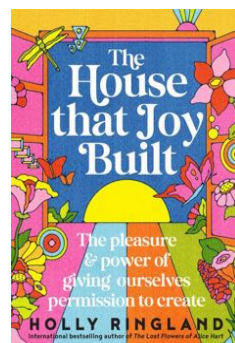
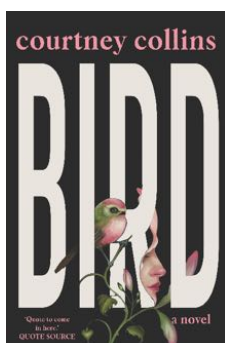
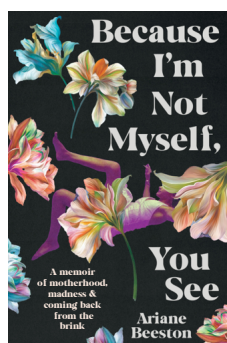


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LONDON BOOK FAIR 2024

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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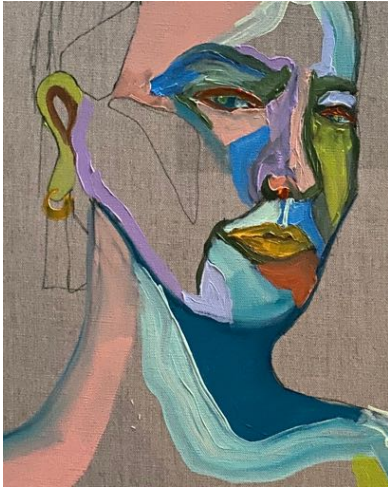
FICTION

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Fiction



LITERARY FICTION

Australia/NZ July 2024 ·

Macmillan/Picador

US/Canada 2025 · Penguin Dutton

Turkey 2025 · Amorf Kitap

TV rights · Curio/Sony Pictures TV

* All other rights available

* MS before copy-edit available

Dylin Hardcastle (AUSTRALIA)

A Language of Limbs

On a quiet night in 1972, two girls each make a choice...

One girl is caught kissing her best friend (also a girl) in her garden shed and is kicked out of home by her father. The other girl wakes from a sex dream she's had about her best friend (also a girl) who is sleeping over.

In alternating chapters poetically called Limb One and Limb Two, the novel follows these two unnamed women over three decades: one is living a queer life, one isn't. Their lives almost intersect in pivotal moments where the physical distance between them draws so thin that their bodies almost collide.

They each meet their first great love at a demonstration at Sydney University. Then their stories diverge, separated by vast distances through the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, until they experience the greatest loss of their lives in the same hospital with only walls separating their cries. To survive grief, one woman finds herself drawn to writing poetry about rivers and oceans, the other takes up ocean swimming.

Later, when the first woman finds the courage to submit her poetry collection for publication and the second, now working as an editor, reads the poems and sees herself. All that she has been repressing is brought to the surface with blistering realness. Breathless and with tears in her eyes, she picks up the phone to call the poet behind the poems.

A Language of Limbs is an intimate portrait of queer bodies, art, heartbreak, joy and the unseen connections that bind us.



DYLIN HARDCASTLE is an author, artist, and screenwriter and former Provost's Scholar at the University of Oxford. They are the author of three critically acclaimed books: *Below Deck* (Allen & Unwin 2020) sold in 10 territories, *Breathing Under Water* (Hachette 2016), and *Running Like China* (Hachette 2015). Dylin is the co-creator, co-writer and co-director of the TV series *Cloudy River*, which premiered at Mardi Gras Film Festival 2020 and acquired by SBS On Demand. Dylin has travelled to Antarctica, South America and Europe for artist residencies, and was a research assistant in World Literature at the University of Oxford. They are currently completing their PhD in Creative Writing.



**LITERARY FICTION /
CROSSOVER YA**

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Hachette

Russia 2024 · Azbooka-Atticus

* All other rights available

* MS available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK:

'This extraordinary novel—propelled by the dark, rich talents of a truly brilliant writer—dazzles, staggers and amazes.'
— Elizabeth Gilbert

Courtney Collins (AUSTRALIA)

Bird

Bird has already died twenty-two times, each time just before her 15th birthday. Who can she trust to break the pattern?

Himalayas: unknown year.

'Ten thousand strands of trouble,' is what Bird's father says, watching as Bird's sister braids her hair. On the eve of her fourteenth year, that trouble finds Bird. She recruits her only friend Teshi and flees her home to escape an arranged marriage. They vanish into a crowd of pilgrims on the way to the Holy Mountain—not knowing that violence is circling and now has its eyes on Bird.

