



The Text Publishing Company



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Recent Acquisitions

Children and Young Adult

Archbold, Charlie	Red-Bottomed Boat	World	Author
Arnold, David	The Electric Kingdom	ANZ	Writers House USA
Draper, Lauren	The Museum of Broken Things	World	Author
Emery, Kate	The Not So Chosen One	World	Author
Gale, Emily	If You Could See Me Now	World	Author
Laguna, Ingrid	Bailey Finch Takes a Stand	World	Curtis Brown Australia
Luby, Miranda	Therefore I Am	World	Author
McEwen, Karys	Bertie	World	Author
Miller, Jessica	The Hotel Witch	World (ex. NA)	InkWell Management
Sheppard, Holden	The Brink	World	Left Bank Literary

Adult

Angel, Libby	Where I Slept	World	Author
Fenster, Gigi	A Good Winter	World	High Spot Literary
Garner, Helen	Diaries Volume 3	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Holbe, Julia	Our Happy Days	World English	Penguin Random House Germany
Malcolm, Janet	Pictures	ANZ	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
Melchor, Fernanda	Páradais	ANZ	Literarische Agentur Michael Gaeb
Ozeki, Ruth	The Book of Form and Emptiness	ANZ	Abner Stein in association with The Friedrich Agency
Prior, Sian	A Terrible Freedom	World	Jenny Darling & Associates
Rothwell, Nicolas	Red Heaven	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Ruiz Zafón, Carlos	The City of Mist	ANZ	The Colchie Agency
Sheppard, Holden	Nullarbor Brothers	World	Left Bank Literary
Webster, Allayne	Selfie	World	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Wilson, Ashleigh	Conversations with Wendy	World	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Wilson, Kevin	Tunneling to the Centre of the Earth	UK & Comm (ex. Canada)	Abner Stein in association with The Book Group

Recent Publications

Children and Young Adult

Bell, Davina	The End of the World is Bigger than Love	Curtis Brown Australia
Brubaker Bradley, Kimberley	Fighting Words	Penguin Random House USA
Kerr, Kay	Please Don't Hug Me	Jacinta di Mase Management
Moore, Cath	Metal Fish, Falling Snow	Author
Stead, Rebecca	The List of Things that Will Not Change	Penguin Random House USA

Adult

Arnott, Robbie	The Rain Heron	Author
Bail, Murray	He.	Author
Bedford, Kavita	Friends & Dark Shapes	Sterling Lord Literistic
Carofiglio, Gianrico	Three O'Clock in the Morning	Rosaria Carpinelli Consulenze Editoriali
Cotter, Andrew	Olive, Mabel & Me	Black and White Publishing
Disher, Garry	Consolation	Jenny Darling & Associates
Döblin, Alfred	Two Women and a Poisoning	S. Fischer Verlag
Garner, Helen	One Day I'll Remember This	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Grenville, Kate	A Room Made of Leaves	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Hall, Steven	Maxwell's Demon	Canongate
Jinks, Catherine	Shelter	Margaret Connolly & Associates
Jones, Gail	Our Shadows	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Koval, Ramona	A Letter to Layla	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Believer	Jane Novak Literary Agency
Kurbjuweit, Dirk	The Missing	Penguin Random House Germany
Malanowska, Kaja	Fog	Barbara J. Zitwer Agency
Maslen, Kylie	Show Me Where It Hurts	Author
Murphy, Fiona	The Shape of Sound	Author
Peck, Loraine	The Second Son	Curtis Brown Australia
Savage, Ellena	Blueberries	Lutyens & Rubinstein
Serong, Jock	The Burning Island	Author
Sligar, Sarah	Take Me Apart	Curtis Brown UK
Spurr, Emily	A Million Things	Author
Watson, S. J.	Final Cut	C&W

Bodies of Light by Jennifer Down

So by the grace of a photograph that had inexplicably gone viral, Tony had found me. Or: he'd found Maggie.

I had no way of knowing whether he was nuts or not; whether he might go to the cops. Maybe that sounds paranoid, but I don't think it's so ridiculous. People have gone to prison for much lesser things than accusations of child-killing.

Born in 1990, Jennifer Down already has published a highly regarded novel and book of stories. *Bodies of Light* is the novel that fulfills the promise of this early work.

It turns a single human life into an epic story, a hugely readable book that traverses the darkest territory, a book that fulfils fiction's promise to immerse us in the realities of another identity.

