

zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

SPRING 2021

RIGHTS CATALOGUE



zeitgeist agency

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Zeitgeist Agency is a unique literary agency founded in 2009 with an international outlook. From our Sydney and Brussels offices, we represent writers from around the world including Australia, USA, UK, Europe, Russia, Turkey and China.

Our catalogue includes bestsellers, the finest literary fiction, crime and thrillers, inspiring memoirs and thought-provoking non-fiction. We also represent picture books, middle grade and YA/crossover titles from around the world.

We work directly with publishers in UK, Australia/NZ, France, Israel, Nordic region and the Baltic states. In other countries we rely on a network of 15 dedicated co-agents (see full list on the last page).

Our passion is to connect writers, publishers and media across the globe. We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Warm regards,
Benyhton, Sharon and Thomasin



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NETWORK OF CO-AGENTS

Fiction



**UPMARKET FICTION /
BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION**

USA autumn 2021 · Harper

Collins/William Morrow

UK Feb 2022 · Simon & Schuster

Germany 2022 · RH/btb Verlag

Italy 2021 · Einaudi Editore

Russia 2021 · Eksmo

Poland 2022 · Wydawnictwo WAM

Spain 2022 · Planeta

Portugal 2022 · Leya

Czech Republic 2022 · Argo

TV rights · Stampede Ventures in
partnership with CBS Studios

* All other rights available

* First pages available

Annabel Abbs (UK)

Miss Eliza's English Kitchen

A novel inspired by the life of Eliza Acton, who despite having never boiled an egg, revolutionised the course of cookery writing.

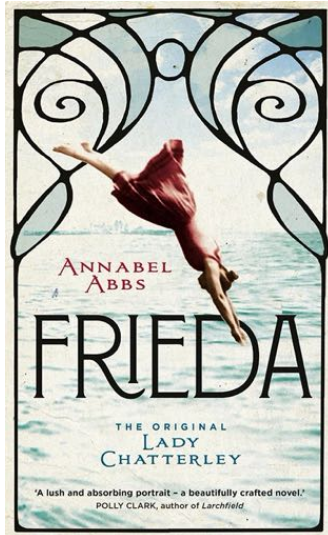
England 1837. Eliza Acton puts the finishing touches to a volume of poems and heads to the London offices of publisher John Longman. But Longman has no appetite for female poets and instead demands a cookery book. England is awash with exciting new ingredients from spices to exotic fruits, and Longman has spotted a gap in the market. Eliza, determined to be a poet and shamed by the suggestion she work in a 'common kitchen', refuses. But when her father is forced to flee the country for bankruptcy, she has no way to support herself and agrees to write a cookery book. She begins collecting recipes from around the world while teaching herself to cook.

To assist her, she hires 17-year old Ann Kirby, the impoverished daughter of a war-crippled father and a demented mother. Under Eliza's tutelage, Ann learns about poetry, cookery and love. She also unravels the mysteries of Eliza's past which include a volume of revelatory poems and a love-child with a French soldier. Through the art of food, Eliza and Ann develop an unusual friendship and break the mould of traditional cookbooks by adding elegant descriptions and ingredient lists, that are still used today. Together they change the course of cookery writing forever.

Told in alternate voices, Abb's third novel explores the themes of female friendship, motherhood, the ensuring struggle for female freedom, the quiet joy of cookery and the place of food in female creativity, while bringing Eliza Acton out of the archives and back into the public eye.



ANNABEL ABBS grew up in Bristol, Sussex and Wales before studying English literature at the University of East Anglia and Marketing at the University of Kingston. Her debut novel *The Joyce Girl* (Impress Books, 2016) was published in ten countries to critical acclaim and multiple awards. Her second novel *Frieda: The Original Lady Chatterley* was recently published by Hachette UK & ANZ and was a Times Pick of the Year. She runs a successful blog about food and ageing ([The Age-Well Project](#)) which was adapted into a cookery book by Little, Brown. Annabel lives in London with her husband and four children.



UPMARKET FICTION / BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION

UK 2018 · Hachette/Two Roads

US 2020 · Hachette/Two Roads

Australia/NZ 2018 · Hachette

Hungary 2019 · Nouvion

Italy 2020 · Einaudi Editore

Turkey 2021 · Hep Kitap

Bulgaria 2020 · EMAS

France 2020 · HC Editions (Hervé Chopin)

Germany July 2021 · RH/btb Verlag

** All other rights available*

'Effervescent...a wonderful portrait of an extraordinary woman. A superb job.'
– *The Times*

'A lushly written novel that contrives to be at once mischievous and testing...compelling.' – *Observer*

'A convincing evocation of a remarkable woman.' – *The Sunday Times*

'[Frieda] emerges as a warm, intelligent woman in this nuanced, layered portrait.' – *Mail on Sunday*

'A compassionately imagined tale.'
– *Daily Mail*



Annabel Abbs (UK)

Frieda: The Original Lady Chatterley

The Times 2018 Historical Fiction Book of the Year

The story of an extraordinary woman – and a notorious love affair that becomes synonymous with ideas of sexual freedom.

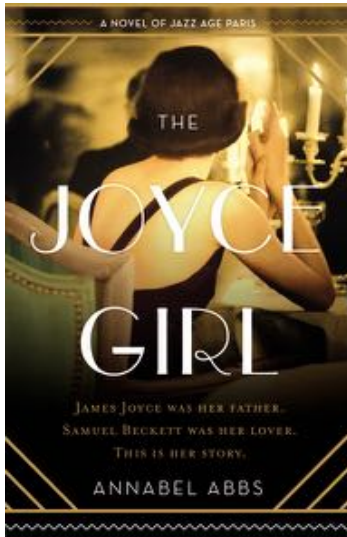
In 1912, a young German baroness living in Nottingham does the unthinkable – she leaves a comfortable home and three adored children in pursuit of love.

Frieda von Richthofen's bold decision created one of the biggest scandals of the time. What made her do it? Her story begins with a visit to her sisters in Munich. In the bohemian cafés she discovers the radical ideas of anarchists, artists and pioneering analysts. Guided by her sisters and by Freud's protégé, Dr Otto Gross, Frieda discovers free love and sexual liberation. She returns to England desperate to free herself from social convention and believing she has a new destiny.

But staid Edwardian England is no place for revolutionary ideas and industrial Nottingham is no match for the avant-garde cafés of Munich. Frieda is forced to put her newfound ideals behind her. And then DH Lawrence walks into her life. What happens next changed English society forever, as Frieda becomes the inspiration for Lady Chatterley.

Frieda charts the courageous journey of the woman behind DH Lawrence's major works and explores the complex emotions of a mother struggling to be both liberated *and* maternal.

ANNABEL ABBS grew up in Bristol, Sussex and Wales before studying English literature at the University of East Anglia and Marketing at the University of Kingston. Her debut novel *The Joyce Girl* (Impress Books, 2016) was published in ten countries to critical acclaim and multiple awards. Her second novel *Frieda: The Original Lady Chatterley* was recently published by Hachette UK & ANZ and was a Times Pick of the Year. She runs a successful blog about food and ageing ([The Age-Well Project](#)) which was adapted into a cookery book by Little, Brown. Annabel lives in London with her husband and four children.



**UPMARKET FICTION /
BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION**

UK 2016 · Impress Books
Australia/NZ 2016 · Hachette
Germany 2017 · Aufbau Verlag
Turkey 2017 · Hep Kitap
Spain 2017 · Galaxia Gutenberg
Russia 2018 · Centrepolygraph
Bulgaria 2018 · EMAS
Poland 2019 · Wydawnictwo WAM
USA 2020 · Harper Collins /William Morrow
France 2021 · HC Editions (Hervé Chopin)
Romania 2021 · RAO

* All other rights available

'Here is a powerful portrait of a young woman yearning to be an artist, whose passion for life – and rage at being unable to fulfill her talent – burns from the pages.' – Anita Sethi, *The Guardian*

'A hugely impressive debut ...Abbs has brought to life an extraordinary cast of characters and painted their rackets, bohemian world in vivid technicolour.' – Lisa O'Kelly, *The Observer*

'One of those hidden gems of a novel... both sad and enthralling.' – Judith Griffith, *New Books Magazine*

Annabel Abbs (UK)

The Joyce Girl

The Guardian Reader Pick December 2016

iBook of the Month Australia September 2016

First Prize The Spotlight First Novel Competition 2015

Winner The Impress Prize for New Writers 2015

Shortlisted The Chapter One Novel Award 2013

Longlisted The Waverton Good Reads Award

Longlisted The Bath Novel Award 2015

Longlisted The Caledonia Novel Award 2014

Official Pick Books at Berlinale 2017

James Joyce was her father.

