FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2026

Rights Guide

Hardie Grant BOOKS

PANTERA PRESS

ultimo press

Fiction

Upcoming Titles
Pantera Press and Ultimo Press 3

Recent Titles
Pantera Press and Ultimo Press 13

Non Fiction

Upcoming Titles
Hardie Grant Publishing and Pantera Press 21

Recent Titles
Hardie Grant Publishing, Pantera Press and Ultimo Press 25

Contact Details

31

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

Australian Government

Creative Australia

Fiction

Upcoming Titles

Pantera Press and Ultimo Press

The Centre

Hannah Tunnicliffe

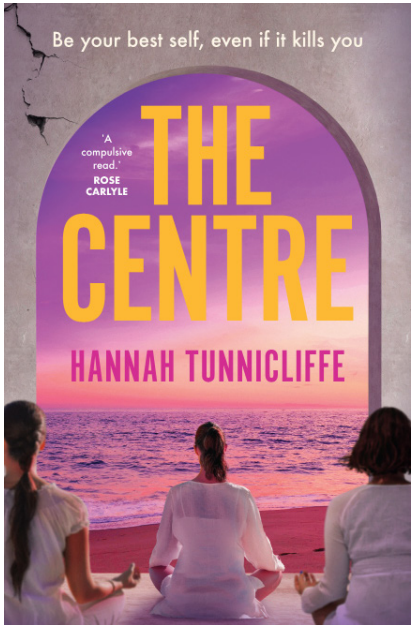
Be your best self, even if it kills you.

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.

'An addictive, thoughtful novel about how the human quest for belonging and self-improvement can make us vulnerable to modern wellness shamans and the agony of trying to protect a loved one who has fallen into the vortex. Another beautifully observed and wildly entertaining novel from Hannah Tunnicliffe.' —Rachel Paris, author of *See How They Fall*

'I was enthralled by The Centre, *as obsessed with it as the fated characters in this gripping novel.* The Centre *had me hooked.'* —Zoë Rankin, author of *The Vanishing Place*

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 153mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

Illuminated Ruins

Miriam Sved

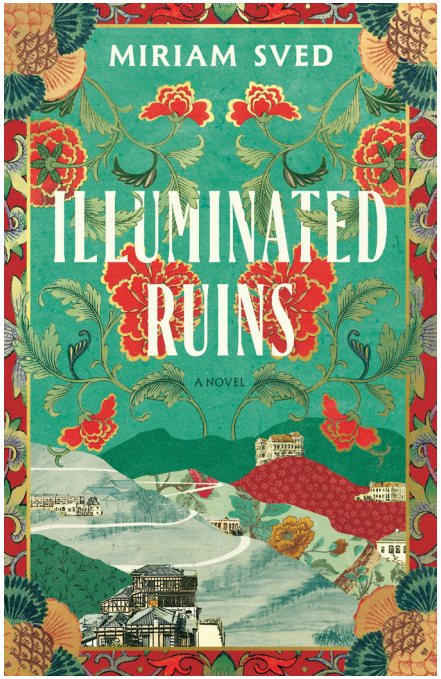
Hong Kong, 1956. On the heights of The Peak, the only way to survive the past is to bury it.

For Uri Weiss and his wife, Lujza, life in the British colony is a tailored mask. Hungarian Jewish doctors who escaped the wreckage of Europe only to endure Japanese occupation, they have rebuilt themselves through a fragile, assimilated restraint.

The arrival of the Mackays upends this peace. Hugh is a charismatic American with shadowy connections and Nancy is his effortlessly poised wife. As the families entwine, their daughters – Millie and Anne – form a bond so intense it threatens to consume them.

While the adults navigate the social rituals of the colony, the children retreat to the island's illuminated ruins. Playing among bombed-out shells and wartime bunkers, they mirror a world of missions and cover stories. But when Anne reveals a truth Millie's parents have kept unspoken for a decade, the foundations of their universe fracture.

As the Suez Crisis ignites, the children's games lead them from the safety of The Peak into the Triad-controlled underworld of the Walled City. In a landscape of stolen identities, both families must finally confront the violence they can no longer outrun.



About the Author

Miriam Sved is an Australian author who grew up in Sydney. With Hungarian Jewish heritage, her mother's family escaped Europe in the late 1930s and lived in Hong Kong for 20 years.

Her works include the novels *A Universe of Sufficient Size* and *Game Day*, and the novella *All the Things I Should've Given*.

"A thoughtful and haunting exploration of history, belonging, and the ways childhood innocence is shaped by the complicated world of adults'—Books+Publishing

' skilful storytelling'—The Daily Telegraph

PRAISE FOR *A UNIVERSE OF SUFFICIENT SIZE:*

'A fascinating, compelling, beautifully written novel.'—Liane Moriarty

'Miriam Sved has woven three generations and two periods of history into a page-turning, emotional rollercoaster to remind us all that families are messy, complicated and that the repercussions of decisions made decades ago can come back to haunt you... I cannot recommend this book highly enough.'—Heather Morris

Pub Date:	November 2026
ISBN:	9781761154959
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

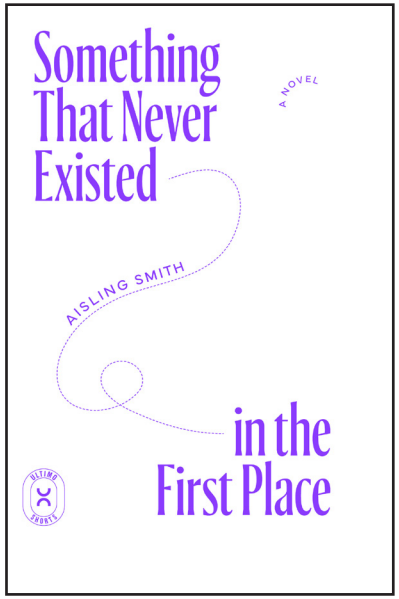
Something That Never Existed in the First Place

Aisling Smith

Four Cities. Four Words. The Spaces Between Us.

In Porto, Jamie wanders through the fog of Saudade, realising that love cannot always bridge the distance between two continents—or the depth of his own addictions. In Paris, Héloïse finds that the Jouissance of a secret affair curdles when brought into the light of the everyday. In Austin, Ava discovers the warmth of Sobremesa, as a community gathers to hold her and her partner steady through the ghosts of the past. And in Melbourne, Meera seeks the Serendipity of a fresh start, finding healing in the delicate art of Ikebana and the steady hand of a friend.

From the cobblestones of Portugal to the studios of France, this is a sweeping exploration of intimacy, isolation, and the beautiful, painful reality that some feelings simply cannot be translated.



About the Author

Aisling Smith is a Naarm/Melbourne-based writer. She was the winner of the 2020 Richell Prize for Emerging Writers. Her debut novel, *After the Rain*, was published by Hachette Australia in 2023 and longlisted for the ALS Gold Medal. Her writing has been published in *New Australian Fiction* 2024 and *Meanjin*, and she was the second runner up for the 2020 St Kilda Historical Society Short Story Competition. She holds a PhD in Literary Studies from Monash University.

