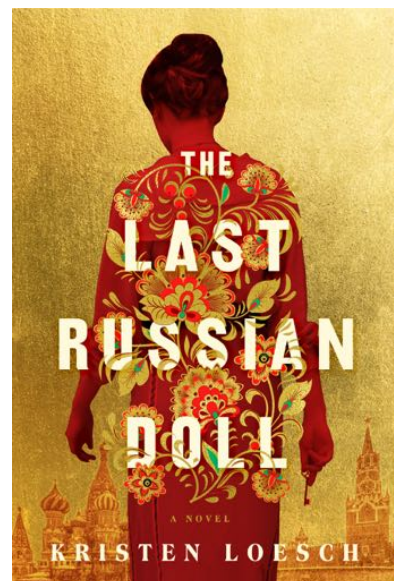
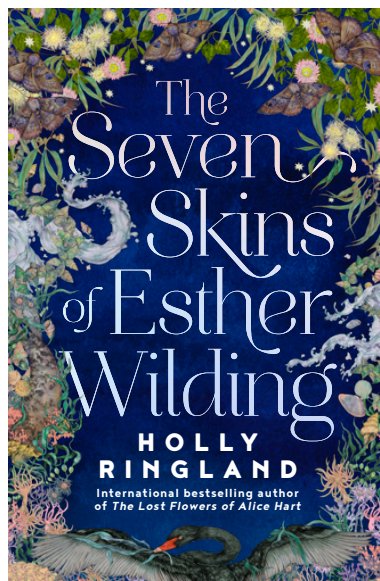


# zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

FRANKFURT 2022

RIGHTS CATALOGUE



# zeitgeist agency

SYDNEY | BRUSSELS

**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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## FICTION

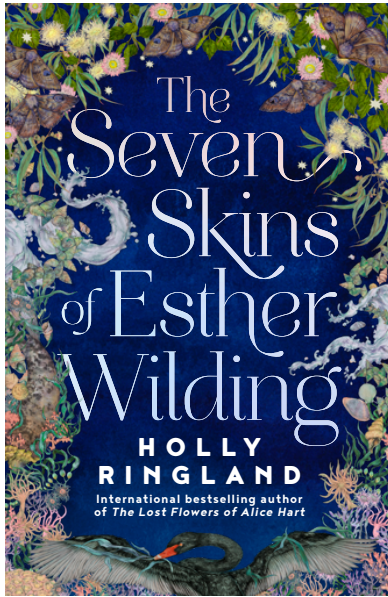
- pg 4 *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* by Holly Ringland **new**
- pg 5 *The Heart is a Star* by Megan Rogers **new**
- pg 6 *Mothers' Daughters* by Alison Edwards **new**
- pg 7 *Compulsion* by Kate Scott
- pg 8 *Behind Their Backs* by Haska Shyyan
- pg 9 *The Last Russian Doll* (UK title: *The Porcelain Doll*) by Kristen Loesch
- pg 10 *Miss Eliza's English Kitchen* by Annabel Abbs
- pg 11 *The Birdcatcher* by Daria Desombre

## NON-FICTION

- pg 13 *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World* by Antony Lowenstein **new**
- pg 14 *Deadly Quiet City: True Stories from Wuhan* by Murong Xuecun
- pg 15 *The Age of Seeds: How Plants Hack Time and Why Our Future Depends on It* by Fiona McMillan Webster **new**
- pg 16 *Viking Women: Life and Lore* by Lisa Hannett **new**
- pg 17 *Aphrodite's Breath: A Daughter, A Mother, and a Greek Island* by Susan Johnson **new**
- pg 18 *How To Fit All of Ancient Greece in an Elevator* by Dr Theodore Papakostas
- pg 19 *The Power of Challah: A Weekly Practice to Reduce Stress and Anxiety and Improve Your Well-Being* by Beth Ricanati

## NETWORK OF CO-AGENTS

## Fiction



**LITERARY / UPMARKET WOMEN'S FICTION**

**Australia/NZ Oct 2022** · Harper  
Collins/4th Estate

\* All other rights available

\* Final pages available

**Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)**

## **The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding**

**A haunting and magical novel about joy, grief, courage, and transformation.**

*'On the afternoon that Esther Wilding drove homeward along the coast, a year after her sister had walked into the sea and disappeared, the light was painfully golden.'*

The last time Esther Wilding's older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. In the wake of Aura's disappearance, Esther's family struggles to live with their loss. To seek the truth about her sister's death, Esther reluctantly travels from Tasmania to Copenhagen, and then to the Faroe Islands. On her journey, Esther is guided by the stories Aura left behind: seven fairy tales about selkies, swans and women, alongside cryptic verses Aura wrote and had secretly tattooed on her body.

