

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2026

Rights Guide

Katy McEwen
Rights Manager, Hardie Grant Publishing



Hardie Grant
BOOKS

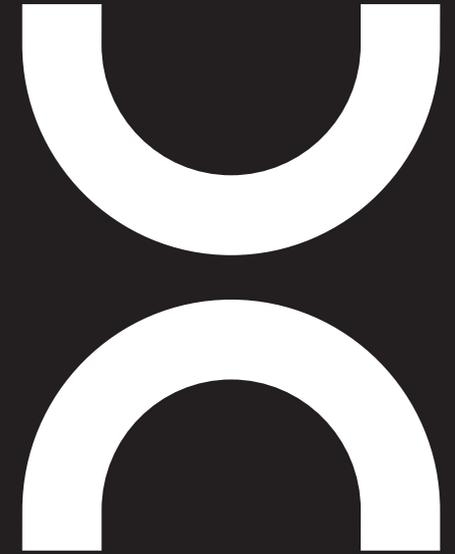


PANTERA
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Ultimo Press

**Upcoming:
Adult Fiction Titles**



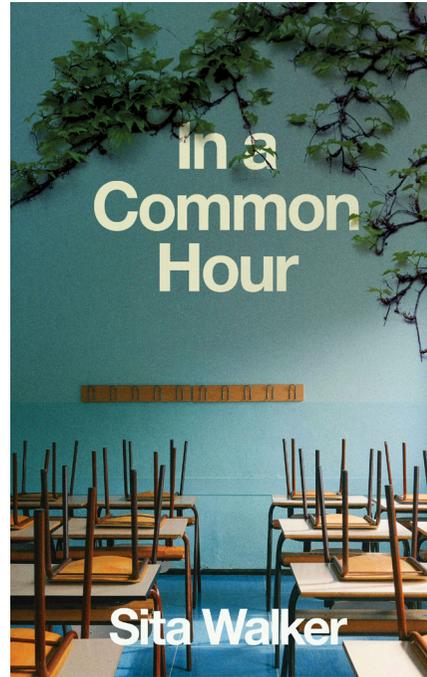
In a Common Hour

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*

'Sita Walker's 20 years as a high school literature teacher flavours every page of her terrific new book' *The Herald Sun*

'...the novel is suffused with a spirituality that lightens the darkness and reminds us of a greater realm than the minutiae of the human condition' *Sydney Morning Herald*

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.



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.

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*

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...

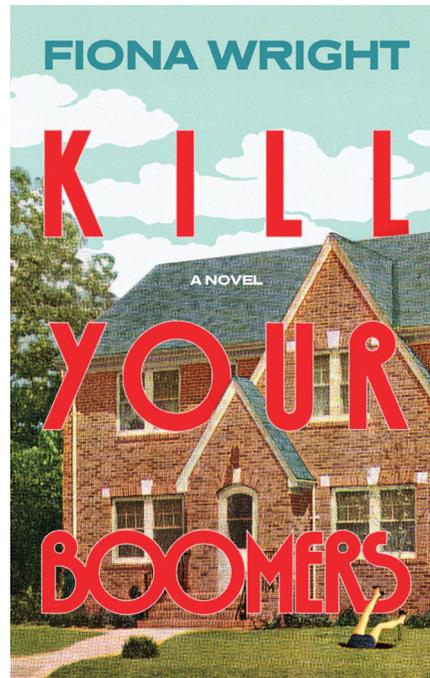
The great Australian dream is slipping out of reach for Keira and her friends. No house, no kids, no partner. At 30—ahem she is still languishing in a mould-filled share house, with an unexplained and ever-growing hole in the floorboards that threatens to consume her and her housemates.

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

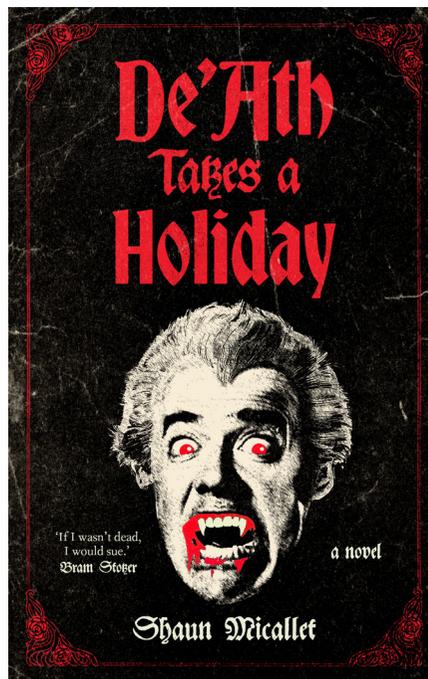
'If I wasn't dead, I would sue.' —
Bram Stoker