ULTIMO SHORTS
A collection of short books to celebrate 5 years of Ultimo Press publishing

FROM THE AUTHOR: Every couple speaks their own private language—a system of communication that is known only to them and impenetrable to all others. To me, this is deeply reminiscent of how you can never grasp a language that isn't your native tongue at its most embodied level. This idea is at the heart of the novella. Like those enthralling words from other languages that have no direct translation, so too is the love between two people fundamentally untranslatable to anyone outside.

Pub Date:	December 2026
ISBN:	9781761155185
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback 198mm x 129mm
Extent:	240pp
Rights Held:	World

The Young Geriatric

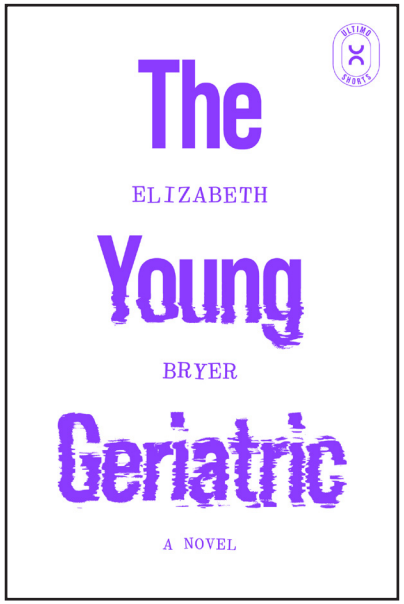
Elizabeth Bryer

When Alicia arrives at Mercy Gardens, she is a riddle the other residents cannot solve.

Bold, indifferent, and seemingly immune to the social hierarchy headed by the formidable Hattie, Alicia does not behave like a woman losing her grip on reality. Most disturbing of all is her apparent relish for the home's abject conditions—a stoicism that borders on the voyeuristic.

Hattie, Joyce, and Ramona have long navigated the failings of a system designed to ensure they are forgotten, but Alicia's presence suggests a stranger, more unsettling shadow.

Written in a voice that is at once hyper-specific and hypnotic, *The Young Geriatric* is a taut, interior thriller. It is a provocative excavation of societal neglect and a sharp-eyed study of the power plays that develop when the world stops looking.



About the Author

Elizabeth Bryer is the author of *From Here On, Monsters*, which was joint winner of the 2020 Norma K. Hemming Award. She is also a prizewinning translator from Spanish of novels by Eduardo Sangarcía, María José Ferrada, Aleksandra Lun, Claudia Salazar-Jiménez and José Luis de Juan, among others. She lives in Birraranga/Melbourne. *The Young Geriatric* is her second work of fiction.

ULTIMO SHORTS
A collection of short books to celebrate 5 years of Ultimo Press publishing

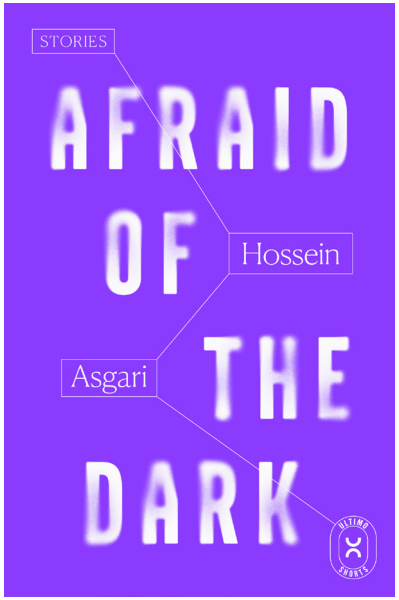
Pub Date:	December 2026
ISBN:	9781761155086
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	198mm x 129mm
Extent:	160pp
Rights Held:	World

Afraid of the Dark

Hossein Asgari

What compels a woman to invent an affair she never had? Why does a man stay to care for a woman who is no longer his, simply because the body has betrayed her? In this masterful short fiction collection, Hossein Asgari explores the precarious nature of our relationships—with our fathers, our lovers, and ourselves.

A young man finds himself a temporary guardian to a stranger's child; an English teacher revisits a small-town crime; a heartbroken soul finds healing in the most unlikely of places. Moving between the mundane and the metaphysical, *Afraid of the Dark* interrogates our universal struggle to form lasting bonds. Asgari's prose is sharp, empathetic, and deeply attuned to the messed-up ways we try to love one another in an increasingly isolated world.



About the Author

Hossein Asgari studied physics and creative writing. His debut novel, *Only Sound Remains*, was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards in 2024. His second novel, *Desolation*, was published in 2025 by Ultimo Press.

He currently works as a Research Fellow at the College of Creative Arts, Design and Humanities, Adelaide University.

ULTIMO SHORTS
A collection of short books to celebrate 5 years of Ultimo Press publishing

FROM THE AUTHOR:

I have always been curious about the process of making choices. This book is a meditation on motives. Even though all the stories are fictional, at the core of each story lie traces of something I found confronting or puzzling at some point in my life. Every story was born out of an attempt to make sense of it.

Pub Date:	December 2026
ISBN:	9781761154157
Category:	Short Stories
Format:	Paperback
	198mm x 129mm
Extent:	176pp
Rights Held:	World

Tinderbox

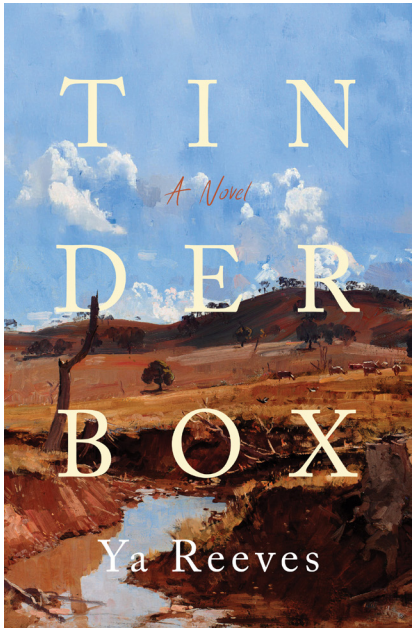
Ya Reeves

At the end of 2019, Matisse Reddick returns to the high country only to spin back into a younger self. It happens in the way of all children who enter the places that made them—immediately, violently. She is slapped with her childhood nickname, 'Muddy', and the dispassionate, unanchored identity she has spent years cultivating begins to strip away.

Muddy has returned for one summer to care for La Cuccia, the property of her childhood neighbour, Nuria. The old Italian artist is the only person she has remained in contact with since the 2003 fires took both the Reddicks' home and Nuria's husband, Lu. Muddy's plan is clinical: work a physical role eradicating willow trees on the river, run in the mountains, and avoid the 'muck' of the town—the polarising politics and the ghosts of a past she thought she had outrun. She has no intention of becoming involved with her estranged family or her first crush, Trout, a man who has become quite enigmatic since they were children.

But as the weather warms, she finds herself inevitably entangled in the lives of new and old friends, romance, the landscape, family feuds, and a familiar, looming threat that unearths devastating memories within the town.

Suddenly, as the fire threatens to take it all, Muddy realises that she has something very real to lose.



This novel is perfect for lovers of Robbie Arnott, Inga Simpson or Charlotte Maconaghy.

Ya is an outdoor educator, and her nature writing is infused with her rich knowledge of the Australian landscape.

Character rich, tense, heartwarming - this book has it all.