Bodies of Light tracks the life of Maggie: from her childhood shuttled from one abusive care home to another; to domestic happiness that ends in tragedy; to the arms of a passionate woman in New Zealand; and to a new existence in the USA—only for her to find that she can't leave her old self behind so easily.

This is the story of a life in full, detailed, wrenching, sensuous and compelling. It's about trauma and heartbreak, memory and loss, the refusal to do anything but survive, no matter the odds.

Praise for Jennifer Down:

'All the rapture and calamity of youth. Jennifer Down is a writer of rare insight and heart.' Carrie Tiffany on *Our Magic Hour*

'Down writes about love and friendship with an emotionally resonant sparseness ... A collection pulsing with emotion; a writer crackling with potential.' *Kirkus Reviews* on *Pulse Points*

'Jennifer Down is going to be a major part of the future of Australian literature.' Readings on *Pulse Points*

Jennifer Down was named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year in 2017 and 2018. *Our Magic Hour*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript, the Voss Literary Prize and a NSW Premier's Literary Award. Her second book, *Pulse Points*, was the winner of the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction, and was shortlisted for a NSW Premier's Literary Award and a Queensland Literary Award. She lives in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

October 2021

Manuscript available

The Hitchhiker by Gerwin van der Werf

TRANSLATED FROM DUTCH BY DAVID COLMER

Tiddo's marriage to Isa is in trouble. They have drifted apart. They don't make love anymore. Even his 13-year-old son, Jonathan, is now a stranger. Is it simply that he is becoming a teenager or is there something more sinister behind the gruesome images Jonathan scratches in his notebook?

Desperate to keep his family together, Tiddo plans a holiday to Iceland.

In a rented campervan they travel the tourist circuit. When they pick up a hitchhiker named Svein, he offers to guide them off the beaten track. Svein is tall, handsome and covered in tattoos of ancient runes. His presence worries Tiddo, but also brings flashes of salvation. Is there wisdom in his stories? What power do his tattoos hold?

The Hitchhiker unfolds like a fever dream amid the breathtaking beauty of Iceland, but the environment turns out to be as unforgiving as each decision Tiddo makes.

Taut and compelling, *The Hitchhiker* is the story of a man who goes to great lengths to save what he has already lost.

'Reminiscent of Grunberg's *Tirza*, Herman Koch's best books and, in places, the American television series *Breaking Bad*—but more importantly, van der Werf's fourth novel also matches up to those powerful examples in terms of quality.' *Het Parool*

'Superb tragicomedy about a marriage on the rocks and a man's attempt to salvage it...What a storyteller van der Werf is.' *Trouw*

'Van der Werf proves to be a consummate storyteller, who strings his sentences together as effortlessly as landscapes unfolding through the windows of a campervan.' *Dagblad van het Noorden*

Gerwin van der Werf is a musicologist, teacher and regular columnist for the Dutch newspaper *Trouw*. His novel *Wild* was longlisted for the Libris Literature Prize. *Een onbarmhartig pad* [*The Hitchhiker*] is his fourth novel.

David Colmer has translated more than 60 works of Dutch literature and has won many prizes for his translations, including the Vondel Prize, the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and the NSW Premier's Award.

Rights Held: World English

Other rights: Atlas Contact

Fiction

March 2022

Manuscript available

The Dream of the Sewing Machine by Bianca Pitzorno

TRANSLATED FROM ITALIAN BY BRIGID MAHER

Born into poverty, the seamstress spends her days sewing and preparing for the special events of the wealthier houses. Her work is simple and honest; she prepares the bed sheets and night gowns, leaving the finer work of dressmaking to the ateliers in Paris.

Her story weaves in and out of the lives of the families she works for. Some are kind and generous, others blinded by their desire to climb the social ladder. She dreams of freeing herself from the life that she has inherited but can't help being pulled back in by the love of the people around her.

Set in nineteenth-century Sardinia, *The Dream of the Sewing Machine* follows the young seamstress as she grows into a woman, fighting for her own independence in a world dominated by men and social conventions.

Pitzorno's books have sold more than 2 million copies in Italy and have been translated into many languages.