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

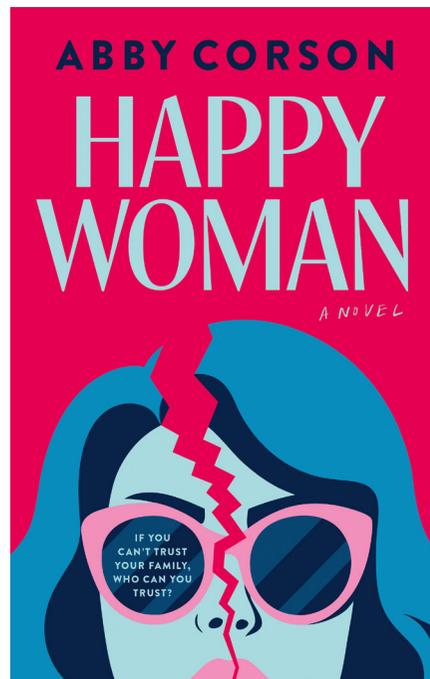
How would you feel if you found out the most important person in your life is not who you thought they were?

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

The Informant

Christine Gregory

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing ...

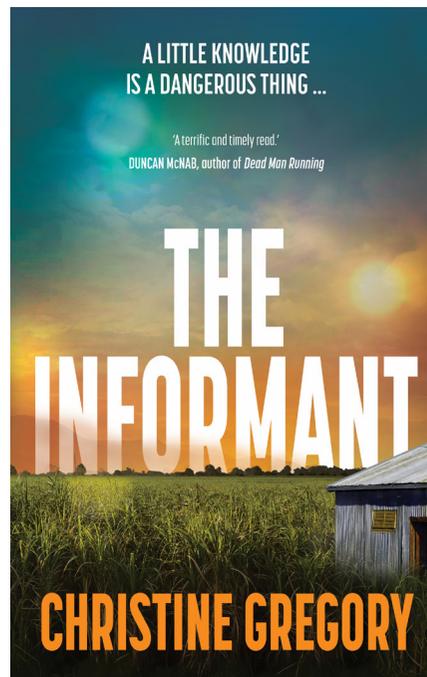
The town of Hopeville is thrown into chaos when the body of Silas Ziccone, president of the notorious bikie gang the Outcasts, is found next to his abandoned car on a dirt road. Evidence suggests Silas was not alone when he was murdered, but there are no witnesses and the locals aren't talking. When Silas's son Anton steps into his role determined to get revenge on those responsible police fear an all-out bikie war.

Journalist Lars Nilsson is writing a book on outlaw motorcycle clubs and is sent by his former editor to cover the story. Police warn Lars to stay away, but undeterred he pursues a lead that takes him into

the centre of the gang rivalry.

With debts to pay and a teenage son to raise alone, all Silas's girlfriend Ashley wants is to escape to Western Australia and start afresh but Anton is keeping her close. There's one person who may be able to help her get out but when your whole life's a lie, how do you know who's telling the truth?

The Informant is a simmering crime thriller that gives a window into the world of outlaw motorcycle gangs, organised crime and police corruption that will keep readers gripped until the heart-stopping end.



About the Author

Christine Gregory is an Australian writer of crime and general fiction. An earlier version of her first novel, *The Community*, was runner-up for the 2022 Banjo Prize. Christine has previously been shortlisted in the Sisters in Crime Scarlet Stiletto Awards. Christine is a former

international aid worker and is now the Head of Innovation in a national not-for-profit, working on the prevention of violence against women and children. She lives and works in Naarm (Melbourne) with her husband and two children.



FROM THE AUTHOR:

The Informant explores how criminal acts carried out by members of outlaw motorcycle clubs not only impact the victims of crime but their families and those unwittingly caught up in their orbit.

Pub Date:	May 2026
ISBN:	9781761154522
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 253mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World

Cul de Sac

Eleanor Limprecht

There's only one exit from a cul-de-sac.

