



zeitgeist media group

Rights Catalogue 2011

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\* Back cover image: *Errol Fidel and the Cuban Rebel Girls* by Boyd Anderson

# zeitgeist media group

**Zeitgeist Media Group** is a unique literary agency.

We represent a distinctive array of Australian, American, British, European, and Chinese authors from our Sydney, Brussels and Shanghai offices.

'China' stories have been our special focus, and we have a number of fascinating works of fiction and non-fiction that break new ground.

Setting us apart from other agencies is our Zeitgeist media department, giving us the capacity to generate unsurpassed media exposure for our authors.

We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Regards,

Benython, Sharon and Emma

[www.zeitgeistmediagroup.com](http://www.zeitgeistmediagroup.com)



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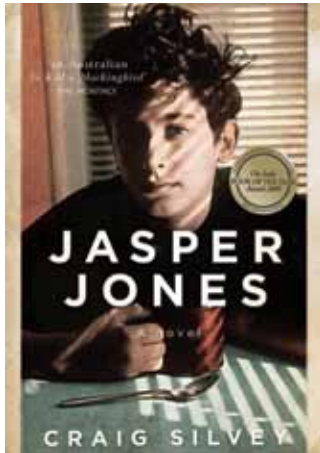
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## LITERARY FICTION

**Australia/NZ 2009** • Allen & Unwin

**UK 2010** • Windmill Books, Random House

**USA 2011** • Knopf, Random House

**France 2010 French World**

Calmann-Lévy, Hachette

**Spain 2010 Spanish World**

Seix Barral, Planeta

**Italy 2010** • Neri Pozza

**Germany 2011** • Rowohlt Verlag

**Netherlands 2010** • Bezige Bij

**Norway 2010** • Cappelen Damm AS

**Poland 2011** • Dom Wydawniczy Rebis

**Israel 2011** • Modan Publishing House

**Brazil 2011** • Intrínseca

**China 2010** • ThinKingdom

**Taiwan 2010** • Solo Press, The Eurasian Publishing Group

**Korea 2010** • Tin Drum Publishing Company

\* *Film Rights sold to Australian director Rebecca O'Brien*

\* *All other rights available*

## Craig Silvey (AUS)

# Jasper Jones

**Winner** Australian Book Industry Awards, Literary Book of the Year 2010

**Winner** Australian Book Industry Awards, Book of the Year 2010

**Winner** Australian Booksellers Choice Award 2010

**Winner** Australian Independent Booksellers, Book of the Year 2009

**Winner** Australian Independent Booksellers, Fiction Book of the Year 2009

**Winner** Indie Book of the Year Award 2009

**Co-Winner** West Australian Premier's Award (fiction) 2010 with JM Coetzee

**Shortlisted** Impac Dublin Literary Award 2011

**Shortlisted** Australian Miles Franklin Literary Award 2010

**Shortlisted** Christina Stead Award 2010

**Shortlisted** New South Wales Premier's Literary Award 2010

**Shortlisted** New South Wales People's Choice Award 2010

**Shortlisted** Victorian Premier's Literary Award 2010

**Longlisted** United Kingdom Dylan Thomas Prize 2010

**Highly Commended** Kathleen Mitchell Award 2010

Late on a hot summer night in the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleepout. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan.

Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him through town and to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery.

With this secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself and in vainly attempting to restore the parts that have been shaken loose, Charlie learns to discern the truth from the myth, and why white lies creep like a curse.

## Praise for Jasper Jones

*"A richly rewarding exploration of truth and lies by a masterful storyteller"* – Kirkus Starred Review

*"Silvey's sure-footed, evocative prose, intelligent humor, and careful plot structuring may well ensure this Aussie import lasting status."* – The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Starred Review

*"A finely crafted novel that deals with friendship, racism and social ostracism."* – Marie Claire UK

*"If we see a more entertaining, more heartfelt piece of Australian literature in the next 12 months it will be a rare year indeed... Jasper Jones is an Australian To Kill a Mockingbird."* – The Monthly

*"Reading this novel, you suspect every character of murder; Agatha Christie couldn't weave it tighter."*  
– Weekend Australian

*"The new novel from this great young Aussie author is like a local version of Huckleberry Finn – full of adventure, mystery and hard-won truths."* – j mag

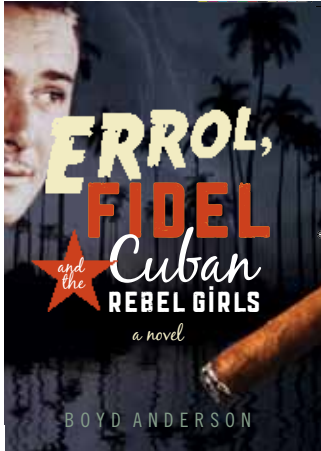
*"There are parts where you'll laugh out loud, others where you'll reach for tissues. This is a very special book, and deserves to be read widely. Five stars: outstanding."* – Good Reading

**CRAIG SILVEY** was raised on an orchard in Western Australia. At the age of 19, he wrote his first novel, *Rhubarb*, while living in Fremantle, where he now resides. In 2007, Silvey released *The World According To Warren*, a picture book starring the guide-dog from *Rhubarb*. In early 2008, he completed his second novel, *Jasper Jones*, an award-winning gothic tale that has become a global hit. In addition to his literary pursuits, Silvey is the singer/songwriter for the band The Nancy Sikes.

*"There's tension, injustice, young love, hypocrisy, whiffs of *The Catcher in the Rye* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and, above all, the certainty that Silvey has planted himself in the landscape as one of our finest storytellers."*

– Australian Women's Weekly





## LITERARY FICTION

- \* *Not Yet Published*
- \* *All Rights Available*

## Boyd Anderson (AUS)

# Errol, Fidel and the Cuban Rebel Girls

Based on true events, *Errol, Fidel and the Cuban Rebel Girls* re-creates one of the 20th century's great unknown stories.

Cuba, 1959: In the final year of Errol Flynn's life, he found time for one last adventure. The dashing Hollywood star had always longed to be a real hero. Fidel Castro was the genuine article, and now he was looking for fame. What each man had the other wanted, and as revolution raged around them, the stage was set for an explosive encounter.

While Cuba is on the brink of a Castro-led revolution, Errol Flynn is there making what will be his final film. When they meet sparks begin to fly. In their personal duel the weapons they use aren't guns and grenades, but words and women. While Errol is indulging in his latest under-age tryst, Fidel with his own indiscretions is ready to march triumphantly into Havana after overthrowing the Batista government. Within days of the coup, Errol is chased out of Cuba with the firing squad and Fidel hot on his heels.