Samuel Beckett was her lover.

This is her story.

1928. Avant-garde Paris is buzzing with the latest ideas in art, music, literature and dance. Lucia, the talented and ambitious daughter of James Joyce, is making her name as a dancer, training with some of the world's most gifted performers. When a young Samuel Beckett comes to work for her father, she's captivated by his quiet intensity and falls passionately in love. Persuaded she has clairvoyant powers, Lucia believes her destiny is to marry Beckett. But when her beloved brother is enticed away, the hidden threads of the Joyces' lives begin to unravel, destroying Lucia's dreams and foiling her attempts to escape the shadow of her genius father.

1934. Her life in tatters, Lucia is sent by her father to pioneering psychoanalyst Carl Jung in Zurich. For years she has kept quiet. But now she decides to speak.

Inspired by a true story, *The Joyce Girl* is a compelling and moving account of thwarted ambition and the destructive love of a father.





HISTORICAL FICTION /
FAMILY SAGA / EPIC LOVE STORY

* All rights available

* MS available March 29th

Kristen Loesch (USA)

Kukolka

Shortlisted *Caledonia Novel Award 2020*

Longlisted *Bath Novel Award 2019* (under a previous title)

Rosie's only inheritance from her reclusive mother is a book of fairy tales. But there is another story lurking between the lines and in all the white spaces...

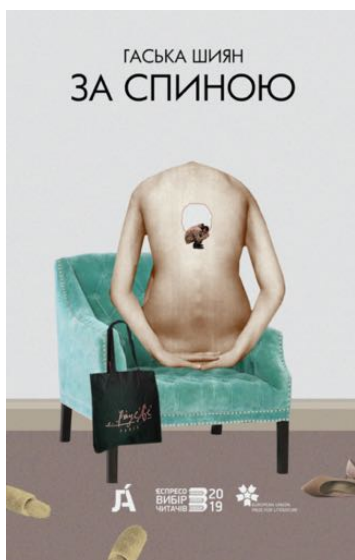
1991. Rosie regularly hears the voice of her older sister who was killed eleven years ago in their Moscow apartment. Now an Oxford University student, Rosie lives in exile with her reclusive, alcoholic mother who refuses to talk about the past. When she dies, Rosie sees a chance to find out what really happened in Moscow. She answers a job ad to become the assistant to charismatic and celebrated Soviet dissident Alexey Ivanov, and accompanies him to Russia to research the fate of a mysterious woman known as Kukolka who disappeared decades ago.

This research and the book of handwritten fairy tales left behind by her mother plunge Rosie into Russia on the eve of the 1917 Revolution, a world of sweeping romance, violence, and betrayal. The deeper she goes, the more everything she believed to be true about her family begins to unravel. Before she reaches the final tale, Rosie must decide how much she truly wants to know.

Kukolka ('little doll') is a family saga that spans three generations and the lifetime of Soviet Russia. It explores how our innate yearning for family and identity can lead to devastating truths – but also forgiveness and redemption.



KRISTEN LOESCH grew up in San Francisco and Seattle. She attended university in London and obtained a first-class degree in History, followed by a Masters in Slavonic Studies at the University of Cambridge. *Kukolka* was listed for the Caledonia Novel Award and the Bath Novel Award. Her short stories have appeared in *Mslexia*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Barren Magazine*, *Retreat West*, *Reflex Press* and others. She was recently awarded Honorable Mention in the Anton Chekhov Prize. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and three children. *Kukolka* is her first novel.



LITERARY FICTION /
CONTEMPORARY FICTION
352 pages

Ukraine 2019 · Fabula Publishing

Bulgaria 2021 · Colibri

Croatia 2021 · Božičević

Lithuania 2021 · Aukso Zuvys

Macedonia 2022 · offer in

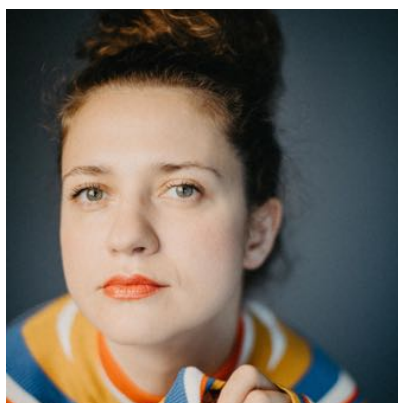
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* English and French samples available

* International rights handled by Zeitgeist
 Agency on behalf of Fabula Publishing

“The novel is not just stylistically skillful and mature but also important for the present day, because it places Ukraine within the universal human context. The author converts this war from a safe space of ‘somewhere there in the wild East’ into the disturbing space of ‘here, in our shared Europe’. Because this conflict is actually here, on our continent and it concerns us all, Europeans.”

– EU Prize Jury



Haska Shyyan (UKRAINE)

Behind Their Backs

ЗА СПИНОЮ (original title)

Winner European Union Prize for Literature 2019

Winner Odessa Film Festival Book Pitch 2020

When men are at war, what is expected of the women left behind.

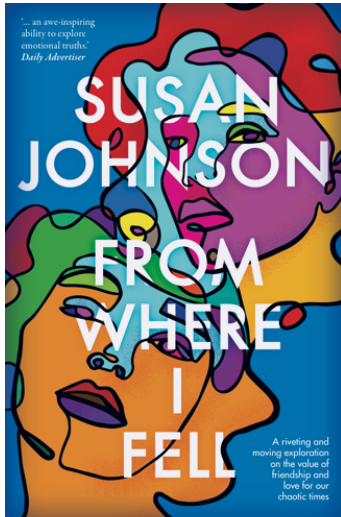
When her boyfriend Max decides to enlist to fight in the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine, Marta is confused and upset. She has a successful career in the booming IT industry and she and Max live a comfortable life distant from politics and war, until Max's decision.

With Max hundreds of kilometres away, Marta tries hard to fit the model of a war hero's girlfriend and to embrace the new patriotism that has become the norm. She volunteers for the Army, meeting other women whose partners are away fighting, yet she resists this social pressure and her resentment towards Max builds. At breaking point, one drunken night, Marta has a passionate liaison with a female friend. Then she jumps at an opportunity to travel to France where she meets Xavier and has a one-night stand. On the way to a party, they are separated in the chaos following a terrorist attack. Left with nothing but her purse, she has no idea what happened to Xavier nor how to find him.

Marta makes her way back to Ukraine. Once home, depression sets in and she stops returning Max's phone calls. Marta realizes that the burden to conform is impeding her from living her true spirit. The idea of leaving Ukraine takes hold of her.

A courageous novel that tackles female sexuality and social pressure in a patriarchal society, and shows how patriotism and nationalism exacerbate that pressure.

HASKA SHYYAN is a writer, poet and translator. Born in Lviv where she co-owns a bookshop, she studied classical philology and is an active campaigner against corruption in textbook selling. Haska wrote her first novel *Hunt, Doctor, Hunt!* on her cell phone while bedridden. Her second novel *Behind Their Backs* was the first Ukrainian novel to receive the European Union Prize for Literature in 2019, as well as two Ukrainian prizes (LitAccent Award and Espresso TV Readers Choice). She regularly contributes short stories and poetry to literary magazines. She currently lives in Kyiv.



UPMARKET WOMEN'S FICTION

Australia/NZ March 2021 · Allen & Unwin

* All rights available

* Final pages available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

'Both very Australian and resoundingly international, The Broken Book confirms Johnson's status as one of Australia's finest writers....fiercely beautiful.' – The Australian

'Feeling, insight and rambunctious wit.' – The New York Times

'She has a knack for presenting what can be unbearable in reality, of rendering it on the page with tremendous heart.' – The Sydney Morning Herald



Susan Johnson (AUSTRALIA)

From Where I Fell

'Susan Johnson is a writer in her prime, and her most enduring love affair is with language itself'

- Geraldine Brooks, best-selling author of *People of the Book*

Can two women become friends without ever meeting?