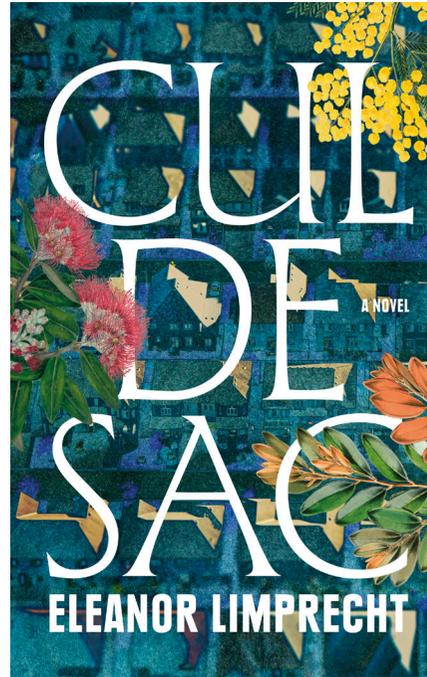
In the manicured suburbs of Northern Virginia, Jacquie lives the dream: a beautiful neighbourhood, a successful American husband, and two happy children. But behind the doors of their family home, all is not as picturesque as it seems.

A trip home to her mother's alpaca farm on the rugged south coast of NSW was supposed to be a simple holiday. Instead, the salt air clears her vision. Away from Brandon's shadow and controlling behaviours, Jacquie and her children finally begin to breathe—and she realises she can never go back.

But Brandon is a man who refuses to lose. With the threat of

international parental abduction charges hanging over her like a guillotine, Jacquie is trapped. If she stays, she's a criminal. If she returns, she's his prey.

How far will a mother go to save her children from a picture-perfect life?



About the Author

Eleanor Limprecht is an author, constant reader and creative writing teacher. She was born and raised in the US, Germany and Pakistan but now lives in Sydney, Australia. Her first novel, *What Was Left*, came out in 2013 with Sleepers Publishing. Her second

novel, *Long Bay*, was released in 2015, followed by *The Passengers* in 2018 and *The Coast* in 2022. She has had short fiction, book reviews, feature articles and essays published widely.

THEMES:

International child 'abductions' and what happens when inter-country couples break up; the hidden dynamics of control and coercion in relationships, and the long struggle to reclaim freedom; motherhood, sacrifice and how far women will go to protect their children.

A great concept executed by a seasoned Australian writer. There is a great hook to this story – international child 'abductions' and what happens when inter-country couples break up. It's beautifully executed and incredibly gripping.

Pub Date:	September 2026
ISBN:	9781761154447
Category:	Comercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 253mm
Extent:	352pp
Rights Held:	World



The Centre

Hannah Tunnicliffe

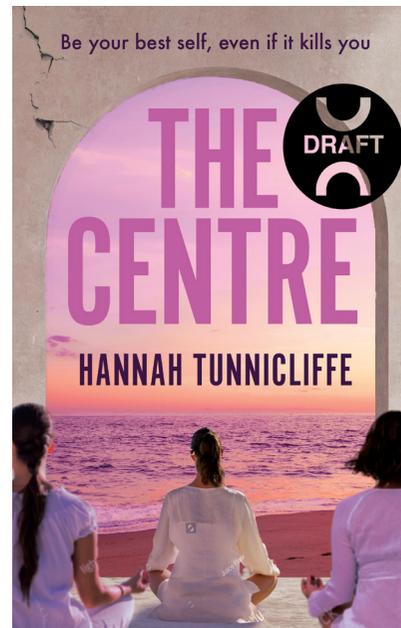
Be your best self, even if it kills you

Sisters, Annie and Clover, have always been close. So when Annie turns up, heartbroken and jobless on Clover's doorstep, she happily takes her in.

Sunny, optimistic Clover is living her best life on the Northern beaches of Sydney. She's attending workshops at the Centre for Personal Excellence, lead by the beautiful and elusive Lumelia, a wellness influencer and personal transformation guru. The Centre seems to have everyone under their spell, except for Annie, who can't afford to invest in their programs. As Annie's trying to get back on her feet, Clover is sinking further and further into her new-found self development community.

Annie's attempts to pull her sister away from the allure of the Centre and its devoted followers only push her deeper, and Annie realises that the Centre may be hiding some very dark secrets.

Is the Centre what finally breaks the sisters apart, or can Annie save Clover before it's too late? It's fast becoming a matter of life or death.