Praise for *The Dream of the Sewing Machine*:

'Bianca Pitzorno is an icon. A trademark. The certainty of an engaging and enjoyable reading. *The Dream of the Sewing Machine* is yet another confirmation...' Luca Orsenigo, *Corriere del Ticino*

'Bianca Pitzorno is one of the greatest Italian writers. *The Dream of the Sewing Machine* is an extraordinary novel...Only a wise hand could draw the parallel between sewing and writing without making it trivial: Pitzorno succeeds in her most "political" book.' Nadia Terranova, *la Repubblica*

'A compelling storyline like a feuilleton, yet touching very contemporary issues that have to do with women's emancipation.' *Cosmopolitan Italy*

Bianca Pitzorno has published almost 50 books both of fiction and non-fiction, of adult and children's literature. Her books have sold more than 2 million copies in Italy and have been translated into many languages.

Brigid Maher is a senior lecturer in Italian studies at La Trobe University in Melbourne, and has translated several works of contemporary Italian writing into English.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Giunti Editore S.p.A.

Fiction

April 2022

Manuscript available

Our Happy Days by Julia Holbe

TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN BY IMOGEN TAYLOR

Lenica, Marie, Fanny and Elsa spend a memorable summer together on the Atlantic coast in France. The four friends are bound together, their friendship forged in sun-soaked days and wine-filled nights, giddy with happiness and youth.

When they meet again, many years later, they realise that this bond has never been broken. Although older, they still carry with them everything that happened that summer and the night that Lenica brought Sean along.

Our Happy Days is as much about friendship as it is about love. The four women grow into adults and their connections to one another deepen and change. It is only when time has passed that they can see how that summer laid out their whole futures.

‘Julia Holbe has written a beautiful, light and yet evocative book about a past happiness.’ *Der Spiegel*

Julia Holbe was born in 1969 and lives in Frankfurt am Main but spends part of the year in Brittany. She spent twenty years working as an editor of international literature at the publishing house S. Fischer Verlag. *Our Happy Days* is her first novel.

Imogen Taylor is a literary translator based in Berlin. Her translations include *Fear* and *Twins* by Dirk Kurbjuweit, Sascha Arango’s *The Truth and Other Lies* and Melanie Raabe’s *The Trap*, *The Stranger* and *The Shadow*.

Rights Held: World English

Other Rights: Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe GmbH

Fiction

January 2022

Manuscript available

The Long Game by Simon Rowell

In a summer of relentless heat, a local surfer named Ray Carlson is found dead in a house not far from Portsea back beach. There's a silver-handled kitchen knife deep in his chest, and blood everywhere.

She is scarcely back from extended leave, and still wrestling with her demons, but Detective Sergeant Zoe Mayer is assigned the case, accompanied by her service dog Harry, who goes everywhere with her, and has his own detective skills.

There's an obvious suspect for the murder, and Zoe makes an arrest. But it's all too neat, and Zoe thinks she can see a pattern forming, even if none of her colleagues believes her theory that the whole thing is a setup.

Except now someone is trying to hunt Zoe down.

Superbly plotted, and vividly set in an unsuspecting beachside suburb, *The Long Game* is a mystery about a tough and clever investigator who won't give up.

Simon Rowell has worked on outback oil rigs, managed nightclubs, been a tour guide and run marketing campaigns. His first book *The Echo of Others* was longlisted for the Ned Kelly Awards for Best First Crime in 2018. He lives in rural Victoria on a farm full of rescued animals.

Rights Held: World

Fiction

August 2021

Manuscript available

The Attack by Catherine Jinks

A boot camp for troubled young men, a hidden identity and a murderous pursuit on a remote island: beloved author Catherine Jinks is back with another heart-pounding Australian thriller.

Robyn Ayres works as the camp caretaker on Finch Island, a former leper colony off the coast of Queensland. Her current clients are a group of ex-military men who run a tough-love program for troubled teens.

The latest crop looks like the usual mix of bad boys and sad boys. Then Robyn takes a second look at a kid called Darren. Last time she saw him his name was Aaron, and Robyn was his primary school teacher. And she was somehow at the centre of a vicious small-town custody battle involving his terrifying grandmother.

Bruising classroom dynamics, manipulative parents and carers and horrendous small-town politics form the backdrop to a nail-biting thriller in which the tensions of ten years ago start to play themselves out, building to a violent climax in the present day.

Robyn escaped the past once. Now it's back—and this time there's no way out.

Praise for Catherine Jinks:

'[Jinks] is a masterful storyteller, able to easily carry the narrative exigences of plot and character regardless of genre...[she] knows how to dole out the tension, letting the suspense slacken and then ramping up the terror lest you become complacent for a few minutes.'