Featuring a cast of Hollywood movie stars, beautiful women, Cuban revolutionaries and New York mobsters, *Errol, Fidel and the Cuban Rebel Girls* is the story of two men at the opposite ends of astonishing careers. It is a story with two heroes ... but there is only ever room for one.



**BOYD ANDERSON** spent several years as a creative director in advertising, winning many awards in New York, Cannes, London, Los Angeles and Sydney. His novel *Errol, Fidel and the Cuban Rebel Girls* (UQP 2010) was based on the relationship between movie star Errol Flynn and Fidel Castro. Boyd also co-authored the novel, *Children of the Dust* (Random House 1997).

**Alexandre Mitchell (UK)**

## The Thirteenth Tablet

A gripping thriller weaving together the obsessions of archaeologists, shady art dealers, kabbalists and ruthless businessmen.

Iraq, 2004. The war on terror rages on and as lawlessness grows, looters are hitting the museums.

Mina Osman, a spirited young American archaeologist of Iraqi descent, appalled at the loss of her parents' heritage heads to the University of Mosul to play a role in securing Iraq's antiquities.

While reprimanding one of her students for conspiring with the looters, a cuneiform tablet dating back three thousand years is handed over for restitution. The tablet holds within it a profound secret about the primordial flood described in the Gilgamesh epic.

What starts as a straightforward translation of an ancient text triggers a series of disruptive and life-threatening events. A chase without limits ensues which takes the savvy and adventurous Mina and Jack, a handsome ex-US army Major on a dangerous path from Mosul to Safed and from Cambridge to Phuket, in the midst of the tsunami cataclysm.



**FICTION / THRILLER**

- \* *Not Yet Published*
- \* *All Rights Available*

**ALEXANDRE MITCHELL** has a B.A. in Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology and a Masters in classical archaeology from Strasbourg University. He has a D.Phil in Classical Archaeology from Oxford. His first book *Greek Vase Painting* and the *Origins of Visual Humour* (2009) was published by CUP. His current academic research focuses on Classical Greek & Roman political cartoons from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries published in British and American newspapers. He is an Honorary Researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.  
[www.alexmitchell.net](http://www.alexmitchell.net)



## Ideal Love

zeitgeist media group

## Alice Burnett (UK)

### Ideal Love

A woman obsessed with two men. One dead, one alive.

Venus, a beautiful young mother and musician, is broken by the sudden death of her husband Gilles, a City lawyer and womaniser turned romantic.

Discovering that he died of a curable condition she knew nothing about, Venus becomes haunted by the impossible task of proving that her husband loved her enough to want to live – and by the fear that the same condition could claim their infant daughter.

When Venus meets the handsome and sensitive Alex, the sterility of her life becomes apparent and her attraction to him eclipses even her preoccupation with Gilles. But she doesn't reckon on Alex's past and his link with Gilles.

Written from both the perspective of a widowed Venus and a dead Gilles who recalls his joking pursuit of her from beyond the grave, *Ideal Love* is an intimate and philosophical novel about love, from its incandescent beginnings to its final breath and back again.

#### LITERARY FICTION

\* *Not Yet Published*

\* *All Rights Available*



**ALICE BURNETT** grew up on a farm in Devon, England. She studied maths at Cambridge University followed by philosophy, a subject she is still passionate about. She qualified as a lawyer and worked in London and Paris. She currently lives in London with her husband and two children.

## Mo Zhi Hong (NZ)

# The Double Life of Richard Gillies

In *The Double Life of Richard Gillies*, award-winning New Zealand writer Mo Zhi Hong takes the reader into the secret life of 30-something Richard Gillies and his group of friends as they traverse the peaks and pitfalls of love, responsibility and adulthood.

On receiving an email saying the woman he secretly loves is going to be married, main character Richard Gillies gives up a lucrative job in New York City and returns to New Zealand to convince her not to wed. There, he struggles with the difficulties of being a returned expat and enters a secret online world that introduces him to likeminded people. When he finally makes face-to-face contact with the group, he is forced into something so terrible and damaging that his only way out is to break contact forever.

*The Double Life of Richard Gillies* is a moving, thoughtful and beautifully written book about the pain of unrequited love, the pressures on today's young people, the changing world, and the good and bad that comes with a life half-lived on the internet. Ultimately, though, it is about the lasting nature and power of friendships.

### The Year of the Shanghai Shark

Published: New Zealand 2008 Penguin

Awards:

Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (SE Asia +Pacific)

Nominated: Best First Book 2008, Montana NZ Awards

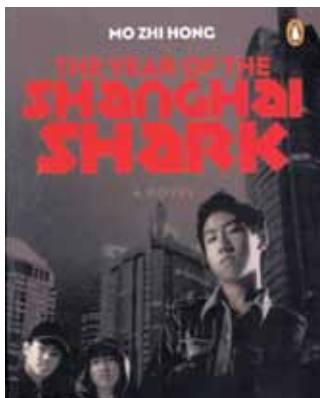
**MO ZHI HONG** was born in Singapore but grew up in Taiwan, China, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand. After university he worked as a software developer in New York, and later as an English teacher in north-east China before returning to New Zealand. His first novel, *The Year of the Shanghai Shark*, won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book in the South East Asia and Pacific region in 2008.



### LITERARY FICTION

\* Not yet Published

\* All rights Available





## FICTION

### Published:

**Australia/NZ 2009** • Allen&Unwin

**Italy 2012** • Metropoli d'Asia

**Vietnam 2009** • Bach Viet

**Germany 2008** • Zweitausendeins

**France 2006** • Editions de l'Olivier

**China 2003** • 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Publishing House

\* *All other rights available*

## Murong (CHINA)

# Leave Me Alone

## A Novel of Chengdu

Longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize (2008)

*"The enfant terrible of Chinese literature."*

– Sydney Morning Herald

*"Murong's perceptive take on China's social malaise makes this novel as literary as it is page-turning."* – The Age

*Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu* is a bitter take on love and life in modern China. It's the story of three young men, Chen Zhong, Li Liang and Big Head Wang, and their tragic-comic struggle to make their way in Chengdu, China's fifth most populous city.

Despite their aspirations in the newly capitalist China, the trio's lives are beset by dead-end jobs, gambling debts, drinking, drugs, and whoring. Complicated relationships with women, whether they be pregnant mistresses, angry wives or passive lovers, compound their misery.

Now translated in English and available in its original 'uncensored' form, this is an unflinching and darkly funny look at the pressures of life in modern China, where riches and sex abound... but not for all.