*The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* explores the far-reaches of sisterly love, the power of wearing your heart on your skin, and the ways life can transform when we find the courage to feel the fullness of both grief and joy.



**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. 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. Holly's bestselling debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* sold in 30 countries and is an Amazon Prime TV mini-series (2023). She lives in Australia. Instagram: [@hollygoeslightly](https://www.instagram.com/hollygoeslightly)



#### UPMARKET WOMEN'S FICTION

Australia/NZ May 2023 · Harper Collins

\* All other rights available

\* Final MS before copy-edit available

**Megan Rogers (AUSTRALIA)**

## The Heart is a Star

**A lyrical novel which explores middle age as a second coming of age, with all its exquisite messiness.**

On the thirtieth anniversary of her father's death, Dr Layla Byrnes rushes to catch a plane to Tasmania to try and stop her mother from killing herself. Haunted by the past, she is terrified her mother will take the truth about her father to her grave.

As Layla's disintegrating marriage, kids, needy lover, eccentric aunt and volcanic dust storm all collude to prevent her from reaching her mother quickly, Layla is forced to face herself and work out what might make her truly happy. When she finally gets there, history is uncovered, and a menacing darkness falls around her esteemed father. Set between suburban Australia and the rugged coastline of West Coast Tasmania, the story is full of quintessential mid-life questions wrapped up in a page-turning mystery.

*The Heart is a Star* is a story about life and death and the people caught in between; about the ways in which we navigate an often intricate world; and about how we can uncover our true selves when we are forced to face the myths that make us.



**MEGAN ROGERS** worked in editorial at Allen & Unwin Australia, before moving to the marketing department at the State Library of Victoria. In 2014 Megan finished a PhD in Creative Writing about the madwoman-in-the-attic trope in feminist literature, which resulted in the book *Finding the Plot, A Maternal Approach to Madness in Literature* (Demeter Press 2017). She holds a Bachelor of Arts/Science, a Diploma of Professional Writing & Editing, a Graduate Diploma in Professional Communication, and a Masters of Marketing. Megan lives in the the Mornington Peninsula. *The Heart is a Star* is her first novel. [@megan\\_rose\\_writer](#)





#### UPMARKET WOMEN'S FICTION

\* All rights available

\* First draft available November 2022

**Alison Edwards (UK-AUSTRALIA)**

## Mothers' Daughters

**Two young women make their way in the world. What they have in common – being motherless – is also what sets them apart.**

Raised in rural poverty in Australia, all Ava wants is security. A PhD at Cambridge and her marriage to a handsome and wealthy politician catapult her to the heart of British establishment. Desperate to be the ideal wife and prove herself worthy, she makes the drastic mistake of committing academic fraud. To appease her husband, whose career will be tarnished by the scandal, Ava finally resolves to give him the baby he wants in spite of her fears: her own mother abandoned her.

Meanwhile street-smart journalist Laurie is determined to have a baby alone, overcoming her fears as her mother died in childbirth. Shortly before her due date, while investigating Ava, she uncovers the fraud. But she also inadvertently learns her father is not who he seems. Will she push away the man who raised her on his own when her pregnancy turns life-threatening?

*Mothers' Daughters* charts the lives of Ava and Laurie whose stories intersect at many levels before they finally meet. It subtly explores why some women obsessively want a child while others don't. Set during the 2010 UK student riots against the backdrop of university fee increases, it is a story of found family, class and social justice: funny, dark, hopeful and a little twisty.