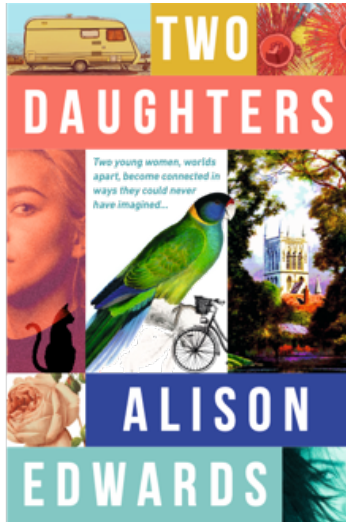
Darwin: present day.

Waking in a hospital bed, Bird tries to remember what brought her here. A man whose gaze she knew to fear, a stolen car, a plastic gun, and a real bullet in her shoulder. Strand by strand, memories return of her first life and the Holy Mountain, and she faces the awful truth that she is stuck in a never-ending pattern. Every life, she dies alone before she reaches the age of 15. When nurse Margie wants to help Bird, why is her instinct always to run? The lesson she has failed to learn so far is that to survive, she must learn to trust and can't liberate herself alone.

A masterful and profoundly moving novel about a girl determined to live on her own terms, no matter the cost. *Bird* is an unforgettable story of hope, resilience and the power of connection.



COURTNEY COLLINS is a writer and producer and a creative writing teacher. In 2017 she started Ngukurr Story Projects to support First Nations storytellers to tell stories in their traditional languages. Her first novel, *The Burial* (Allen & Unwin), was published in ten countries and shortlisted for the Stella Prize, the Nita B Kibble Literary Award and NSW Premier's Literary Awards for New Writing. It is being adapted as a feature film. Courtney holds a Masters of Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne. In 2019, she undertook initial research on *Bird* in the Himalayas as part of an Asialink Residency. She is currently completing a PhD titled 'Working Against Whiteness in Creative Literary Production'. Instagram: [@cc_writer](https://www.instagram.com/cc_writer)



UPMARKET WOMEN'S FICTION

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Allen & Unwin
/ Atlantic Books (pre-empt)

* All other rights available

* MS before copy-edit available

Alison Edwards (UK-AUSTRALIA)

Two Daughters

Two women grow up worlds apart. Beyond being motherless, they have nothing in common – and yet they become connected in ways they could never have imagined.

Raised in rural poverty in Australia, all Ava wants is security. A PhD at Cambridge and her marriage to a handsome, wealthy politician catapult her to the heart of the British establishment. Desperate to be the ideal wife and prove herself worthy, she commits academic fraud. To appease her husband, whose career will be tarnished by her drastic mistake, 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. In the process, she inadvertently learns that her father – a quirky Cambridge professor of Marxist thinking – is not who he seems. Will she push away the man who raised her singlehandedly when her pregnancy turns life-threatening?

Told from alternating viewpoints and set against the backdrop of the 2010 university riots, *Two Daughters* is a universal story of motherhood, found family and social justice: funny, occasionally dark but ultimately hopeful.



ALISON EDWARDS was born in Australia but has lived and worked in UK/Europe for the last two decades. 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 *Two Daughters* draws on that experience, especially the pressures on young academics to succeed at all costs. Alison lives in Amsterdam with her family where she works as a translator and editor. She started writing a second novel about a female Banksy-style artist set between NY and Amsterdam. Instagram: [@alison_edwards_lange](https://www.instagram.com/alison_edwards_lange)



GOTHIC FICTION / SUSPENSE /
HISTORICAL

US & Can Spring 2025 · Berkley/PRH

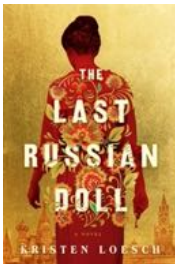
* All other rights available

* MS available June 1st

From the author of

The Last Russian Doll (US) /

The Porcelain Doll (UK)



Kristen Loesch (USA)

The Shadow Artist of Shanghai (working title)

Hong Kong. 1955. A young woman bursts into police headquarters to report a horrifying massacre...of which the police will find no trace.

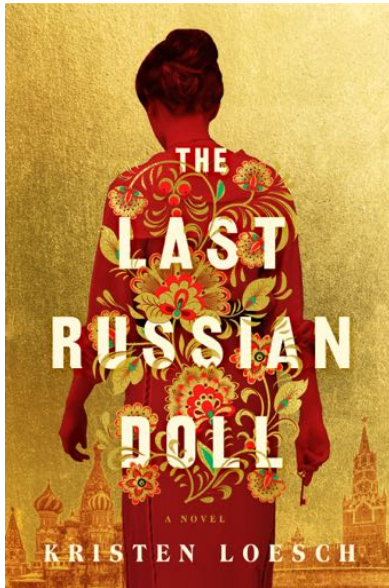
A refugee of the Chinese Communist Revolution, Mei scrapes out a living as a traditional paper-cutting artist in Hong Kong. But creating paper art isn't her only gift: Mei can also see and speak to ghosts and she performs séances for extra income.