After graduating from Beijing's University of Political Science and Law **MURONG** worked briefly as a lawyer before starting to write in 2001. His first novel *Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu* took China by storm in 2002. One of China's most famous authors, Murong is celebrated for his darkly funny novels about contemporary urban life. His latest books include the novel *Dancing Through Red Dust* and the non-fiction 2010 People's Literature Prize winner *The Missing Ingredient*. Murong has a million + followers on Chinese social media site [www.sina.com](http://www.sina.com).

## Murong (CHINA)

# Dancing Through Red Dust

A novel delving into the secretive world of China's legal system.

Wei Da's nightmare starts with a game of Mahjong. The famous TV host and lawyer from humble beginnings ignores basic protocol and wins 150,000 yuan from a judge. This starts a litany of problems.

Knowing he has money, his girlfriend Xiao Li and her ex-boyfriend blackmail him. While defending himself, Wei Da accidentally kills Xiao Li's ex. To avoid being prosecuted, he destroys evidence, hides his assets and plans to flee China. About to escape, he is incarcerated in the horrific Cao River Remand Centre. The worst of human nature is exhibited here and as Wei Da tries to atone, the day of his execution encroaches.



### FICTION

**Published:**

**China 2008** • Zuhai Publishing House

\* *All other rights available*

# The Missing Ingredient

Winner People's Literature Prize 2010

In November 2010 Murong won the People's Literature Prize for his acclaimed new book *The Missing Ingredient*, an account of how he infiltrated an illegal pyramid scheme in Jiangxi province for several weeks and later had to flee for his life. His evidence led to the arrest of a significant number of the ringleaders of the group.

Murong had prepared to use the occasion to make a speech criticising China's continued censorship of writers but as he ascended the platform, he was barred from speaking.

His banned acceptance speech was published around the world, including in *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *The Huffington Post* and *Rue 89*.



### NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

**Published:**

**China 2010** • China Peace Publishing House

\* *All other rights available*

# Modern Chinese Masters series

The *Modern Chinese Masters* series aims to highlight Chinese authors who have typically been overlooked by Western publishers because they don't fit in with certain clichéd ideas about the country. In contrast, this series has been compiled with the philosophy that each title has the ability to surprise and to challenge preconceptions about Chinese fiction.

Each novella in the *Modern Chinese Masters* series includes an essay introducing the author and a specially written authorial afterword.

**Zeitgeist Media Group** Literary Agency in conjunction with **Make-Do Publishing** are proud to introduce the following titles:



## I Love My Mum

by Chen Xiwo

This is the first English translation of the most famous work by Chen Xiwo, one of China's most acclaimed and controversial writers, and winner of the Chinese People's Literature Prize (2001). *I Love My Mum* made international news in 2007 when the author sued the Chinese customs authority for confiscating a shipment of his books, citing them as 'pornography'.

*I Love My Mum* is a shocking tale of murder and incest narrated by a hardened crime squad detective who is used to the seamy side of life. But he has never come across a murder case like this, and the same is guaranteed for the reader.

### NOVELLA

**Published:**

**Asia (English) 2010** • Make-Do  
Publishing

\* All other rights available

# Yu Li: Confessions of an Elevator Operator

by Jimmy Qi

The title character Yu Li is an inspector at a wine distillery in a small town in traditional Hebei province. After he is fired for drinking wine during his inspections, Yu Li manages to land another job as an elevator operator in a luxury apartment building in the far-off capital, Beijing. The apartment building is home to celebrities, the new rich and big-shot government officials. Misadventures abound as Yu Li struggles to adjust to the confusion of city life and, above all, fights to subdue the 'nuclear weapon' in his pants.

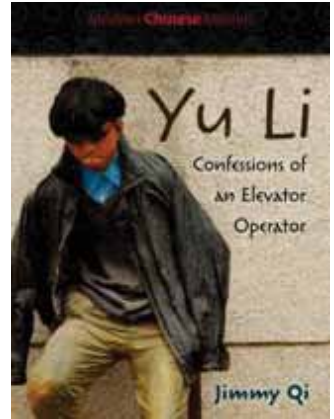
This story humorously but delicately highlights the plight of China's migrant workers, a phenomenon largely unnoticed by China's prospering middle classes. Author Jimmy Qi believes "Yu Li shows the boundless and rich ingenuity, not to mention philanthropy, of the Chinese people."

# The Magician of 1919

By Li Er

In 1919, the year of the May 4th movement in China, magician Bigshot Cowrie arrives in Peking. He has with him a budgerigar who is a language genius, a hat with a magical long queue and some pigeons. During his time in Peking, he encounters various figures, fictional and historical, and becomes involved in important events in modern Chinese history.

Li Er is widely recognised as being one of China's most significant contemporary writers, on a par with the likes of Mo Yan, Yu Hua and Su Tong. *The Magician of 1919*, is the first of Li Er's works to be published in English.



**NOVELLA**

**Published:**

**Asia (English) 2010** • Make-Do Publishing

\* All other rights available



**NOVELLA**

**Published:**

**Asia (English) 2011** • Make-Do Publishing

\* All other rights available



## CONTEMPORARY CHINESE FICTION

### Published:

China 2004 • Writers' Publishing  
House Beijing

- \* *Published as Soldier*
- \* *All other rights available*

## Liu Jian (CHINA)

# Rock Soldier

A universal tale of teenage rebellion, *Rock Soldier* follows two schoolboy renegades who are expelled and end up in the army.

In the novel *Rock Soldier*, author Liu Jian introduces two Chinese soldiers who grew up with Coca Cola and Hollywood, rebels who stayed out all night and never went home, young men whose every other word was 'shit' or 'fuck'. In other words, not your typical idea of a soldier in China's uncompromising military system.

As teenagers, their experimental rock music got them kicked out of school, so with little other options they joined the army. There they tried to rouse the troops with their music, and set their hopes on winning medals of honor. But under strict command and without a war in sight, their dreams proved impossible. Frustrated, they grew restless, trying to bring on political unrest. But they found what was waiting for them instead was peace.

*Rock Soldier* is semi-autobiographical. The author's second book, *Out of the Army*, continues the story of the characters in *Rock Soldier*, following them as they leave the army and try to return to civilian life. It was published in China in May 2008.



Singer-songwriter and author of *Rock Soldier*, **LIU JIAN**, 29, is now a major figure in Shanghai's folk-rock scene. Heavily influenced by Nirvana and 90's rock when he was a kid, he spent his teenage years playing guitar and ignoring his studies. When he was expelled from school at age 16, he left home to join the People's Liberation Army.