About the Author

Ya Reeves is an outdoor environmental educator from Far East Gippsland. Having studied a bachelor of outdoor education with honours, she has shared wild, beautiful places across Australia with both secondary and tertiary students. *Over This Backbone* was her first novel. She lives and writes in North East Victoria, at the base of Mount Bogong.

Pub Date:	February 2027
ISBN:	9781761154119
Category:	Crime Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	352pp
Rights Held:	World

The Bride Price

Natasha Rai

A polyphonic, time-travelling novel about the fierce, heartbreaking struggle of women's resistance to patriarchy.

Cornelia, a politician's wife, plans for the day her son will be elected as ancient Rome's next leader. Thwarted at every turn by the men in her life, she becomes increasingly ruthless in her pursuit of power.

In South London, teenaged Jaya dreams of becoming a nurse. The only way to make this happen is to escape her violent family, who plan an arranged marriage for her. When she is caught mid-escape she is taken to India, where an uncertain future awaits.

Naav is the leader of Kirandi, what remains of so-called Australia in the year 2850. When her father, Mudaris, betrays her in a coup, Naav is pushed to find her own strength and determination to fight back, as she is the only one who can restore peace.

Immersive and deeply resonant, *The Bride Price* is the story of three women – in the ancient past, the contemporary world and in a distant future – pushing against the limits defined by the men in their lives, and the beauty of the struggle within and between their times.

About the Author

Natasha Rai is a writer and somatic counsellor. She is also the co-host of the *Book Deal* podcast, exploring writers' publication journeys. Her debut novel, *An Onslaught of Light*, published by Pantera Press, was longlisted for the 2017 Richell Prize, 2018 KYD Unpublished Manuscript award, and highly commended for the 2022 Ultimo Press/Westwords Prize. Natasha's nonfiction appears in anthologies on gender-based violence. Her short fiction appears in *Mascara Literary Review, Overland, Verity La* and *StylusLit*.

'Natasha Rai's The Bride Price *is a searing howl against the patriarchy. Rai's women are schemers, survivors and warriors, and I read each one of them in thrall.'* —Siang Lu, award-winning author of *Ghost Cities*

'Boldly imagined and beautifully written, The Bride Price *weaves together the stories of three women separated by millennia yet bound by a common struggle for autonomy and self-determination. Ambitious in scope and rich in insight, it explores power, freedom and survival with sparkling intelligence and deep humanity. I can't stop thinking about it.'* —Emily Maguire, award-winning author of *Rapture*

'A wonderfully audacious act of connection. Natasha Rai knows why we tell stories – across generations, across continents, across the distances of time – because each telling changes what we inherit. The women who come before us help us to imagine what comes next. This novel is glorious, golden proof.'—Beejay Silcox

Pub Date:	March 2027
ISBN:	9781923390324
Category:	Fiction - Literary
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm
Extent:	384pp
Rights Held:	World

Through a Glass, Darkly

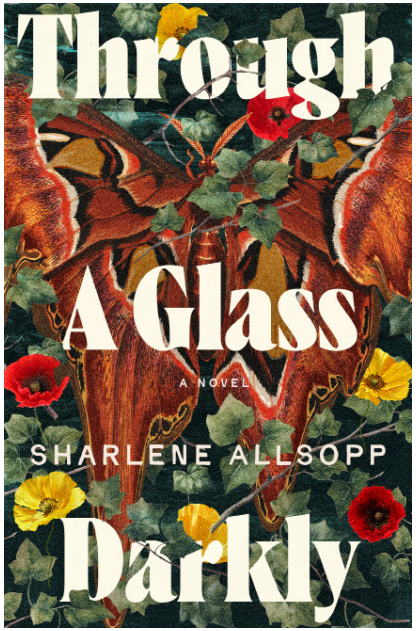
Sharlene Allsopp

Raised on fairytales and haunted by silence, Charlie Olive thought she could outrun the past in the French countryside. Instead, she fell in love with a legend.

Archer Auguste is on the verge of an impossible dream: winning all five cycling monuments in a single year. By his side is Charlie Olive, an Australian writer fleeing her own past. But a misjudged moment on a Tour de France cobblestone stage changes everything. Archer wakes from a coma determined to pursue his dream at any cost—and his team ensures that Charlie doesn't get in the way.

Exiled from Archer's curated reality in a gothic castle, Charlie finds a new map to follow: five hidden letters from an Australian soldier in WWI. Guided by the soldier's stories Charlie must navigate the secrets of her own history.

To create her future, she must first unearth the identity of the man who wrote from the trenches a century ago—and decide if some loves are worth the cost of remembrance.



FROM THE AUTHOR:

In my youth I was obsessed with WW1, France, Impressionism, and WorldTour Cycling: strange passions for an Aboriginal country kid. Decades later, I accidently discovered an online archive that connected those passions to the great grandfather who died before I was born. How could I learn more about him? I spent many months living a life with the same fields and rivers that hosted WW1, Claude Monet, WorldTour Cycling races and four years of my grandfather's life to find out if, when only selective stories are memorialised, could place hold the memory of all the stories? And if it does, will it tell?

About the Author

Sharlene Allsopp was born on Bundjalung Country into the Olive mob. She has been published widely, including in *Griffith Review, Portside Review,* and *Aniko Press*. She was the University of Queensland's Ford Memorial Poet of the Year in 2021. Her debut novel *The Great Undoing,* released with Ultimo Press, won the Queensland Literary Awards Fiction Book of the Year 2024. Sharlene lives in Meanjin/Brisbane with her family and her beloved doggo, Morty. She holds a Master's in Creative Writing and teaches as a casual academic at the University of Queensland.

Pub Date:	June 2027
ISBN:	9781761154003
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World

Wild Orchids

Melanie Joosten

At nineteen, Rebecca West possesses a brilliant mind, a scathing wit, and an appetite for a life far larger than 1914 society allows.

When she enters a secret, high-stakes affair with acclaimed author H.G. Wells—twenty-six years her senior and already married—she makes a choice that will alter the course of her life. Defying convention, she gives birth to their son, determined to prove to the world that motherhood will never dim her artistic fire.

As her literary star rises, Rebecca builds an extraordinary career on her own terms. Yet off the page, her private world becomes a dangerous arena. Bound by love, fierce pride, and an uncompromising need to shape her own legacy, she finds that her greatest challenge isn't conquering the literary world—it is navigating the complex, unspoken forces that threaten to push her and her son apart.

Richly atmospheric and emotionally charged, *Wild Orchids* is a compelling portrait of an extraordinary woman who dared to live openly and love recklessly - but paid the quiet price of absolute independence.

Rebecca West was one of the sharpest critics, journalists, and novelists of the 20th century, yet her personal life reads like a high-stakes psychological drama. Readers who devoured biographical novels about iconic women—such as Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald *or* Loving Frank*—will be immediately drawn to this raw, unvarnished look at West's infamous affair with H.G. Wells and its devastating aftermath.*

About the Author

Melanie Joosten is the author of three novels and a book of essays. *Berlin Syndrome* (2011), a psychological thriller, won the *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Novelist prize, and the Kathleen Mitchell Award for the best writer in Australia under 30. *Berlin Syndrome* was made into an internationally released, AACTA-nominated film directed by Cate Shortland and starring Teresa Palmer. *A Long Time Coming: Essays on Old Age* was shortlisted for the Nib Waverley Prize (and won the People's Prize). It was named the *Australasian Journal of Ageing* Book of the Year. A social worker by profession, Melanie works as an adviser in justice reform.

