

# SCRIBE

**London 2025  
Rights Catalogue**

# SCRIBE

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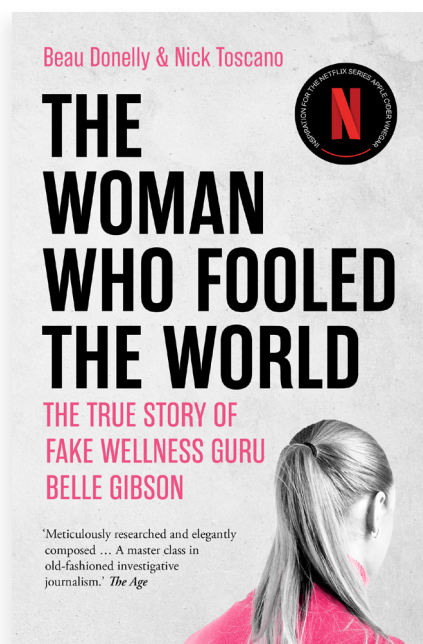
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Beau Donnelly and Nick  
Toscano



**TRUE CRIME**

February 2025 (originally published  
2017)

336pp

Final pages available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Italian (Newton Compton)

BEAU DONELLY is a multi-award-winning journalist who covered social affairs for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. His news-breaking and investigative skills have been recognised by the United Nations and the Melbourne Press Club. He has also been a finalist for Australian journalism's highest honour, the Walkley Award.

NICK TOSCANO is a multi-award-winning journalist based in Melbourne, who specialises in federal politics, business workplace relations, and the labour movement for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He has twice received the highest honour in Australian journalism, the Walkley Award.

## The Woman Who Fooled the World

the true story of fake wellness guru Belle  
Gibson

### INSPIRATION FOR THE NETFLIX SERIES APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

**The jaw-dropping story of Instagram influencer  
and wellness scammer Belle Gibson, whose cancer  
diagnosis and cure was all a lie.**

Entrepreneur. Inspiration. Guru. Australian wellness influencer Belle Gibson shot to fame after she convinced the world she had cured her terminal brain cancer with a healthy diet. But there was one problem: she lied — she'd never had cancer.

Gibson, a high school dropout and teenage mother, built a global business that vaulted her to fame and fortune. She had 200,000 Instagram followers from Melbourne to Los Angeles to London, international book deals, and a best-selling smartphone app, having fooled both Penguin Books and Apple. She was a digital-age celebrity, a one-woman cult, a hero of the “wellness” world, and an inspiration to many.

Written by the two journalists who assiduously uncovered the details of Gibson's lies, *The Woman Who Fooled the World* unravels the mystery and motivation behind this deception. It follows the public reaction to the scandal, which included headlines in *Time* magazine and Gibson being named as a top-ten villain of the year by *The Washington Post*. It also explores the lure of alternative cancer treatments, the cottage industry flourishing behind the wellness movement, and the rise of social media. It documents not only Gibson's folly but the devastating impact this con had on her fans and on people suffering from cancer.

### INSPIRATION FOR THE NETFLIX SERIES *APPLE CIDER VINEGAR* STARRING KAITLYN DEVER

- The extremely popular *Apple Cider Vinegar* is making waves in the media all over the world, and generating renewed interest in Belle Gibson and her extraordinary scam
- Described by the *New York Times* as ‘a scammer docudrama with bite’, the series explores the wellness industry more broadly alongside Belle Gibson's rise and fall
- *The Woman Who Fooled the World* was the inspiration for the series

‘*The Woman Who Fooled the World* isn't just a detonating exposé, but a forensically researched, compulsively readable and frequently staggering behind-the-scenes account of an unravelling on an operative scale. It'll also restore your faith in journalism's ability to uncover the truth and expose it to light.’ **Benjamin Law**

‘This fascinating and thoroughly reported tale will have readers casting a gimlet eye on both the wellness industry and social media.’ **Publishers Weekly**

‘Donnelly and Toscano give a master class in old-fashioned investigative journalism and a reminder of its potency and importance.’ **The Age**

Walter Marsh

## The Butterfly Thief

adventure, fraud, and Australia's greatest museum heist



**TRUE CRIME**  
**September 2025**  
**320pp**  
**Rights held: World**

WALTER MARSH is a journalist based in Tarantania/Adelaide with a background in history and culture. A former editor and staff writer at *The Adelaide Review* and *Rip It Up*, his writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Monthly*, *The Saturday Paper*, and *InDaily*. He is also the author of *Young Rupert: the making of the Murdoch empire* (Scribe, 2023).

**The story of an audacious serial heist and the British gentleman adventurer who got away with it. A scientific true-crime caper stretching around the globe.**

In January 1947, a chance discovery rocked the world of natural science: over 3,000 rare and precious specimens of butterflies had vanished from Australia's most prestigious museums in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Alarming, the missing insects included many priceless 'holotypes' — the first specimen of a given species to be identified, against which all others are compared.

On the other side of the world, New Scotland Yard descended on a country house in Surrey, where they found a haul of over 40,000 butterfly specimens. The culprit was Colin Wyatt, a Cambridge-educated ski champion, mountaineer, wartime camouflager, artist, and amateur naturalist whose high-flying exploits cut a path from the Alps of Europe to a London court room to a final expedition to the jungles of Guatemala.