Guardian on Shelter

'Cranking up the suspense with methodical focus, [*Shelter* is] a brutally effective potboiler.'

Big Issue on Shelter

Catherine Jinks' books for adults, young adults and children have been published in a dozen countries and have won numerous awards, including a Victorian Premier's Literary Award and the CBCA Book of the Year Award (four times). She lives in the Blue Mountains.

Rights Held: World

Option publishers: Poland—Znak.

Fiction

September 2021

Manuscript available

The Novel Project by Graeme Simsion

'Writing is easy: All you do is sit staring at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.' Variously attributed to Thomas Wolfe, sportswriter Paul Gallico and, inevitably, Ernest Hemingway, the quote portrays writing as mysterious, romantic, tortuous and, implicitly, unteachable.

This book is about another approach, based on established theories of creativity and design, and on the experience of authors, including me, who—preferring to save the drama for the story—have adopted a more structured and reliable process.

It's aimed at those who want to write a book for publication, or at least one that others will want to read.

Internationally bestselling author Graeme Simsion provides a masterclass on writing a novel.

Simsion's books have been published into 45 territories and the Rosie series has sold almost six million copies worldwide.

The Novel Project is at once a primer, a writer's diary and a gift to aspiring authors of what an established novelist knows. Using his trademark wit and humour, Simsion explores how to develop a novel from its initial idea: how to build the plot and characters and then, when there is a complete draft, how to work with an editor. Drawing on diaries that Simsion kept while writing the Rosie series, *The Novel Project* is part how-to guide, and part inside view into a writer's process. Simsion strikes the perfect balance between inviting writers to explore strategies that might work for them while revealing the procedures that work for him.

The Novel Project is the perfect guide for anyone who wants to write a book and get it published.

Praise for Graeme Simsion's fiction:

'An extraordinarily clever, funny, and moving book...This is one of the most profound novels I've read in a long time.' Bill Gates on *The Rosie Project*

'[A] romantic comedy that's just as smart, funny and heartwarming as the original.' *Washington Post* on *The Rosie Effect*

'Fiction as good as it gets...Laugh-out-loud funny.' *New York Times* on *The Rosie Result*

Graeme Simsion is the internationally bestselling author of *The Rosie Project*, *The Rosie Effect*, *The Rosie Result* and *The Best of Adam Sharp*. He lives with Anne Buist, co-author of *Two Steps Forward* and *Two Steps Onward*, in Melbourne.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

March 2022

Manuscript available

Ideas to Save Your Life: Philosophy for Wisdom, Solace and Pleasure by Michael McGirr

In *Ideas to Save Your Life* Michael McGirr shares his love of philosophy, using a warm and inviting approach to look at the works of twenty eminent thinkers across history.

Drawing on many years' experience teaching philosophy to teenagers, McGirr shares stories from his life and discusses how philosophers have shed light on them. *Ideas to Save Your Life* is often funny, but it is serious about philosophy. It makes the impenetrable accessible, the indescribable palpable, and invites you to change the way you see the world.

Crossing continents and centuries the book travels back to Pythagoras and comes forward to the contemporary Australian Frank Jackson; back to the oldest modern human remains, the Mungo Woman, and forward to Martha Nussbaum. It is animated by two related questions: from where do we draw a sense of life's purpose, and how can philosophy make life better? It ranges widely across subjects: from solitude to community, language to order, experience to ecstasy, the idea of good to that of a good idea.

Praise for Michael McGirr:

'A fine, pared-down elegance...takes us to the heart of his sometimes complex meanings...I love the modesty of this book, its honesty and lack of pretension...Subtle, humble, wry and courteous...The moment of illumination often comes quietly or humorously, or stealthily towards the end of the essay, leaving the reader with a surprisingly powerful choke of emotion or with a laugh.' *Australian on Books that Saved My Life*

Michael McGirr is the bestselling author of *Books that Saved My Life*, *Snooze*, *Bypass* and *Things You Get for Free*. He has reviewed almost one thousand books, his short fiction has appeared in publications in Australia and overseas, and he has been publisher of *Eureka Street* and fiction editor of *Meanjin*. He works in international aid and development for a large NGO, and lives in Melbourne with his wife, Jenny, and their three teenage children.

Rights Held: World

Non-Fiction

November 2021

Manuscript available

The Believer by Sarah Krasnostein

This extraordinary new book by the bestselling and multi-award-winning author Sarah Krasnostein explores the power of belief.