Pub Date:	July 2027
ISBN:	9781761152276
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	416pp
Rights Held:	World

Fiction

Recent Titles

Pantera Press and Ultimo Press

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.

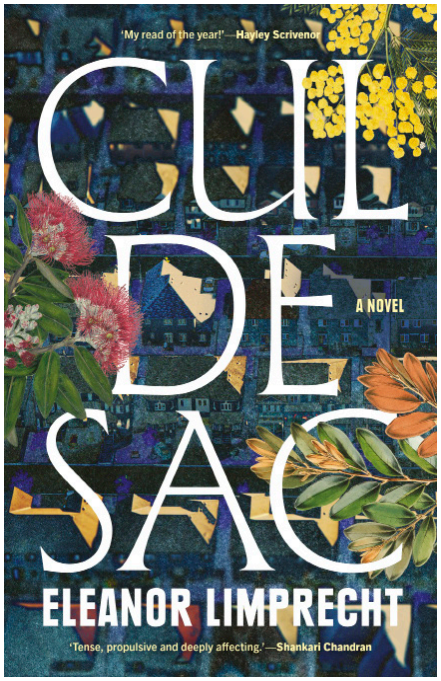
A trip home to her mother's alpaca farm on the rugged south coast of NSW was supposed to be a simple holiday. Instead, the salt air clears her vision. Away from Brandon's shadow and controlling behaviours, Jacquie and her children finally begin to breathe—and she realises she can never go back.

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?

'Limprecht has written a sensitive, clever and timely novel that challenges victim stereotypes'—The Guardian

'The stakes are high with such a complex topic, and Eleanor rises to the occasion, taking us on an emotional odyssey.'—The Australian Women's Weekly



'Tense, propulsive and deeply affecting.' —Shankari Chandran, bestselling and award-winning author of *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* and *Safe Haven*

'This is a lusciously rendered account of a woman's fight to save herself and her children. From its first pages, this book gripped me and would not let go. Populated by characters who live and breathe and are guaranteed to linger long after the last page, Cul-de-Sac *is yet more proof (as if we needed it) that Eleanor Limprecht is a master storyteller. Clear your schedule before starting this finely observed and impossibly taut book. My read of the year!'* —Hayley Scrivenor, internationally bestselling author of *Dirt Town* and *Girl Falling*

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.

Pub Date:	September 2026
ISBN:	9781761154447
Category:	Comercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	352pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

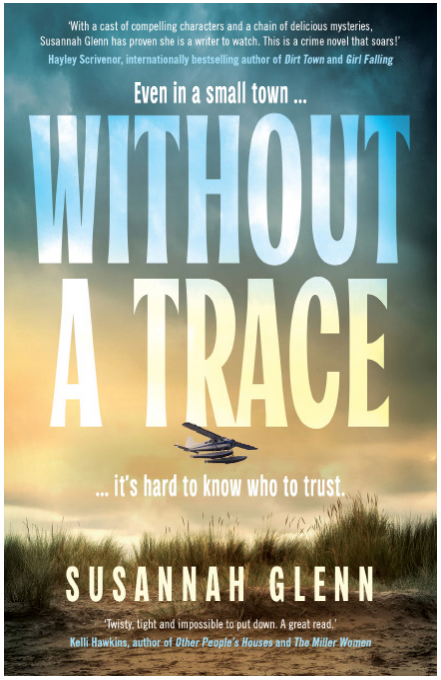
Without a Trace

Susannah Glenn

Flying runs in Charlotte Clarke's blood. As the daughter of a scenic flight owner, her life is spent soaring over Sydney's glittering harbour—until a series of devastating tragedies sends her crashing to earth. First, the deaths of her beloved grandmother and father, then her boyfriend Connor's seaplane vanishes without a trace.

Haunted by his mysterious disappearance and convinced she's being watched, Charlotte flees to a quiet coastal town and hits rock bottom, saved from a storm by a mysterious fisherman. But the calm is an illusion. Her paranoia peaks when she spots a man she believes is Connor, only to be told she's mistaken...

As she uncovers shocking secrets about those she holds closest, Charlotte realises her life isn't the only thing at risk. The truth about her past could be deadly.



About the Author

Susannah Glenn is an Australian author and former journalist. Her works explore themes of domestic noir and psychological suspense. Her debut novel, *Between Husbands and Wives*, was published by Pantera Press in 2024.

Susannah now writes full-time, her novels inspired by the mystery-thriller domestic noir genre, as well as the beautiful, complex, tangled mess that is human nature. Susannah lives between Adelaide and a cattle farm on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales with her husband Stuart and their indefatigable, surf-loving Australian cattle dog, Reg.

PANTERA PRESS

'With a cast of compelling characters and a chain of delicious mysteries, Susannah Glenn has proven she is a writer to watch. This is a crime novel that soars!'—Hayley Scrivenor, bestselling author of *Dirt Town*

'The novel opens with a strong sense of tension, immediately gripping the reader and sustaining the momentum throughout. The climax delivers on the high stakes established early, making for a thoroughly enjoyable read that is hard to put down.' —Books+Publishing

'Twisty, tight and impossible to put down. A great read.' —Kelli Hawkins, author of *Other People's Houses* and *The Miller Women*.

Pub Date:	July 2026
ISBN:	9780645858075
Category:	Fiction - Crime thriller
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm
Extent:	336pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	World Audio (Bolinda)

The Society of Literary Marauders

Sasha Wasley

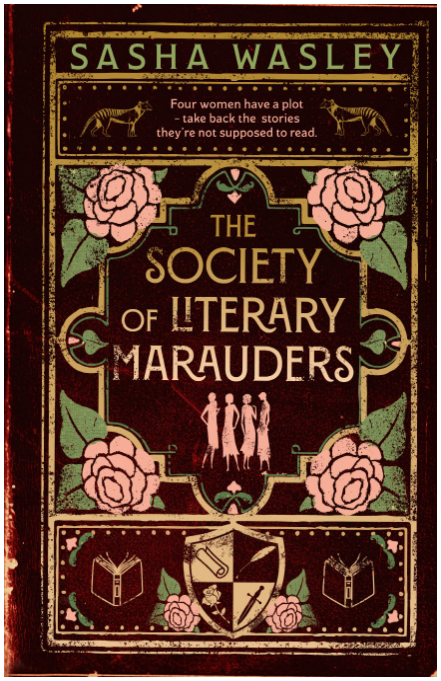
At Oxford University, 1928, four young women make a secret pledge:

'I hereby undertake to read any book kept away from nice young ladies and make up my own mind whether it is good for me or not.'

They've come from unlikely corners of the British Empire: bricklayer's daughter Annie, wealthy flapper Ridley, refined Parsi aristocrat Dorelia and disheartened schoolteacher Norma. They call themselves The Society of Literary Marauders and the price of entry is having stolen a book.

Their illicit meetings rapidly become a lifeline in a world where knowledge is power, and women are fed lies and half-truths. They start with small misdemeanours—getting their hands on banned books, stealing back historical records claimed by the men's colleges. But over time they become aware of a true literary injustice—and they slowly formulate a plan to put this historical wrong to right...

Full of intrigue, literary drama and the joy of rebellious female friendships, this stunning novel is an absolute unputdownable joy from first page to last.



