

FRANKFURT 2025

Rights Guide Ultimo Press

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Hardie Grant
BOOKS

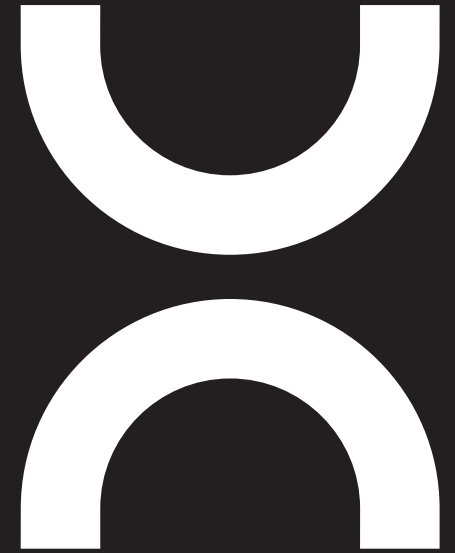


PANTERA
PRESS

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Ultimo Press

**Upcoming:
Adult Fiction Titles**



Desolation

Hossein Asgari

'You are a writer, aren't you? I have a story for you.'

'I'm working on my own story, and—'

'It's a true story, not one of those made-up, pointless whatever it is that you people write.'

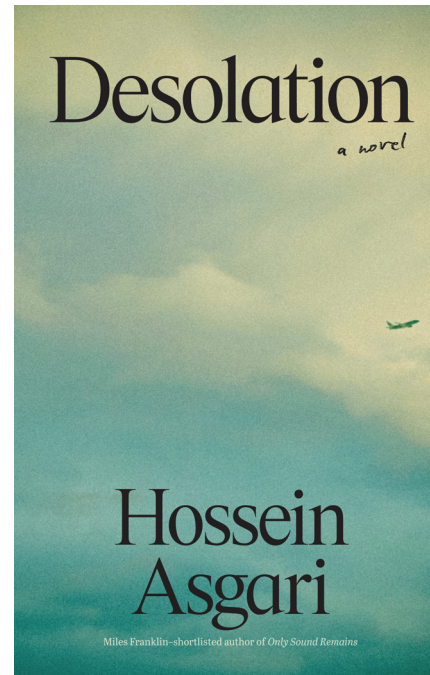
'It's called fiction, and though I appreciate that you want to—'

'Appreciate?' He smirks. You don't have to appreciate anything or talk as if you're being interviewed by CNN. I'll tell you my story, then it's up to you whether to write it or not.'

This is the story of Amin as he falls in and out of love and the choices he makes in the shadow of his brother's death, lost in the tragic downing of Flight 655.

Amid the chaos of 1980s Iran, he witnesses the senselessness of violence and the enduring power of sorrow. As he grapples with the trauma, Amin discovers a profound truth: stories can both heal and deceive. Through the lens of literature and the harsh realities of politics, he questions the blurred lines between truth and lies.

A tale of disillusionment and the human spirit, *Desolation* explores the enduring power of storytelling in the face of tragedy.



About the Author

Hossein Asgari studied physics and creative writing. His debut novel, *Only Sound Remains*, was shortlisted for both the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards. He works as a postdoctoral researcher at UniSA Creative.

'This powerful work cements Asgari as a vital voice in Australian literature'
Books + Publishing

'Hossein Asgari's Desolation speaks powerfully of the destructiveness of war and the hope that lies in fiction.'
The Conversation

'a grave and gripping portrait of a man whose hopelessness and loneliness turned him towards belief but who, even in his despair, could not find God.'
The Saturday Paper

'At the heart of this novel, though, lies the power of story.'
Sydney Morning Herald

Pub Date:	September 2025
ISBN:	9781761154133
Category:	Literary Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	272pp
Rights Held:	World



Left Behind

Martine Kropkowski

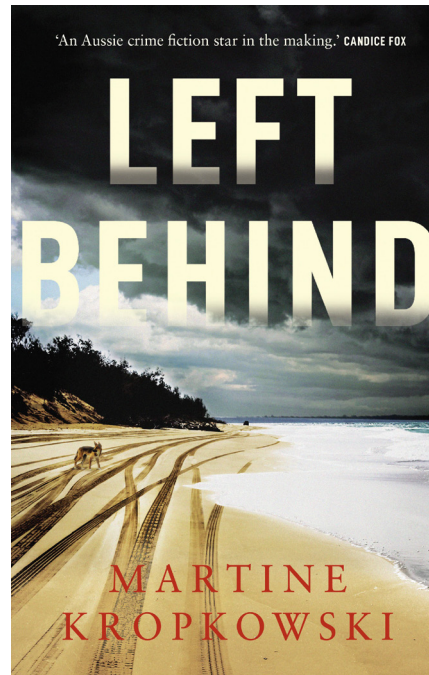
Two couples – Annabelle and Luke, Des and Julianni – embark on a camping trip to K’gari, a picturesque island off Queensland’s coast. Things have been tough lately, but this holiday is just what they need – white sands, clear waters, a chance to decompress and reconnect.

But there is an unnerving electricity in the air and Annabelle starts noticing strange occurrences. First, the man digging off a dark beach track in the middle of the night. The moaning in the amenities block: a couple getting their kicks or something more sinister? Then two campers mysteriously disappear, their belongings found abandoned near the beach.

When an old friend of Luke’s

arrives, Annabelle’s suspicions reach fever pitch. And with a deadly storm approaching, danger lurks at every turn.

The island, an endlessly shifting landmass of sand, changing and changing again, will survive as it always has. But will they?