What do we believe? Who do we believe? Why do we believe them?

Sarah Krasnostein has been spending time with interview subjects around the world. Some of them believe in things most people don't. Ghosts. UFOs. The literal creation of the universe in six days by an all-powerful God.

Some of them believe in things most people would like to. Living with integrity and compassion. Dying with dignity and autonomy. Facing up to our transgressions with a truthful heart.

In this intensely personal and gorgeously written new book, Krasnostein, the acclaimed author of *The Trauma Cleaner*, talks to these believers with compassion and empathy—and finds out what happens when their beliefs crash into her own.

'Krasnostein's writing is lyrical and stylish, and imaginative in a way that often feels invigorating... *The Believer* is a fascinating book, and one that asks big questions—about connectedness and separation, certainly, but also about love and grief, resilience and faith, and all the ways in which we situate ourselves within the world.' *Guardian*

'The author has the rare combination of skills that allows her to not only build enough trust and rapport with her interview subjects that they will reveal intimate details about their lives, but to also distil a person down to their essence and put that on the page in a way that is simultaneously informative, sensitive and enthralling...the true strength of *The Believer* is in each compellingly rendered story.' *Books+Publishing*

'Krasnostein's art is that she never places herself on the throne of judgment... The result is both beautiful and unpredictable. Krasnostein is neither naïve nor cynical. She is an existential adventurer.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

Sarah Krasnostein won the Victorian Prize for Literature and was shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize for her first book, *The Trauma Cleaner*. She lives in Melbourne and spends part of the year working in New York.

Rights held: ANZ and translation

Other Rights: Jane Novak Literary Agency

Non-fiction

March 2021

Finished pages available

The Shape of Sound by Fiona Murphy

My body is still unlearning the habit of secrecy. Whenever somebody discovers that I am deaf, I react with churning terror. How do you build up a sense of robust pride when your body has taught itself to be fearful?

Fiona Murphy's memoir about being deaf is a revelation.

Secrets are heavy, burdensome things. Imagine carrying a secret that if exposed could jeopardise your chances of securing a job and make you a social outcast. Fiona Murphy kept her deafness a secret for over twenty-five years.

But then, desperate to hold onto a career she'd worked hard to pursue, she tried hearing aids. Shocked by how the world sounded, she vowed never to wear them again. After an accident to her hand, she discovered that sign language could change her life, and that Deaf culture could be part of her identity.

Just as Fiona thought she was beginning to truly accept her body, she was diagnosed with a rare condition that causes the bones of the ears to harden. She was steadily losing her residual hearing. The news left her reeling.

Blending memoir with observations on the healthcare industry, *The Shape of Sound* is a story about the corrosive power of secrets, stigma and shame, and how deaf experiences and disability are shaped by economics, social policy, medicine and societal expectations.

This is the story of how Fiona learns to listen to her body.

'I devoured this in a day, fascinated, enlightened, moved.' Helen Garner

'A unique voice that reveals the world anew. Mark the name Fiona Murphy.' Bri Lee, author of *Eggshell Skull*

"'Deaf people feel and see sound: the entire body becomes a receptor,'" Fiona Murphy writes in *The Shape of Sound*. You will feel and see this book. Every page vibrates with poetry and shines with brilliance. Murphy's gorgeous prose is a doorway to a new world— and we readers are lucky to have her as a guide.' Sarah Sentilles, author of *Draw Your Weapons*

Fiona Murphy is an award-winning writer, editor and podcaster. She writes about social justice issues and popular culture. Her work has been widely published and shortlisted for a number of literary awards. Her memoir, *The Shape of Sound*, is her first full-length work.

Rights Held: World

Non-fiction

April 2021

Finished pages available

If Not Us by Mark Smith

Hesse lives in a small coastal town, where a coalmine and power station are a part of the scenery, and a part of the ever-growing problem of climate change.

His mother is a member of a local environmental group campaigning to close the mine and shut down the power station. It's a no-brainer, of course, but Hesse is more interested in surfing—and in Fenna, the new exchange student from the Netherlands. But when someone seems to be trying to derail the campaign, and his friends' families face losing their jobs, Hesse begins to realise that things are complex.

Even though he's reluctant to step into the spotlight, with Fenna's encouragement he decides it's time to make a stand. Because some things are too important to leave to everyone else. And even one small, nervous voice can make a difference.

When Hesse agrees to speak at a protest meeting he has no idea of the storm he is about to unleash.