Drawing on unpublished casefiles, dossiers, and private archives, *The Butterfly Thief* pieces together Wyatt's enigmatic life story and his decades-long impact on the world of natural history. Along the way, award-winning journalist Walter Marsh reveals a deeper history of gentleman explorers, scoundrels, and grave-robbers, shining light on the crimes and complicities of Western museums.

- Begs an uncomfortable but vital question: What if Western museums were crime scenes all along?
- A story that takes readers around the world, blending true crime with natural history
- Includes 8-page picture section

Russell McGregor

## Enchantment by Birds

a history of birdwatching in 22 species



NATURE/WILDLIFE

October 2024

320pp

Rights held: World

RUSSELL MCGREGOR has been a birdwatcher since childhood and an historian for over 40 years. Formerly a professor of history at James Cook University, he has written numerous articles on birds and birdwatching, and is also the author of six previous books, including *Indifferent Inclusion: Aboriginal people and the Australian nation* (winner of the 2012 New South Wales Premier's Australian History Prize), and *Idling in Green Places: a life of Alec Chisholm* (shortlisted for the 2020 National Biography Award).

**A fresh appreciation of the magic of birds and how watching them fulfils a human need to connect with nature.**

Enchantment by birds is commonplace. Birdwatchers merely go a step further than others and actively seek to be enchanted. This book tells why they take that extra step. It takes the reader on a series of excursions into birdwatching's past, venturing forward to the present. With an intriguing cast of characters, avian as well as human, its lively narratives explore the emotional and aesthetic impulses behind the pastime as well as its scientific and conservationist components.

Its stories of 22 birds range widely: from wordy squabbles over bird names to the artistic finessing of field guides; from the Paradise Parrot's tragic fall into extinction to the everyday enjoyment of a Magpie's carol; from the evolution of citizen science to the boom in birding tourism. Interlacing them all is the insight that birdwatching is a means by which modern, urban people reach out to touch the wild. A primal desire to connect with nature lies at the heart of the pastime.

*Enchantment by Birds* not only offers a compelling exposition of what makes birders tick; it also tells us, imaginatively and informatively, why birds have a special place in our hearts.

- Engaging, lively and thoughtful, this book combines a love of birds with a love of history
- Bird books have a huge audience and make excellent gifts
- 16-page illustrated section
- For readers of Jennifer Ackerman, Robyn Annear and Tim Low

'Birdwatching is booming at the moment. If you like birds, this book will astonish and delight you. If you don't know what the fuss is all about, this brilliant book explains why so many people from all walks of life have picked up their binoculars and are heading out the door.'

**Darryl Jones, urban ecologist and author of *Curlews on Vulture Street***

'Russell McGregor has delved into the archives to bring us a beautifully written account of our relationship with birds. There is some fascinating stuff here, and a timely reminder of the intrinsic importance of birds for nature's sake, and for ours.'

**Sarah Pizzey, scientific editor of *The Field Guides to the Birds of Australia***

'It's been said that if you had to name someone to bat for your life, choose Steve Waugh. Or your mother. Well, if I needed someone to bird for my life, Russell would be second pick. After my father.'

**Raoul Slater, nature photographer and co-author of *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds***

Ben Coates

## The Invention of Amsterdam

a history of Europe's greatest city in ten walks



TRAVEL WRITING/EUROPEAN HISTORY  
March 2025  
384pp  
Rights held: World

BEN COATES is the author of *Why the Dutch Are Different* and *The Rhine*. He was born in England in 1982 and has worked at various times as a political adviser in London, speechwriter, lobbyist, and aid worker in Africa. He currently lives in a cottage in the Dutch countryside with his wife, children, and assorted farmyard animals. Ben has also worked freelance as a journalist for outlets including *Politico*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, the BBC, *The Scotsman*, and *The Irish Times*. He writes a regular weekly column for the Dutch newspaper *AD*.

**An essential guide to one of the world's most remarkable, and often misunderstood, cities. By the author of *Why the Dutch Are Different*.**

When Ben Coates injures his leg and needs to rebuild his strength by walking, he finds himself presented with an exciting opportunity: to rediscover the city he has been working in for over a decade, at a slower pace. He devised nine walks, each demonstrating a different chapter of Amsterdam's history, from its humble beginnings in the early 1200s as a small fishing community through two Golden Ages, fuelled by the growth of the Dutch colonial empire, two world wars, and countless reinventions.

Join Coates as he meanders past beautiful townhouses and glittering canals, dances at Pride celebrations, witnesses the King's apology at Ketikoti, attends a WW2 memorial, gets high at a coffee shop, walks through the red-light district, and gazes in awe at Rembrandt paintings, all the while illuminating modern Amsterdam by explaining its past.

Blending travelogue and quirky history, *The Invention of Amsterdam* is an entertaining and sharply observed portrait of a fascinating and complicated city.

- An eclectic new study of Amsterdam told through ten walks the author makes, each covering a different period in this great city's history
- A wonderful travelogue, and the perfect accompaniment for visitors, exploring Amsterdam's many glories and delights, but also looking at the challenges the city is facing in the future
- For readers of Paul Theroux, Geert Mak, Iain Sinclair, and Franz Hessel, this is travel literature at its finest

'Coates is excellent on what it's like to live in the city today. However, he's equally skilled at showing us Amsterdam's past ... *The Invention of Amsterdam* will make you desperate to jump on the next plane or train to rediscover one of Europe's most complex cities.'