**Mark Kitto (UK)**

## China Cuckoo

How I lost a fortune and found a life in China

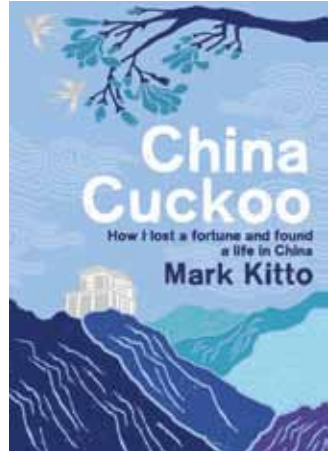
*"Written with humour and nerve"* – Sunday Telegraph

*China Cuckoo: How I lost a fortune and found a life in China* is the true story of a witty and eccentric Sinophile Englishman and his Chinese tree-change. It's set in Moganshan, a dilapidated, beautiful Chinese mountain village once favoured as a summer retreat by Shanghai's saints and sinners. The author, Mark Kitto, a former commodities trader and magazine publisher, is the first westerner to return and live in the village fifty years on.

Rejecting the corporate world, and the glamour of Shanghai, Mark eventually persuades his urbane Chinese wife to make Moganshan their permanent home. With a toddler in tow they take the bold step of moving their lives to the isolated village, taking over an old brothel to start a western style cafe.

*China Cuckoo* takes us into Kitto's entertaining and painstaking days weaving through village politics and bureaucratic farce to gain a foothold, livelihood and respect on the mountain top.

Mark's story is an illustration of past and present China's relations with foreigners. It describes, in the words of one who has suffered and benefited from both, the risks and rewards of going *China Cuckoo*.



**MEMOIR / TRAVEL**

**Published:**

**UK 2009** • Constable Robinson

**USA 2009** • Sykhorse

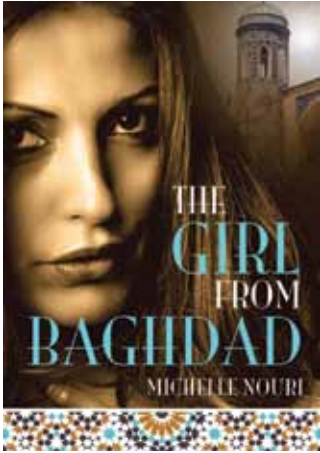
Published as *Chasing China*

**Australia 2009** • Murdoch Books

\* *All other rights available*

**MARK KITTO** finally found his vocation in China where he created a unique publishing empire. He made millions but then lost it all to his Communist Party partners. Rejecting corporate life he now lives peacefully with his Chinese wife and family in a village built by missionaries. He also writes a column on China for the UK's *Prospect Magazine*.





#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR

#### Published:

**Australia 2011** • Random House

**Italy 2007** • Rizzoli

\* *All other rights available*

## Michelle Nouri (ITALY)

# The Girl from Baghdad

*"A beautiful description of a joyful childhood and a tormented adolescence in the lights and ambiguities of Saddam Hussein's Baghdad. Nouri skilfully recounts her quest to find a balance between the oppressions of two dictatorships: Baghdad with its illusions and Prague in the dark days of the Communist regime's twilight"* – Corriere Della Sera

A flashy and violent Iraq. The dream of a better life in a foreign land. The true story of a woman torn between two worlds.

Her mother is from Prague; her father from hot, fragrant Baghdad. Her Iraqi childhood is like a fable, full of sun and games with her sisters and cousins in the crowded house of her grandma, the matriarch of the powerful Nouri family.

Michelle doesn't fully comprehend the tension between East and West that exists in her upbringing – Muslim ceremonies, private ballet classes, overseas trips – but her adolescence serves to complicate things when family tradition dictates she should marry a cousin.

She resists family pressure and finds herself flattered by the attention of Uday Hussein, Saddam's eldest son, who finds her irresistible. Before too long the world Michelle knows collapses: war with Iran breaks out, and her own father betrays her.

Impoverished and abandoned, her only option is to flee to Czechoslovakia, and to embark on a painful and emotional journey between different cultures: Arabic, ex-communist and Western.



**MICHELLE NOURI** was raised in Baghdad, where she lived until 1988. Upon the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran conflict she fled to Prague, and eventually started a new life in Italy. Since 1997 Michelle has worked in Italian television and print media, investigating the lives and issues of immigrants in Italy. She also interviews the nation's most famous politicians, writers, cultural gurus and sports figures.

**Caroline Puel (FRANCE)**

## The Thirty Years that Transformed China

1980-2010

*"A crystal-clear overview of the last 30 years in China by an observer who has lived there almost all that time. An excellent introduction to today's China, spanning politics, economics and society all with equal confidence. A truly impressive achievement."* – Simon Kuper, Financial Times

In just thirty years the face of China has radically changed. The battered communist giant that was healing its wounds at the death of Mao in 1976 has risen to become the world's second largest economy. In this process, China has recovered its sense of pride and rank among nations. But the new superpower, seemingly well adapted to the globalised 21<sup>st</sup> century, remains a contradictory place where tensions and inequalities run high.

How did China achieve such rapid transition, especially after a century and a half of political unrest and hardship? Who are the people and what are the landmark decisions that made this sweeping change possible?

Interweaving political, economic, social and cultural history *The 30 Years That Transformed China* is a unique year-by-year account of key events that explain the 'Chinese Renaissance' and China's 'peaceful emergence' on the world stage.

**CAROLINE PUEL** arrived in China in the early eighties as a young diplomat after graduating from the Institut de Sciences Politiques in Paris and the Chinese Institute of Diplomacy. In 1988 she quit diplomacy and spent several years as a war correspondent. In 1995 she opened the China office of French newspaper *Libération* and later the Asia bureau of *Le Point*, a leading news magazine. She received the prestigious Albert Londres Award in 1997 for her coverage of China and was recently honoured Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. Also an art critic, Puel is the author of 15 books about Chinese contemporary art. She lives in Beijing with her husband and two children.



**JOURNALISM /  
CONTEMPORARY HISTORY**

**Published:**

**France 2011** • Buchet Chastel

\* *All other rights available*





## LITERARY JOURNALISM

### Published:

**Australia (2012)** • Black Inc.

\* *Rights held by Black Inc.*

## Benjamin Law (AUS)

# Gaysia

## Adventures through queer Asia

*Gaysia* examines what it's like to be young and queer in the queerest region of the world. Because Asia is also home to the majority of the world's population—over four billion people—it stands to reason that it's also where most of the world's gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people live. But in a region renegotiating its cultural and religious traditions alongside rapid-paced modernisation, life for its queer citizens ranges from celebratory and mundane, to risky and life-threatening.