About the Author

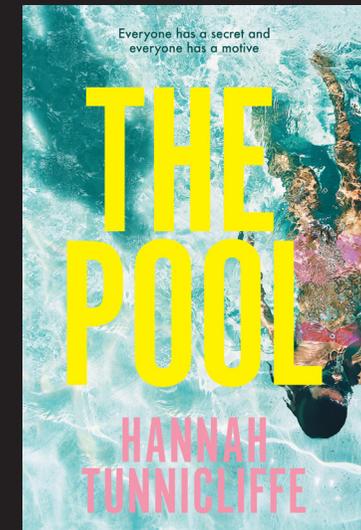
Hannah Tunnicliffe is the author of several books for kids and adults including *The Colour of Tea*, *Season of Salt and Honey*, *A French Wedding* and the trilingual picture book *Marjory and the Mouse*. She is the co-creator of the *Detective Stanley* series published by Flying

Eye Books. Her work has featured in the *New York Times Book Review* and she is the founder and host of the body acceptance podcast, *Bod Almighty*. She is an eating disorder survivor, career and volunteer youth counsellor and holds a degree in social sciences and psychology.

PRAISE FOR *THE POOL*:

'delivers twists you won't see coming'
The Age

'The Pool is Christos Tsiolkas's *The Slap* with an added whodunnit layer.' –
Books+Publishing



Pub Date: November 2026
ISBN: 9781761153679
Category: Crime Fiction
Format: Paperback
234mm x 253mm
Extent: 320pp
Rights Held: World



Illuminated Ruins

Miriam Sved

It's Hong Kong in 1956. Uri and Lujza Weiss are successful Hungarian medics trying to elide the horrors of the war.

Driven by Lujza, their aim is to join the ranks of Hong Kong's overwhelmingly British high society. Their children, Millie and Tommy, are being raised largely by a succession of amahs and Millie in particular does what she can to avoid her mother's moodswings.

An American family arrives on The Peak: Hugh, Nancy and their daughter Anne. They are charming, charismatic, intensely interested in the Weisses.

The families become close, their lives increasingly intertwined. The Weiss children range around

the territory hunting for reds and learning certain truths about the world from Anne. While Nancy and Lujza form a shaky bond, Hugh regales Uri with drunken tales of spycraft.

But damage is not far from the surface of both families, and world events threaten to uncover their secrets and disturb their ghosts. When the children's 'mission' gets serious on the hills of The Peak and in the streets of the city, it will catalyse a reckoning for all of them.



About the Author

Miriam Sved is the author of the novels *A Universe of Sufficient Size* and *Game Day*. Her novella 'All the Things I Should've Given' was a winner of Griffith Review's Novella Project, and her short fiction has been widely published. She has also co-edited three feminist

anthologies: *#MeToo: Stories from the Australian movement*, *Mothers & Others: Australian writers on why not all women are mothers and not all mothers are the same* and *Just Between Us: Australian writers tell the truth about female friendship*.

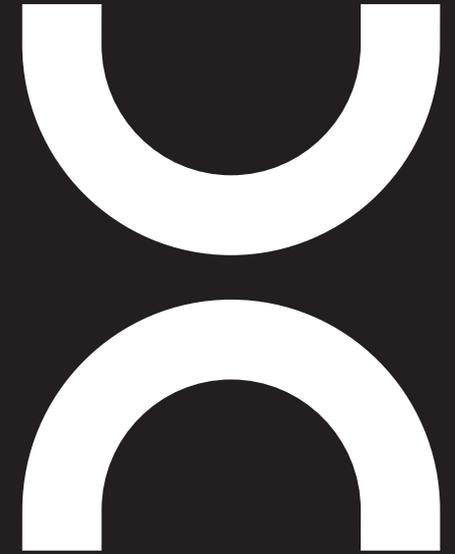
Shadowed by the failed Hungarian revolution and the impending end of British colonialism, ILLUMINATED RUINS is a literary novel loosely based on the author's maternal family, who lived in Hong Kong for twenty years after fleeing Europe in 1939.