**Midge Gillies, author of *Amy Johnson* and *Picadilly***



Jessica Friedmann

## Twenty-Two Impressions

notes from the Major Arcana



LITERARY ESSAYS/TAROT

October 2024

272pp

Rights held: World

JESSICA FRIEDMANN is a writer, editor, and independent scholar. Her first essay collection, *Things That Helped*, was published by Scribe (2017) and FSG (2018).

**A poetic new essay collection in which the symbols of Renaissance-era tarot brush up against life in a changing world.**

The Tarot de Marseille is a 16th-century set of playing cards, the deck on which the occult use of tarot was originally based. When Jessica Friedmann bought her first pack, the unfamiliar images sparked a deep immersion in the art, symbols, myths, and misrepresentations of Renaissance-era tarot.

Over the years that followed, and as tarot became a part of her daily rhythm, Friedmann's life in country New South Wales was touched by floods and by drought, by bushfires and the pandemic, creating an environment in which the only constant was change.

*Twenty-Two Impressions: notes from the major arcana* uses the Tarot de Marseille as a touchstone for these years, blending historical research, art history, and critical insights with personal reflections. In these essays, Friedmann demonstrates how the cards of the major arcana can be used as a lens through which to examine the unexpectedness — and subtle beauty — of 21st-century life.

- Weaves in history, anthropology, art history, mysticism, and the occult as Friedmann reflects on the environmental and political upheavals of recent years
- For readers of Maria Tumarkin, Deborah Levy, and Olivia Laing
- Interest in tarot and spirituality, particularly with younger generations, has risen strongly over recent years

‘Luminous and tender, full of nuance and possibility ... a lucid reminder of the “ongoingness” of history, stories, and the self — a meditation on the everyday magic of life and an argument for the enduring legacy of the tarot.’

**Mel Fulton, *Books + Publishing***

‘These elliptical essays form a paean to the tarot and its transformative potential ... Friedmann’s luminescent prose underscores how the tarot — maligned by some and simply misunderstood by others — can be embraced to access deeper nuance and introspection.’

**Nathan Smith, *The Saturday Paper***

‘Enlightening ... Blending historical insights with her own warm, vulnerable perspectives, Friedmann’s book will influence how each of us — novice or expert — reads and interprets the Tarot.’

**Holly Mortlock, *Readings***



Josh Bornstein

## Working for the Brand

how corporations are destroying free speech



**POLITICS/ETHICS AND CENSORSHIP/  
LABOR LAW**  
**October 2024**  
**304pp**  
**Rights held: World**  
**Rights sold: Polish (Wydawnictwo  
Mudio)**

JOSH BORNSTEIN is an award-winning lawyer specialising in employment and labour-relations law who has successfully sued a lot of badly behaved corporations, cornered the market in representing sacked rabbis, and acted for employees who were sacked for expressing political views. His articles and essays have appeared in Australia's major media outlets, and he is a contributing author to *The Wages Crisis in Australia: what it is and what to do about it*, published in 2018. He is a member of the board of the progressive think tank The Australia Institute and of the advisory board of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law at the University of Melbourne. He is also a member of a sports disciplinary tribunal.

**How have major corporations come to exercise repressive control over the lives of their employees? And what can be done to repair the greatest threat to democracy — the out-of-control corporation?**

When you go to work, you agree to exchange your labour in exchange for your pay packet, right? Actually, you may not realise it, but you are also selling your rights to free speech and to participate in democracy.

Welcome to corporate cancel culture, a burgeoning phenomenon that is routinely ignored in debates about free speech. If you work for a large company, it will not allow you to say or do anything that harms its brand — at or outside work. If you transgress and attract controversy — whether for cracking a joke, a Facebook like, or a political post on Tik Tok, you can be shamed, sacked, and blacklisted.

In the twenty-first century, major corporations have become the most powerful institution in the world — more powerful than many nations. That unchecked, anti-democratic power is reflected in the gaming of the political system, the weakening of governments, and the repressive control of the lives of employees. While their behaviour has deteriorated, corporations have invested heavily in ethically washed brands, claiming to be saving the planet and doing good.

As Josh Bornstein argues, we would not tolerate a government that censored, controlled, and punished us in this way, so why do we meekly accept the growing authoritarianism of the companies that we work for?

- Most people have been exposed to questionable corporate behaviour, whether they know it or not. This exposé will have wide appeal
- With growing industry consolidation leading to the rise of huge corporations, this is an important and timely book

‘So many things are made sense of in this book. It is witty, profound, enlightening, and absolutely indispensable. A bravura examination of our times and a glorious read.’

**Anna Funder, author of *Wifedom***

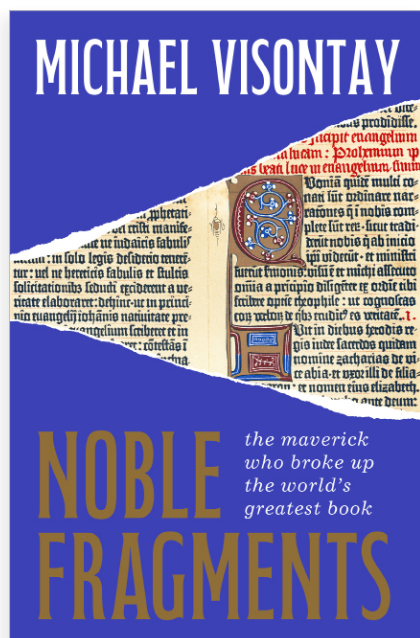
‘A sophisticated, rage-inducing, rollercoaster of a read ... This devastating critique of late-stage capitalism is both thrilling and horrifying, because behind every story there are real lives at stake.’