About the Author

Martine Kropkowski is a writer and researcher who lives and works in Brisbane/Meenjin. Her research centres on the way that fiction gives voice to women and contemporary social issues through its narrativising of crime. When she’s not writing, Martine can be

found reading, walking her lovable but tyrannous dachshund, or racing her immediate family in extremely serious rounds of Mario Kart.

Martine’s first novel, *Everywhere We Look*, was published by Ultimo Press.

‘visually spectacular and gripping’ *Books+Publishing*

‘An Aussie crime fiction star in the making’ *Candice Fox*

A compelling mystery, beautifully written that hits all the mystery sweet spots and delivers so much more. Set on K’gari (Fraser Island) this mystery has a compelling backdrop, imbued with drama and a beautiful landscape.

Pub Date:	October 2025
ISBN:	9781761154270
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World



beautiful changelings

Maxine Beneba Clarke

my heart was asking
at every turn, and
as sure as i breathed:
would i want this
for my daughter,
and if not,
why on earth
should it be
good enough
for me

beautiful changelings is an incantation, a song, a war cry, a testimonial, a lament, a reckoning and a welcoming. Wrecking-ball revisitations of the myths, mantras and fairy tales fed to girls. Poignant, unashamed tributes to ageing, womanhood, motherhood, and reclaiming your dreams, your boundaries and your time.

This explosive new collection celebrates women and girls as the enigmatic wonders they are: beautiful changelings.



About the Author

Maxine Beneba Clarke is one of Australia's most celebrated poets. She is the author of over fourteen books, including the bestselling memoir *The Hate Race*, the ABIA and Indie award-winning short fiction collection *Foreign Soil*, the Victorian Premier's Award-winning poetry collection *Carrying the World*, the ABIA award-winning

poetry collection *It's the Sound of the Thing*, the Kate Greenaway Medal longlisted illustrated poem *When We Say Black Lives Matter* and the CBCA honour book *The Patchwork Bike*, which also won the Boston Globe Horn Prize for Best Picture Book.

Maxine's previous poetry collections have all been highly acclaimed and prize-winning.

The Hate Race and *Foreign Soil* have both sold over 20,000 copies in Australia.

It's The Sound Of The Thing – Maxine's kids' poetry collection won an ABIA and was listed for multiple awards and has sold over 10,000 copies to date.

This is an extraordinary collection with a resounding theme.

Pub Date:	November 2025
ISBN:	9781761154560
Category:	Poetry
Format:	Paperback
	198mm x 129mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World



In the Paris Fashion

Sophie Beaumont



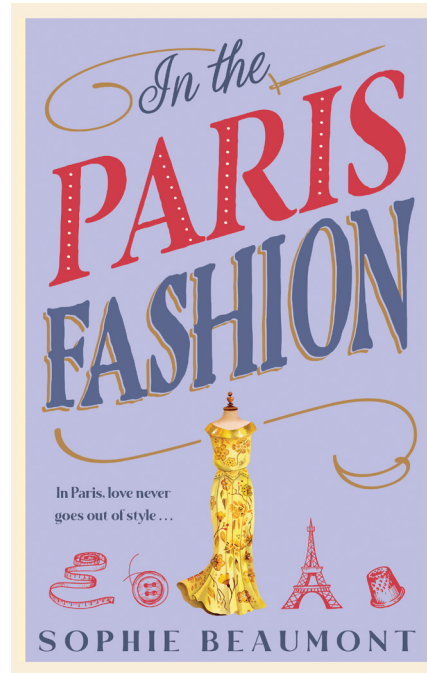
In Paris, love never goes out of style...

It's a mystery that has passed into fashion legend: the perfect evening gown that was to be created by couture star Elisabeth Fontaine before her tragic death in 1930. Its design, a closely guarded secret, has never been found.

So when vintage fashion dealer Isabelle Bernard comes across an enigmatic letter from Fontaine mentioning the 'evening sketches', she's very excited. Hot on the trail, she heads to Paris to investigate, fetching up on the doorstep of couture apprentice Romy Valence. Romy, who's left a high-powered career to follow her dream of fashion design, is struggling with her course and her family's disapproval. But the arrival of Isabelle, with

her intriguing questions, makes Romy's life take a thrilling new turn. Meanwhile, celebrated fashion writer Audrey Oliver is in Paris to research a book about the fashion designers of the 1920s. It's inspired by her French great-grandmother Alice's stories of her time as a fashion illustrator in Elisabeth Fontaine's heyday. Audrey knows it's going to be a great story, but she has no idea just how extraordinary it's going to be...

A compelling, intriguing, romantic novel set in contemporary Paris against a background of timeless French fashion.



French fashion in the past and present. The book takes the reader to the fashion streets of Paris as well as unearthing the history of the 1930s Paris fashion scene; female friendships – across generations and cultural divide; Paris, Paris, Paris – both the real and aspirational.

At a time when the market is down, escapist fiction is holding firm. This book will appeal to Francophiles and people interested in fashion, readers looking for a pleasant and warm read. Perfect gift for mums, aunts, grandmas and sisters.

For readers of upmarket commercial women's fiction and people who enjoyed *Amelie*, *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* etc.

About the Author

Sophie Beaumont is the pen name of Sophie Masson AM, who was born in Indonesia of French parents and grew up in France and Australia. A bilingual French and English speaker, she has a master's degree in French and English literature and a PhD in creative practice. Sophie is the prolific and award-winning author of more

than fifty novels for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. Her first novel with Ultimo Press, *The Paris Cooking School*, was published in 2023, followed by *A Secret Garden in Paris* in 2024.