One day, she receives an invitation to come and stay at Maidenhair House, the home of a famous silent-film actress on Victoria Peak, Hong Kong's richest and remotest point. And it's not just any invitation - several spirit mediums like her have also been invited to compete against one another, to see who can contact the actress' murdered husband and identify his killer. The reward is a significant sum of money, and Mei jumps at the opportunity.

Once the competition is underway, however, Mei discovers a link between the murdered husband and long-buried events of her past in Shanghai. Slowly she realizes that this competition must be stopped. Nobody can be allowed to win....Decades later, Mei's American daughter tries to uncover the truth behind the urban legend that this séance has become.

A gripping ghost story and suspense novel which explores themes such as mother-daughter relationships, destiny versus free will, grief and loss, and second chances. It is inspired by the author's own family history and Chinese heritage.

KRISTEN LOESCH grew up in San Francisco and Seattle. She holds a BA degree in History and a Masters in Slavonic Studies from University of Cambridge. Her first novel, *The Porcelain Doll / The Last Russian Doll*, was published in 12 territories, is an Edgar Award finalist, and was listed for the Caledonia Novel Award and the Bath Novel Award. Her short stories have appeared in prestigious magazines. She lives in Switzerland with her husband and three children. *The Shadow Artist of Shanghai* is her second novel. Instagram [@kristenloeschwriter](https://www.instagram.com/kristenloeschwriter) www.kristenloesch.com



HISTORICAL FICTION /
FAMILY SAGA / EPIC LOVE STORY

UK 2022 · Allison & Busby
US & Can 2023 · Berkley/PRH
Italy 2022 · Marsilio Editori
Germany 2023 · Ullstein Verlag
Hungary 2023 · Alexandra
Spain & LA 2023 · Planeta
Croatia 2023 · Znanje
Bulgaria 2023 · Benitorial
Serbia 2023 · Laguna
Romania 2023 · Litera
Turkey 2024 · Arkadya Publishing
Japan 2024 · first offer in

* All other rights available

'A perfect tapestry of tragedy, romance, and survival...an absolutely mesmerizing read.' - Historical Novel Society

'Historical fiction fans will love this.'
- Publishers Weekly



Kristen Loesch (USA)

The Last Russian Doll **(The Porcelain Doll - UK title)**

Shortlisted Edgar Award 2024 (winner tba May 1st 2024)

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 holds a BA degree in History and a Masters in Slavonic Studies from University of Cambridge. *The Porcelain Doll / The Last Russian Doll*, was published in 12 territories, is an Edgar Award finalist, and was listed for the Caledonia Novel Award and the Bath Novel Award. Her short stories have appeared in prestigious magazines. She lives in Switzerland with her husband and three children. *The Shadow Artist of Shanghai* is her second novel. Instagram [@kristenloeschwriter](https://www.instagram.com/kristenloeschwriter) www.kristenloesch.com



HISTORICAL FICTION /
20TH CENTURY

* All rights available

* MS available May

Rachel Caplin (AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL)

The Spoon and the Sea

Shortlisted *The Australian-Vogel's Literary Award 2022*

An emotional race against time as mother and son empty the sea of secrets and stories between them – one memory at a time.

Mit a lefl ken men dem yam nit oys'shepn.

You cannot empty the sea with a spoon.

-- Yiddish saying

Ashi was nine years old when his mother Rose left.

After decades apart, Ashi reunites with Rose who is growing old in the grips of dementia. Beneath the shade of Jerusalem's olive trees and eucalyptus leaves in the garden of Rose's care centre, they play at 'picking a year' and confront the memories that kept them apart.

Ashi slowly pieces together the twists and turns of his mother's life. A good Jewish girl from a London suburb post-WWII, she falls deeply in love with a Muslim student at Cambridge University. Torn between roots and love, she leaves both behind to be an intrepid journalist in British Mandate Palestine. She later marries Faisal, and lives a secret life in the Sultan's court of Zanzibar.

Peppered with colourful Yiddish and Arabic proverbs, *The Spoon and The Sea* invites readers to witness the delicate reconciliation between a mother and son, as they strive to bridge the emotional sea between them. An evocative dual timeline narrative about love and betrayal, generational loss and dementia.



RACHEL CAPLIN was born and raised in Australia. She holds a bachelor's degree in Communications and in Commerce from UWA, and a Masters of International Relations from the University of Melbourne. She relocated to Tel Aviv in 2015 to work in the vibrant tech industry. *The Spoon and the Sea* is Rachel's debut novel, inspired by an incredible true story in her family and the experience of losing her beloved grandmother to dementia. She currently lives in Israel with her husband and two daughters.