About the Author

Sasha Wasley was born and raised in Perth, Western Australia. She completed a PhD in feminist literature at Murdoch University in 2006, and went on to work as a copywriter on topics ranging from mine safety to sex therapy.

Sasha's debut novel was published in 2015, after which she gave up her copywriting business to pursue her fiction writing career. She is an Ambassador for the Books in Homes Australia charity which provides books of choice for children in disadvantaged circumstances to keep in their home libraries.

PANTERA PRESS

'Wasley is an Austen for our times.' —Tess Woods, author of *The Venice Hotel* and *Love and Other Battles*

'A heartfelt celebration of literature, rebellion and the bonds of friendship.' —Kelly Rimmer, author of *The Midnight Estate* and *The Paris Agent*

'Intelligent and deftly plotted, The Society of Literary Marauders *joins works such as R.F. Kuang's* Babel *and Pip Williams's* The Dictionary of Lost Words *as an ode to Oxford and an interrogation of the inequalities that underpin it.'*—Books+Publishing

Pub Date:	April 2026
ISBN:	9781763550711
Category:	Fiction - Historical
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm
Extent:	448pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	World Audio (Bolinda)

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.

Home is where the heart is... but what if your heart is torn in two?

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

'The setting is immersive and well-drawn, and this, together with its characters, intersect to paint a portrait of the western Sydney we know from memes and stereotypes, but with depth and plenty of heart.'—The Sydney Morning Herald

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
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)
	Film Option (Foxtel/Binge)

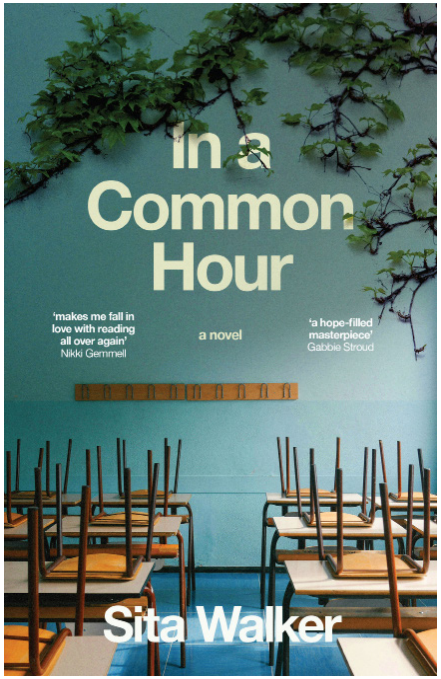
In a Common Hour

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.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE QUEENSLAND LITERARY AWARD FOR FICTION

'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*

'The full emotional force of Walker's well-plotted tale arrives in the final chapter, offering an ending that is empathetic to both students and teachers, and ultimately optimistic.'—Books+Publishing

'...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

'Sita Walker's powerful debut novel In a Common Hour *follows a diverse group of kids and teachers as they deal with the fallout from a student prank.'*—The Age

Pub Date:	February 2026
ISBN:	9781761153471
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

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.'*

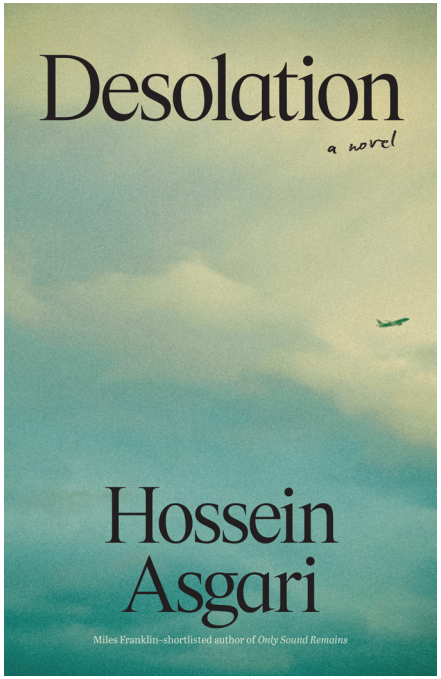
'It's called fiction, and though I appreciate that you want to—'

'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.

HIGHLY COMMENDED IN THE VICTORIAN PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS FOR FICTION

SHORTLIST - READINGS PRIZE FOR FICTION

'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

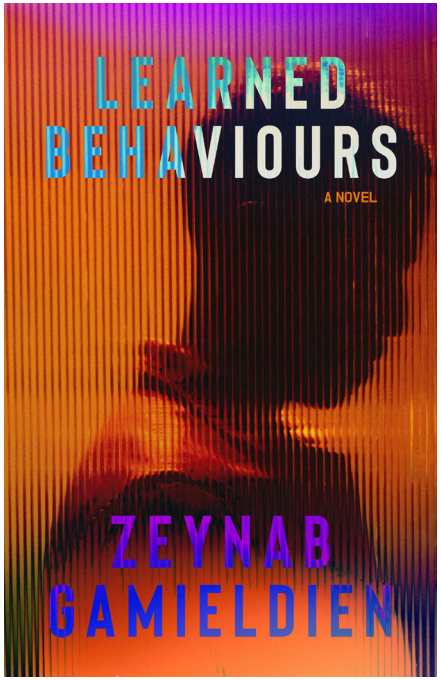
Learned Behaviours

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.



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*.

She was named as one of three Best Young Australian Novelists of 2026 by *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

'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

A SYDNEY MORNING HERALD BEST YOUNG NOVELIST 2026

The judges described the novel as a *"compelling, complex and chilling"* look into *"the murderous cycle of stereotypes, asking Australians how we can unlearn such concrete impressions of each other"*.

SHORTLISTED READINGS PRIZE FOR FICTION

Pub Date:	August 2025
ISBN:	9781761152191
Category:	Commercial Fiction
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	ANZ Audio (Wavesound)

Non-Fiction

Upcoming Titles

Hardie Grant Publishing and Pantera Press

The Lonely Generation

Dr Michelle Lim

PANTERA PRESS

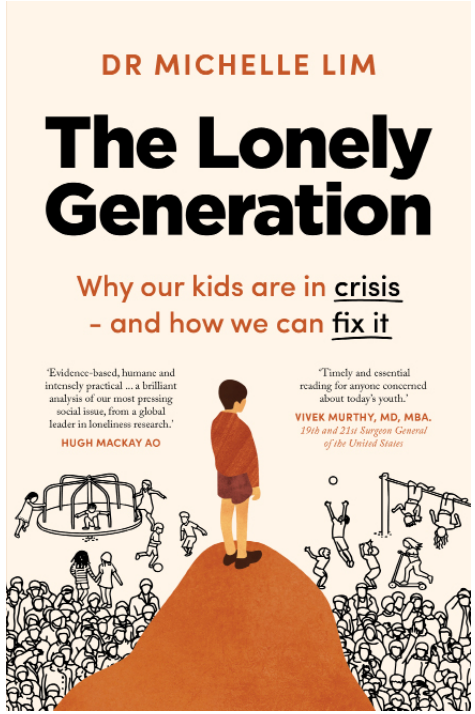
Why Our Kids are in Crisis - and How We Can Fix It

Essential reading for all parents, The Lonely Generation sounds the alarm on a looming public health crisis within younger people–and provides empowering, practical steps to build a healthier, more connected world for our children.