Pub Date:	November 2025
ISBN:	9781761154331
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 253mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	English Language

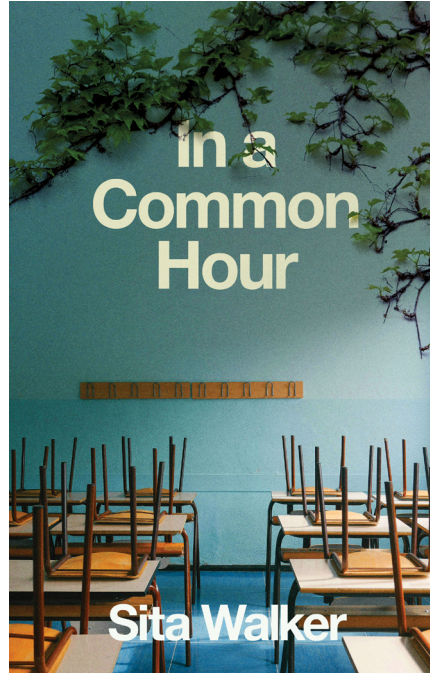
In a Common Hour

Sita Walker

Sometimes the most important lessons are learnt at lunchtime.

Parks State High is a melting pot of misfits. There is Oliver Fish, the teen philosopher hiding a secret relationship; Dev Patel, hopelessly in love with the brilliant Maryam Fadel; and a staffroom thick with gossip, camaraderie and burntout teachers. At the centre of it all is well-loved teacher, Paul Bush. But when a disgruntled student makes a devastating move – one lunchtime is all it takes for Bushie's life to change forever.

With a cast of unforgettable characters, *In a Common Hour* is a smart, funny and wise novel that shows us all the ways we are connected.



About the Author

Sita Walker is a high school literature teacher, freelance writer and award-winning author whose first book, *The God of No Good* (Ultimo Press, 2023), won The *Courier-Mail* People's Choice Award at the Queensland Literary Awards and the University of

Sydney People's Choice Award at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

PRAISE FOR IN A COMMON HOUR

'I read this in a gulp. *In a Common Hour* marks the arrival of a major new talent. Sita Walker makes me fall in love with reading all over again.'

Nikki Gemmel, author of Wing

'Walker's novel is unputdownable. I was charmed, moved, and so sorry to close the covers.'

Sharlene Allsop, author of The Great Undoing

Pub Date:	February 2026
ISBN:	9781761153471
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World



Something New

Alex Sarkis

It was during July of 2019 when I finally decided to leave Sydney. My friend Yasmine – a successful and relatively famous fashion designer – had been insisting for a while that I join her overseas. The plan was simple: a direct flight to Dubai where we'd spend about a fortnight managing her newest boutique and broadening my photography portfolio. But then, a day before I was due to return to home, as the two of us were sitting on her balcony watching the glittering lights of the Burj Khalifa, Yasmine suggested I move with her to London. 'Sydney will always be waiting,' she said. 'All that baggage that you left behind. But we'll only be this young and this free once.'

After a series of tragic events, Nicole leaves Sydney and her tight-knit Lebanese immigrant family to build a new life for herself in London. Two years later though, when her visa is almost up, she heads back to her hometown, where everything is the same – but things are different.

Loved-up with a happy-go-lucky football coach and still planning on returning to London, Nicole reconnects with family, friends and more – and finds herself longing for what she once had.

Torn between continents and loyalties, Nicole has to decide what she truly wants for herself – a decision that will affect the rest of her life.



A love triangle between a 30-year-old woman and two cities, two lives, and two very different men.

THEMES: Home. Love. The Immigrant Experience. Family

Alex writes about love and life in the most approachable and accessible way – think *Looking for Alibrandi* meets *Bridget Jones' Diary*

About the Author

Alex Sarkis was born and raised in Sydney's West to Lebanese immigrant parents. Her main source of inspiration has always been the wild and wonderful landscape of her hometown, her family's heritage, and the pride she feels in being an Australian.

Something Blue, her debut novel, was published in 2022.

Pub Date:	March 2026
ISBN:	9781761154393
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World



Kill Your Boomers

Fiona Wright

Your dream home awaits – there's only two things in your way...

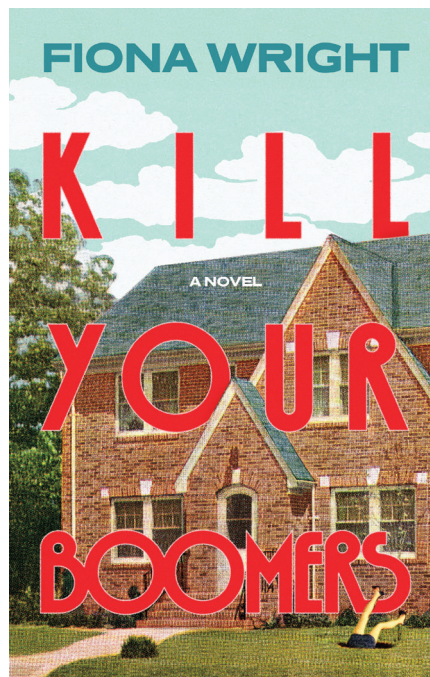
The great Australian dream is slipping out of reach for Keira and her friends. No house, no kids, no partner. At 30–ahem she is still languishing in a mould-filled share house, with an unexplained and ever-growing hole in the floorboards that threatens to consume her and her housemates.

Her part-time job as a nanny to a pair of atrocious twins – and her role as emotional support servant at the beck and call of their mother, Johanna – provides barely enough money for the G&Ts she finds necessary to get through her other job as a freelance copywriter – though it does allow her to steal a fancy avocado every now and then. Each day she can feel herself falling

further and further behind.