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

Australia/NZ 2025 · Allen & Unwin

* All other rights available

* MS available April

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

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

'At once lighthearted and intelligent, the authors wind razor-sharp commentary – on feminism, love, and artistry – through an entertaining plot.' – Sydney Morning Herald

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

Ali Berg & Michelle Kalus (AUSTRALIA)

Love Overdue

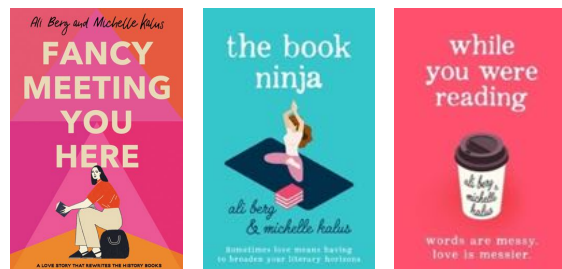
Nobody knows better than Wren Cooperman that dating a student's dad is totally off limits. Too bad love isn't always by the book.

High-flying publisher Jamie Sultana, begrudgingly joins the dreaded Parent Teachers Association in a bid to save his daughter from being suspended. Jamie is your typical M.I.A. dad, too busy to take an active role in rearing his own child. He saunters in, eyes glued to his phone, which grinds the gears of Vice Principal Wren Cooperman.

The rumour at school is that Wren and Jamie want to kill each other. You see, they're total opposites: she has a penchant for rainbow-coloured platforms while he exclusively wears navy suits; she arrives everywhere two minutes early, and he regards time as an illusion. The only thing they seem to share is a love of books.

When a blockage in the boy's toilets floods the school's library, Wren and Jamie are forced to come up with a plan to save as many books as possible. And fast. But what they uncover is more than just soaked novels. Secrets unfold, and their own delicately plotted narratives get an unexpected rewrite.

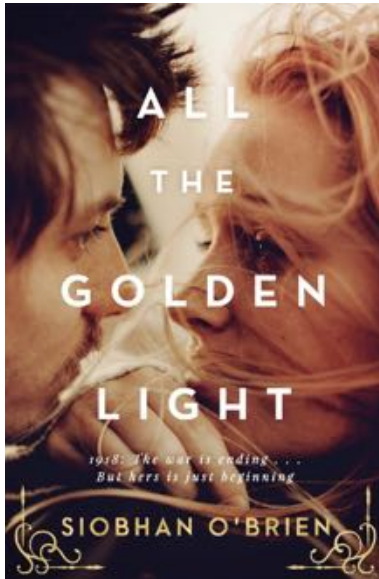
Sexy, funny and smart, *Love Overdue* is an enemies-to-lovers bookish rom-com about holding onto all the best parts of your childhood, and discovering that sometimes life's best characters come along when you least expect them.



Previous books sold in 10 territories



ALI BERG and MICHELLE KALUS have been life-long best friends who share a burning passion for books and writing. They are co-authors of best-selling novels *Fancy Meeting You Here* (Allen & Unwin 2021), *While You Were Reading* (S&S 2019) and *The Book Ninja* (S&S 2018) with *The Book Ninja* optioned for film and sold in ten territories. They co-founded Books on the Rail, a social enterprise where they leave books on public transport for people to find. Ali is an award-winning copywriter and Michelle is a primary school teacher. They both live in Melbourne, with their respective families and colour-coordinated bookshelves.



**COMMERCIAL FICTION / HISTORICAL
ROMANCE**

Australia/NZ Jan 31 2024 · Harper
Collins

** All other rights available*

Siobhan O'Brien (AUSTRALIA)

All the Golden Light

1918. The war is ending...but hers is just beginning

As the Great War grinds to an end, Ada accompanies her father to a rugged island in New South Wales to deliver much-needed supplies. Loss and deprivation have decimated Australia, and she is determined to live a life of purpose and hope.

On the remote rocky outcrop, she meets Emmett Huxley, lighthouse keeper, an outsider taking refuge from the damage of the war. Ada and Emmett are inexorably drawn together, but her future has been mapped out with the decorated returned soldier Donal Blaxland, a landowner with a large tobacco plantation.

When police charges are brought against the lighthouse keeper, Ada is distraught and forced to make a choice about her future, but discovers that Donal, now her husband, harbours terrible secrets of his own. Soon she finds herself a prisoner to the trauma and suffering that war has wreaked on the returned soldier.

As she begins to understand the depths of Donal's desperation, she knows she must leave. Between the treacherous waters of the coast and the rocky outcrops of an ancient land, Ada is determined to live and love on her own terms.

A stirring, dramatic story about love and suffering, trauma and addiction – and hope in the darkest of times.



SIOBHAN O'BRIEN is an author, journalist, and communications professional. She has written a number of books including *A Life By Design: The Art and Lives of Florence Broadhurst*. She has written for a number of media outlets including the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Vogue*, *InDesign*, *Monument*. When she is not writing she is singing with her band Minnie and The Moonrakers. [@siobhan.obrien.author](https://www.siobhanobrienauthor.com)



FICTION / DOMESTIC THRILLER /
TWISTY MYSTERY

Australia/NZ Jan 2025 · Harper
Collins/HQ

* All other rights available

* MS available May

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

“Debut novelist Jo Dixon delivers on every front with this impossible-to-second-guess thriller...”
– Australian Women's Weekly

Jo Dixon (AUSTRALIA)

An Act of Truth and Fiction

Your oldest and dearest friends know you best and forgive you the most...or do they?