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Rights Held: World



Ultimo Press

Recent Titles



Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens

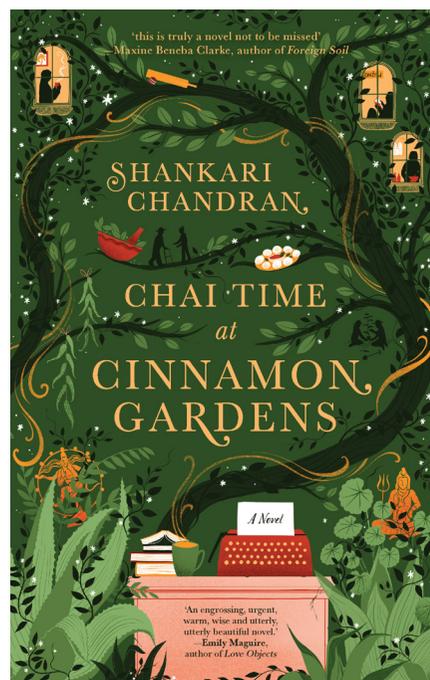
Shankari Chandaran

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 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* (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
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234mm x 253mm
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Rights Held: World English Language



Learned Behaviours

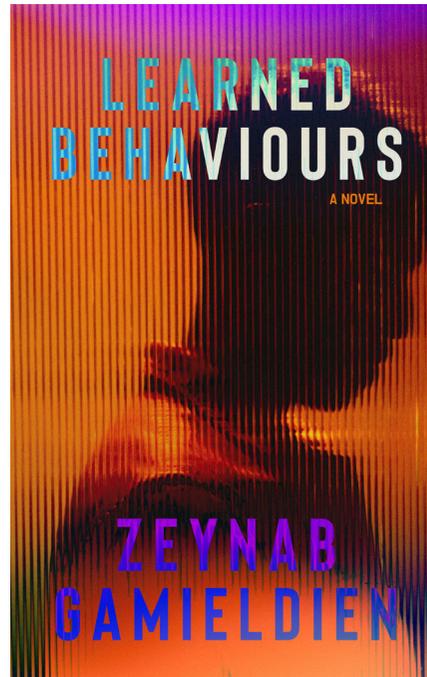
Zeynab Gamieldien

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 schooldays 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.



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*.

'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

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Extent: 320pp
Rights Held: World



Left Behind

Martine Kropkowski

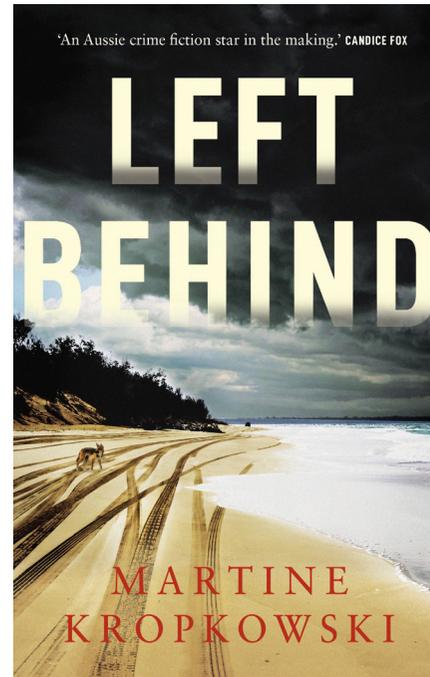
Two couples – Annabelle and Luke, Des and Julianni – embark on a camping trip to K’gari, a picturesque island off Queensland’s coast. Things have been tough lately, but this holiday is just what they need – white sands, clear waters, a chance to decompress and reconnect.

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 revisitings 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

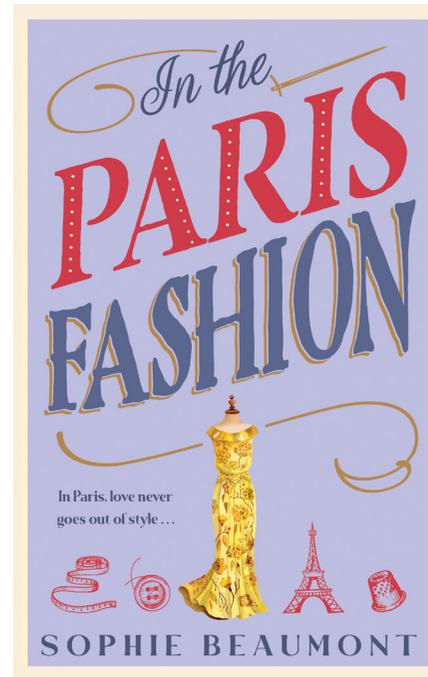
In Paris, love never goes out of style...

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.



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.

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.

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