**Jess Hill, journalist and author of *See What You Made Me Do***

‘Modern corporations seek to attract employees who align with their “values” and who will meet the diversity quota. But when employees bring their whole selves to work or post their views on social media, the corporate brand managers enter the fray and sackings follow. In this provocative book, Bornstein has issued a powerful clarion call against corporate censorship and control.’

**Louise Adler AM**

Michael Visontay



**MEMOIR/ANTIQUARIAN HISTORY**  
**November 2024**  
**272pp**  
**Rights held: World**

MICHAEL VISONTAY has worked as a journalist and senior editor at *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*, and taught journalism at university. He is the author of several nonfiction books, including *Welcome to Wanderland*, *Who Gave You Permission?* (with Manny Waks), and *Undies to Equities: the remarkable life of Henri Aram*.

## Noble Fragments

the maverick who broke up the world's greatest book

Part detective story and part memoir, *Noble Fragments* takes readers into the arcane world of rare book collectors and their eccentric passions.

One hundred years ago, Gabriel Wells, a New York bookseller, committed a crime against history. He broke up the world's greatest book, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off in individual pages. This is the story of one man's hunt for those fragments and his family's debt to an act of literary vandalism.

In 1921, Wells's audacity scandalised the rare-book world. The Gutenberg was the first substantial book in Europe to have been printed on a printing press. It represented the democratisation of knowledge and was the Holy Grail of rare books.

Was the break-up a sacrilege or a canny deal? New Yorkers were divided. For every frown of disapproval, there was a lick of the lips. It was the Roaring Twenties, the Gatsby era of fabulous wealth. Tycoons were in a feeding frenzy to acquire items that would demonstrate their refinement. Wells marketed the pages as 'Noble Fragments', they sold like hot cakes, and he died a rich man.

Half a century later, journalist Michael Visontay stumbled upon a mysterious legal document that linked Wells to his own family. He became obsessed by the Gutenberg's invisible imprint on his life, and set out to track down the pages of the broken bible.

Part detective story and part memoir, *Noble Fragments* is an expedition into the arcane world of book collectors and their eccentric passions, and a journey of discovery about how Wells's gamble set off a chain of events that changed a family's destiny.

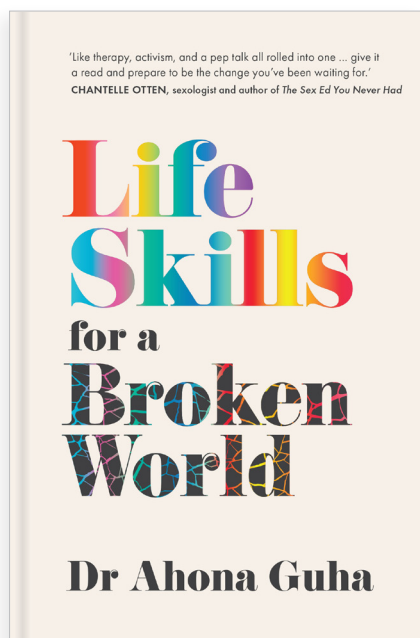
- For readers of Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*
- An incredible true story of how past events can change a family's future

'A brilliant writer discovers a gripping personal story. Serendipity at its best.'

**Jane Caro**

'A riveting hunt for the mysterious leaves of a book perched in the branches of a family tree. Proof that epic sagas are rooted in life's most intimate details. I was hooked from the start.'

**Mark Fennell**



POPULAR PSYCHOLOGY/  
SELF-HELP

January 2024

208pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Turkish (Okuyan Us);  
Russian (EKSMO); Slovak (Eastone);  
Indonesian (Bhuana Ilmu Populer);  
Vietnamese (YMATE Cultural and  
Education Company Ltd)

DR AHONA GUHA is a clinical and forensic psychologist. Her first book, *Reclaim: understanding complex trauma and those who abuse*, was published by Scribe in 2023. She works with victims of abuse and trauma, and clients with a range of other difficulties, such as anxiety, depression, perfectionism, burn-out, and relationship problems. She also works with perpetrators of harmful behaviours to assess risk, and provides treatment to reduce the risk they pose to others. She writes widely for the media on matters related to mental health, health, social justice, and equity. Her work has appeared in *The Age*, *The Guardian*, *The Saturday Paper*, *Breathe Magazine*, SBS, and ABC.

## A revolutionary framework for living well in a broken world, from an acclaimed author and psychologist.

How can I manage heartbreak? How do I cope with death? How can I learn to tolerate anxiety and hold hope?

In this helpful, practical guide to good psychological health, Dr Ahona Guha shows us how to cope, thrive, and still feel hopeful for the future. Combining techniques from a range of therapeutic modalities, she demonstrates how we can build a range of essential psychological skills, and apply them to live a more tranquil, joyful, and meaningful life.

*Life Skills for a Broken World* is a breath of fresh air, cutting through the confusion to provide solid, practical, and evidence-based answers to existential questions, big and small.

- Addresses the existential dread and despair that are valid responses to our current era
- Promotes a values-driven, political approach to mental health, distinct from shallow 'self care' peddled by capitalist forces
- Broadly accessible and applicable, featuring prompts and questions to help readers evaluate their needs and priorities
- Perfect as a gift, with illustrations throughout

'Give this book as a gift to someone you love who is struggling — and that might be yourself. I already know this book is going to live on my bedside table. Dr Guha puts language and frameworks to help order the mess in our heads and hearts. *Life Skills for a Broken World* is grounding, consoling, and so practical.'