**ALISON EDWARDS** was born in Australia and has lived and worked in various European countries. After studying journalism and German, she obtained her PhD in linguistics at the University of Cambridge, focusing on language ideologies and policy, particularly the ownership of English by non-native speakers. Her debut *Mother's Daughters* draws on that experience, especially the pressures on young academics. She also works as a freelance editor and translator. Alison is currently based in Amsterdam with her husband and young son and holds Australian, British and Dutch citizenship. Instagram: [@alison\\_edwards\\_lange](https://www.instagram.com/alison_edwards_lange)



LITERARY FICTION /  
CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Australia/NZ Feb 2023 · Penguin RH

\* All other rights available

\* Final MS before copy-edit available

**Kate Scott (AUSTRALIA)**

## Compulsion

**A smart, addictive read in the realm of *Conversations with Friends*.**

**Lucy**, early twenties, ex-music magazine editor, has burned down her life. **Robin**, her new, eternally watchful friend, has never learned to inhabit his. Both have found their way to a small seaside town - Lucy to dry out and immerse herself in obsessive research on early electronic music, Robin to stand sentinel as his grandmother dies.

Recognising in each other a fellow exile and a rich source of distraction, they fall into step on daily rambles across the cliffs. Their charged conversations about music function as both high-stakes flirtation and a stealthy way of processing the ways their lives have gone awry.

Robin, at first fascinated, quickly enamoured, is drawn into Lucy's circle with its claustrophobic entanglements, shifting sexual loyalties, the pill-blasted afternoons.

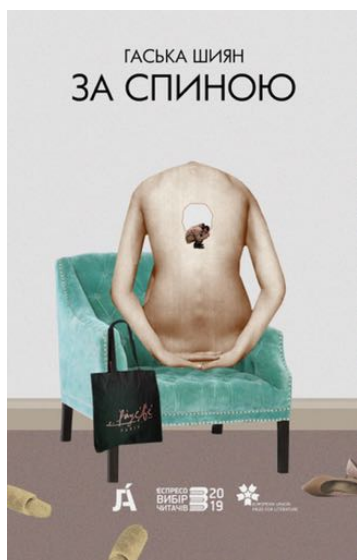
Old friends and addictions reappear from the city, including charismatic and cruel **Julian**, the radiant concentration of all Lucy's obsessions, and **Gudrun**, whose bulletproof poise makes her irresistible to all.

Across endless dinners and parties, the group attempt to out-perform each other, their devotion to pleasure frequently tipping into self-immolation. Exhausted by the mayhem, Robin and Lucy flee, but their compulsions - chemical, musical, erotic - will prove more difficult to shake.



**KATE SCOTT** began her career as a music journalist at age 18, before becoming the editor of the (now defunct) street press magazine *Rave* at 22. She interviewed hundreds of national and international artists, and her pieces were syndicated nationally in publications including *Rolling Stone* Australia. She lives in Thirroul, NSW Australia with her two rabbits, Iggy Pop and Lou Reed. Instagram: [@beach\\_witch](https://www.instagram.com/beach_witch)





LITERARY FICTION /  
CONTEMPORARY FICTION  
352 pages

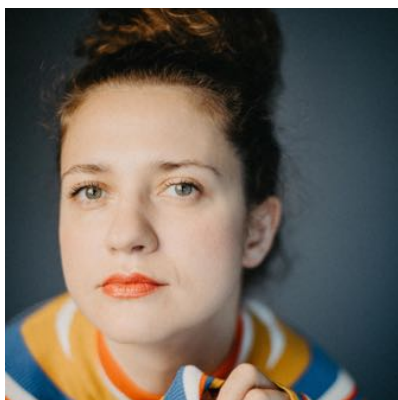
**Ukraine 2019** · Fabula Publishing  
**Bulgaria 2021** · Colibri  
**Croatia 2021** · Božičević  
**Lithuania 2021** · Aukso Zuvys  
**Germany 2022** · fotoTAPETA  
**France 2023** · Robert Laffont  
**Poland 2023** · Czarne

\* All other rights available

\* 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 today, because it places Ukraine within the universal human context. The author converts this war from ‘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.**