We are living through increasingly fractured times, in our era of social media, big tech and rising costs. Younger generations are bearing the brunt of this: their mental health has gone into freefall with higher rates of anxiety, depression and self-harm. How do we untangle the knots that keep them trapped in feelings of loneliness?

Associate Professor Michelle Lim is Australia's leading expert on loneliness, as head of the national peak body Ending Loneliness Together and an expert technical advisor to the World Health Organization. She's here to show us how we got here and what can be done about this public health emergency.

Drawing on the latest research in psychology, sociology and neuroscience, *The Lonely Generation* is an agenda-setting investigation into the profound impacts of loneliness on young people, and how parents and educators can work to form networks and cultures that foster deep, meaningful social connection.



The mental health of young people has never been worse. While many of the culprits—social, technological, economic—are familiar, we need to call this for what it is: a loneliness epidemic of ever-increasing proportions and dire consequences. This deep-dive investigation by social psychologist Michelle Lim, Australia's leading expert on loneliness, shows us how we got here—and what we all (parents, carers, educators) can do to help our kids become happier.

About the Author

Associate Professor Michelle Lim is CEO and Scientific Chair of Ending Loneliness Together, Australia's peak organisation focused on addressing loneliness and social isolation in Australia. She is also a Principal Research Fellow and co-director of the Social Health and Wellbeing Group in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. Associate Professor Lim is considered the leading Australian expert in loneliness, and her work informs governments and the not-for-profit and corporate sectors across the world. In 2024, she was appointed as one of 20 global experts on the Technical Advisory Group to the World Health Organization Commission to Social Connection. She is a practising clinical psychologist with over 22 years' experience.

Pub Date:	October 2026
ISBN:	9781923390294
Category:	Non Fiction - social science
Format:	Paperback 234mm x153mm
Extent:	288pp
Rights Held:	World

World is Almost at Peace

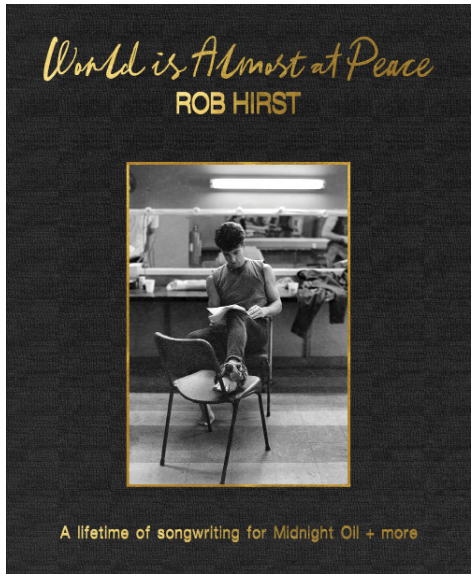
Rob Hirst

A Lifetime of Songwriting, for Midnight Oil and More

Over almost 50 years, Midnight Oil's Rob Hirst wrote and co-wrote some of Australia's best known songs: 'Beds Are Burning', 'The Dead Heart', 'Best of Both Worlds', 'Kosciusko', 'King of the Mountain', 'Read About It', 'Forgotten Years' and many more.

Here for the first time is Rob's entire lyric catalogue from his myriad musical collaborations, including early-version scribbles and unseen photos, plus behind-the-scenes stories from the author and his peers which place the songs in local and international context.

Poignant and deeply nostalgic, *World Is Almost At Peace* is a celebration of a life in music.



About the Author

Rob Hirst was born in Camden, New South Wales, and was a founding member of internationally successful band Midnight Oil. His singing, songwriting, drumming and guitar can also be heard on his many collaborations—with The Backsliders, The Ghostwriters and The Break, Paul Greene, Jay O'Shea, Lez Karski, Sean Sennett, Jim Moginie and Hamish Stuart.

He is also a published author: *Willie's Bar and Grill* (Picador) tells the story of his band touring a shell-shocked America in the months after 9/11. Rob lived, wrote and recorded in Sydney until his death in early 2026.

PANTERA PRESS

A must-have collector's item for all Midnight Oil fans.

Nostalgia factor: each chapter is a time capsule, going back to the 70s and 80s in a lavishly designed gift format.

'It's a testament to Hirst's songwriting brilliance, as much as Garrett's leadership and the group's overwhelming zeal, that the band succeeded so righteously at pissing off all the right people: corrupt politicians, greedy developers, music industry fakes. Hirst fully embodied the power and the passion that drove Midnight Oil until the very end.' —Andrew Stafford, *The Guardian*

Pub Date:	November 2026
ISBN:	9781923390362
Category:	Non Fiction - music
Format:	Hardcover 215mm x175mm
Extent:	408pp
Rights Held:	World

Mumdays

Danielle Colley

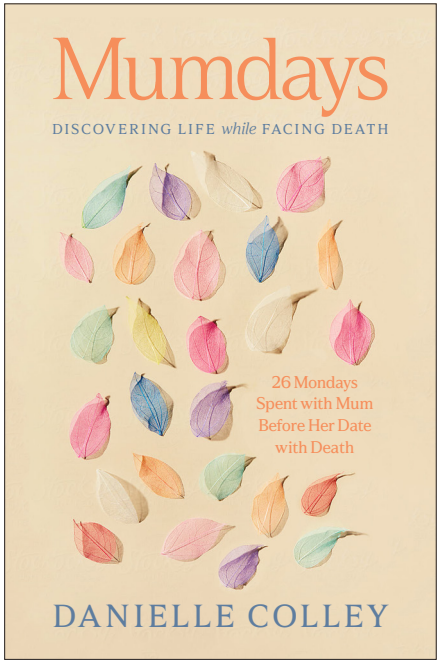
Discovering Life While Facing Death

When Danielle Colley's mother is granted permission for a Voluntary Assisted Death, they're given what most people never get: a countdown. Six months. Twenty-four Mondays. A chosen ending.

After living with MS for thirty-seven years, her mother's choice prompts Danielle to commit to spending every Monday with her mum (no excuses) for the final six months. These twenty-four 'Mumdays' become a seedbed for conscious living and dying—exploring Buddhist philosophy, creating living wakes, decorating cardboard caskets, and asking the questions most people avoid until it's too late. Some might spend that time chasing bucket lists and final adventures. Danielle and her mother spend their final days together delving into the meaning of life, and the journey of death. They discover something unexpected: when you stop racing toward someday and start living like your time is finite, what makes a happy and meaningful life shifts.

Raw, irreverent and unexpectedly funny, *Mumdays* is a memoir about death that's really a tale about living. It's a reminder that we're all terminal—and that truth can either paralyse us or set us free. This is what it looks like to live fully while dying slowly. Which, as it turns out, is what we're all doing.

A memoir about making the most of the time we have left with the people we love.



About the Author

Danielle Colley is a former journalist who has an interest in wellbeing. She has written features on health and wellbeing for some of Australia's largest and most well-known online and print publications such as *The Australian Women's Weekly, Body & Soul, Whimn, The Collective* and *The Sunday Magazine*. Danielle also speaks at events on wellbeing; she was a speaker at the Leadership Institute: Women in the Public Sector Leadership Summit in August 2026, and she was one of the speakers at Parliament House on International Women's Day in 2024.