Best-selling author Marnie Elliott is about to be exposed. A journalist has uncovered the ‘untruths and exaggerations’ she had used to explain the delay in her next book and the drop in her writing standards. Wanting to escape the vitriol and outrage, she organises a holiday in a remote corner of Tasmania with her three oldest friends. But amidst the laughter, hugs, champagne, and reminiscing, her friend Sarah claims to have evidence of a far more serious offense: that Marnie didn’t write her first three books—that she is a fraud.

Accusations and recriminations escalate between the friends, and sides are taken. Needing a reprieve, Marnie and Poppy go for a day-long bush walk. But Marnie doesn’t return and after two weeks the search is called off. No one could have survived in the bush in that weather for that length of time—an all too familiar tragedy in the Tasmanian wilderness. Did she lose her way? Could she have chosen to vanish? Or is the disappearance of Marnie something more sinister?

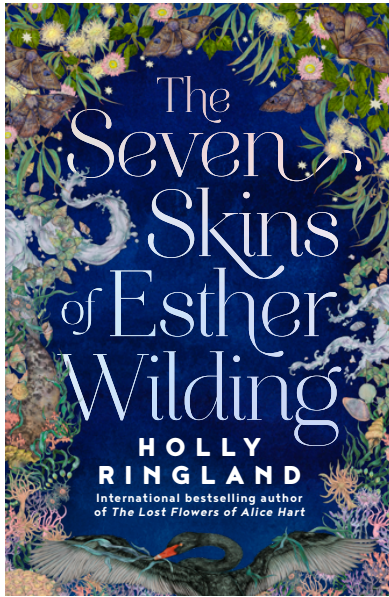
With twists and suspense, this is a story of friendship and betrayal and the lengths some will go to maintain a façade.



***The House of Now and Then* was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly award & the #1 highest-selling debut crime fiction novel of 2023**



JO DIXON was born in London, spent her childhood in New Zealand. Over the years she has lived in Malaysia and Thailand, and in several Australian cities, and now calls Tasmania home. She has a BA in Mandarin and MA in Writing. She creates twisty, suspenseful stories that feature flawed characters who've made mistakes, but who turn out to be stronger than they think. Her debut *The House of Now and Then* (HC 2023) was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly awards for Debut Crime Fiction and was the #1 highest selling debut crime fiction in 2023. Her second novel *A Shadow at the Door* published in 2024 (HC). This is her third novel. Instagram: [@jo.dixon.writes](https://www.instagram.com/jo.dixon.writes) www.jo-dixon.com



UPMARKET FICTION

Australia/NZ 2022 · Harper Collins/4th Estate

UK 2023 · Legend Press

Canada 2024 · Anansi

France 2023 · Fayard

Romania 2023 · Humanitas

Russia 2023 · MTS Library

Finland 2023 · Minerva

Portugal 2024 · Porto

Croatia 2024 · Znanje

Italy 2024 · Garzanti

Poland 2024 · Marginesy

Hungary 2024 · Alexandra

Bulgaria 2024 · Colibri

Germany 2025 · Droemer

* All other rights available

'A novel that rattles the hearts of readers.' – Booktopia



Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding

Shortlisted Australia Indie Book Awards 2023

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.'

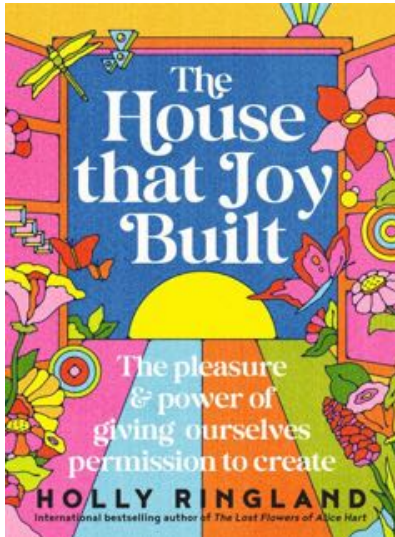
The last time Esther Wilding's older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. In the wake of Aura's disappearance, Esther's family struggles to live with their loss.

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 is a writer, storyteller, and television presenter. She grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. 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. Holly's bestselling debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* sold in 30 countries and is an Amazon Prime TV mini-series (August 2023). Her second novel, *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding*, written in a vintage caravan named Frenchie, is also a bestseller in Australia and rights sold in 14 countries. Instagram: [@hollygoeslightly](https://www.instagram.com/hollygoeslightly)

Non-Fiction



SELF-HELP / CREATIVITY

Australia/NZ October 2023 · Harper
Collins

Russia 2024 · MTS Library

* All other rights available

Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The House That Joy Built

The pleasure and power of giving ourselves permission to create.