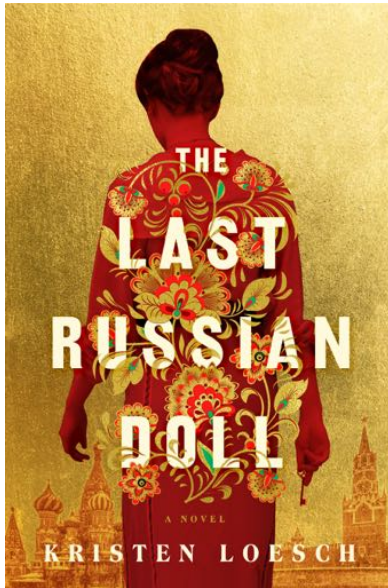
When her boyfriend Max decides to enlist to fight in the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine, Marta is confused and upset. She has a successful career in the booming IT industry and she and Max live a comfortable life in Lviv distant from politics and war, until Max's decision.

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.

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

**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 next 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 recently moved to Brussels with her husband and daughter. Instagram: [@haska\\_shyyan\\_author](https://www.instagram.com/haska_shyyan_author)



**HISTORICAL FICTION /**  
**FAMILY SAGA / EPIC LOVE STORY**

**UK Feb 2022** · Allison & Busby  
**US & Can spring 2023** · Berkley/PRH  
**Italy fall 2022** · Marsilio Editori  
**Germany Jan 2023** · Ullstein Verlag  
**Hungary 2023** · Alexandra  
**Spain & LA 2023** · Planeta  
**Croatia 2023** · Znanje  
**Bulgaria 2023** · Benitorial  
**Serbia 2023** · Laguna  
**Romania 2023** · Litera

*\* All other rights available*

**Kristen Loesch (USA)**

## **The Last Russian Doll**

**The Porcelain Doll (UK title)**

**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...**

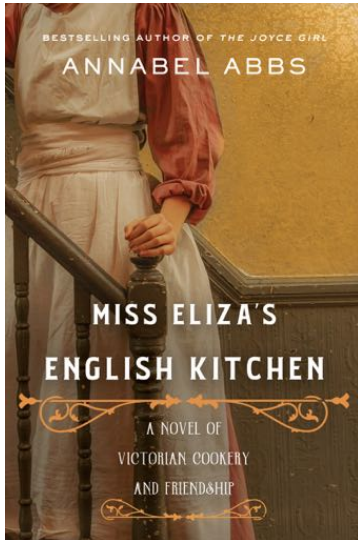
1991. Rosie regularly hears the voice of her older sister who was killed eleven years ago in their Moscow apartment. Now an Oxford University student, Rosie lives in exile with her reclusive, alcoholic mother who refuses to talk about the past. When she dies, Rosie sees a chance to find out what really 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.

*The Last Russian 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. *The Porcelain Doll* 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. She just completed the first draft of her second novel, inspired by her Chinese ancestry. Twitter: [@kristenloesch](https://twitter.com/kristenloesch)



**UPMARKET FICTION /  
BIOGRAPHICAL FICTION**

**USA 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

**France 2022** · Hervé Chopin Editions

**Hungary 2022** · Könyvmolyképző

**Israel 2022** · Tchelet/Steimatsky

**Greece 2022** · Pedio

**Korea 2022** · Sosa

**China 2022** · Chinese Translation Publishing House

**Netherlands 2023** · Signatuur

**TV rights** · Stampede & CBS Studios

\* All other rights available



**Annabel Abbs (UK)**

## **Miss Eliza's English Kitchen** **The Language of Food (UK title)**

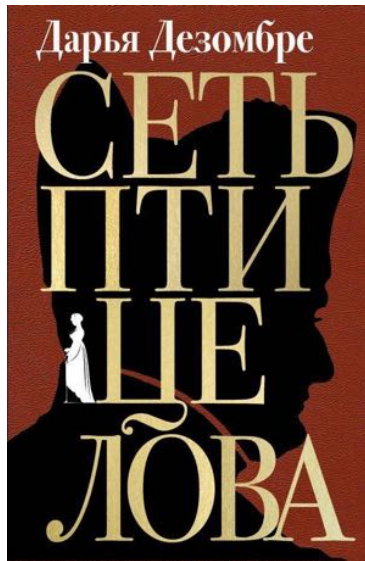
**A novel inspired by the life of Eliza Acton, who despite having never boiled an egg, revolutionised the course of cookery writing.**