In this original novel, entirely written in emails, two women from opposite ends of the earth end up corresponding by chance and sharing intimacies of their lives.

A forgiving email from Pamela Robinson in Australia to her London-based ex-husband Chris Woods accidentally ends up in the inbox of upstate New York teacher Christina Woods.

Christina is sympathetic to Pamela's laments and they start sharing the stories of their lives, opening the door to each other's secrets. They are temperamental opposites. Christina is practical, settled, her dreams dampened; and Pamela is creative, emotional, and hurtled into the isolation of a new divorced life with three boys to raise.

Funny and endearing, but also increasingly confronting, Susan Johnson's *From Where I Fell* exposes the truths of relationships, the lies we tell ourselves, and the surreal connections we can make online.

A riveting and moving meditation on the value of love and suffering for our chaotic times.

SUSAN JOHNSON is one of Australia's most loved writers. Her eleven books, nine of which are novels have been nominated for the Association for the Study of Australian Literature Gold Medal, the Miles Franklin Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the National Biography Award, the Queensland and Victorian Premier's Prize, the Banjo Award and the Kibble Prize. She has been published by Faber & Faber UK/US; Transworld, Washington Square Press; Actes Sud (France) and Klub dla Ciebie (Poland). Susan's fellowships include the Literature Board of the Australia Council and Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. After ten years in London and two years in Greece, Susan now resides in Brisbane, Australia. www.abetterwoman.net



**WOMEN'S COMMERCIAL FICTION /
BOOKISH ROM-COM**

Australia/NZ 2022 · Allen & Unwin

Italy 2022 · Garzanti

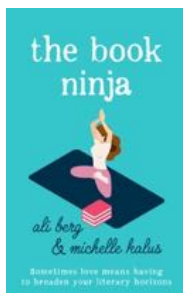
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* Copy-edited pages available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

'Fun, heartfelt and brilliantly bookish!'
– Better Reading

*'Berg and Kalus make me feel young
again'* – Country Style magazine



Ali Berg & Michelle Kalus (AUSTRALIA)

Fancy Meeting You Here

Sometimes the man of your dreams is standing right in front of you... only ten years in the past.

Have you heard of Hugo Hearst? Of course you have. He's only one of the most influential and, not to mention, swoon-worthy international best-selling writers of his generation.

Then there's Evie Berry. Thirty-year-old podcaster, Manager of the Camden Cinema Bar, and Hugo Hearst's biggest fan. She's read his books countless times, rewatches his Netflix series as often as possible, and may have even written the odd fan mail (or more?). If only she'd met Hugo ten years ago when he was a struggling writer living just a few doors down from her childhood home. Back then perhaps, she might have stood a chance.

Set in London, Evie travels ten years back in time to her twenty-year-old self, in pursuit of her star-crossed great love. *Fancy Meeting You Here* is a story about reliving your early twenties and getting everything you've always wanted, only to discover that the grass isn't always greener on the other side. A charming and unconventional romantic comedy full of humour and just a little bit of bookish magic.

ALI BERG and MICHELLE KALUS have been best friends for life and share a burning passion for books and writing. They are co-authors of best-selling novels *The Book Ninja* (2018) and *While You Were Reading* (2019), which have been published in ten countries, with *The Book Ninja* also optioned for film. Together, they created Books on the Rail, a social enterprise which serves as a place to share and celebrate a love of reading, with over 1,000 Book Ninjas and 10,000 books in circulation on public transport. Ali is an award-winning copywriter and Michelle is a primary school teacher. They both live in Melbourne, with their respective husbands and colour-coordinated bookshelves.



LITERARY FICTION /
CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Australia/NZ 2020 · Allen & Unwin
UK 2020 · Atlantic Books/A&U UK
Netherlands 2020 · Prometheus
Germany spring 2021 · Kein & Aber
France autumn 2021 · Fayard
Israel 2021 · Tchelet Books
Poland 2021 · Kobiعة
Romania 2021 · Polirom
 * All other rights available

'Gorgeous and mesmeric.'
 – Daily Mail

'A tender, poetic, almost hypnotic coming of age story. Reading Hardcastle's prose feels like going on a spacewalk – a curious weightlessness combined with acute sensation, filled with distortions of light and sound. It's unique and exhilarating.' – Booktopia

'A novel that speaks implicitly but never didactically to traumas of the #MeToo age...an astonishing achievement.'
 – Sir Jonathan Bate, former Man Booker Prize Judge and Oxford Provost



Sophie Hardcastle (AUSTRALIA /UK)

Below Deck

'Below Deck will leave you breathless. Sophie Hardcastle is a phenomenal, courageous talent.'

- Clementine Ford, author of *Fight Like A Girl*, and *Boys Will Be Boys*

Who has the space to speak? Who is believed? And what is the grey area in between?

Twenty-one-year-old Olivia has synaesthesia and hears the world in colour, but her life is mottled grey. Estranged from her parents and living with her grandfather who is drowning in sadness, Oli faces the reality of life beyond university alone.

When she wakes on a boat with no recollection of how she got there, she accepts the help of two strangers who change the course of her future forever. With Mac and Maggie, Oli learns to navigate a life upon open ocean and the world flowers into colours she's never seen before.

Four years later, Oli, fluent in the language of the sea, is the only woman among men on a yacht delivery from Noumea to Auckland. In the darkness below deck, she learns that at sea, no one can hear you scream.

Moving to London, Oli's life at sea is buried. When she meets Hugo, the wind changes, and her memories are dust blown into shapes. Reminding her of everything.

SOPHIE HARDCASTLE is a writer and artist. Australian born, she was an Oxford University Provost scholar at Worcester College where she wrote *Below Deck* in 2018. Sophie completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) in 2017 with First Class Honours. Sophie has written two previous books: a memoir of growing up bipolar *Running like China* (Hachette 2015) and a YA novel, *Breathing Under Water* (Hachette 2016). Sophie writing has appeared in various publications including ELLE, Harper's Bazaar, Surfing World, Damaged Goods Zine, and she is a contributor to The Mays Anthology and The Anthroposphere (Oxford Climate Review).



FICTION / CROSSOVER

Australia/NZ 2020 · Vintage PRH

* All other rights available

'This is an outstanding debut about love, memory, community and finding your place in a beautiful and heartbreaking world. Pham is a master at showing that all people are complex, contradictory and difficult to define. The characters in The Coconut Children will linger on in your mind like a great open-ended question.'
— Felicity Castagna, author of *No More Boats*, shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award

'In lyric slivers as sharp as the 'blade of water' refugees cross, Pham maps the shape and grain of fierce and fragile resilience against intergenerational trauma, secrets and desire. The momentum of this novel, its originality, energy and verve, are extraordinary. Vivian Pham is, without doubt, a major new talent.'
— Felicity Plunkett, poet and critic



Vivian Pham (AUSTRALIA)

The Coconut Children

Shortlisted The Victoria Premier's Award 2021

Longlisted ABIA New Writer of the Year 2021 (shortlist tba April 12)

'Vivian Pham is one of the indispensable voices of her generation'

- Dave Eggers

Sonny and Vince have always known each other. It took two years of juvenile prison, a crazy mother and a porn stash for them to meet again.

Life in a rough neighbourhood demands too much too young. But Sonny wouldn't really know. In fact, she couldn't be more removed from the trouble that stirs just outside her bedroom window. Watching the world from afar, she lives in second-hand romance novels and fleeting crushes. Everything changes with the return of Vince, a boy who became a legend after he was hauled away in handcuffs years ago.

Sonny and Vince have always known each other. It took two years of juvie, an overbearing mother and a porn stash for them to finally meet again. With all that happened in-between, childhood seems so long ago. But as friendship blossoms between the two, they stumble upon their younger selves.

While it can be hard to find poetry in the drug-addicted pulse of a displaced community, there is hope, beauty and tenderness to be found.

The Coconut Children is a tale of coming of age, growing apart from parents, and coming to terms with who we are instead of how others see us.

VIVIAN PHAM is a nineteen-year-old student and writer. Her father was the same age when he escaped war-torn Vietnam by boat and set out to make a life for himself in America. Vivian was born in California and emigrated to Australia with her family as a toddler. *The Coconut Children* was purchased by Penguin Random House in a five-way auction. Vivian recently attended the invitation-only International Congress of Youth Voices in San Francisco founded by Dave Eggers.