Hardie Grant BOOKS

'This story is a little bit about dying. Before you hastily shove it to the back of the bookshelf thinking, 'Christ, that's grim. Throw in a sassy detective who whistles Puccini while stuffing mushrooms or I'm out,' let me reassure you that this is predominantly a book about living. The little bit of dying happens right at the end, which is not a spoiler. The whole adventure, right from the beginning, is leading towards that death. Much like life itself. But the thing is, this tale – which I promise is life-affirming and surprisingly uplifting – was always going to end with Mum choosing to end her life.'

This is the first monther-daughter account of chosen death, tackling the emotional story of the decisions and discussions that result from taking these very brave steps and creating an emotional roadmap.

Like *Tuesdays with Morrie* or *When Breath Becomes Air* and *The Year of Magical Thinking*, this is a perennial conversation about mortality.

Pub Date:	April 2027
ISBN:	9781761453403
Category:	Personal Memoir
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	288pp
Rights Held:	World

Non-Fiction

Recent Titles

Hardie Grant Publishing, Pantera Press and Ultimo Press

What the Flora?

Vanessa Fuchs

PANTERA PRESS

Incredible stories from the Brilliant and Bizarre World of Plants

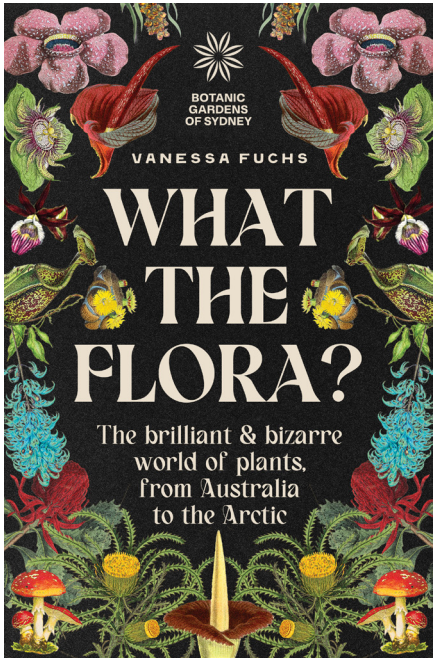
Get ready for a wild ride through the most shocking, inspiring and downright unbelievable stories about plant life, from the experts at Botanic Gardens of Sydney.

This is your backstage pass to the drama, mystery and importance of Earth's most overlooked species. Blending science, true crime, history and a touch of lore, *What the Flora?* offers a fresh perspective on the ingenuity and wonders of the plant kingdom.

From Australia's wildest landscapes to the farthest reaches of the globe, scientists and plant obsessives are uncovering the weirdest stories and profound truths about plants that will leave you wide-eyed and jaw-dropped.

You'll encounter trees that survived atomic blasts and deadly species that have shaped medicine and myth, discover the mind-bending secrets of plant intelligence and learn how pollen can crack a murder case.

This thrilling journey also reveals the remarkable ways plants have shaped our world: fuelling civilisations, inspiring innovation and sustaining all life on Earth. Our very survival is intertwined with theirs, and protecting plants may be our greatest hope for the future.



Without plants we wouldn't have any medicine or food. And did you know pollen can be used to solve crimes? This popular science book about the wonders of the plant world is a fun, wide-ranging compendium covering Australia and the world. It comes with the official backing of the team at Botanic Gardens of Sydney, drawing on their extensive archives and ongoing research.

About the Author

Vanessa Fuchs is a science communicator at Botanic Gardens of Sydney and host of the Gardens' award-winning podcast *Branch Out*. Vanessa grew up in the untamed scrub of Alligator Creek in coastal Queensland, where she spent hours behind a camcorder directing and narrating her own wild backyard adventures. With her trademark blend of enthusiasm and scientific rigour, Vanessa crafts compelling factual tales from the botanical world. Her mission is simple: to make you see plants as the true stars of the natural world, not just the backdrop.

Pub Date:	September 2026
ISBN:	9781923390003
Category:	NF - Popular Science
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm Full colour with botanical illustrations
Extent:	288pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	World Audio (PRH Audio, US)

Juicy

Sheree Joseph

How to Live Life in the Wreckage of Expectations

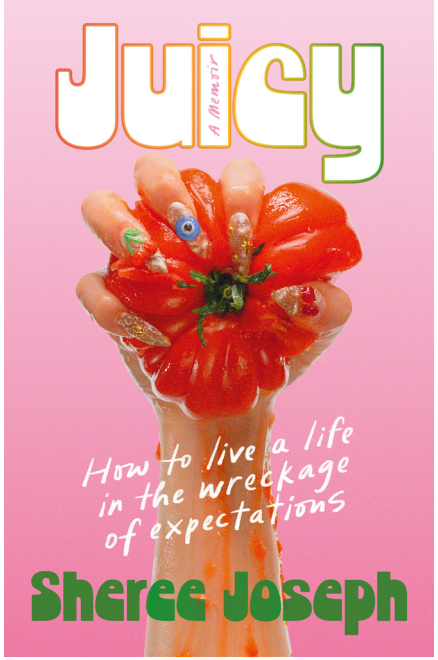
Juicy is the story of what happens when life unravels, and a love letter to those who have had to start all over again.

'Listen. You are the back-up plan. You will always have yourself, no matter what.'

At 33, Sheree Joseph stood in the ruins of the life she thought she'd have: no partner, no children, no neat timeline. Instead, a pandemic, profound grief and the unsettling realisation that everything she'd been told to want—marriage, motherhood, security—might not arrive. Or, if it did, that it wouldn't look anything like she'd imagined.

Set against the backdrop of a world in crisis, *Juicy* is a memoir of heartbreak, healing and rewriting the narrative. In the face of grief, failed fertility treatments, fractured relationships and a love life that refused to go to plan, Sheree searches for meaning and repair: forging forever friendships, tracing her Lebanese-Australian roots, journeying through sun-drenched Europe for the trip of a lifetime and returning to Sydney to rebuild among the wreckage of expectations. Through it all, she learns to let go of a life that was never truly hers.

Written with warmth, wit and unflinching honesty, Juicy is a generation-defining memoir for women learning, piece by messy piece, to live lives far richer, deeper, juicier.



About the Author

Sheree Joseph is an award-winning Arab-Australian writer living on the unceded lands of the Darug people in Western Sydney. She was the former Managing Editor of *The Vocal*, an award-nominated solutions journalism publication at Fairfax. Her work has appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the *ABC*, *SBS*, *Overland*, *Russh*, *Junkee*, *The Lifted Brow* and *The Everywoman*. As an ongoing member of Sweatshop Literacy Movement, Sheree has published her fiction in *Sweatshop Women* (2020) and *Love* (2025).

PANTERA PRESS

Juicy is a powerful memoir exploring what it means to rebuild a life when every expectation—of love, motherhood and success—has unravelled. Sheree offers a raw, resonant account of being single and childless at 33 and making the radical choice to find joy along the path less taken. This is not just a story of survival, but of self-reclamation.

A rallying cry for a generation rewriting what fulfilment and freedom really look like.