If Not Us is Mark Smith's first standalone young adult novel following his hugely successful Winter trilogy. *If Not Us* is an impassioned plea for climate change action that will inspire and empower.

Praise for Mark Smith:

'A riveting story of survival that questions the prices of freedom and safety as well as the value of an individual life...A breakout new series full of romance, danger, and a surprisingly engaging world.' *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review of *The Road to Winter*

'Tense and atmospheric...Mark Smith's debut is assured, gripping and leaves you wanting more.' Best Books for Younger Readers 2016, *Sydney Morning Herald* on *The Road to Winter*

'Mark Smith writes in a taut style that keeps the pages turning...Absorbing entertainment, this is what most young folk would look for in reading.' *Magpies* on *Wilder Country*

Mark Smith is an award-winning author. He lives, works and surfs on Victoria's Surf Coast. The first book in his acclaimed Winter trilogy, *The Road to Winter*, is widely taught in secondary schools and loved by readers of all ages, and *Wilder Country*, the second book of the trilogy, won the 2018 Indie Book of the Year for Young Adults.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

October 2021

Manuscript available June
2021

The Brink by Holden Sheppard

The new novel by an emerging star of young adult fiction.

When Leonardo Kontos' friends cancel celebrating the end of school together, his absent father arranges for him to make the trip with another group of kids from his school. Geeky, asthmatic, shy and suffering from a serious panic disorder, Leonardo feels very out of place among the cool crowd.

Celebrating on a remote island, the teenagers quickly turn to drugs and alcohol to get the party started. When a local turns up dead, things quickly get out of hand. Scared that they will be blamed, they leave the body on the beach. As morning breaks and the body is discovered, blame and fear set in.

Caught up in a messy situation the teenagers quickly turn on each other and their secrets threaten to come out.

The Brink is a dark and gritty young adult novel that delves into masculinity, sexuality, mental health, drug and alcohol use, relationships and sex.

Praise for *Invisible Boys*:

'The characters leap off the page, warts and all, and Sheppard writes with complexity and realism about sexual discovery, family and social rejection, coming of age (and coming out). A galvanising read for adolescent readers, and frank about the issues raised by queer teens in a way they'll appreciate.' *Sydney Morning Herald*

'Sheppard writes with unflinching honesty and an eye for authentic detail. It all makes for an impressive debut that's thoroughly deserving of the accolades it has received.' *Weekend West*

Holden Sheppard is an award-winning author born in Geraldton, Western Australia. His debut novel, *Invisible Boys* (Fremantle Press, 2019), was published to both critical and commercial success. *Invisible Boys* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and was named a Notable Book by the Children's Book Council of Australia. The novel is currently in development as a television series.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

2022

Manuscript available August
2021

Social Queue by Kay Kerr

Maia waves me over to her desk. It's one of the plush ones in the corner, and it's decorated as though she knows she is secure in her position here. Lots of photos, stacks of nice stationery. With her staggering ability to break exclusive news on the regular, it's no wonder.

'So it turns out you're a bit of a heartbreaker, Zoe Kelly,' she says, opening up a document filled with what look like web comments and links.

Zoe has just finished school and started an internship at a local newspaper. Her first assignment is to write about romance, but where to begin? Zoe hasn't been in love. She doesn't think anyone has ever even liked her. So when her article is published and she's contacted by a number of young men who were interested in her in their schooldays, Zoe realises that somehow she had missed the social cues.

Social Queue is a funny-serious own-voices story about being a young autistic woman navigating the dating scene and sorting out complex and often confusing feelings on the road to finding love.

Kay Kerr's debut novel, *Please Don't Hug Me*, was beloved by readers for its portrayal of the life of an autistic teenager. Her second novel, *Social Queue*, is another heartwarming contemporary young adult novel with huge appeal for neuro-diverse and neuro-typical readers alike.

Praise for *Please Don't Hug Me*:

'This book is beautifully intimate, and so authentic. You're going to love getting to know its central character, Erin. I'm so thrilled this book exists.' Claire Christian, author of *Beautiful Mess*

'A moving and insightful story about finding your place in the world.' Nina Kenwood, author of *It Sounded Better in My Head*

'This own-voices Australian debut about a young woman who is shaped—but not defined—by her autism, balances its funny and serious sides perfectly, and is a heartwarming read about self-acceptance and authenticity.' Leanne Hall, author of *Iris and the Tiger* and *This Is Shyness*

Kay Kerr lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and daughter, and works as a freelance writer. Kay was writing the first draft of *Please Don't Hug Me*, her first novel, when she received her own autism-spectrum diagnosis.