Told in discrete but interlinking chapters, Benjamin investigates Asia's queer subcultures by being too curious for his own good, asking uncomfortable questions, meeting interesting folks, and finding himself in ludicrous situations. It won't all be hanging out backstage at the transgender Miss Tiffany's Universe in Thailand – although that will happen. What *Gaysia* provides is access to people, exploring both their public and private lives. While the backstage drama of the beauty pageant is undeniably riveting, what happens after the pageant is over, and the *kathoeyes* are back at home, studying for exams or socialising with parents? The reality will challenge expectations and defy stereotypes about these countries.

*Gaysia* is an entertaining, humorous and accessible blend of new journalism, first-person adventure and travel reportage. From his unique insider-and-outsider perspective Benjamin scratches beneath the surface to unearth cultural and religious taboos as he asks readers to examine their own ideas of what human and civil rights mean in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Benjamin Law (AUS)

# The Family Law

*"With these dazzling stories, Benjamin Law manages to be scatological, hilarious and heartbreaking at the same time. Every sentence fizzles like an exploding fireball of energy."*

– Alice Pung, author of *Unpolished Gem*

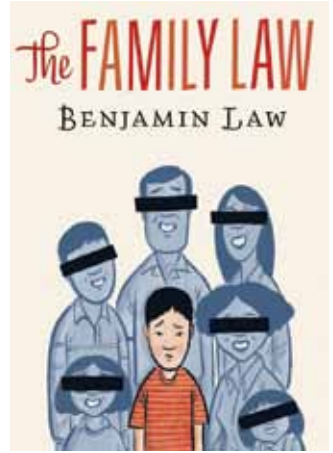
*"In The Family Law, Ben Law has painted a vivid, gorgeously garish, technicolour portrait of family – every gaping wound, every red-raw hurt, every hysterical shriek is splashed out on the page for us to pore over and admire. His writing is viscous and brilliantly pungent."* – Marieke Hardy, triple j

*"We were never camping people," Mum says now. "Your dad never wanted to camp, and insects eat me alive. See, Asians – we're scared of dying. White people: they like to 'live life to the full', and 'die happy'." She pauses. "Asians are the opposite."*

Hilarious and moving, *The Family Law* is a linked series of tales from a born humorist – and a literary star in the making. Benjamin Law invites readers into the world of his endearing yet profoundly eccentric family. He constructs brilliantly turned essays in the style of David Sedaris, assembling a portrait that is both universal and utterly particular.

Why won't his Chinese dad wear made-in-China underpants? Why was most of his extended family deported in the 1980's? Will Benjamin's childhood dreams of Home and Away soapie stardom come to nothing? What are his chances of finding love? Read one of these stories, and you will inevitably want to read more.

**BENJAMIN LAW** is a Brisbane-based writer and journalist. Since 2005, he has been a senior contributor to *frankie* magazine. His work has also been published in *The Monthly*, *Sunday Life*, *The Big Issue*, the *Courier Mail*, *Growing up Asian in Australia* (2008, edited by Alice Pung), *The Best Australian Essays 2008* and *The Best Australian Essays 2009*.



### AUTOBIOGRAPHY / MEMOIR

#### Published:

**Australia 2010** • Black Inc.

**France 2011** • Editions Belfond

**Film/TV Option 2011** • MatchBox Pictures

\* *Rights held by Black Inc.*



## Liar Liar

zeitgeist media group

## Damon Young (AUS)

## Liar Liar

*"Young communicates ideas with enthusiasm and a genuine emotional connection to his subjects, their triumphs and frailties. He is a talent."* – The Australian

Popular philosophy exploring deception in everyday life.

We all feel that lies are vulgar, inhumane or simply wrong, and yet they are an ever-present part of public and private life; in politics, in big business and within families.

Are lies simply based on opportunism and cynicism, or is something more profound involved?

*Liar Liar* illuminates the murky world of delusion, myth and exaggeration. It seeks to reveal the nature and worth of untruth by asking: what kinds of deception do most of us practice daily, and what do lies add to life? What are the rewards and dangers? And what can our lies tell us about the human condition?

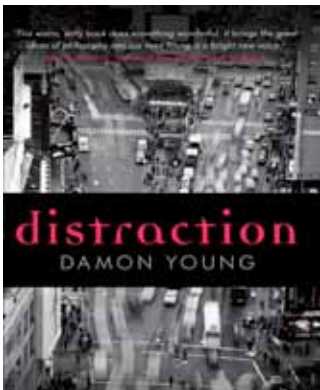
Drawing on his own life and those of artists, scholars and well known philosophers Damon Young asks the big questions about our human propensity to deceive each other.

### Distraction: A Philosopher's Guide to Being Free

*"Lucid and optimistic"* – *Financial Times* (UK)

In this insightful journey through the lives of philosophers, artists and great political thinkers, Damon Young shows how rewarding patient, sensitive and thoughtful attention to the world can be. He suggests that the opposite of a life of distraction is one of genuine freedom.

Published: Australia 2008 MUP, UK/US 2010 Acumen, Mexico 2011 Ediciones B



**DAMON YOUNG** is a philosopher and author who writes for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and the BBC.

His first book, *Distraction* (MUP, 2008) was recently published in the UK by Acumen Publishing. His next book, *The Mystery of the Garden* (MUP) will be out in 2012. Damon appears on Australian and UK radio. He is an Honorary Fellow in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne.

[www.damonyoung.com.au](http://www.damonyoung.com.au)

## POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

\* *Not Yet Published*

\* *All rights available*

**Graham Hughes (UK)**

## The World is Slightly Pear-Shaped

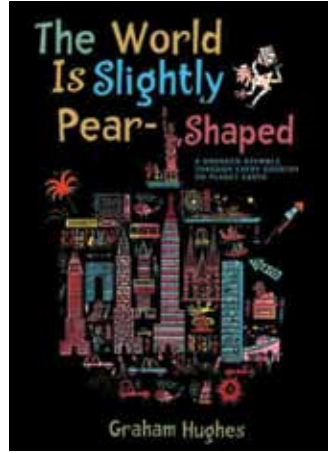
A Drunken Stumble Through Every Country on Planet Earth

The true story of how one crazy backpacker took on the world... and won!

On the morning of January 1, 2009, British raconteur and troublemaker Graham Hughes took his first intoxicated stumble on the Guinness World Record-setting adventure of a lifetime. The challenge? To visit every single country on Planet Earth... without flying. And to be the first to do so. This gave rise to the Odyssey Expedition.

Under-prepared, under-funded and often under the influence, his quest caused mischief and mayhem wherever he went – which was everywhere.