An uplifting and inspiring book about breaking through fear and finding joy through creativity, from international bestselling author Holly Ringland.

How do we give ourselves permission to be creative? This book explores two big forces – fear and joy – and offers a jump-start for the nervous heart of anyone whose desire to create is overruled by fear.

It is for people who yearn to write, as well as those who find their creativity elsewhere: gardeners, carpenters, sculptors, jewellery-makers, florists, songwriters, dancers, cooks, painters...anyone who wants to make something but doesn't because they're afraid. Afraid of feeling vulnerable, of criticism and judgement from others, of not being good enough, of not having enough, of having 'bad' ideas, of being too much.

Divided into seven chapters, each addresses an obstruction to creativity with a suggested remedy:

<u>Obstruction</u>	<u>Remedy</u>
Fear	Play
Self-doubt	Self-compassion
Failure	Nothing is wasted
Procrastination	Being present
Inner critic	Inner fan
Writer's block*	Daydreaming
Imposter Syndrome	You Belong Here

*or replace writers with artform of choice

An exhilarating and empowering book in the vein of Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*, Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird* and Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic*, this book is an openhearted clarion call to experience the joy and freedom of creating.



HOLLY RINGLAND is a writer, storyteller, and television presenter. She grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. 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. Holly's bestselling debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* sold in 30 countries and is an Amazon Prime TV mini-series (August 2023). Her second novel, *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding*, written in a vintage caravan named Frenchie, is also a bestseller in Australia and rights sold in 14 countries. Instagram: [@hollygoeslightly](https://www.instagram.com/hollygoeslightly)



POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

World English Spring 2025 · Scribe

* All other rights available

* MS before copy-edit available March

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

"A philosopher of fierce intellect and erudition, but also playful and eclectic in his tastes."

– Sydney Morning Herald

"Young has nailed it – Publisher's Weekly"

"Young writes with a delightful combination of humour and insight."
– The Literary Review

"Young has a deftness with language that lays out complex ideas with such beautifully written digestibility."
– The Irish Times



Damon Young (AUSTRALIA)

Immortal Gestures

Why Our Gestures Are Much More Than They Seem

An exploration of our unspoken gestures and how events, ideas and traditions from the past inform these seemingly trivial movements.

How did the finger horns travel from the Renaissance to the red carpet? Why did a Greek god put his finger to his lips? Why do we write in the air to ask for the restaurant bill? And is there really a Jewish shrug?

Damon Young reveals the big histories in our small, brief movements. Here, the past is not simply passed. Yesterday is alive in us today—as us. It lives through our flesh: our waving palms, bent knees, lifted chins.

With curiosity and wit, *Immortal Gestures* draws on a wide range of disciplines: philosophy, sociology, archaeology, psychology. It looks at everything from the plié of ballet to the finger guns of cinema; from hand-washing in Islam to hand-waving in swordplay; from Miss Emma Woodhouse to Mister Spock.

Young is concerned literally with the worlds in our hands. He shows how our gestures are much more than they seem—and how we are much more than we seem.

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* and 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. [@damonayoung](https://twitter.com/damonayoung)



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

World English ex ANZ May 2023 · Verso Books

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Lebanon (Arabic) 2024 · ASP

Sweden 2024 · Aska Forlag

Brazil 2024 · Editorial Elefante

Indonesia 2024 · Marjin Kiri

'A sharp exposé of how Israel's suppression of Palestine has translated into lucrative anti-terrorist systems that the Israeli government exports globally'
– Kirkus Reviews

'A sad and sordid record of how "the light unto the nations" became the purveyor of the means of violence and brutal repression from Guatemala to Myanmar and wherever else the opportunity arose.' – Noam Chomsky

'A must read on a hidden and shocking aspect of the Israeli colonisation of the Palestinians. – Ilan Pappé, author of 'The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine' and 'Ten Myths About Israel'



Antony Loewenstein (AUSTRALIA)

The Palestine Laboratory

How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World

Honorable Mention Moore Prize for Human Rights Writing 2023

Winner Walkley Book Award 2023

Winner People's Choice Award, Victorian Premier's Literary Award 2024

How Israel makes a killing from the occupation.