Rights Held: World

Young adult fiction

October 2021

Manuscript available May
2021

Text Classics: Madeleine St John

Madeleine St John was born in Sydney in 1941. She studied arts at Sydney University, where her contemporaries included Bruce Beresford, Clive James and Robert Hughes. She was the first Australian woman to be shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Madeleine St John died in 2006.

The Women in Black

Now a major film directed (*The Ladies in Black*) by Bruce Beresford and starring Julia Ormond, Angourie Rice, and Rachael Taylor, *The Women in Black* is a fairytale which illuminates the extraordinariness of ordinary lives. The women in black are run off their feet, what with the Christmas rush and the summer sales that follow. But it's Sydney in the 1950s, and there's still just enough time left on a hot day to dream and scheme...

Rights held: World

Rights Sold: France—Albin Michel; Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Israel—Tchelet; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar; North America—Scribner; Spain—Planeta; UK & Comm. (ex. ANZ and Canada)—Little, Brown

The Essence of the Thing

SHORTLISTED, 1997 BOOKER PRIZE

A comic and tender look at the vicissitudes of love. Nicola should never have stepped out to buy that pack of cigarettes, because the man she discovers in her living room when she returns is not the Jonathan with whom she has been sharing her life—that Jonathan would never have unilaterally decided that she should 'move out'. Nicola packs her bags and sets out on the bumpy course that will take her to the essence of the thing.

Rights held: World

Rights Sold: France—Albin Michel; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar

A Pure Clear Light

A Pure Clear Light examines a marriage at the moment it goes haplessly off-track: when Simon succumbs to the temptation of his cool blond accountant and Flora heeds the cry of her reawakened faith. Ultimately, though, neither Simon nor Flora can escape the revelation that lies beyond excuses and remorse and candour, at the heart of the phenomenon called love.

Rights held: World

Rights Sold: Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar

A Stairway to Paradise

Here is the eternal triangle, the story of three people—Alex, Andrew, and Barbara—in an unhappy tangle of emotions, none able to articulate the precise quality of their longing and dissatisfaction. Are any of them truly interested in reaching the 'paradise' they claim to be seeking, or are they actually trying to avoid it? In St John's hands, what is commonplace is transformed and transcendent.

Rights held: World

Rights Sold: Germany—S. Fischer Verlag; Italy—Garzanti; Netherlands—Nijgh & Van Ditmar

'A pocket masterpiece. A jewel.' Hilary Mantel on *The Women in Black*

'A delicious book. Funny and happy, it's like the breath of youth again.' Jane Gardam on *The Women in Black*

'Brisk, sophisticated and artful.' *New York Times Book Review* on *The Essence of the Thing*

Text Classics: Elizabeth Harrower

Elizabeth Harrower was the celebrated author of the novels *Down in the City*, *The Long Prospect*, *The Catherine Wheel* and *The Watch Tower*—all of which have been republished as Text Classics—and *In Certain Circles*, which was published to wide acclaim in 2014 and shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction. She died in July 2020.

The Watch Tower

With its backdrop of the leafy northern suburbs of Sydney during the 1940s, *The Watch Tower* is a character study of relentless and acute psychological power.

After Laura and Clare are abandoned by their mother, Felix is there to help, even to marry Laura if she will have him. Little by little the two sisters grow complicit with his obsessions, his cruelty, his need to control.

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Denmark—Lindhardt & Ringhof; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Romania—Univers Ltd; Spain—Impedimenta; Turkey—Metis

In Certain Circles

Zoe Howard is seventeen when her brother, Russell, introduces her to Stephen Quayle. Aloof and harsh, Stephen is unlike anyone she has ever met, ‘a weird, irascible character out of some dense Russian novel’. His sister, Anna, is shy and thoughtful, ‘a little orphan’.

Zoe and Russell, Stephen and Anna: they may come from different social worlds but all four will spend their lives moving in and out of each other’s shadow.

Set amid the lush gardens and grand stone houses that line the north side of Sydney Harbour, *In Certain Circles* is an intense psychological drama about family and love, tyranny and freedom.