Pub Date:	August 2026
ISBN:	9780645858136
Category:	NF - Memoir
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	352 pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	World Audio (Wavesound)

Getting Murdoched

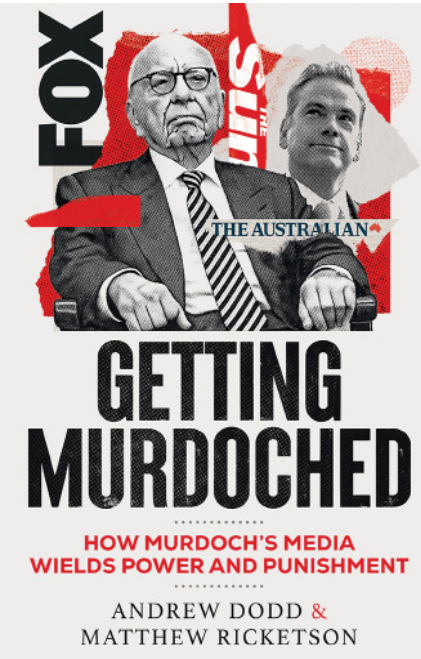
Andrew Dodd & Matthew Ricketson

How Murdoch's Media Wields Power and Punishment

For decades, Rupert Murdoch's global media empire has shaped political landscapes, influenced elections, and fuelled public opinion. But behind the headlines lies a darker story—of targeted campaigns, smear tactics, and relentless attacks on those who don't fit the Murdoch mould. From LGBTQI communities and women's rights advocates to progressive politicians, human rights defenders, and even conservatives deemed 'not right enough', *Getting Murdoched: How Murdoch's Media Wields Power and Punishment* exposes how dissent is silenced and reputations destroyed. Drawing on insider accounts, investigative research, and case studies spanning Australia, the UK, and the US, this book reveals how News Corp turns disagreement into a declaration of war.

Powerful, unsettling, and meticulously documented, it's both a warning and a call to defend truth in an age of weaponised media.

Including interviews and international examples, *Getting Murdoched* analyses the damaging effect that this has on democracy in the UK, the United States and Australia.



About the Authors

Andrew Dodd is an Associate Professor of Journalism and the Director of the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne, where he coordinates the Master of Journalism and the Master of International Journalism programs.

Matthew Ricketson is an academic and journalist. He is Professor of Communication at Deakin University in Australia and before that was Inaugural Professor of Journalism at the University of Canberra.

Hardie Grant BOOKS

First-ever global assessment of News Corps' bullying tactics and the types of people targeted.

Case studies include high-profile and well-known examples, such as Meghan Markle and Hugh Grant.

First-hand experience and understanding—authors have themselves been targets of News Corps' bullying tactics.

Authors are highly respected academics/journalists.

Analysis is wide-reaching and thorough—across Australia, US, UK and Europe; tabloids, cable and satellite TV, book publishing, movies and print journalism with both historical and contemporary examples.

Pub Date:	July 2026
ISBN:	9781761450761
Category:	NF Business
Format:	Paperback 234mm x 153mm
Extent:	304pp
Rights Held:	World

How to Raise Rich Kids

Sarah Megginson

PANTERA PRESS

Build Lasting Wealth for Your Children

The proven roadmap to create wealth for your kids and set them up for the best possible future—without needing to be rich yourself.

We all want our children to lead 'rich' lives, by giving them the tools to set themselves up for prosperity and giving them lives abundant in choice, opportunity and freedom. But so many of us find the world of finance confusing, and have money habits that are hard to break.

Sarah Megginson knows this feeling well, as both a mother and as a highly respected personal finance expert. It's become her mission in life to teach her kids everything she knows about money: how to manage it, how to get more out of it, how to respect it—and, most importantly, how to enjoy it!

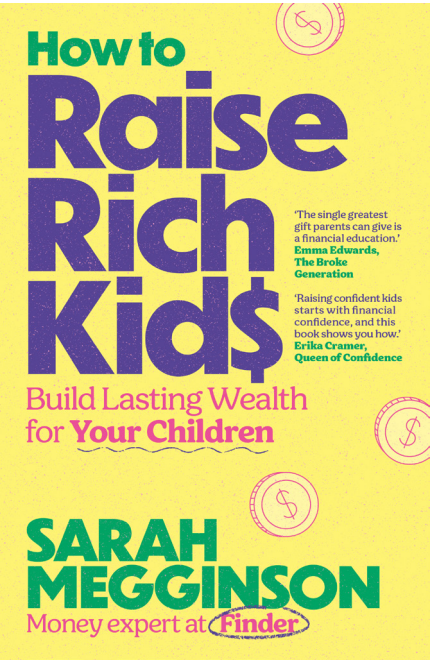
By following Sarah's three-step method to change your family's relationship with money, you will:

—Understand, challenge and shift your own money mindset

—Learn how to talk about finances with your kids in effective, age-appropriate ways

—Build wealth for them through the type of investing that works best for you.

Packed with proven strategies, tips and case studies, *How to Raise Rich Kids* is an empowering, no-nonsense guide to improve your financial literacy and set your children up for financial freedom.



This empowering guide, from a trusted and relatable voice in financial media, takes out all of the gatekeeping and gives people clear, practical steps to transform their money situation and set their kids up for success.

Sarah Megginson is a personal finance expert with 20 years of experience in financial journalism. The book is aimed at parents—especially mothers—aged from their 20s to their 60s.

These are the parents of babies, school-aged children, teenagers and young adults. These people are looking at their finances and the property market.

About the Author

Sarah Megginson is a highly respected personal finance expert with over 20 years of experience in property, finance and investment journalism. A regular media commentator, Sarah's expert advice on personal finance, investing and wealth creation is frequently featured across television, radio and print media, including on *Sunrise* and *ABC News*. She was previously managing editor of *Your Investment Property* magazine, *Australian Broker* magazine and home loan comparison site *Your Mortgage*, and her byline can be found on *Yahoo! Finance, Kidspot* and *Mamamia*, and in *Money* magazine, *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie Claire*.

Pub Date:	June 2026
ISBN:	9781923390249
Category:	NF - Money
Format:	Paperback
	234mm x 153mm
Extent:	320pp
Rights Held:	World
Rights Sold:	English Language - India

The Uncaged Sky

Kylie Moore Gilbert

My 804 Days in an Iranian Prison

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

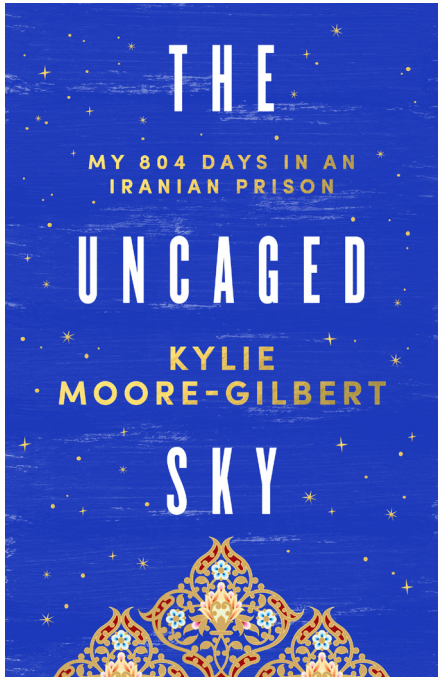
On September 12, 2018 British-Australian academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert was arrested at Tehran Airport by Iran's feared Islamic Revolutionary Guards. Convicted of espionage in a shadowy trial presided over by Iran's most notorious judge, Dr Moore-Gilbert was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

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.

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