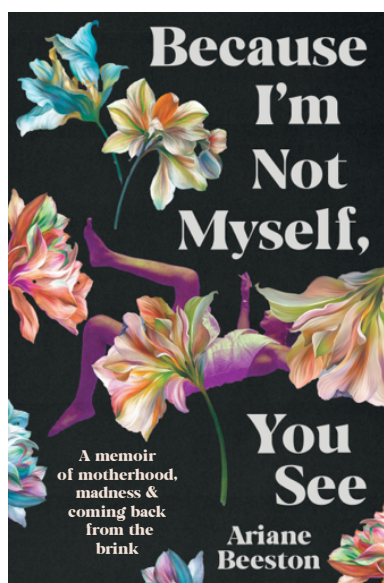
Israel's military industrial complex uses the occupied, Palestinian territories as a testing ground for weaponry and surveillance technology that they then export around the world to despots and democracies. For more than 50 years, occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has given the Israeli state invaluable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

In a global investigation best-selling journalist Antony Loewenstein uncovers this largely hidden world through classified documents, on-the-ground reporting and revealing interviews. 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 as they 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 surveillance 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 Twitter: [@antloewenstein](https://twitter.com/antloewenstein)



**MEMOIR / MENTAL HEALTH &
SOCIETY / PERINATAL**

Australia/NZ May 2024 · Black Inc

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** First pages available*

Ariane Beeston (AUSTRALIA)

Because I'm Not Myself, You See **A Memoir Of Motherhood, Madness And Coming Back From The Brink**

A raw, hopeful and darkly funny memoir about the impossible pressures placed on new mothers and how quickly things can go dangerously wrong during 'the happiest time of your life'.

Ariane Beeston is a psychologist working for child protection when she gives birth to her first child – and experiences postnatal psychosis. As she navigates new motherhood, she suffers from scary delusions and hallucinations, which she keeps secret out of fear and shame.

Ariane is convinced something is physically wrong with her son, something she can't articulate. At times, the baby in the pram looks like a tiny red dragon. She panics when he develops nappy rash, certain that social services will know and remove him – just as she once removed other mother's babies as part of her job in frontline child protection.

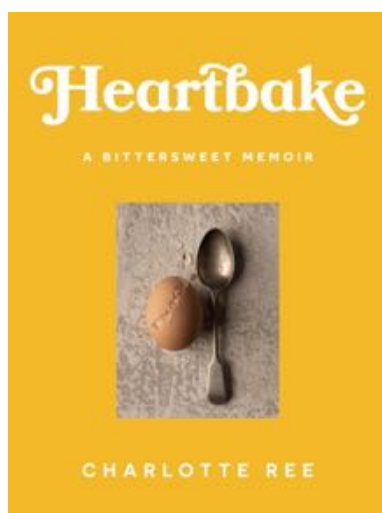
Months pass and Ariane breaks further from reality, with thoughts of harming herself and her son. While trying to get help for sleeping issues, breastfeeding and psychiatric support, she faces conflicting advice and one setback after another in a stretched and fragmented system.

Finally admitted to a mother and baby psychiatric unit, Ariane is forced to learn how to be a patient. The shame of being in a psych ward as a psychologist and social worker is overwhelming – and humbling.

Woven with research and expert commentary, Ariane joins a growing chorus of voices breaking down the taboo of maternal mental illness. *Because I'm not Myself You See* (paraphrased from Lewis Carroll) is also about life on the other side: trying to make sense of what doesn't make sense, and finding humour, beauty, joy and purpose.



ARIANE BEESTON is a writer, mental health advocate and former child protection caseworker and psychologist. She works for [The Centre of Perinatal Excellence](#) as Communications and Content Manager. She is passionate about using her lived experience of severe perinatal mental health issues to ensure hopeful, expectant, and new parents receive the treatment, care, and support they need. Ariane is also a dancer and choreographer and teaches ballet to pre-schoolers and adult beginners. Ariane's [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



MEMOIR / COOKING, FAMILY, LOVE

Australia/NZ May 2023 · Allen & Unwin

TV option: See Pictures (Jamie Hilton)

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“Raw and deeply moving. A truly honest celebration of life's two great passions: food and love.”

— Jane Harper, bestselling author of *Exiles* and *The Dry*

Charlotte Ree (AUSTRALIA)

Heartbake **A Bittersweet Memoir**

A joyous story about the healing power of food and a battle cry for those who find themselves lonely at any age.

In this heartfelt memoir of food, love and self-discovery, twenty-nine-year-old Charlotte Ree takes us on her journey of learning to cook in the wake of a divorce that left her feeling unsure of who she was and what she wanted at a time when the whole world was turned upside down.

With each meal that she masters—a boiled egg, grilled cheese, lasagne, ricotta and pesto ravioli in a brown butter and sage sauce—we follow the story of Charlotte's search for love—in friendship, in family, in romance, and love in herself as she begins to heal from the narratives she'd been telling herself for years.

Deeply personal and rich with emotion, her prose heart-wrenching, hilarious and hunger-inducing in equal measure, Charlotte explores the complexities of her familial relationships, reflects on the love she chose to accept and felt she deserved, recalls both disastrous and delightful dates, and revels in the joy of sharing good food with strangers and significant others alike.

Reminiscent of Michelle Zauner's *Crying in H Mart* and Dolly Alterton's *Everything I Know About Love*.