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, 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* (Hachette UK & ANZ) was a Times Pick of the Year. She runs a successful blog about food and ageing ([The Age-Well Project](#)) adapted into a cookery book by Little, Brown. Annabel lives in London with her husband and four children. Twitter: [@annabelabbs](#)



FICTION / CRIME / HISTORICAL

384 pages

Russia 2019 · Eksmo

\* All other rights available

\* English sample available of 63 pages

*'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.

## Non-Fiction





### INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

World English ex ANZ May 2023 ·

Verso Books

ANZ 2023 · Scribe Publications

\* All other rights available

\* Full proposal and sample chapters available October 2022

\* Final MS before copy-edit available December 2022

#### PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

*'Chilling study, based on careful and courageous reporting, and illuminated with perceptive analysis, helps us understand all too well the saying that man is a wolf to man' - Noam Chomsky*

*'A keenly observed and timely investigation into rampant resource plunder, privatized detention centers, and an array of other forms of corporate rapacity on four continents. This book will serve as a potent weapon for shock resistors around the world.'*  
- Naomi Klein



**Antony Loewenstein (AUSTRALIA)**

## The Palestine Laboratory

### How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World

**How Israel makes a killing from the occupation.**

Israel's military industrial complex uses the occupied, Palestinian territories as a testing ground for weaponry and surveillance technology that they then export around the world to despots and democracies. For more than 50 years, occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has given the Israeli state invaluable experience in controlling an "enemy" population, the Palestinians. It's here that they have perfected the architecture of control.

Best-selling journalist Antony Loewenstein uncovers this largely hidden world in a global investigation with secret documents, revealing interviews and on-the-ground reporting. This book shows in-depth, for the first time, how Palestine has become the perfect laboratory for the Israeli military-techno complex: surveillance, home demolitions, indefinite incarceration and brutality to the hi-tech tools that drive the 'Start-up Nation'.

From the Pegasus software that hacked Jeff Bezos' and Jamal Khashoggi's phones, the weapons sold to the Myanmar army that has murdered thousands of Rohingyas and drones used by the European Union to monitor refugees in the Mediterranean who are left to drown. Israel has become a global leader in spying technology and defence hardware that fuels the globe's most brutal conflicts. As ethno-nationalism grows in the 21st century, Israel has built the ultimate model.

**ANTONY LOEWENSTEIN** is an independent journalist, best-selling author, filmmaker and co-founder of *Declassified Australia*. He's written for *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books* and many others. His books include *Pills, Powder and Smoke: Inside The Bloody War On Drugs*, *Disaster Capitalism: Making A Killing Out Of Catastrophe* and *My Israel Question*. He's the co-editor of the essay collection, *After Zionism*. His documentary films include *Disaster Capitalism* and the Al Jazeera English films *West Africa's Opioid Crisis* and *Under the Cover of Covid*. He was based in East Jerusalem 2016-2020. [antonyloewenstein.com](http://antonyloewenstein.com) Twitter: [@antloewenstein](https://twitter.com/antloewenstein)