**Benjamin Law, author of *The Family Law* and *Gaysia***

'Dr Guha's book is like therapy, activism, and a pep talk all rolled into one. Whether you're stressing about the state of the world or just trying to level-up your own life, she's got your back. It's all about taking baby steps to make big leaps — not just for you but for the world at large.'

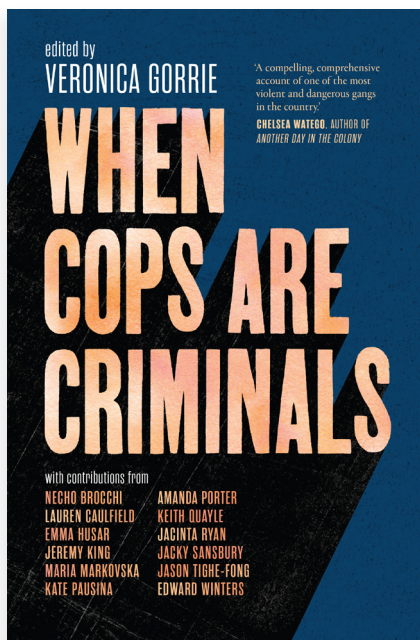
**Chantelle Otten, Sexologist and author of *The Sex Ed You Never Had***

'Dr Ahona Guha's book is a useful, frank and super helpful guide on how to be a more connected, values-driven human in a world that makes you want to conduct yourself like a raccoon on a trash heap. Her advice is sound and gentle, and challenging in a way that encourages you to grow instead of hiding under a blankie and scrolling.'

**Eloise Grills, author of *Big Beautiful Female Theory***

Veronica Gorrie (ed.)

## When Cops Are Criminals



ANTHOLOGY/ESSAYS

July 2024

304pp

Rights held: World

VERONICA GORRIE is a Gunai/Kurnai woman who lives and writes in Victoria. Her first book, *Black and Blue* (2021), won the 2022 Victorian Premier's Prize for Literature and the 2022 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing, as well as being shortlisted for the 2022 Douglas Stewart Prize for Nonfiction and the 2022 ABIA Small Publishers' Book of the Year. She is also the Executive Officer of the grassroots Aboriginal organisation Pay the Rent.

**A powerful indictment of the criminal behaviour of police officers, and a call for systemic change, edited by the multi-award-winning author of *Black and Blue*.**

*When Cops Are Criminals* examines the widespread problem of police brutality and corruption from the perspectives of those who understand it in depth.

Pulling together the accounts of survivors, campaigners, and academics, it explores different forms of criminal behaviour by police, the factors that contribute to it, the impact it has on victims, and the challenges of holding perpetrators accountable.

Told with candour, honesty, bravery, and rage, these stories will challenge readers to reflect on the institutions that so many people take for granted. Whose interests are they really serving? And where can people turn when the institutions that are supposed to protect them are the ones doing the damage?

- A timely and powerful anthology about police brutality, edited by the multi-award-winning author Veronica Gorrie
- Explores police corruption through the different perspectives of survivors, campaigners and academics

‘Powerful and illuminating ... this collection insists on the importance of personal stories, and together they point a way forward towards justice and truth.’

**Yumna Kassab, author of *The Lovers***

‘A compelling, comprehensive account of one of the most violent and dangerous gangs in the country.’

**Chelsea Watego, author of *Another Day in the Colony***

‘Exposes the dark underbelly of police culture, where officers often see individuals not as people but as objects to exploit. It is a call for accountability and transparency, essential steps towards repairing the broken systems of power that have long oppressed our people.’

**Nerita Waight, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service**

‘A must-read cataloguing of grotesque, state-sanctioned violence, and of the impunity of the torture and death squads that this colony calls police.’

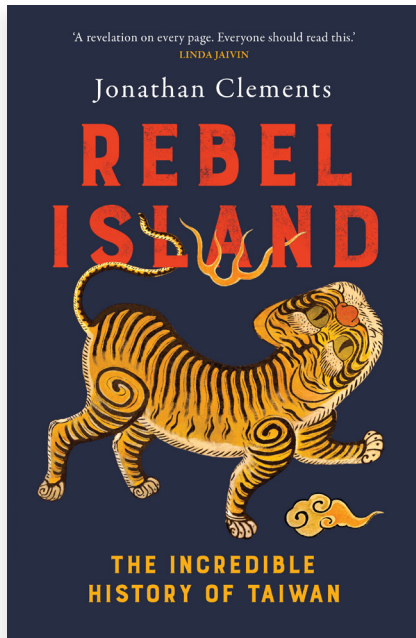
**Debbie Kilroy OAM, CEO of Sisters Inside**



Jonathan Clements

## Rebel Island

the incredible history of Taiwan



HISTORY/POLITICAL SCIENCE

January 2024

320pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Italian (EDT); Polish (Helion); Russian (Azbooka-Atiicus)

JONATHAN CLEMENTS presented several seasons of *Route Awakening* (National Geographic), an award-winning TV series about Chinese history and culture. He is the author of many acclaimed books, including *Coxinga and the Fall of the Ming Dynasty*, *Confucius: A Biography*, and *The Emperor's Feast: A History of China in Twelve Meals*. He has written histories of both China and Japan, two countries that have, at some point, claimed Taiwan as their own. He was a visiting professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University from 2013 to 2019. He was born in the East of England and lives in Finland.