LITERARY FICTION

Australia/NZ 2018 · HC/4th Estate
UK 2018 · Pan Macmillan/Mantle
US/Canada 2019 · House of Anansi
Germany 2019 · RH/Limes
Netherlands 2018 · Luitingh-Sijthoff
Italy 2018 · Garzanti
France 2019 · Editions Fayard
Spain 2019 · Salamandra
Catalonia 2019 · Grup62/Empúries
Portugal 2018 · Porto Editora
Poland 2018 · Marginesy
Israel 2018 · Tchelet/Steimatsky
Turkey 2018 · Yabanci
Japan 2019 · Shueisha
Slovakia 2018 · Fortuna Libri
Serbia 2019 · Vulkan
Russia 2019 · AST Group
Hungary 2019 · Alexandra Könyvesház
Croatia 2019 · Znanje
Czech Republic 2019 · Jota
China 2019 · Citic Press
Lithuania May 2020 · Baltos Lankos
Romania Feb 2020 · Humanitas
Norway 2019 · Strawberry/Armada
Bulgaria March 2020 · Colibri
Sweden 2020 · Sekwa/Etta
Slovenia 2020 · Učila
Korea 2021 · Editor Publishing Co
TV rights · Made Up Stories



Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart

Winner Australian Book Industry Awards: Fiction Book of the Year 2019

Shortlisted Queensland Literary Award 2019

Longlisted Indies Award 2019

A beautiful novel about the haunting power of unspoken stories, how trauma transforms life, and the magic one woman finds by living on her own terms rather than anyone else's.

After her family suffers a violent tragedy when she is nine years old, Alice Hart must leave her seaside home. She is taken in by her grandmother, June, a flower farmer who raises Alice on a language of native Australian flowers, a way to say the things that are too hard to speak. Under the watchful eye of June and 'The Wildflowers', twelve women in recovery who run the farm, Alice becomes a teenager and begins to dream about her future.

In her early twenties, Alice's life is thrown into upheaval again when she suffers devastating betrayal and loss. Desperate to outrun grief, Alice flees to the dramatically beautiful central Australian desert. In this otherworldly landscape, Alice thinks she has found solace, until she meets Dylan, a charismatic and ultimately dangerous man.

Set between sugar cane fields by the sea, a native Australian flower farm, and a celestial crater in the central desert, *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* follows the life of Alice Hart as she discovers that the most powerful story she will ever possess is her own.



HOLLY RINGLAND grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. Her interest in cultures and stories was sparked by a two-year journey her family took in North America when she was nine years old, living in a camper van and travelling from one national park to another. In her twenties, Holly worked in a remote Indigenous community in the central Australian desert. Moving to England in 2009, Holly obtained her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Manchester. Her essays and short fiction have been published in various anthologies and literary journals including *TEXT Journal*, *The Griffith Review* and UWAP's *Desert Writing* anthology. Holly lives between the UK and Australia.

Crime / Thriller



SUSPENSE / THRILLER

* All rights available

* MS available April 15th

Alex Mitchell (UK)

The Snake of Babylon

American-Iraqi archeologist Mina Osman and US military intelligence become entangled in a dangerous conspiracy masterminded by a lone wolf in the Vatican.

US Army Sergeants Raj Vallabhi, Pete Andersen, and T.K. Flynt stationed in Iraq, are investigating the aftermath of deadly explosions in Baghdad's suburbs, Kirkuk and Mosul. Scores of children and elderly people were killed and evidence suggests they were injected with a lethal virus and medically experimented upon. It is especially troubling as no one claims their bodies.

Meanwhile, at the University of Michigan, Mina Osman, assistant curator at the Kelsey Museum, attempts to decipher a mysterious scene on an ancient gemstone hidden in the university's library. It shows the biblical prophet Daniel poisoning a snake. Mina's research takes her to Iraq where she finds similar etchings in the same locations as the murder victims.

Mina and her boyfriend, ex-Army Major Jack Hillcliff, along with sergeants Raj, Pete and Flynt are inexorably drawn into a web of violence and deception. The gemstone, it turns out, holds the secret to a vast conspiracy that could destroy the lives – and fates – of tens of thousands of people and is masterminded by a man within the highest spheres of the Vatican who will stop at nothing to fulfil what he believes is his holy mission.



ALEX MITCHELL holds a D.Phil in Classical Archaeology from Oxford University and a Masters and BA in Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology from Strasbourg University. He is a scientific collaborator at the University of Fribourg and a former Researcher at the Oxford Institute of Archeology. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge of ancient cultures with wide audiences to show how antiquity permeates contemporary society. His first book *Greek Vase Painting and the Origins of Visual Humour* (2009) was published by Cambridge University Press. His current research focuses on classical Greek and Roman political cartoons from the 18th to the 21st centuries in British and American newspapers. *The Thirteenth Tablet* (2012), his first thriller, also features the character Mina Osman.
www.alexmitchell.net



FICTION / INVESTIGATIVE CRIME

* All rights available

* MS available April

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK, THE BIOGRAPHY *AN ELEPHANT IN MY KITCHEN*:

'A book of great inspiration and wide appeal to nature-loving readers.'
– Publishers Weekly

'A moving and often amusing account of a life filled with compassion and resolve.' – Wall Street Journal

'The writing is full of vivid descriptions that place readers in the middle of the action, making the book difficult to put down. An engrossing eye-opener on the fragility of South Africa's fauna.'
– Kirkus

'The most magical book about the African bush since Born Free'
– Daily Mail

'A beautiful love story between humans and the majestic elephants'
– Daily Express



Katja Willemssen (SOUTH AFRICA)

Pantry Bones

A Manon Maury Mystery - Book 1

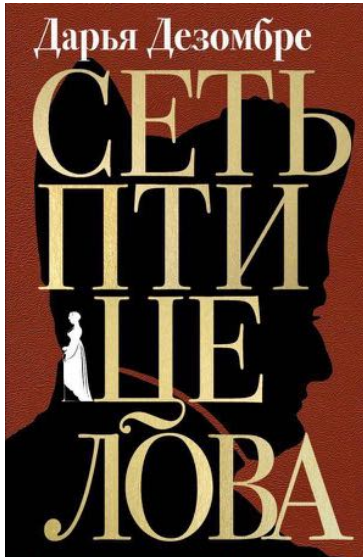
When the bones of a mother and child are found in a hidden room during a kitchen renovation, a French village is thrown into turmoil.

Manon Maury is a top investigative agent at the National Criminal Police HQ in Paris when she botches an undercover operation. This coincides with her husband's affair and her father's suggestion that she take over the family carpentry business. Off she goes, back to her Pyrenean village and to her first love – wood.

Manon's foreman finds the skeletons of a woman and child in a room behind the kitchen of an isolated farmhouse. Within a week, the client is dead. The police declare suicide but Manon suspects foul play.

Two skeletons and a doubtful suicide are beyond the scope of the village's only police officer and pressure mounts for Manon to put her investigative experience to good use. She capitulates, as long as she isn't paid, isn't expected to stop running her business, and no one questions her methods. Solid police work, along with considerable disregard for rules and protocol expose a tragic secret from the Spanish Civil War and the Nazi occupation in France – with traumatic consequences for one of Fontcastel's most respected families.

KATJA WILLEMSSEN grew up in South Africa and now writes full time in the hamlet of Oms, France. The *Manon Maury Mystery series* is born of her love for the Pyrenees, local food, French village life and the Catalan people – an earthy, stubborn, wise bunch whose culture embraces the sacred and mystical. Her first book, the biography *An Elephant in my Kitchen*, was published in 2019 in the UK and US (Macmillan), France (Tredaniel) and Germany (mvg Verlag). It describes how a French woman took over a South African game reserve after the death of her husband. Katja is currently working on Book 2 in the *Manon Maury series*: *The Black Madonna*.