**NARRATIVE NON FICTION / CHINA /  
MODERN HISTORY & SOCIETY**

**Austr/NZ March 2022** · Hardie Grant

**USA spring 2023** · The New Press

**Japan 2023** · Asuka Shinsha

**Poland 2023** · Czarne

*\* All other rights available*

*\* English final pages available;  
translations recommended from English*

**Murong Xuecun (CHINA)**

## **Deadly Quiet City** **True Stories from Wuhan**

**A devastating and intimate account of an epic tragedy with worldwide consequences.**

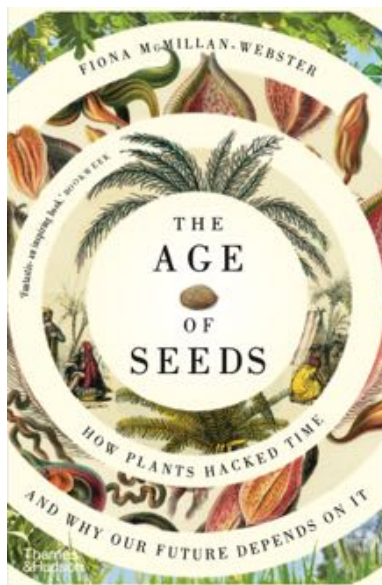
In spring 2020 Murong Xuecun, one of China's most celebrated but banned authors, courageously travels to Wuhan to covertly interview people from all walks of life on their experiences. An exhausted doctor in a small hospital, battling the virus while sick. An illegal motorcycle taxi driver, ferrying people around the empty city. A citizen journalist fighting to reveal the truth of what happened during that endless spring. Murong follows eight people as the catastrophe unfolded, sharing their lives and their grief in their own voices.

Through these poignant and beautifully written first-hand accounts, Murong shows the government failures and the human dramas it brought. He also reveals the complex relationship between the people and the regime as well as the strategies Chinese citizens use every day to police themselves and negotiate their way through a heartless system, determined above all to avoid responsibility.

*Deadly Quiet City* is a haunting and unforgettable literary work set to become a piece of modern history about the lives of people in China today.



**MURONG XUECUN** is one of China's most popular writers. His first novel *Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu* took China by storm and became a cult hit amongst the young middle-class looking for writing that pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable literature. He wrote three more novels as well as a remarkable undercover reportage on mafia-style pyramid scams (*China: In The Absence of a Remedy*) that exposed the inequities of China's breakneck development. His books are now banned in China but have been translated into English and several other languages. Murong recently fled his country to London, and now resides in Australia. Twitter: [@hawking197428](https://twitter.com/hawking197428)



## POPULAR SCIENCE

Australia/NZ July 2022 · Thames & Hudson

\* All other rights available

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\* Final pages available

**“Exciting, fast-paced, and beautifully told”**

– Paul Smith, Head of UK Millenium Seed Bank

**Fiona McMillan-Webster (AUSTRALIA)**

## The Age of Seeds

**How Plants Hack Time and Why Our Future Depends on It**

**The captivating story of seed longevity, and what this means for biodiversity and our future foods.**

Bringing history and science to life, *The Age of Seeds* is a journey backwards and forwards through time in an examination of seeds and their impact on humans.

From the miraculous germination of a 2000-year-old extinct date palm named Methuselah to the so-called Doomsday Vault, Fiona McMillan-Webster tells the astonishing story of seeds and the crucial role they play in our everyday lives. In fact, our food security and the planet's biodiversity are profoundly dependent on them.

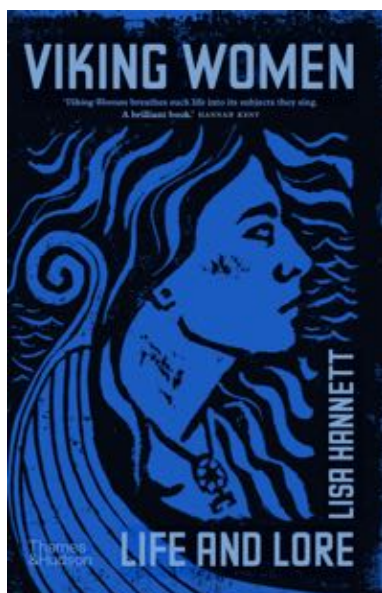
Seeds perform many functions: they feed, shelter and heal us. They are kernels for knowledge: ancient and emerging. Almost everything, including the book you hold in your hands, has its genesis in these amazing time capsules.

In the spirit of Michael Pollan, *The Age of Seeds* takes us on a fascinating quest to understand seeds, biodiversity and food security - topics very much of the moment. The scope of the book is global with stories about plants and people from around the world.