**The gripping history of Taiwan, from the flood myths of indigenous legend to its Asian Tiger economic miracle — and the renewed threat of invasion by China.**

Once dismissed by the Kangxi Emperor as nothing but a 'ball of mud', Taiwan has a modern GDP larger than that of Sweden, in a land area smaller than Indiana. It is the last surviving enclave of the Republic of China, a lost colony of Japan, and claimed by Beijing as a rogue province — merely the latest chapters in its long history as a refuge for pirates, rebels, settlers, and outcasts.

Jonathan Clements examines the unique conditions of Taiwan's archaeology and indigenous history, and its days as a Dutch and Spanish trading post. He delves into its periods as an independent kingdom, Chinese province, and short-lived republic, and the transformations wrought by 50 years as part of the Japanese Empire. Later chapters explore the traumatic effects of its role as a lifeboat in 1949 for two million refugees from Communism, and the conflicts emerging after the suspension of four decades of martial law, as its people debate issues of self-determination, independence, and home rule.

- A long overdue narrative of the history of Taiwan and its people, at once richly researched and thoroughly engaging
- Perfect for readers of Peter Frankopan, Julia Lovell, and Frank Dikötter — or anyone seeking to understand why Taiwan is in Beijing's crosshairs

**'A revelation on every page. Everyone should read this.'**

**Linda Jaivin, author of *The Shortest History of China***

**'Clements's pacy and engaging account offers a valuable counterpoint to today's news coverage of Taiwan. *Rebel Island* offers a compelling portrait of a perennially fragmented place, subject across centuries to a succession of claims on its territory, resources and identity — of which Xi [Jinping]'s is but the latest.'**

**Christopher Harding, *The Telegraph***

**'Clements's brisk narrative is related with style and brio and an appropriate amount of caution, given the various competing narratives surrounding the island's history ... The result is a splendid portrait of the layers of identity and resistance in what is no less a settler society than the United States, Australia, or Argentina.'**

**Oliver Farry, *The Irish Times***

Jeff Sparrow and  
Sam Wallman

## 12 Rules for Strife

• Shortlisted for the 2024 AGDA Design Awards



POLITICAL ACTIVISM/  
GRAPHIC NONFICTION  
May 2024

128pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Greek (Oi Ekdoseis Tou  
Aurio)

JEFF SPARROW is a writer, editor, broadcaster, and Walkley Award-winning journalist. He is a columnist for *The Guardian*, a former Breakfast at Melbourne's 3RRR, and a past editor of *Overland* literary journal. His most recent books are *Fascists Among Us: online hate and the Christchurch massacre*; *Trigger Warnings: political correctness and the rise of the right*; and *No Way But This: in search of Paul Robeson*. He lectures at the Centre for Advancing Journalism at The University of Melbourne.

SAM WALLMAN is a comics journalist and cartoonist based in Melbourne, Australia. His drawings have been published in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Age*, the ABC, and SBS. He is the author of *Our Members Be Unlimited: a comic about workers and their unions*.

**This is a handbook for change. Because we all know ways in which life could be better. And it *can* be better. We can *make* it better.**

We don't need to wait for a leader or saviour. We don't need to limit ourselves to comments and clicks. In this stunningly original comic-book tour of a serious topic, Jeff Sparrow and Sam Wallman explore 12 powerful ideas distilled from the history of struggle for better lives, better working conditions, and a better world. They show how solidarity can be built across growing divisions — without compromising our values.

'Strife' is just another word for making yourself heard. In fun, short, shareable chapters, *12 Rules for Strife* shows how together we can change everything.

- An accessible, practical, inspirational, and meme-able guide to taking back industrial and political agency, for people who are fed up with business- and politics-as-usual
- Sparrow is a well-known columnist for *The Guardian* and a highly regarded public intellectual, and Wallman is an internationally renowned cartoonist and activist



'This impressively succinct guide to political struggle would make an excellent primer for anyone interested in understanding much of what is happening around the world right now ... Wallman's use of punchy colours and intricate illustration adds dynamic energy to Sparrow's distillation of political theory.'

**Sian Cain, *The Guardian***

'More than a book ... a significant work of political art.'

**Rohan Cahill, *Recorder***

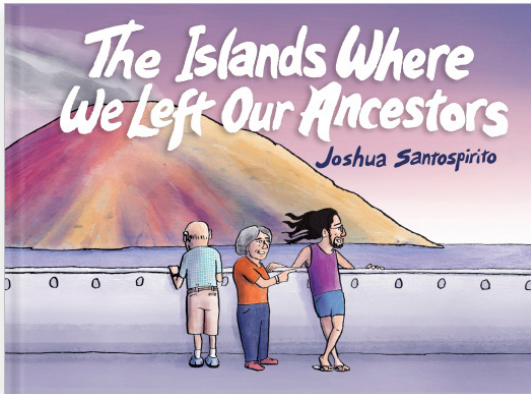
'... a handbook for changing everything ... Wallman continues the mind-expanding style demonstrated in his previous book *Our Members Be Unlimited*. Each page bursts forth with breaking walls, connecting ribbons and masses of people combining as one. So much is communicated with relatively few words.'