He ran the US blockade into Cuba, was jailed in Congo on suspicion of being a spy, survived a 400-mile ocean crossing in a leaky wooden boat to Cape Verde, got caught sneaking over the Russian border, joined a hallucinogenic drug tribe in Gabon, hitched a ride on a cruise ship in The Caribbean, thwarted the pirates of Somalia, swallowed a live octopus in South Korea, got into a snowball fight in Iraq and was saved from Filipino fundamentalists by a ladyboy called Jenn.



**TRAVEL / ADVENTURE**

\* *Not Yet Published*

\* *All rights available*

**GRAHAM HUGHES** is an adventurer, filmmaker, television presenter and would-be Guinness World Record-holder. Born in Liverpool, he is an avowed rabble-rouser, a troublemaker, a polemicist, a dreamer and a doer. In 2008, Lonely Planet Television agreed to support his self-confessed grandiose madcap scheme to visit every country in the world without flying. Not only did he achieve the impossible, he single-handedly filmed and presented a major television show about his travels and wrote this book along the way. When he's not conquering the world, he spends his time between London and Melbourne. [www.theodysseyexpedition.com](http://www.theodysseyexpedition.com)



## The Thousand Mile Tao

zeitgeist media group

### TRAVEL / MEMOIR / HISTORY SELF-HELP

\* *Not Yet Published*

\* *All rights available*

## Emma Nicholas (AUS)

# The Thousand Mile Tao

## Searching for strength on the Great Wall

Unique adventure with spiritual dimension.

When newly married Australian journalist Emma Nicholas and her American husband, Brendan, went to China, it was with a magnificent adventure in mind – to walk the entire length of the Great Wall of China. The walk would mean 10 months of scrambling and climbing more than 3800 kilometers of mostly crumbling rubble. By completing the journey Emma hoped to become the first Australian woman to do so.

After years of struggling with illness, including anorexia and cancer, Emma had wanted the walk to simplify her life.

Instead, faced with extreme blizzards, poisonous animals, scorching deserts, dangerous precipices, injuries, delays, self-doubt, marital conflicts and isolation she found herself forced into very different challenges.

*The Thousand Mile Tao* is the record of Emma's triumph over physical and mental challenges, a tale of everyday China, of friendships with strangers, the changing dynamics of a marriage forced to examine itself and the love that surrendering can bring.

Divided into 81 chapters, *The Thousand Mile Tao* is a reflection upon the 81 verses from Lao Tzu's Chinese Classic text the *Tao Te Ching*, or "The Book of the Way" which Emma credits for keeping her on the adventure.



**EMMA NICHOLAS** is a freelance journalist, editor and writer. After treatment for thyroid cancer, Emma and her husband Brendan set out to walk the entire length of the Great Wall of China.

Following their successful hike, Emma was invited back to the Great Wall by Olivia Newton-John to be part of the Great Walk to Beijing, a fundraising walk to help build the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre. Emma now lives in Sydney with her husband and baby daughter.

[www.powerhousemuseum.com/walkingthewall/](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/walkingthewall/)

**Tim Cope (AUS)**

## In the Steppes of the Nomads

Re-riding the trail of history's first horsemen from Mongolia to Hungary

*"One of the greatest journeys of modern times – Tim Cope's adventure is redolent of another century when such epic tales were told only by explorers who went beyond the known horizon"* – Australian Geographic

*In The Steppes of Nomads* follows Tim Cope's remarkable journey over three and a half years as he 're-rides' history from Mongolia to Hungary on the trail of mounted nomads.

Ever since the taming of the horse on the Eurasian steppe, nomad empires have had a profound effect on the world. By ignoring modern transport in favour of the horse, Tim (with his trusted dog Tigon) is able to make an authentic transition to the nomad way of travel.

Join Tim on the Steppe with the Kazakhs, Kalmyks, the Cossacks of South Russia, Tatars of Crimea, Ukrainians, Hutsuls of the Carpathians, and Hungarians.

His dramatic personal journey drives the narrative, and through his experiences the life and history of the steppe nomads is rediscovered.

Writer and filmmaker **TIM COPE** trained as a wilderness guide in the arctic region of Finland in 1999. He then embarked on a 10,000 kilometre journey across Russia, Mongolia and China by bicycle which resulted in the book, *Off the Rails, Moscow to Beijing by Bike* (Penguin). In 2006, Tim was named Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year, and he is also one of the youngest members of London's Royal Geographic Society.



### TRAVEL / HISTORY

#### To be published in 2012:

**US** • Bloomsbury

**UK** • Bloomsbury

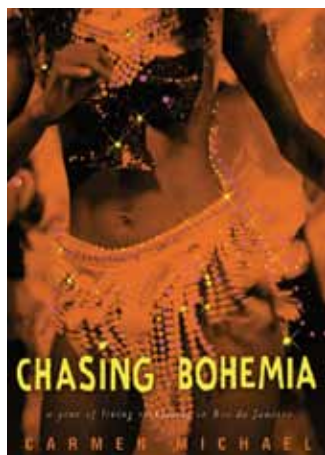
**Australia** • Allen & Unwin

\* *ARTE documentary series broadcast (2010)*

\* *Major ABC TV documentary broadcast (2010)*

\* *Rights held by Bloomsbury US*





## TRAVEL / MEMOIR

### Published:

**Australia 2008** • Scribe

**Hungary 2009** • Jaffa Kiado

**Russia 2011** • Ripol Publishing Group

\* *All other rights available*

**Carmen Michael (AUS)**

## Chasing Bohemia

A year of living recklessly in Rio de Janeiro

*"This is great travel writing; never self indulgent and always insightful"* – Sydney Morning Herald

*"If ever there was a book that was going to make you pack in your job and move to Brazil, this would be it"* – Newsmail

Carmen Michael was a jaded young UK travel industry executive when she ditched her job and moved to Rio de Janeiro, looking for complete immersion in the seedy and sexed up city.

A brush with a fiery Italian trust-fund baby called Chiara inspires her to make a risky solo mission to a rodeo in the outback of Brazil. When she returns, she moves into a crumbling yellow mansion with a flamboyant caftan clad queen called Gustavo, flirts with Brazilian high society, falls for a hustler, runs away from him to Buenos Aires and then runs back only to fall in love with a Brazilian samba musician.

Set in the anarchic backstreets of bohemian Rio, far from the sweeping beaches for which the city is more famous, Carmen takes us deep into Rio's extraordinary musical culture, unapologetic hedonism and rampant infidelity.