[Click here for a VIDEO from the author.](#)



**FIONA MCMILLAN-WEBSTER** is a science writer with a Bachelor of Science in physics and a PhD in biophysics. She has written for National Geographic, Forbes Science, COSMOS magazine and Australian Geographic. Her writing also appears in the Best Australian Science Writing anthologies for 2015, 2016 and 2018. She was runner up for the UNSW Bragg Press Prize for Science Writing 2016. Her scientific research writing at the University of Queensland explains the latest discoveries in brain research, cancer immunology, nanotechnology, and more. She is Editor of the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology's magazine *Small Things, Big Changes*. Fiona works behind the scenes to help produce scientific content across other media including ABC's factual TV series *Ask the Doctor*.



**NARRATIVE NON-FICTION / VIKING  
SOCIETY & CULTURE / FEMINIST  
HISTORY**

**Australia/NZ February 2023** · Thames  
& Hudson

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\* First pages available

**Lisa Hannett (CANADA-AUSTRALIA)**

## **Viking Women** **Life and Lore**

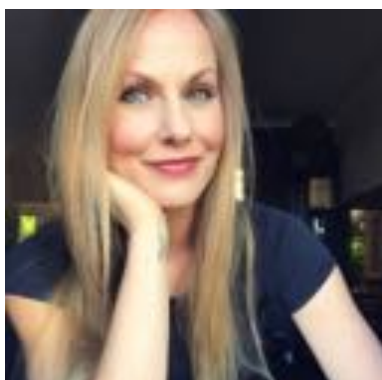
**'Viking Women breathes such life into its subjects they sing.'**

- Hannah Kent, best-selling author of *Burial Rites*

**Let's travel in time together, a thousand or so years back, and meet  
Viking women in their hearth-lit world.**

In this ground-breaking work, award-winning writer Lisa Hannett explores the lives of Viking women. She brings to vivid life the invisible women, the ones who sailed, settled, suffered, survived - and thrived - in a society that largely catered to and memorialised men.

Here Hannett interacts with Viking women as women - flesh-and-blood beings with fears and feelings - not just as names in Old Norse manuscripts or carved into stone. You'll encounter princesses and slaves, wives and mothers, warriors and witches, all women who are resourceful and petty, hopeful and jealous, and as fabulous and flawed as we are today.



**LISA HANNETT** is an award-winning Canadian-Australian writer and academic. While completing her PhD in Old Norse Icelandic literature, Lisa wrote short speculative fiction imbued with the flavour of Norse legend. She has written 75 short stories, most recently *Songs for Dark Seasons* (2020). Her work has been consistently reprinted in Year's Best anthologies in Australia, Canada and US. Her article in *The Atlantic* 'The Politics of Retelling Norse Mythology' (Feb 2017) reached over 500,000 readers. She has won four Aurealis Awards, including Best Collection for her first book, *Bluegrass Symphony* (2011). Her first novel, *Lament for the Afterlife* (2015), won the Australian National Science Fiction Award for Best Novel. In 2020, Lisa was awarded a university grant to research the lives of Viking Age women. In 2015, she received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Research for her work on medieval Icelandic sagas. Lisa is a reviewer for The Australian Book Review and is a regular guest on radio and podcasts about Viking culture.



**MEMOIR / AGING / CREATIVITY /  
GREECE**

**Australia/NZ** May 2023 · Allen & Unwin

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\* First draft available November 2022

**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)**

## **Aphrodite’s Breath**

### **A Daughter, A Mother, and a Greek Island**

**‘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*

**Is it possible for an 85-year-old woman and her 60-something daughter to walk out of their lives into a new one?**

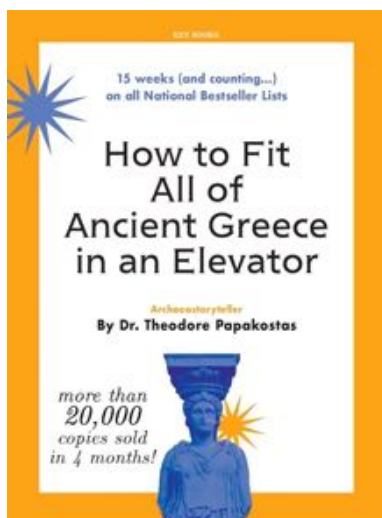
In life, as in myth, women are supposed to stay home, like Penelope at her loom, rather than leaving for war and adventure like Odysseus.