When her best friend Dylan is able to buy an apartment with the help of his partner's inheritance, Keira sees a way out. The bank of mum and dad. But what to do with parents who are in the rudest of health, and whose plans threaten to spend the only lifeline she has? From the lounge room of her rotting share house she hatches a deadly plan to speed up the process of wealth transfer.

An audacious book that asks just how far you will go to get your dream house (or at least a one bedroom flat without mushrooms growing in the bathroom.)



About the Author

Fiona Wright is a writer, editor, poet and critic from Sydney. Her book of essays *Small Acts of Disappearance: Essays on Hunger* won the 2016 Nita B. Kibble Award and the Queensland Literary Award for non-fiction, and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the NSW Premier's Douglas Stewart Prize. Her first poetry collection,

Knuckled, won the 2012 Dame Mary Gilmore Award, while *Domestic Interior* was shortlisted for the 2018 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry. Her most recent book of essays, *The World Was Whole*, was longlisted for the 2019 Stella Prize. She completed a PhD at Western Sydney University's Writing & Society Research Centre.

A blackly comic novel from one of Australia's most critically acclaimed writers working today: this bold novel is one to spark water-cooler or book club conversations. The premise is timely – how far would you go to get into the housing market?

For readers of: *My Sister, the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite, *Rytual* by Chloe Elisabeth Wilson and *Milk Fed* by Melissa Broder.

Pub Date:	April 2026
ISBN:	9781761154256
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World



De'Ath Takes a Holiday

Sean Micallef

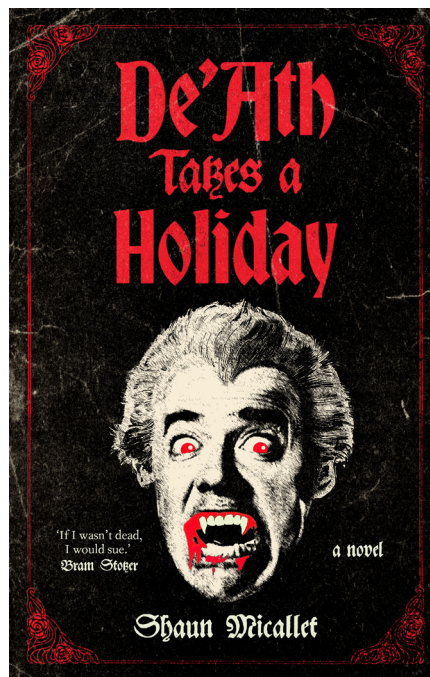
'If I wasn't dead, I would sue.' —
Bram Stoker

This is the origin story of the first
real vampyre (not Dracula).

A Hungarian prince escapes on
a slave ship to Jamaica and is
brought back from the brink of
death by a dark magic ceremony
performed by the captives
onboard. Tired of his immortality
after 300 years, this story follows
his quest to be cured of his
vampirism and live the life of a
normal man.

On the way he meets Sigmund
Freud, the Elephant Man, Rasputin,
Queen Victoria, Oscar Wilde,
Dr Watson, Jack the Ripper,
Henry Ford, the Archbishop of
Canterbury, and falls in love (not

with the Archbishop of Canterbury
— with Dr Watson's daughter). It
is a tale seen through the eyes of
a young insurance assessor who
is also in love with Dr Watson's
daughter. It is also the tale of how
the world came to be run by self-
serving lunatics. It is a tale told by
an idiot, signifying everything.



About the Author

From humble beginnings in
University Revue in his hometown
of Adelaide, Shaun Micallef has
gone become one of this country's
favourite comic performers. He has
written, produced and starred in
several TV shows, including three
seasons of his Logie winning ABC-
TV sketch series *The Micallef P(r)
ogram(me)*, the short-lived but

brilliant tonight show, *Micallef
Tonight* (which won an ARIA for
Best Comedy release in 2008;
immensely popular Logie-winning
Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation for
the TEN and Nine Networks and
Mad as Hell for the ABC.

The perfect book for those who love
classic satires like *Pride and Prejudice*
and *Zombies* and *Abraham Lincoln:
Vampire Hunter*.

Shaun's last novel, *Preincarnate*, also
published by Hardie Grant, sold over
15,000 copies across all editions.

Perfectly kooky but also very readable,
this is the funniest book you'll read all
year.

Pub Date:	April 2026
ISBN:	9781761154812
Category:	Fiction - Humour
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	240pp
Rights Held:	World



Goodbye My Love

Yumna Kassab

*When she finally left, like properly
totally completely left,*

*it shouldn't have come as a
surprise.*

The signs were there.

Amina's marriage to Amin was supposed to be a new beginning, instead, it became an inescapable end. Even after the divorce, the shadow of their relationship clings to her, defining her life long after they part.

Set within the intricate world of an Arab community, the story of these once-lovers explores the devastating impact of a failed marriage from its heady beginning to its bitter end. From the outset, it's clear this is a story of departure,

yet Amina's physical leaving is only the very first step.

Like Lot's wife, forbidden to look back at her razed city, Amina is meant to move forward, but how can she when the past is burned into her soul?



About the Author

Yumna Kassab is a writer from Western Sydney. She studied medical science and neuroscience at university. Her fiction has been listed for prizes including the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the Stella Prize, the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the Queensland

Literary Awards, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards among many others. In 2023 she was named the inaugural Parramatta Laureate in Literature.