CHARLOTTE REE is an obsessive food lover and avid home cook and recipe developer. When she isn't in the kitchen, you can find Charlotte working with some of Australia's biggest authors as part of her day job as Head of Marketing for a book publisher. *Heartbake* is her second book. [@charlotteree](https://www.instagram.com/charlotteree) (37K followers).



MEMOIR / SOCIETY & CULTURE

Australia/NZ March 2023 · Thames & Hudson

TV option: Werner Film Productions

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*'There is no word more apt than brave for Kate Legge's **Infidelity and Other Affairs**.'* – *The Age*

'A magical read: Legge brings to life the beauty and tragedies of life at what must have felt like the end of the earth. Ultimately a book about families and how they shape us – and potentially break us. Legge has a gift of illuminating the ordinary, forcing us to take a closer look at the banal, everyday beauty that surrounds us.' – *The Conversation*



Kate Legge (AUSTRALIA)

Infidelity and Other Affairs

'Unflinchingly investigating the value of monogamy and the true cost of betrayal. All of life is here, and all of love too.'

- Trent Dalton, best-selling author of *Boy Swallows Universe*

What Lisa Taddeo did for female desire, Kate Legge does for adultery.

Nobody knows everything that happens inside a marriage, not even the people in it. The same can be said of families.

What do you do when your partner's infidelity upends your life? When you have to face up to your own addictions? Mental illnesses rain down on those you love? Parents die, careers end, love is found in unexpected places.

As a journalist, Kate Legge often sought answers to how people reckon with bad hands dealt or bad decisions. Then came her own search when faced with her husband's affair that unearthed a fault line of unfaithfulness running through four generations of his family.

Is infidelity a predisposition or learned behaviour? *Infidelity and Other Affairs* starts with this puzzle then contemplates life's curveballs as Legge strives to understand how we become who we are.

To her own surprise, she finds strength and peace where revenge and hate were imagined.

KATE LEGGE is an award-winning journalist and author who has chronicled social and political affairs since the 1980s. Her novel, *The Unexpected Elements of Love*, was long listed for the Miles Franklin award. Her non-fiction book, *Kindred: A Cradle Mountain Love Story* was a finalist in the Queensland Literary Awards.



BIOGRAPHY / SPORTS

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Hachette
World rights ex ANZ /NZ Aug 2024 ·
 Hachette/Headline UK

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** MS available*

Vince Rugari (AUSTRALIA)

Angeball

The Rise and Rise of Premier League Coach Ange Postecoglou

It hasn't taken Tottenham Hotspur fans very long to fall completely in love with Ange Postecoglou.

To those who have followed his journey - from a five-year-old Greek immigrant, to a marauding left-back in the Australian National Soccer League, to a pioneering coach who has won trophies on three different continents - it is no surprise at all.

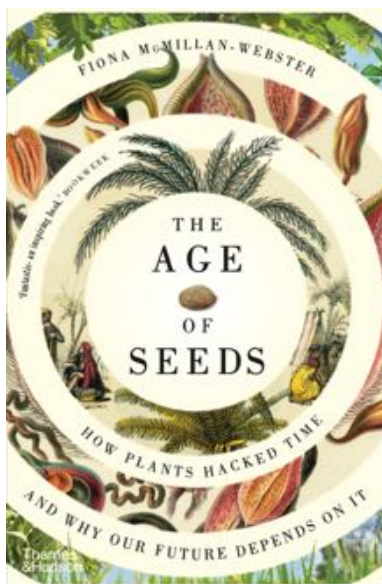
He brought everyone with him at Celtic. And at Yokohama F Marinos too. Before that, he claimed four titles with his boyhood club South Melbourne, travelled the globe with Australia's junior national teams, set a national record with a 36-game unbeaten streak at Brisbane Roar, and guided the Socceroo's to their greatest achievement.

Fueled by an unshakable belief in himself and his ideas, Postecoglou's unique, mesmerising style of football - Angeball - is inspired by the kind of teams he would enjoy watching as a child with his father. And it works. It turns skeptics into believers, and then into full-blown disciples.

Drawing on dozens of interviews with Postecoglou's players, coaches, colleagues, friends and foes, and reams of archival material, this book delves into the heart and soul of a man who has reshaped the football landscape. It explores the dynamics behind his coaching brilliance, his complicated relationship with the game back home, and the profound impact he has had on fans worldwide.



VINCE RUGARI is Australia's leading football journalist. He has worked for *The Sydney Morning Herald* for the past five years, covering two World Cups, two Asian Cups and a variety of other major sporting events and stories. He has closely followed Ange Postecoglou's coaching career since his days at Brisbane Roar and went on the road to countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan and Tajikistan during his tenure with the Socceroo's.



POPULAR SCIENCE

Australia/NZ 2022 · Thames & Hudson

China 2024 · China Translation & Publishing House (CTPH)

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'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*.

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