Meet 85-year-old Barbara who could give Zeus a run for his money, and her 62-year-old daughter Susan, who asked her mother—on a whim—if she wanted to accompany her to live on a Greek island.

What follows is a moving exploration of the mother-daughter relationship told in poetic, irresistible prose. A strikingly original, funny, and forensic examination of love and finding home, amongst wild goats, olives, Edward Lear, a Japanese ghost and the people and wonders of Kythera, birthplace of Aphrodite.

**SUSAN JOHNSON** is one of Australia’s most loved writers. Her twelve books, ten 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). After ten years in London and two years in Greece, Susan now resides in Brisbane, Australia.  
<https://susanjohnson.net>





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Translation & William Collins (pre-empt)

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## Dr Theodore Papakostas (GREECE)

# How to Fit All of Ancient Greece in an Elevator

*One of Greece's top bestsellers with 20,000+ copies sold*

**Reconnecting with antiquity is above all else reconnecting with ourselves!**

*How to Fit all of Ancient Greece in an Elevator* is an exciting journey through space and time, from earliest prehistory to the end of classical antiquity. It all starts when two perfect strangers meet in a trapped elevator. One is an archaeologist, the other not. A simple question - "What do you do? - becomes the springboard for a dialogue that weaves a fascinating tale.

The non-archaeologist, at first ironic and indifferent, bombards the archaeologist with questions. The archaeologist - patient, erudite, charmingly irreverent and funny - provides the answers. The result is a spectacular, hilariously funny and utterly engrossing account of Ancient Greece from its very beginnings in prehistory to its end.

Dr. Papakostas answers not only the most commonly asked questions about the field of archaeology, but also stops and marvels at both the great and the small moments in Ancient Greek history.

**DR. THEODORE PAPAKOSTAS** was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He earned his bachelor's degree in Archaeology from the University of Reading and his MA in Prehistoric Archaeology from the University of Nottingham. He has participated in excavations in Greece and the UK and has worked at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki and the Archaeological Service of Kilkis. He holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). With the sincere belief that knowledge of the past is power, and with the deep conviction that antiquity concerns us all, he created [Archaeostoryteller](#), Instagram stories about ancient times conveyed in a straightforward, immediate and entertaining way with 54k followers.



**HEALTH & WELLBEING**  
**PRESCRIPTIVE NON-FICTION**

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*\* Full proposal and 2 sample chapters available*

**Dr. Beth Ricanati (USA)**

## **The Power of Challah**

**A Weekly Practice to Reduce Stress and Anxiety and Improve Your Wellbeing**

**How an ancient baking ritual can improve your health and wellbeing and shape a more meaningful life.**

The world needs healing. I see it in my clinic as a physician and I see it in my own life. We struggle with the stress and anxiety of being busy, a struggle accentuated by endless crises – environmental, health and political – that are bigger than ourselves.

What if I told you there is a way to restore a more stable, peaceful and present connection to yourself? A way to take care of yourself, and also of those around you? What if I told you that you could experience it repeatedly, predictably, while doing something simple and nurturing in your own space ? *You can.*

I call this healing “The Power of challah” – the simple act of making an ancient Jewish bread once a week that nourishes both physically and spiritually; that allows you to be present, focused on others and to express your authentic self.

I started making challah over fifteen years ago (including gluten free) and have made thousands of them. Yet for so long, I didn’t process what this ancient ritual was teaching me. And then Covid struck and I discovered that the most important health lessons often come from the most unexpected places: I turned my kitchen into a digital studio and led virtual baking workshops, reaching thousands of people from all walks of life. In doing so, I discovered new lessons that everyone can adopt. It is these lessons that have become the eight prescriptions presented in *The Power of Challah*.



**BETH RICANATI, MD** is a physician, award-winning author and speaker who has spent the last twenty years bringing wellness into women’s everyday lives. Born and raised in Ohio, she obtained her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She has practiced medicine at NY-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, the Cleveland Clinic and currently at the Venice Family Clinic in LA. She lives in Southern California with her husband and three children. Her memoir *Braided: A Journey of a Thousand Challahs* (She Writes Press 2018) won several awards. Instagram: [@bethricanatimd](https://www.instagram.com/bethricanatimd)



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