**Andrew Chuter, *Green Left***



Joshua Santospirito

## The Islands Where We Left Our Ancestors



**GRAPHIC NONFICTION**

**July 2024**

**208pp**

**Rights held: World**

JOSHUA SANTOSPIRITO is a multimedia artist, musician, and comics author living in a veggie patch in Lutruwita/Tasmania. Joshua's writing, comics and illustrations have appeared in *The Monthly*, *Island Magazine*, *Meanjin* and *The Suburban Review*. He is the creator of two previous graphic novels: *The Long Weekend in Alice Springs* (2013) and *Swallows Part One* (2015).

**The beautifully hand-drawn story of Joshua's visit to the Aeolian islands of Italy with his parents to seek out past connections and family roots.**

Joshua and his father hope to locate the burial place of Joshua's great-great-grandfather on the island of Salina, Italy. But it's not always so easy to find the past you're looking for, nor to travel with your parents.

As Joshua learns more about this sun-drenched volcanic archipelago, its people, and their history, he also explores the mysteries of family — and the magic of creating your own place in the world.

A tale of migration and return, of the rise to stardom of Ingrid Bergman, of the cheeky wind god Aeolus, of family, place, and belonging, and of so much more. Joshua's perspectives are unique, but there is something here for everyone.

'Meaningful, poignant, and at times hilarious, this sumptuous book brings personal experience into close contact with a multilayered past, encompassing language, family history, mythology, and cultural memory.'

**Safdar Ahmed, author of *Still Alive***

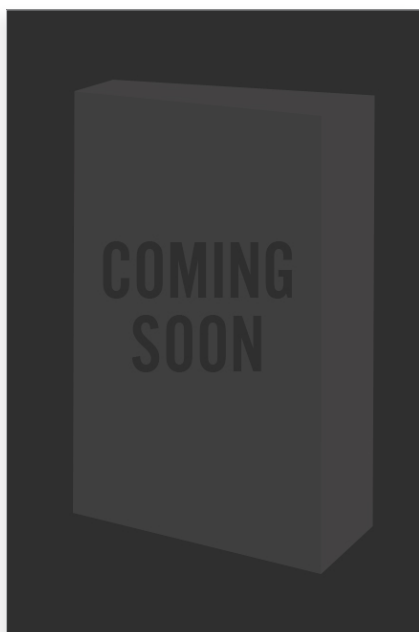
'Santospirito's art is always playful and fluid ... a book that interrogates memory, lineage and cultural identity to great effect.'

**Jack Rowland, *Books + Publishing***



Miranda Darling

## Fireweather



LITERARY FICTION

September 2025

160pp

Rights held: World

MIRANDA DARLING is a writer, poet, and co-founder of Vanishing Pictures. She read English and Modern Languages at Oxford then took a Masters in Strategic Studies and Defence from the ANU (GSSD). She became an adjunct scholar at a public policy think tank, specialising in non-traditional security threats. She has published both fiction and nonfiction. *Fireweather* is her sixth book.

### The follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Thunderhead*.

It all began when they started running away ...

Life for Winona Dalloway is not as it should be. Her husband is no longer her husband, her children are not at home with her, and the city in which she lives is besieged by fires. Black ash falls like snow, songbirds screech like dinosaurs, and the doctors are calling her mad ...

In this looking-glass world, Winona is forced to prove she is a sane, rational human being. As the pronouncements of the professionals grow more insistent, so too do the voices crowding inside Winona's head. She seeks solace in the company of plants and animals, and begins to imagine an entirely other way of being — one that might make whole her broken heart.

- The follow-up to the astonishing *Thunderhead*, *Fireweather* is the next chapter of Winona Dalloway's story
- For readers of Claire Keegan, Jenny Offill, Deborah Levy and Rachel Cusk
- With literary and commercial crossover appeal, *Fireweather* is perfect for book clubs – readable, compelling, and sophisticated
- Miranda Darling is a master of suspense and has created in Winona Dalloway a unique character with a delightfully rich inner world

### Praise for *Thunderhead*

‘Short, sharp and immersive ... *Thunderhead* is a powerful story that explores motherhood, mental health, our sense of self and our right to autonomy in the context of relentless, everyday domestic life. This is complex, layered and beautiful writing that invites readers to consider their own wild and chaotic inner worlds, and the ways in which negative relationships shape us.’

**Danielle Bagnato, *The Big Issue***

‘[A] chillingly sophisticated novella ... *Thunderhead* is an innovative, smartly hewn dissection of a mother's mental load ... Darling writes her story with a ferocious sensitivity ... it all builds to a thunderous (pun intended) denouement that you're unlikely to forget anytime soon.’

**Bram Presser**

‘This] darkly comic novel is a biting, hilarious and original take on motherhood, suburbia and domesticity ... *Thunderhead* will hit the mark for fans of novelists such as Melissa Broder, Miranda July and Jenny Offill plus, of course, Cusk herself.’

**Melanie Kembrey, *The Sydney Morning Herald***

Madeleine Ryan



LITERARY FICTION

February 2025

256pp

Rights held: World

MADELEINE RYAN is an Australian writer, director & author. Her articles & essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *SBS*, *Vogue*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and *Vice*. She is currently working on the screen adaptation of her first novel, *A Room Called Earth*. Madeleine lives in rural Victoria.

## The Knowing

**From the author of *A Room Called Earth*, a brilliant new novel about the mess that comes before salvation.**

Camille lives in the country.

She's forgotten her phone.

She's taking the train to work.

She's got period pain.