**CARMEN MICHAEL** first visited Brazil in 2003 for a holiday, and has been there ever since. Before settling in Brazil, she worked in the travel industry checking out every corner of the globe.

Carmen contributed to *Lonely Planet's Rio de Janeiro Guide*, set up [www.womantraveller.com](http://www.womantraveller.com) and also writes for *Qantas magazine*.

**Murray Gunn (AUS)**

## Dragon Bones

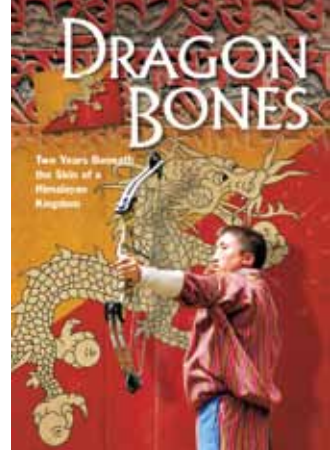
Two Years Beneath the Skin  
of a Himalayan Kingdom

Wedged deep in the Himalaya between India and China, the secretive kingdom of Bhutan guards its independence while its neighbours Sikkim and Tibet have been swallowed by the giants and Nepal is rife with unrest.

Bhutan markets itself as the last Shangri-La, but a closer look shows crime and racial, religious and sexual discrimination. Tourists are shown the positive side of the country without ever having the chance to really experience the culture.

Murray Gunn and his French wife had the rare privilege of living in Bhutan for two years, experiencing daily life and interacting with the local people. They came to understand this unique country better – but risked their marriage in the process.

A travel memoir of discovery and change.



**TRAVEL / MEMOIR**

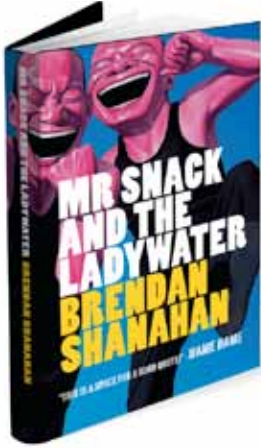
**Published:**

**Asia (English) 2010** • Blacksmith Books

*\* All other rights available*

**MURRAY GUNN** grew up in Sydney where his parents ran an international homestay organisation. With an endless stream of international guests in his home, he inevitably developed a passion for travel and experiencing different ways of life. After a decade of living and working overseas, he is now in Sydney studying anthropology and planning his next adventure. Murray has a strong belief in the need for Bhutan to determine its own direction as finds its place in the future. Fifty percent of the royalties of this book will go to support organisations founded by Bhutanese to address problems as seen by the people themselves (RENEW, Tarayana Foundation and VAST).





### AMUSING TRAVEL MEMOIR

\* *Not Yet Published*

\* *All rights available*

## Brendan Shanahan (AUS)

# Mr Snack and the Lady Water

*"Shanahan has a style that recalls David Sedaris or the funny gay nephew of Bill Bryson"* – Independent Weekly.

*Mr Snack and the Lady Water* is the title story of a compilation of hilarious travel essays by writer and journalist Brendan Shanahan.

In *Mr Snack and the Lady Water* Shanahan embarks on what was supposed to be a luxury cruise down the Yangtze River, only to find himself on a three-day endurance test aboard a leaking tug in the company of an intrusive roommate – the mysterious "Mr Snack" – a pair of neurotic American spinsters and a thousand baseball hat-wearing tourists.

In *Friends in DC*, Shanahan contemplates the transitory nature of friendships formed on the road as he rejects the affections of a sinister black albino and a sexed up Norwegian fisherman.

In *Mr and Mrs Kumar Make a Plan*, Shanahan is sucked into the strange world of Indians Mr and Mrs Kumar as he becomes the unwitting mediator of their strained relationship with their children.

Other stories in *Mr Snack and Lady Water* include an account of a dental surgery holiday in the Philippines, a close call with a gunfight in Johannesburg the bizarre world of working as a Bollywood extra and many other, equally unexpected, adventures from Shanahan's travels.

## Brendan Shanahan (AUS)

# In Turkey I Am Beautiful

*"Shanahan has a tart tongue and wicked turn of phrase tempered by an obvious affection for the people he meets on his travels"* – Sydney Morning Herald

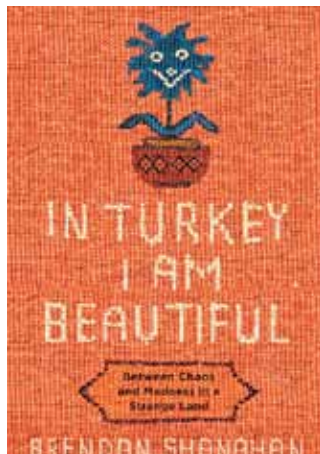
When Brendan Shanahan returned to Turkey after two years to catch up with old friends he found much had changed. Not only was the country itself transforming but the lives of his Turkish friends seemed to be mirroring the growing pains of a nation on the cusp of its biggest transformation since independence.

After travelling extensively in the wilds of the east where, among other things, he found himself in the middle of a gunfight, was propositioned by shepherds and swam to Armenia in his underpants Brendan eventually agreed to run his friend's carpet shop in Istanbul. With only the dubious help of his carpet dealer friend, a lovable but frequently demanding bipolar drug addict, the results were often disastrous, frequently hilarious and occasionally poignant.

By the end of his travels he was broke and owned more carpets than floor, but had come to a deeper understanding both of a country he loved and the people he loved in it.

*In Turkey I Am Beautiful* was described as "laugh out loud funny" by the Sydney Morning Herald and named one of the best travel books ever by the Sun Herald. It was also named one of the year's 10 best non-fiction works by Radio National and was voted one of the "100 Favourite Books of All Time" by a Borders poll.

**BRENDAN SHANAHAN** is a Sydney-based writer and journalist. His previous books include *Poodle on Prozac: The Biography of Rose Hancock-Porteous*, (Duffy & Snellgrove). *The Secret Life of the Gold Coast* (Penguin) and *In Turkey I Am Beautiful*. (Harper Collins). A former columnist for the Sunday Telegraph and Daily Telegraph, he writes regularly for publications including The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald and the Wall Street Journal Asia.