FICTION / CRIME / HISTORICAL

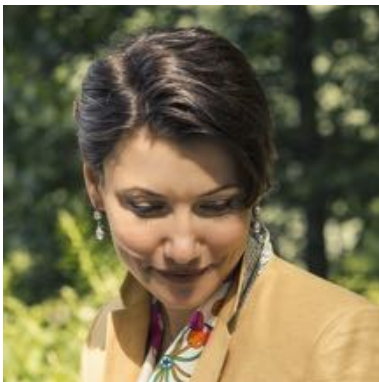
384 pages

Russia 2019 · Eksmo

* All other rights available

* English sample available

'Desombre's writes with both gripping tension and subtlety. Her latest crime novel has all the qualities of this genre - murders, false evidence, masterfully hidden clues, dynamic intrigue. It bubbles with details of life in this historical period: hounds licking fat from cart wheels on the market square, Bengal roses blooming in the Lipetsky garden, the princess dressed for tea in a chalon hood. Everything is interesting in her novel, literally everything.'
- Anna Berseneva, best-selling Russian novelist



Daria Desombre (RUSSIA)

The Birdcatcher

Сеть птицелова (original title)

A murder investigation and 'amour impossible' between enemies shake a nobleman's estate in wartime Russia

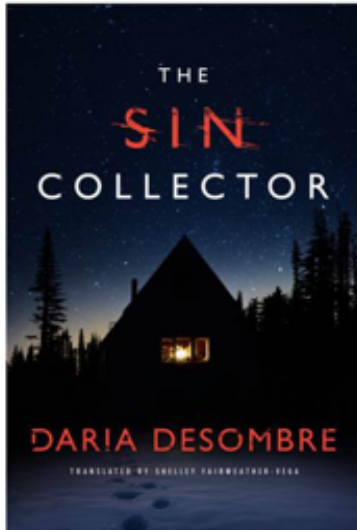
June 1812. Napoleon's invincible army crosses the Neman River into Russia, forcing Russian troops to hastily retreat. While Napoleon awaits Tsar Alexander's response before advancing his campaign, French regiments stop to rest and refuel, taking over village homes and surrounding estates. Nobleman Lipetsky, his wife and their 17-year old daughter Edoxie must share their manor house with French Major de Briac and his military surgeon, keeping a tense diplomatic ceasefire.

Soon after the soldiers' arrival, a terrible series of events unfolds: serf girls are found strangled, floating in the river. With the country at war, an official investigation is impossible. Edoxie and the French Major both feel morally compelled to find out who is killing the serf girls, and together embark on their own investigation.

As the list of suspects grows, neighboring landowners whom Edoxie has known her entire life can no longer be trusted. Horror creeps into the very walls of their home, transforming those closest to them into frightening strangers.

Set in the same period as Tolstoy's *War & Peace*, the reader is plunged into life on a vast estate where murder changes the fate of soldiers, serfs and a noble family.

DARIA DESOMBRE was born in Saint Petersburg where she studied at the Hermitage Art School and received a Masters in English and Spanish from Saint Petersburg's State University. In 2000 she moved to Paris and completed a MBA in fashion marketing and management. Daria was head of advertising for the jewellery house Mauboussin before devoting herself full-time to scriptwriting. She writes for leading film companies in Russia and Ukraine. She also adapts US and European TV programmes for the Russian market, including *Drop Dead Diva* and *The Mentalist*. Daria lives in Brussels with her husband and two children. Daria's previous detective series have sold over 1 million copies in Russia. *The Birdcatcher* is her sixth novel.

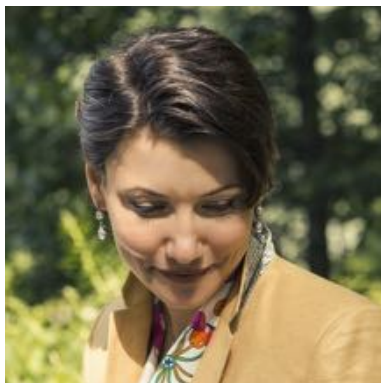


FICTION / CRIME / THRILLER

Russia 2014-2016 · Eksmo
Poland 2016 · Muza
Hungary 2016 · Novion
Bulgaria 2018 · Iztok-Zapad
Serbia 2018 · Vulkan
France 2019 & Sept 2020 · JC Lattes/Le Masque
Croatia 2018 · Znanje
Czech Republic 2019 & 2021 · Albatros
Portugal 2019 · LeYa/Casa das Letras
TV rights · option under negotiation
(Reverted) World English 2017 · Amazon Crossing

* All other rights available

* Final English & French pages available



Daria Desombre (RUSSIA)

The Sin Collector

Masha Karavai Detective Series

Призрак Небесного Иерусалима (original title)

'The most promising debut author of 2014' - Lev Novozhenov, star host of NTV's Nashi programme, Russia's #1 TV channel

A Russian crime thriller series blending art and history enigmas in the spirit of Arturo Perez-Reverte.

Book 1: *The Sin Collector*

Bright and stubborn 22-year-old Moscow University law school graduate Masha Karavai is obsessed with finding out who killed her father. She lands an internship at No. 38 Petrovka, the Russian Interior Ministry's Headquarters. Masha researches a series of enigmatic and gruesome murders which at first appear unrelated. But when Masha discerns a connection between the victims and the symbolic world of medieval Russian Orthodoxy, she and her boss Andrey investigate the fanatical murders. She enrolls the help of her childhood friend Innokenty, a historian and antique dealer, who reveals to her the ancient layout of Moscow, and the potential connection with the holy city in heaven called New Jerusalem. Analysing the locations of the murders and the medieval execution methods and symbols used, they come closer to linking the murders. But then the serial killer starts playing a game with Masha in which the stakes are the lives of those she is closest to.

Book 2: *The Painting* Masha and Andrey investigate the strangling of several plump and ordinary working women in Moscow. They discover a connection to Ingres' masterpiece *Turkish Baths*, and must solve a rebus puzzle to find the murderer.

Book 3: *The Delft Tiles* When an oligarch finds his precious 16th-century Delft tiles stolen, Masha's investigation to unravel the tiles' secrets leads her to Jewish jewelers in Bruges and Antwerp and to the Cheapside Hoard in London, with deadly consequences.

Book 4 & 5 conclude the series.

DARIA DESOMBRE was born in Saint Petersburg where she studied at the Hermitage Art School and received a Masters in English and Spanish from Saint Petersburg's State University. In 2000 she moved to Paris and completed a MBA in fashion marketing and management. Daria was head of advertising for the jewellery house Mauboussin before devoting herself full-time to scriptwriting. She writes for leading film companies in Russia and Ukraine. She also adapts US and European TV programmes for the Russian market, including *Drop Dead Diva* and *The Mentalist*. Daria lives in Brussels with her husband and two children.



FICTION / CROSSOVER / THRILLER

* All rights available

* MS available

'Really exciting page-turner with an excellent premise and terrific pacing. Huge potential.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Hardie Grant Australia

'Catherine has a great voice, and she has created an intriguing cast of characters...Mae's internal thoughts, her paranoia and awkwardness were done really well.'

– Tablo Judge and Publisher, Pantera Press Australia

Catherine E. Kovach (USA)

Jenny Was a Friend of Mine

In an attempt to uncover who killed her best friend, Mae will do anything to get a confession...even if it kills *them*.

College student Jenny is murdered at a party. Her best friend and secret lover Mae is shattered. A month goes by and the police still don't know who killed Jenny. In a desperate attempt to unveil the killer, Mae invites five friends (and in her mind the most likely suspects) to her family's cabin in the woods.

A bloody surprise in the woods mixed with revealed secrets sets the group on edge and soon they begin to unravel. Trapped in the cabin due to a snowstorm and a few slashed tires, they each recount their version of the party where Jenny ended up dead, all in an attempt to uncover the killer and save themselves. As they start to lose grip on reality, one of the five friends is murdered.

As Mae sits in a police station explaining the events herself, she not only tells the story of what happened at the cabin, but also reveals what transpired during the party. As Mae goes deeper and deeper in recounting events, it becomes clear to the reader that she might not be telling the whole story. What is Mae hiding? Who killed Jenny? What really happened at the cabin?

Told primarily from Mae's point of view, with the story shifting from events at the party to the cabin to the police station, *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is a new spin on the classic page-turner with an unreliable narrator.