PRAISE FOR THE LOVERS:

*SHORTLISTED FOR THE MILES
FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD*

*'her writing is poetic and reverential.
The author's understanding of love,
romance and of responsibility runs deep.'*
Books + Publishing

*'Sometimes, Kassab shows us, love
can be another word for cruelty.
Sometimes the stories we hide
behind reveal our deepest truths.'*
Sydney Morning Herald

Pub Date:	May 2026
ISBN:	9781761153303
Category:	Literary Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	240pp
Rights Held:	World

Happy Woman

Abby Corson

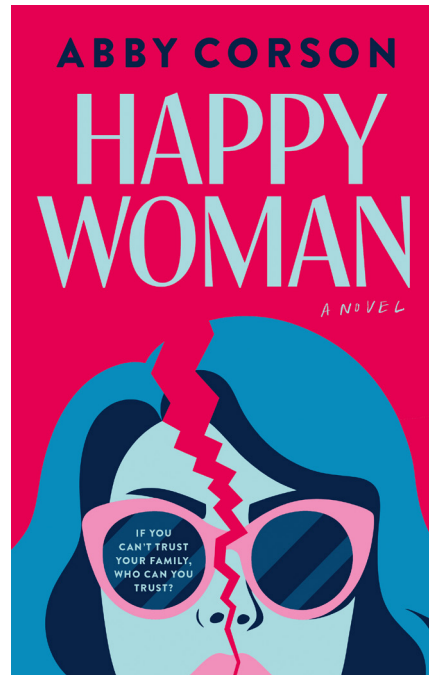
How would you feel if you found out the most important person in your life is not who you thought they were?

Gwynne Hogg is a wife and mother who owns a successful PR firm. She would describe herself as a 'happy woman' and credits her close family for feeling that way.

One afternoon, three police cars appear at the door. Shockingly, Gwynne's dad, one of the most important and trusted people in her life, is arrested on suspicion of murder. As her dad admits to killing five people many years ago, Gwynne begins to question whether that murderous gene exists inside her. As she tries to navigate the media circus, a court case and gossiping mothers at the nursery,

she must also show up for her three-year-old daughter and keep the wheels turning at her office.

As Gwynne's once happy life begins to unravel she starts to wonder just what she might be capable of ...



About the Author

Abby Corson spent ten years as a luxury travel and lifestyle writer for magazines and newspapers before a five-year stint in commercial radio. Originally from Manchester, England, she now lives in Melbourne with her husband

and two daughters. Her debut, *The Concierge*, was published in Australia and internationally. *Happy Woman* is her second novel.



PRAISE FOR *THE CONCIERGE*:

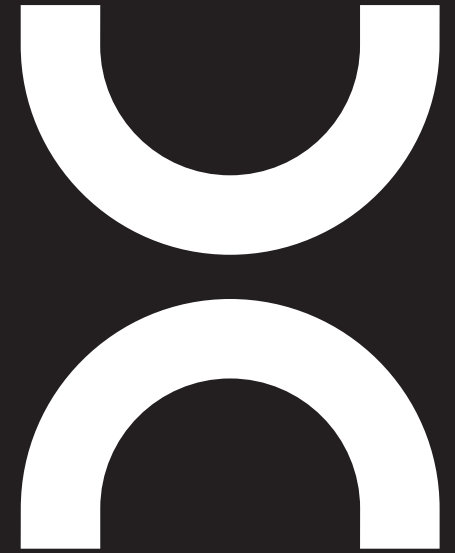
'Corson has a truly fresh voice in the cosy crime scene. It is fun and engaging, and the twists will have tongues wagging at the coffee machines come Monday morning. *The Concierge* is pure entertainment.' *The Australian*

'The mystery surrounding this whodunnit is well crafted and offers many false leads and red herrings before the truth is uncovered. Cavengreen Hotel's world of luxury and the opulence is beautifully detailed as are the lives of the characters caught up in the drama of a terrible crime, the subsequent police investigation, false confessions and a murder trial. A modern take on an Agatha Christie staple, *The Concierge* will keep fans of Sophie Hannah and Richard Osman entertained.' *Books+Publishing*

Pub Date:	May 2026
ISBN:	9781761152986
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 253mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World

Ultimo Press

Recent Titles



Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens

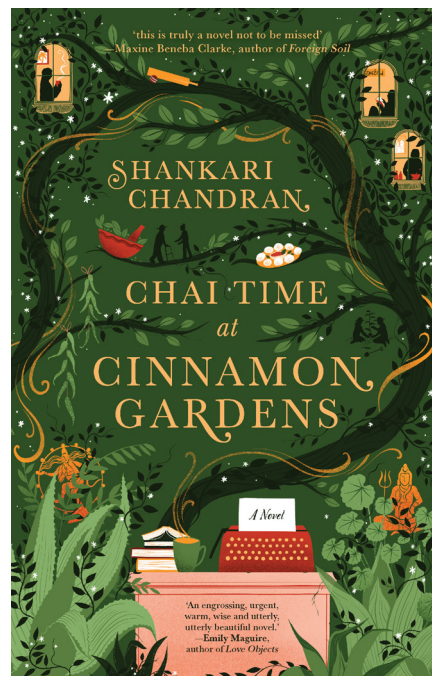
Shankari Chandaran

WINNER OF THE MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD

Welcome to Cinnamon Gardens, a home for those who are lost and the stories they treasure.

Cinnamon Gardens Nursing Home is nestled in the quiet suburb of Westgrove, Sydney – populated with residents with colourful histories, each with their own secrets, triumphs and failings. This is their safe place, an oasis of familiar delights – a beautiful garden, a busy kitchen and a bountiful recreation schedule.

