Goncharova
**Editor, Fiction and Non-fiction**

Anya Goncharova is the editor heading the English-language list of Penguin Random House North Asia. Based in her hometown Beijing, she works with local and international authors to bring unique stories about the region to readers all over the world. She is always on the lookout for original fiction and non-fiction from and about China.