CATHERINE E. KOVACH has written articles and stories for *Diabolique Magazine*, *Bustle.com* and *Starlog Magazine*. She was an assistant editor for Skyhorse Publishing and now works as a content producer for a marketing firm specializing in engineering and augmented reality. You can also find her in the online role-playing gaming community where she creates virtual characters. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and three beloved cats. *Jenny Was a Friend of Mine* is her first novel.

Non-Fiction



NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

Australia/NZ Aug 2021 · Pantera Press

** All other rights available*

** MS available April 1st*

Gary Nunn (AUSTRALIA / UK)

The Psychic Tests

An Investigation into the Supernatural Industry

A journey into the wild, widespread and surprisingly influential world of psychics.

Clairvoyants, mediums, palm readers, tarot card readers, astrologists and star sign readers are amongst the world's most charismatic people.

For two years, journalist Gary Nunn lived in their world becoming a psychic junkie, trying it all. In this ground-breaking book he reveals the power psychics wield and the lifelong impact they have on the lives of everyday people: from who they date (some people refuse to date someone without a compatible star sign) to what jobs they apply for.

Even more intriguing, those who we may expect to be sceptics - senior professionals, high-powered policy makers, self-defined cynics - seek psychic advice and act on it.

From Nostradamus to horoscopes, from psychic investigators hired on unsolved murder cases to medical intuitives insisting they can prevent Covid-19, these psychics are much more than entertainers. They're providing solemn guidance to even the most rational minds.



GARY NUNN is a British journalist working between Australia and the UK. He is currently the BBC's Features Editor in Sydney. He specialises in human interest stories, men's and women's health, LGBTQI issues, linguistics and more. Twitter: @garynunn1



MEMOIR / LGBTQI+ / ENTERTAINMENT
with 16-page photo insert

Australia/NZ Oct 2021 · Pantera Press

* MS available April

* Zeitgeist Agency only handles rights
for World English and Israel on behalf
of Pantera Press

“Engaging, entertaining and educational, Courtney Act shares her story in an effort to help people understand gender fluidity.”
– Broadway World

“As if her voice isn’t enough, her quick-witted comedy flows through the show effortlessly.”
– Edinburgh Fringe Magazine



Shane Jenek aka Courtney Act (AUSTRALIA)

Caught in the Act

Gender, sexuality, and growing up fluid

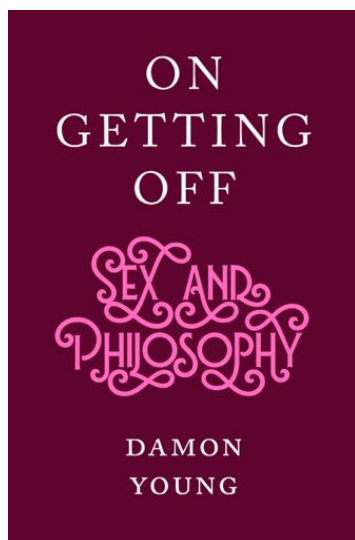
A powerfully smart, fearless and profound and personal insight into gender, sexuality and identity.

As Courtney Act, Brisbane-born Shane Jenek has built a glittering international career as a drag queen, singer and performer. After wowing audiences on *Australian Idol* and *Ru Paul's Drag Race*, Shane entered Britain's *Big Brother* in 2018. In that hothouse environment, he disarmed viewers and contestants alike with his authenticity, warmth and wit. Not only did he win the competition, he won the world over with positive, insightful conversations about gender, sexuality, body image and identity.

But the self-knowledge that underpins Shane's advocacy was hard fought for. In *It's All an Act*, he describes growing up in suburbia, with its narrow gender stereotypes, and how his passion for singing and dancing and his loving family buffered him against feeling somehow different. In Sydney, he found his place in the queer community and Courtney emerged. While the self-belief that would propel Courtney to stardom was there from the beginning, self-understanding took a lot longer.

This landmark memoir will charm you, educate you, and take you on a journey to understand what it's like to be a loud, proud, passionate gender fluid queer icon.

Boy, girl, artist, advocate. **COURTNEY ACT** is more than just the sum of her parts. She is a contemporary artist, one of the first to show their gender fluidity. Courtney broke out of the box in 2003 to make it to the semi-finals of *Australian Idol*, and then signed to Sony/BMG. In 2014 she was one of the Top 3 in Season 6 of the Emmy Award-winning *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and in 2018 the winner of *Celebrity Big Brother UK* - educating viewers on queer issues such as gender identity and fluidity, sexuality, same-sex marriage and more. Courtney has 1.2 million followers on Instagram, 461,000 on Facebook and 339,000 on Twitter.



POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

World English Feb 2021 · Scribe Publications

The Netherlands Mar 2021 · Ten Have

* All other rights available

Damon Young (AUSTRALIA)

On Getting Off: Sex & Philosophy

The curious reader's companion to sex.

How should we think about our most shocking fantasies?

What is so captivating about nudity?

What is the difference between the erotic and the romantic?

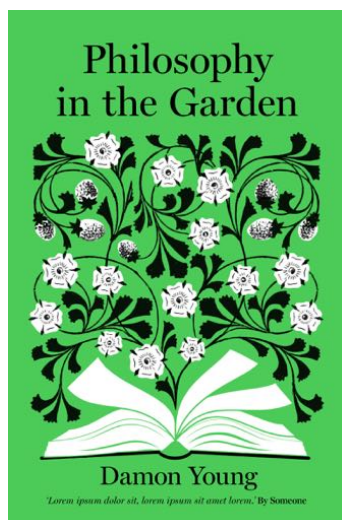
Philosophy has historically been odd about sex, its preludes and plateaus: silent at best, mocking at worst. Many philosophers have simply avoided screwing in their work—and sometimes in their lives.

On Getting Off introduces readers to interesting thinkers and theories, prompts reflection, and entertains with stories and jokes. Chapters feature ideas from European philosophy, alongside scholarship and literature from Africa, Asia, and Mesoamerica. Equally at home with Aristotle or Assblaster the sex robot, *On Getting Off* treats sex as the beginning, not the end, of a philosophical conversation.

Damon Young draws on the wisest minds in the philosophical canon to explore the paradoxes of the bedroom. *On Getting Off* will f**k with your mind.



DAMON YOUNG is a prize-winning philosopher and writer. His thirteen books include *The Art of Reading*, *How to Think About Exercise*, *Philosophy in the Garden* and *Distraction*. His works are published internationally. He has also written poetry and short fiction. Young is University of Melbourne Associate and a founding member of The School of Life in Melbourne. A prominent public intellectual, he has written for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, ABC and BBC, and is a frequent radio guest.



POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

Australia/NZ 2012 · Melbourne

University Publishing

Turkey 2021 (re-issue) · Maya Books

Netherlands 2014 · Ten Have

Korea 2015 · Theory & Praxis

Italy 2015 · Iacobelli

Germany 2019 · Random House/btb

WER excl ANZ 2019 (re-issue) ·

Scribe Publications (1st edition by Rider)

China 2020 · United Sky

**All other rights available*

*'Like a garden coming into spring...
tremendous vistas of thought.'*
– *The Daily Telegraph*

'sprightly and stimulating'
– *The Spectator*

*'Young writes with a delightful
combination of humour and insight.'*
– *The UK Literary Review*



Damon Young (AUSTRALIA)

Philosophy in the Garden

**'An absolute joy of a book—I couldn't put it down.
Its prose is as careful and lovely as a beautifully tended garden.'**

– Nikki Gemmell, bestselling author

**'Young escorts the reader on a fascinating exploration of the
roles of gardens in the lives of great artists and philosophers.
Erudite, yet witty and accessible, *Voltaire's Vine* is intellectual
history at its most completely pleasurable.'**

– Oliver Burkeman from *The Guardian* and author of *The Antidote*

**Eleven great authors, and the ideas they discovered in parks, yards
and pots.**

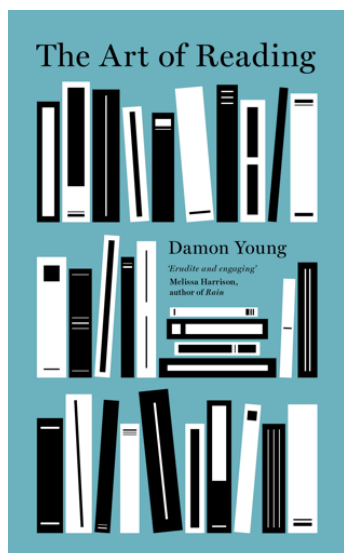
Why did Marcel Proust have bonsai beside his bed? What was Jane Austen doing, coveting an apricot? How was Friedrich Nietzsche inspired by his 'thought tree'?