But this ordinary neighbourhood is not without its prejudices. The serenity of Cinnamon Gardens is threatened by malignant forces more interested in what makes this refuge different rather than embracing the calm companionship that makes this place home to so many. As those who challenge the residents' existence make their stand against the nursing home with devastating consequences, our characters are forced to reckon with a country divided.



About the Author

Shankari Chandran was raised in Canberra, Australia. She spent a decade in London, working as a lawyer in the social justice field. She eventually returned home to Australia, where she now lives with her husband and four children. She

is the author of *Song of the Sun God* (2017), *The Barrier* (2017), *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award, *Safe Haven* (2024) and *Unfinished Business* (2025).

'Chandran is an excellent storyteller.'
The Weekend Australian

'This is an engaging story that feels both urgent and necessary. It is also a terrific read.'
The Daily Telegraph

'this story burns with anger and sings with optimism, sprinkled through with moments of levity and humour.'
The Canberra Times

'This is a book that requires concentration and full immersion – but it will reward the reader for that investment.'
The Guardian

Pub Date:	January 2022
ISBN:	9781761150319
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 253mm
Extent:	368pp
Rights Held:	World English Language

Song of the Sun God

Shankari Chandaran

Nala and Rajan, a young couple, begin their married life in 1946, on the eve of Ceylon's independence from Britain. Arranged in marriage, they learn to love each other and protect their growing family, against the backdrop of increasing ethnic tension.

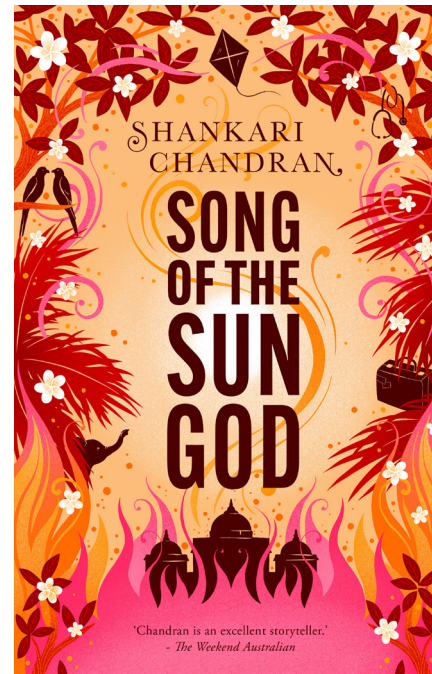
As the country descends into a bloody civil war, Nala and Rajan must decide which path is best for their family; and live with the consequences of their mistakes.

Over time, Nala and Rajan teach their family why some parts of their history and heritage are worth holding onto; and why some parts and people have to be left behind.

Song of the Sun God spans three continents and three generations of a family that remains dedicated

to its homeland, whilst learning to embrace its new home. Funny, warm and tender, we see Nala and Rajan's family navigate war, migration, old loyalties and new beginnings, relying on the philosophy of their religion, their ancestors and each other.

Song of the Sun God is about the wisdom, mistakes and sacrifices of our past that enable us to live more freely in the future.



About the Author

Shankari Chandran was raised in Canberra, Australia. She spent a decade in London, working as a lawyer in the social justice field. She eventually returned home to Australia, where she now lives with her husband and four children. She

is the author of *Song of the Sun God*, *The Barrier* and *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award, *Safe Haven* (2024) and *Unfinished Business* (2025).

'an emotive and insightful read.'
The Saturday Paper

'a book that doesn't look away from the brutality of the Sri Lankan conflict – torture, forced displacements and disappearances, cultural destruction and worse – but it also balances horror with humour, and indeed love.'
Sydney Morning Herald

'[Chandran] does not shy from the horror of war yet holds hope for mankind.'
The Weekend Australian

'a rich heritage tapestry to embrace'
The Australian Women's Weekly

Pub Date:	November 2022
ISBN:	9781761150999
Category:	Commerical Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	400pp
Rights Held:	World English Language

Safe Haven

Shankari Chandaran

It was a beautiful evening. The wind gathered speed, lifting the frangipanis from the grove behind him, pink and yellow petals defying gravity. Beyond the trees, hidden by the foliage and rows of towering palm trees, the detention centre slept fitfully in the heavy summer heat. The palms blocked the ocean gust that now swirled around him, filling his lungs with the taste of temple flowers and salt. It reminded him of home. He took a deep breath, stepped off the escarpment and felt the red sand rush up towards him.

Arriving in Australia seeking asylum, Fina dedicates herself to aiding the refugees who are held in Port Camden, a remote island outpost. Over time she settles

into a life within a community of like-minded people, finding a new family, far from her original home. After she speaks out for those being detained, Fina becomes the focus of a media storm that leads to her arrest, and the threat of deportation.

When a security officer dies under suspicious circumstances, Lucky, a special investigator, arrives to uncover the truth. The mystery is tied to Fina's fate—and the secrets she reveals will divide the town and the nation.

Safe Haven is about displacement and seeking refuge—but ultimately it is a story about finding home—and the lengths you'll go to find safety and love.



About the Author

Shankari Chandaran was raised in Canberra, Australia. She spent a decade in London, working as a lawyer in the social justice field. She eventually returned home to Australia, where she now lives with her husband and four children. She

is the author of *Song of the Sun God*, *The Barrier* and *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award, and *Unfinished Business* (2025).