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Finland—Fabriikki; France—Rivages; Germany—Aufbau; Greece—Dardanos; Italy—Baldini & Castoldi; Netherlands—Atlas Contact; Slovak—Inaque; Turkey—Metis

The Long Prospect

Originally published in 1958, *The Long Prospect* was hailed by Christina Stead and has been described as second only to Patrick White’s *Voss* in the ranks of postwar Australian literature.

Sharply observed, bitter and humorous, *The Long Prospect* is a story of life in an Australian industrial town. Growing up neglected in a seedy boarding house, twelve-year-old Emily Lawrence befriends Max, a middle-aged scientist who encourages her to pursue her intellectual interests. Innocent Emily will face scandal, suburban snobbery and psychological torment.

Rights held: World

Text Classics: Amy Witting

Amy Witting was born in Annandale, an inner suburb of Sydney, in 1918. She attended Sydney University, then taught French and English in state schools. Beginning late in life she published six novels, including *The Visit*, *I for Isobel*, *Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop* and *Maria's War*; two collections of short stories; two books of verse, *Travel Diary* and *Beauty Is the Straw*; and her *Collected Poems*. Witting was awarded the 1993 Patrick White Prize. She died in 2001.

I for Isobel

Born into a world without welcome, Isobel observes it as warily as an alien trying to pass for a native. Her collection of imaginary friends includes the Virgin Mary and Sherlock Holmes. Later she meets Byron, W. H. Auden and T. S. Eliot.

'Amy Witting is comparable to Jean Rhys, but she has more starch, or vinegar. The effect is bracing.' *New Yorker*

I for Isobel, a modern-day Australian classic, was followed by *Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop*, winner of the Age Book of the Year Award.

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Italy—Garzanti; Japan—Iwanami Shoten Publishers

The Visit

Amy Witting's debut novel, first published when she was almost sixty—a group of Bangoree residents gather to read plays by Beckett and Brecht. But their literary pursuits, and their lives, take an unexpected turn after it is revealed that the late Roderick Fitzallan set some of his celebrated love poems in their small country town. Who is the local mystery woman who inspired Fitzallan's verse all those years ago?

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Italy—Garzanti

A Change in The Lighting

When her husband of three decades announces he has a younger lover and wants a divorce, Ella Ferguson realises how protected her life has been—she has 'seen no evil, heard no evil and spoken no evil'. Alone, enraged, she must come to terms with her failed marriage and her relationships with her adult children. *A Change in the Lighting*, Amy Witting's third novel, is the compelling story of a woman cast adrift.

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Italy—Garzanti

Text Classics

Helen Hodgman

Helen Hodgman is the author of the novels *Blue Skies* (1976), *Jack and Jill* (1978; winner of the Somerset Maugham Award), *Broken Words* (1988; winner of the Christina Stead Prize), *Passing Remarks* (1996), *Waiting for Matindi* (1998) and *The Bad Policeman* (2001).

Blue Skies

In Helen Hodgman's dazzlingly written debut a young woman is trapped in a small city on an island at the end of the world—by motherhood and an absent husband, by busybody in-laws and neighbours, by a drab society yet to throw off the shackles of its colonial past. A darkly funny tale of a crack-up in stultifying suburbia, *Blue Skies* marked the emergence of a unique, acerbic voice in Australian fiction.

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Germany—Verlagsgruppe Random House; Italy—Edizioni Socrates

Kenneth Cook

Kenneth Cook was born in Sydney. *Wake in Fright*, which drew on his time as a journalist in Broken Hill, was first published in 1961 when Cook was thirty-two. It was published in England and America, translated into several languages, and became a prescribed text in schools.

Wake in Fright

John Grant is a young teacher who arrives in the rough outback town of Bundanyabba planning to stay overnight before catching a plane to Sydney. But his one night stretches to five as he spirals into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. *Wake in Fright* is the original greatest outback horror story.

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

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Brazil—Grua Livros; Catalan—Males Herbes; France—Autrement; Italy—Enrico Damiani; Netherlands—Podium; Spain—Seix Barral; Turkey—Ayrinti

Craig Harrison

Craig Harrison was born in Leeds in 1942. He left for New Zealand in 1966 after being appointed a lecturer at Massey University. There he devised a course in art history, which he taught until his retirement in 2000. His award winning plays have been performed for over 25 years.

The Quiet Earth

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

'Excellent...The inevitability of the horror has a Hitchcock quality.' *Listener*

Rights Held: World

Rights Sold: Film—Triptych Pictures; Turkey—Ayrinti

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