In *Philosophy in the Garden*, Damon Young reveals one of literature's most intimate relationships: authors and their gardens. For some, the garden provided a retreat from workaday labour; for others, solitude's quiet counsel. For all, it played a philosophical role: giving their ideas a new life.

With lively prose and stories of great writers, Young shows how gardens are more than pretty ornaments, or hobbies to kill the hours. They can console or confront, calm or animate, tease or test—they are an antidote to modern distraction and disorientation.

Philosophy in the Garden reveals the profound thoughts discovered in parks, backyards and pot-plants. It does not provide tips for mowing overgrown couch grass or mulching a dry Japanese maple. It is a philosophical companion to the garden's labours and joys.

DAMON YOUNG is a prize-winning philosopher and writer. He is the author of eleven books, including *How to Think About Exercise*, *Philosophy in the Garden* and *Distraction*. His works are published internationally. He has also written poetry and short fiction. Young is University of Melbourne Associate and a founding member of The School of Life in Melbourne. A prominent young public intellectual, he has written for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, *ABC* and *BBC*, and is a frequent radio guest.



POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

Australia/NZ 2016 · Melbourne

University Publishing

Netherlands 2016 · Ten Have

UK 2017 · Scribe UK

US 2018 · Scribe US

China 2020 · Gingko Books

Turkey 2018 · Maya Books

Korea 2021 · 2B

**All other rights available*

'This literary study is serious but also witty and fun—a tough balance to strike, but Young nails it. Its short length belies a book heavy with insight, creativity, and wit' – starred review, Publishers Weekly

'Young's latest...is a worthy challenge to read bravely, to regard deeply, and to weigh ideas with discernment and generosity.' – Kirkus Reviews

'An eminently readable, rousing, and hugely intelligent account.'
– *The Australian*

'A philosopher of fierce intellect and erudition, but also playful and eclectic in his tastes.'
– *The Sydney Morning Herald*



Damon Young (AUSTRALIA)

The Art of Reading

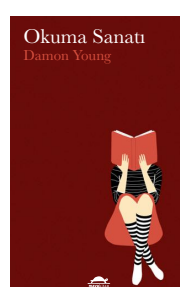
How reading can encourage us to be better people.

Text is everywhere, from stacks of *Harry Potter* or *The Goldfinch* to half a billion daily tweets. As adults in a literate age, it is easy to take reading for granted, to forget how unique it is.

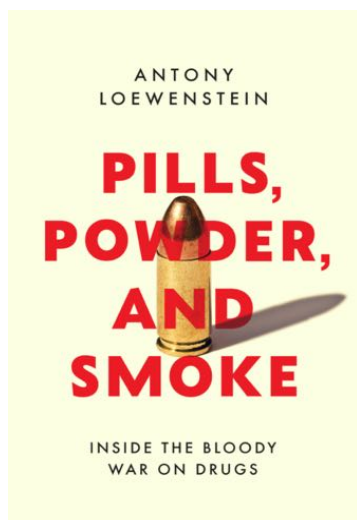
But like writing, reading is not 'natural'. We are not born readers, we learn to turn words into worlds. So why is fine writing lauded, while excellent reading is ignored?

In *The Art of Reading*, philosopher Damon Young reveals the pleasures of this intimate pursuit through a rich sample of literature: from Virginia Woolf's diaries to Batman comics. He writes with honesty and humour about the blunders and revelations of his own bookish life.

Inspired by Aristotle's ideas of virtue, the book also includes ideas from thinkers including David Hume, Arthur Schopenhauer, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, Martin Heidegger and Iris Murdoch. Devoting each chapter to a literary virtue – curiosity, patience, courage, pride, temperance, justice – *The Art of Reading* celebrates the reader's power: to turn shapes on a page into a lifelong adventure.



DAMON YOUNG is a prize-winning philosopher and writer. He is the author of eleven books, including *How to Think About Exercise*, *Philosophy in the Garden* and *Distraction*. His works are published internationally. He has also written poetry and short fiction. Young is University of Melbourne Associate and a founding member of The School of Life in Melbourne. A prominent young public intellectual, he has written for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, *ABC* and *BBC*, and is a frequent radio guest.



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

World English · Scribe Publications

ANZ Oct 2019

US & Canada Dec 2019

UK Jan 2020

India 2019 · Pan Macmillan India

Slovakia 2021 · Hadart

* All other rights available

'An outstanding book by an amazing journalist. Anyone who cares about the war on drugs – one of the biggest catastrophes in the world – should read this superb book right away.' – Johann Hari, author of *Chasing the Scream*

'Loewenstein brings humanity and an even hand to his journalism... impressive.' – *The Saturday Paper*

'A lucid account on why the war on drugs is futile ... as Loewenstein points out in his well-researched book the only things wars ever produce are piles of dead bodies.' – *London Times*

'Vivid reportage.' – *The Irish Times*



Antony Loewenstein (AUSTRALIA)

Pills, Powder and Smoke

Inside the Bloody War on Drugs

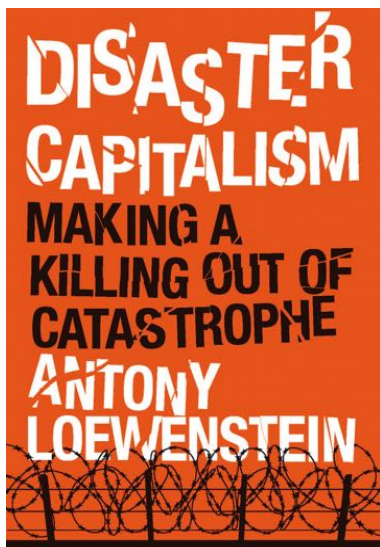
Like the never-ending war on terror, the drugs war is a multi-billion-dollar industry that won't go down without a fight. *Pills, Powder, and Smoke* explains why.

The war on drugs has been official American policy since the 1970s, with the UK, Europe, and much of the world following suit. It is at best a failed policy. Its direct results have included mass incarceration in the US, extreme violence in different parts of the world, the backing of dictatorships, and surging drug addiction globally. And now the Trump administration is unleashing diplomatic and military forces against any softening of the conflict.

Pills, Powder, and Smoke investigates the individuals, officials, activists, victims, DEA agents, and traffickers caught up in this deadly war. Travelling through the UK, the US, Australia, Honduras, the Philippines, and Guinea-Bissau, Loewenstein uncovers the secrets of the drug war, why it's so hard to end, and who is really profiting from it.

In reporting on the frontlines across the globe — from the streets of London's King's Cross to the killing fields of Central America to major cocaine transit routes in West Africa — Loewenstein reveals how the war on drugs has become the deadliest war in modern times. Designed and inspired by Washington, its agenda has nothing to do with ending drug use or addiction, but is all about controlling markets, territories, and people. Instead, Loewenstein argues, the legalisation and regulation of all drugs would be a much more realistic and humane approach. The evidence presented in this book will persuade many readers that he's right.

ANTONY LOEWENSTEIN is a Jerusalem-based Australian journalist who has written for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, the BBC, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Huffington Post*, *Haaretz* and many others. He is the author of *Disaster Capitalism: Making a Killing Out of Catastrophe*; the writer/co-producer of the associated documentary *Disaster Capitalism* and the co-director of an Al-Jazeera English film on the opioid drug tramadol. His other books include *My Israel Question*, *The Blogging Revolution*, and *Profits of Doom*. He is co-editor of the books *Left Turn* and *After Zionism* and is a contributor to *For God's Sake*. antonyloewenstein.com & [@antloewenstein](https://twitter.com/antloewenstein)



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Australia/NZ 2013 · Melbourne University Press (*Profits of Doom*)
WER ex ANZ 2015 · Verso Books
Turkey 2018 · Epsilon Books
Kuwait 2019 · National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters
Film Documentary 2019 · Media Stockaid

* All other rights available

‘...an unnerving and convincing book.’
 – *The Guardian*

Antony Loewenstein (AUSTRALIA)

Disaster Capitalism

Making a Killing Out of Catastrophe

‘Loewenstein has brought meticulous reporting to this subject...this book will serve as a potent weapon for shock resisters around the world’ - Naomi Klein

‘Chilling study, based on careful and courageous reporting, and illuminated with perceptive analysis’ - Noam Chomsky

‘A devastating, incisive follow-up to Naomi Klein’s *The Shock Doctrine*’ - Jeremy Scahill

Crisis? What crisis? How powerful corporations make a killing out of disaster.