'A powerful, well-crafted story'
Sydney Morning Herald

'a heart-wrenching yet hopeful tale.'
The Sunday Age

'a warm and generous read.'
The Guardian

'a fearless novel that reaches into your heart with evocative prose and beautifully drawn characters. It's also a page turner.'
Australian Women's Weekly

Pub Date:	May 2024
ISBN:	9781761151279
Category:	Commerical Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World English Language

Unfinished Business

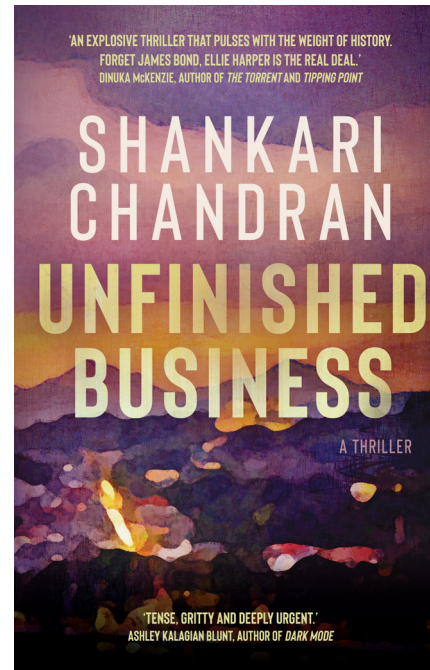
Shankari Chandaran



Sri Lanka, 2009. Decades of civil war and bloodshed are being brought to an end at last—by any means necessary. In the capital, Colombo, tenacious journalist Ameena Fernando is murdered, execution-style, on a busy street near her home, with no witnesses.

With pressure growing to find Ameena's killer, CIA agent Ellie Harper is sent to seek justice for the journalist's death, with strict instructions: find something, but not too much. It's her first time returning to the island after her last mission went tragically awry four years prior, and Ellie has more than one ghost to lay to rest. Amid the international scheming and jostling for stakes in post-war Sri Lanka,

Ellie follows the trail of secrets on a mission to uncover a truth worth killing for.



'a rare thriller that speaks with such urgency and passion to broader concerns in war: truth might be the first casualty of armed conflict but, sadly, the corpses of journalists are never far behind.'

Sydney Morning Herald

'compelling and sharply written'

The Saturday Paper

'satisfying and sophisticated'

The Guardian

'*Unfinished Business* expertly evokes the hyper-surveilled metropolis of Colombo as Harper moves through morally impenetrable circles of diplomats, warlords, bureaucrats and spies.'

Books + Publishing

About the Author

Shankari Chandran was raised in Canberra, Australia. She spent a decade in London, working as a lawyer in the social justice field. She eventually returned home to Australia, where she now lives with her husband and four children. She

is the author of *Song of the Sun God*, *The Barrier*, *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award, and *Safe Haven* (2024).

Pub Date:	January 2025
ISBN:	9781761151293
Category:	Commerical Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World English Language

Learned Behaviours

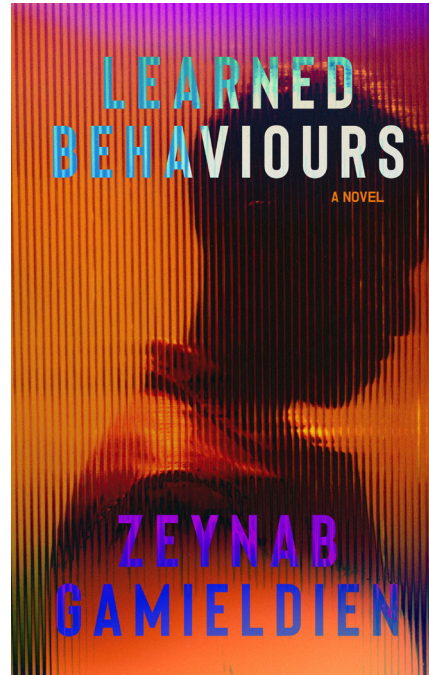
Zeynab Gamieldien

The past is calling him home ...

As a prospective barrister, Zaid Saban is on the cusp of achieving everything he has dreamed of. His social and professional world is far removed from his schoolyard days in the suburbs of western Sydney, even more far removed from the traumatic events of his final year of school in which his best friend, Hass, was arrested for murder.

Zaid thinks he has put all this behind him. But when Hass's sister, Amira, finds him and asks him to read her brother's diary, Zaid is pulled back to the very world he had left behind. Is it possible that Hass was innocent? As Amira and Zaid seek to solve the mystery

of what happened all those years ago, Zaid is forced to confront the ugliness of the past and what it means for who he is today.



'a yarn that's both a page-turner and a warm-hearted analysis of human nature, as humane as it is sophisticated'
Readings Monthly

'Compelling and pacy, it demonstrates an acute awareness of experiences of privilege and subordination, without being preachy.'
The Guardian

About the Author

Zeynab Gamieldien is the inaugural winner of the 2022 Westwords/ Ultimo Prize for her debut novel, *The Scope of Permissibility*. Her work has been shortlisted for the Rachel Funari Prize for Fiction and

featured in publications such as the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Daily Life section and the *Australian Muslim Times*.

Pub Date:	August 2025
ISBN:	9781761152191
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World



Politica

Yumna Kassab

A captivating literary journey that delves into the intertwined lives of a town, its people, and a region shaped by revolution and war.

The war broke out and she decided to call her dad.

Weeks and weeks they do not speak, and the weeks become months and then they are so many years.

She imagines herself starting this story.