### AMUSING TRAVEL MEMOIR

**Published:**

**Australia 2011** Harper Collins

\* All other rights available

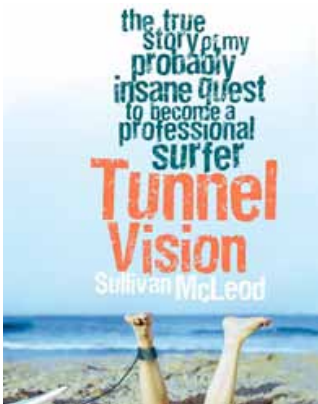


## Saltwater Cowboy

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### MEMOIR / TRAVELOGUE

- \* Not yet published
- \* All rights available
- \* In conjunction with Dijkstra Agency (USA)



## Sullivan McLeod

# Saltwater Cowboy

## Diary of a Hopeful Bull Rider

Every year in January a few thousand young American men have fear in their hearts and a dream in their minds as they seek out to be America's No 1. Bull Rider.

These intrepid bull riders who make the cut will spend the year travelling across the country, their living etched out by an ability to hold on one-handed to a rope that girdles a 900 kilo bull. Theirs is a world that unfolds eight seconds at a time.

Bull riding, one of the fastest growing sports in America, offers its share of financial rewards for those brave enough to try. Some will compete in small local rodeos and win belt buckles and prize money; others will take home jackpots in practice pens. Forty will qualify for the most lucrative tour (The PBR or Professional Bull Riders) and compete for the million dollar prize. Participating in one of the most dangerous sports in the world is not without hazards. As hardened cowboys will testify, in bull riding, it is not a matter of if you'll get hurt, but when and how bad.

For a year bull riding novice and Australian surfer Sullivan McLeod ensconced himself in this mad culture. He rode over 70 bulls, competed in 8 rodeos, and was often concussed, bruised, and stomped on. He subdued suffering with a concoction of pain killers and alcohol. But unlike other riders, when he embarked on this quest, he couldn't even ride a horse.

**Tunnel Vision** - The true story of my probably insane quest to become a professional surfer. Publisher: Australia 2009 Allen & Unwin

**SULLIVAN MCLEOD** is a restless vagabond, having worked in a variety of jobs including a door to door salesman, driller's offsider and a magician's assistant. He's performed stand-up comedy at The Laugh Factory in L.A, The Classic Comedy Club in New Zealand, and both Melbourne and Edinburgh Comedy festivals. His first book, *Tunnel Vision: the true story of my probably insane quest to become a professional surfer*, (A&U 2009) chronicled a year he spent competing around the world on a professional surfing tour.

## Ben McNeil (AUS)

# ShortThink

## How not to think about the future

*ShortThink* will revolutionise the way you see the future in making those important decisions today.

In this ground-breaking book, Ben McNeil draws on fascinating real-life stories and research to show us the forces that can drive us to avoid thinking about the long-term, and how these forces can be overcome.

*ShortThink* occurs when we act on immediate, short-term rewards that disregard, avoid or deny the future. It happens when we buy something we know we can't afford; it happens when a CEO denies a broad consumer shift; it happens when a president can't make sacrifices today to ensure prosperity for future generations.

How did an obscure Frenchman accidentally induce *ShortThink* on Wall Street, allowing a worldwide financial meltdown? How did *ShortThink* plague a three-time NBA All-Star, American school teachers in the '60s, and a multibillion-dollar airline? And conversely, what was the secret that made Warren Buffet and Oprah Winfrey avoid falling into *ShortThink*?

**BEN McNEIL** is leading a new generation of economic and scientific thinkers. He advises government and companies on strategic thinking, particularly around sustainability and energy. He has presented his strategic thinking to prime ministers and boardrooms. His writing is published in newspapers such as The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian and The Dominion Post. His first book, *The Clean Industrial Revolution* (Allen & Unwin 2009) looked at strategic thinking in sustainability. He regularly appears on television and radio, including CNN, BBC, ABC and Sky News. Ben has a masters in political economy and a PhD in climate science. After working as a research scholar in Princeton University and living in New York City, he now lives in Sydney, Australia.



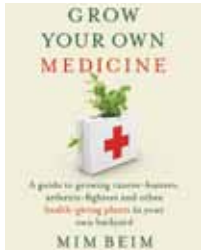
**NON FICTION / LEADERSHIP /  
PROBLEM SOLVING**

\* Not Yet Published

\* All rights available



## Select Backlist



### ***Grow Your Own Medicine***

Mim Beim

The new title from Australia's leading naturopath Mim Beim  
[www.beamingwithhealth.com.au](http://www.beamingwithhealth.com.au)

Australia · HarperCollins, 2011



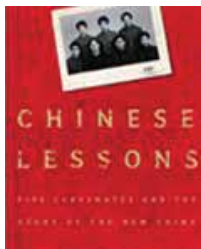
### ***Socialism is Great!*** – *A worker's memoir of the new China*

Lijia Zhang

*"A beautiful memoir of this important period... Our current China literature is heavy with victim memoirs, but this is a true tale of aspiration: a young woman coming of age in a nation desperately trying to do the same"*

Peter Hessler, author of *River Town* and *Oracle Bones*

Australia · UWA Publishing, 2009



### ***Chinese Lessons*** – *Five classmates and the story of the new China*

John Pomfret

*"At a time when so many books about China are written from a distance – their authors having spent only a short time in the country, if any time at all – thank goodness for Chinese Lessons"* – Wall Street Journal

USA · Henry Holt, 2006; Australia/Southern Africa · Scribe, 2007  
 Brazil · Landscape, 2008



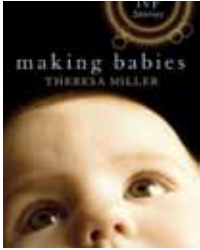
### ***Memento*** – *The gift of a lifetime*

Michael McQueen

*"5 out of 5"*

Channel 7 Morning Program

Chronicle Books, 2010



***Making Babies*** – *Personal IVF stories*

Theresa Miller

*“Offering parents a degree of hope, as well as a realistic appraisal of the IVF experience, Making Babies makes for dramatic and compulsive reading”*

Australia · Scribe, 2008



***The Clean Industrial Revolution*** – *Growing prosperity in a greenhouse age*

Ben McNeil

*“A passionate and informative demonstration of how mitigating climate change can be compatible with economic growth”*

Professor Ross Garnaut, the Garnaut Climate Change Review

Australia · Allen & Unwin PB, 2009



***Shanghai Girls*** – *Uncensored & Unsentimental*

Mina Hanbury-Tenison

*“A cheeky humorous or, alternatively, entirely offensive guide on how to snag men in order to get rich and go up in the world. Shanghai Girls had women creased up with laughter and seriously annoyed husbands”*  
– Sunday Morning Post.

English Language Asia – Make Do Publishing, 2011

**More at [www.zeitgeistmediagroup.com](http://www.zeitgeistmediagroup.com)**



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*Cuban*

REBEL GIRLS

*a novel*



BOYD ANDERSON