Investigative journalist Antony Loewenstein travels across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, the US, Britain, Greece, and Australia to witness the reality of disaster capitalism. He discovers how companies such as G4S, Serco, and Halliburton cash in on organized misery in a hidden world of privatized detention centers, militarized private security, aid profiteering, and destructive mining.

Disaster has become big business. Talking to immigrants stuck in limbo in Britain or visiting immigration centers in America, Loewenstein maps the secret networks formed to help corporations bleed what profits they can from economic crisis. He debates with Western contractors in Afghanistan, meets the locals in post-earthquake Haiti, and in Greece finds a country at the mercy of vulture profiteers. In Papua New Guinea, he sees a local community forced to rebel against predatory resource companies and NGOs.

What emerges through his reporting is a dark history of multinational corporations that, with the aid of media and political elites, have grown more powerful than national governments. In the twenty-first century, the vulnerable have become the world’s most valuable commodity.



MEMOIR/ CULT/
PARENTING

* All rights available

* Full proposal and 10 sample chapters available

Rebekah Crawford (USA)

Look How Great You Turned Out Growing up inside one of California's largest cults

Can one become a functional 'normal' parent after a childhood spent in an experimental, fringe society?

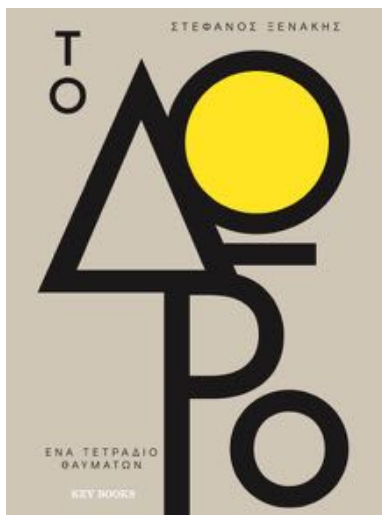
Synanon started out as a pioneering drug rehab centre but gradually lapsed into a cult where societal norms were questioned and broken every day, in particular the family unit: Rebekah was separated from her parents at 6 months old and raised with other children in peer groups, living in dorms, attending a makeshift school and roaming a huge property. They were subjected to the same punishing methodology that kept drug addicts clean: shaved heads, public humiliation and tough love.

Look How Great You Turned Out is a candid, humane account on what it is like to grow up in a place where there is no parental love, no privacy (Rebekah was 14 the first time she took a shower by herself), where peer therapy also known as 'Game nights' regularly stripped you of your burgeoning identity only to painstakingly rebuild it again, and where one has to learn Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophy on independent thinking while at the same time act in absolute conformity with the cult. It also gives an insider's view of what cults offer and why people actually *choose* to stay: an incredible tight social bond, an idyllic setting, and a sense of changing the world.

Revisiting childhood memories, comparing her experiences of growing up in a cult with her current nuclear family and drawing on accepted psychology and parenting philosophy, Rebekah attempts to answer a fundamental question: did her unconventional childhood do more harm than good?



REBEKAH CRAWFORD grew up in Synanon, a large cult in California nicknamed 'Miracle on the Beach' for its successful treatment of drug addicts. She left Synanon at the age of 18 without a formal education and went on to Barnard College where she earned a degree in Art History. She spent ten years working in Hollywood, first as a script reader for Sam Raimi (*Evil Dead*, *Spiderman*) and then as a wardrobe stylist for photographers such as Annie Leibovitz and Peter Lindbergh. Rebekah has written several screenplays and contributed articles to *Forbes*, *classycareergirl.com* and *themuse.com*. When she met a Belgian, she left the sunny skies and celebrity world of LA for Brussels, where she currently lives with her husband and two children.



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Stefanos Xenakis (GREECE)

The Gift

Every Day is a Gift. Open It. Do Not Throw It Away.

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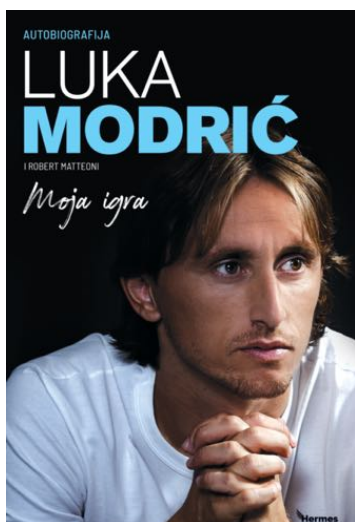
Forget success. Be the best version of yourself.

Contrary to most self-help books that encourage us to strive for a state of perpetual happiness based on the "success" dream, Xenakis invites us to strive for excellence by being enlightened and kind human beings.

Why waste our life becoming successful through relentless competition when we can achieve greatness by simply excelling at being good humans? Xenakis' answer is to reconnect with the simple things that we bypass every day in order to become successful: from greeting your neighbours with a warm smile, to being helpful and kind to others, to enjoying the simple possibilities every day has to offer, to savouring the beauty of the world.

Living a good life is not about becoming the unattainable "ideal" person society tells us we should be in order to achieve false recognition in a competitive world. Living a good and worthy life is about being gloriously ourselves: that is, the best version of ourselves.

STEFANOS XENAKIS studied Economics at the University of Athens and holds an MBA from Manchester Business School. Ten years ago he left a lucrative career in media and advertising in order to concentrate on his one true passion, the art of life. *The Gift* is his first book, followed by *Captain: Letters to My Dad* (2019) and *The Gift II* (June 2020). He has become a highly sought-after inspirational speaker. He runs the workshop "13 stories that can change your life". Stefanos is a [TEDx speaker](#) and the founder of [Yes, I can](#), an NGO that teaches life skills and the importance of moral values to young children through school seminars and workshops.



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Luka Modric with Robert Matteoni (CROATIA)

My Game Moja igra (original title)

The world's official best footballer tells his story for the first time, with a forward by Sir Alex Ferguson and Zvonimir Boban. A universal and dramatic tale of perseverance and success, of an outsider succeeding against all odds.

Luka Modrić's intensely powerful account of growing up during the Yugoslav conflict and going on to be one of world's most celebrated players is a remarkable untold narrative.

Luka Modrić made football history when he won all four top honours for world's best player, becoming the first ever to receive them all in a single year: **World Cup Golden Ball, The Best FIFA Men's Player Award, UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award, and the Ballon d'Or**. This Croatian player brought his small country to the Russia World Cup finals in 2018. He is a crucial midfielder for Real Madrid, for which he won numerous Champions Leagues and other trophies, rightfully earning the title of the best. But his rise to fame did not come easily.

This autobiography covers Luka's whole life: from his war-stricken childhood as a refugee in the Croatian War of Independence in the 1990s to the peak of his career: winning the Golden Ball for best player in the World Cup. A player loved by millions, Luka is known as a very reserved person avoiding the spotlight. He opens up to tell his own story, in his straightforward and honest words, revealing the power of mind and heart to turn dreams into reality.

LUKA MODRIĆ (Zadar, 1985) is a Croatian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Real Madrid and is the captain of the Croatia national team. Modrić is widely regarded as one of the best midfielders of his generation and the greatest Croatian footballer of all time. In 2018 he became the first to win the four major awards for best player in a single year: World Cup Golden Ball, The Best FIFA Men's Player award, UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award, and Ballon d'Or by France Football. He is married to Vanja Modrić and has three children.

ROBERT MATTEONI (Pula, 1962) is a footballer, columnist, editor and one of the most renowned sports journalists in Croatia. Starting his career as a footballer, he soon became a professional sports reporter writing for the most important Croatian publications: Večernji list, Vjesnik, Sportske novosti. Since 1994 he has been the official reporter for the Croatian national team, following them on three World Cups and three European Championships. In 2009 he received the CSJA Columnist of the Year Award, and in 2012 a special recognition award for his contribution to sports development.

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