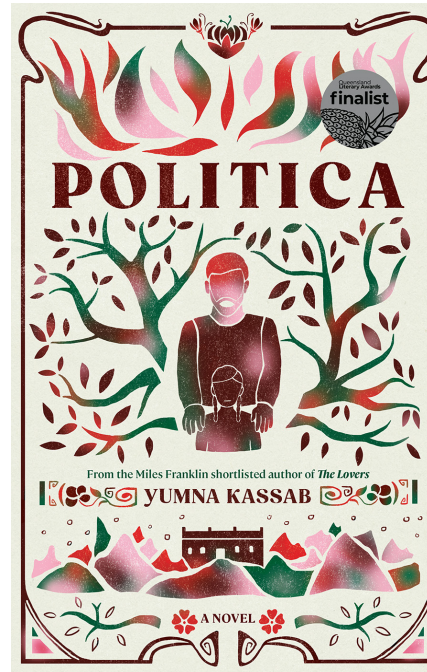
She imagines how she will tell this story later to someone else.

We hadn't spoken for years but then the war broke out...

As conflict plays out across an unnamed region, its inhabitants deal with the fallout. Families are torn apart and brought together.

A divide grows between those on either side of the war, compromises are struck as the toll of violence impacts near and far. We learn about those who are left behind and those who choose to leave in a great scattering. As the stories of those affected play out, they weave together to show the whole of a society in the most extreme of circumstances. Even after the last shot is fired, their world will never recover.

A powerful new novel that asks again if it's possible to ever measure the personal cost of war.



About the Author

Yumna Kassab is a writer from Western Sydney. She studied medical science and neuroscience at university. Her fiction has been listed for prizes including the Miles Franklin Literary Award, Prime Minister's Literary Awards, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, Queensland Literary Awards, NSW Premier's Literary Awards, and

The Stella Prize. Her works include the short fiction collection *The House of Youssef* and the novels *Australiana*, *The Lovers*, *Politica* and *The Theory of Everything*. She is the inaugural Parramatta Laureate in Literature.

LONGLISTED FOR THE MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY AWARD

SHORTLISTED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND FICTION BOOK AWARD

'In a 2022 interview, Kassab said a responsibility of the novelist is to "write with an eye towards humanity". And she never falters in this, with *Politica* always drawing us back to war's immeasurable personal cost.' *The Guardian*

'a rewarding tale of real people navigating war, love, loss, poverty and many other challenges, all linked by time and location. The novel asks if it is possible to ever measure the personal cost of war. Through all the stories she creates here, Kassab makes it clear that it can never be.'

The Saturday Paper

Pub Date:	January 2024
ISBN:	9781761152009
Category:	Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	272pp
Rights Held:	World

The Uncaged Sky

Kylie Moore-Gilbert

My 804 Days in an Iranian Prison

'The sky above our heads was uncaged and unlike us, free.'

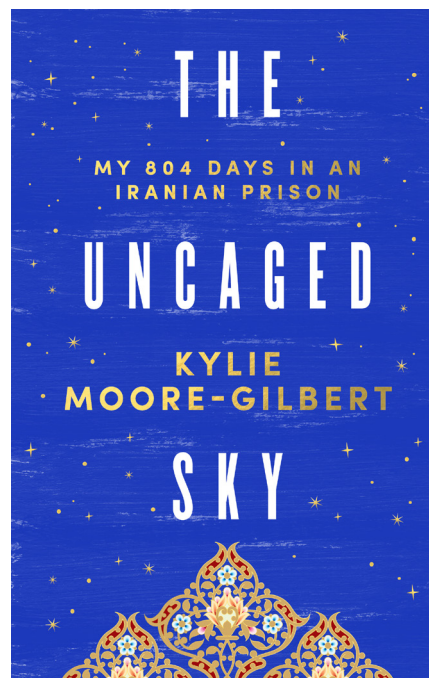
On September 12, 2018 British-Australian academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert was arrested at Tehran Airport by Iran's feared Islamic Revolutionary Guards. Convicted of espionage in a shadowy trial presided over by Iran's most notorious judge, Dr Moore-Gilbert was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Incarcerated in Tehran's Evin and Qarchak prisons for 804 days, this is the full and gripping account of her harrowing ordeal. Held in a filthy solitary confinement cell for months, and subjected to relentless interrogation, Kylie was pushed to the limits of her endurance by extreme physical and psychological deprivation.

Kylie's only lifeline was the covert friendships she made with other prisoners, communicating in great danger through the air vents between cells, and by hiding secret letters in hava khori, the narrow outdoor balcony where she was led, blindfolded, for a solitary hour each day.

To survive, she began to fight back, adopting a strategy of resistance with her captors. Multiple hunger strikes, letters smuggled to the media, co-ordinated protests with other prisoners and a daring escape attempt led to her transfer to the isolated desert prison, Qarchak, to live among convicted criminals.

Written with extraordinary insight and vivid immediacy, *The Uncaged Sky* is Kylie Moore-Gilbert's remarkable story of courage and resilience, and a powerful meditation on hope, solidarity and what it means to be free.



About the Author

Kylie Moore-Gilbert is a scholar of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Kylie speaks several Middle Eastern languages and has spent significant periods travelling and conducting academic research in the region. She was falsely charged with

espionage and imprisoned in Iran from September 2018 to November 2020 before being released in a prisoner exchange deal negotiated by the Australian government.

Shortlisted for *The Age* Book of the Year for Non Fiction

Shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction 2023

'Moments in her memoir *The Uncaged Sky* will leave readers breathless. The sheer terror, uncertainty and gnawing dread of a brutal regime closing in all around ... Powerfully and artfully written, the book has moments of joy shining through: the loving friendships made inside prison; the exhilaration of "escaping" to that uncaged sky, standing on the prison roof; and the strength Moore-Gilbert found to defy her captors amid the ceaseless cruelty of her incarceration.' *The Guardian*

Pub Date:	March 2022
ISBN:	9781761150418
Category:	Non Fiction Memoir
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm
Extent:	416pp
Rights Held:	World



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