She can't escape herself ... or her toxic boss, Holly. And it's Valentine's Day.

*The Knowing* is a day in the life of a woman who goes to work as usual while dreaming of more.

- Explores contemporary themes including toxic workplaces, power dynamics, spirituality, consumerism, social media, navigating relationships, and the tension between making money and finding genuine meaning in life
- Fun, fresh, and accessible, with a prestigious floristry business as the backdrop
- Camille's boss, Holly, is a vivid character whose whims and volatility will be familiar to anyone who has worked under a toxic, manipulative boss
- Addresses the modern-day nightmare of a long commute without one's smartphone, with wit and thoughtful commentary on our internet-addled lives

'Ryan has great control over the rhythm and momentum of the short chapters through which it progresses, which makes the ever-increasing pressure on Camille all the more palpable ... a visceral and sensual novel that is very much concerned with what it means to be a body in the world, and the ways in which we might attend to its pleasures and demands ... deliciously funny – mostly because of Camille's sharp, wry wit, which is always tempered by her slight awkwardness – and deeply empathetic. A distinctive, assured work.'

**Fiona Wright, *The Saturday Paper***

'Soul medicine for the smartphone weary. Modern-day fears and eternal longings are fashioned into an astonishing, one-of-a-kind literary bouquet. Timely. Unflinching. Life-affirming. Brilliant.'

**Matthew Quick, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Silver Linings Playbook***

'... an easy, addictive read about womanhood, relationships, social media, and body image ... Ryan speaks to the reader in a way that makes you feel seen, heard, and truly understood.'

**Aurelia Orr, *Readings***

Luke Horton

## Time Together



**LITERARY FICTION**  
**March 2025**  
**288pp**  
**Rights held: World**

LUKE HORTON's writing has appeared in various publications, including *The Guardian*, *The Saturday Paper*, and *The Australian*, and was shortlisted for the Viva La Novella prize. The former editor of *The Lifted Brow Review of Books*, he currently teaches creative writing at RMIT, and is a member of acclaimed indie-rock band Love of Diagrams. His debut novel, *The Fogging*, was highly commended for the Victorian Premier's Award for an Unpublished Manuscript in 2019.

**Once they were just them. Now they're forty-something and there's kids. Whose time is this?**

Phil is trying to feel closer to his recently passed mother by spending time alone at his parent's house on the coast. But he is lonely, and stupidly he's invited a bunch of old friends to visit. It's bound to be a mistake. All those children! But it's too late now, and tomorrow Bella and Tim will arrive with their two kids, one on the brink of puberty, and the next day Jo and Lucas will come too, with their little one. Then there's Annie, who will be by herself.

The story of a beach holiday told by four different people, *Time Together* is a novel about different kinds of love, different kinds of loneliness, and the way spending time together can bring out the best and worst in each other

- For readers of Tessa Hadley, Charlotte Wood, and Helen Garner
- A contemporary novel with a vivid cast of characters, about family, friends, grief, and grappling with midlife in this day and age
- Features multiple generations and alternating perspectives, and explores the tensions, desires, and messy intimacies that simmer among a group of old friends
- With stunning prose, suspense, and intrigue, *Time Together* has both literary and commercial appeal

'*Time Together* highlights the enduring power of friendships that are so deep and unwavering that they feel more like family and is perfect for fans of Tim Winton, Georgia Blain and Gabrielle Zevin. This whirlwind of a beach read will make you laugh, cry and cherish the ones you hold dear.'

**Aurelia Orr, Books + Publishing**

### Praise for *The Fogging*

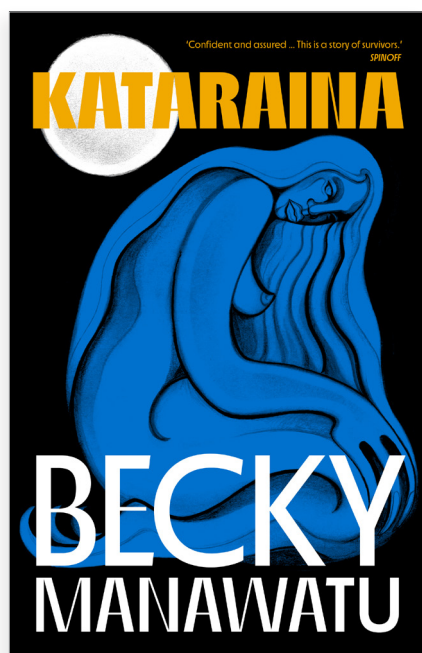
'Claustrophobic and vertiginous ... an unshrinking and skilfully drawn portrait of a decaying relationship. In restrained prose, Horton illuminates the darker edges of masculinity. His is a frequency finely tuned to silences, gaps of language and meaning, things left unsaid — and their cumulative weight. Like a brewing storm on an oppressive summer day, *The Fogging* is quiet but assured, building towards the thunderclap of its final pages.'

**Jennifer Down, Miles Franklin Award-winning author of *Bodies of Light***

'In this quiet, acute, and often painful book, the peculiarities of 21st-century love and adulthood are evoked stealthily, but all the more forcefully, thanks to Horton's forensic and poetic approach to the subject.'

**Shaun Prescott, author of *The Town***





LITERARY FICTION

May 2025

288pp

Rights held: World (ex. NZ)

Rights sold: French (Au Vent des Iles);  
Turkish (New Human)

BECKY MANAWATU (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoe, Waitaha) is a West Coast author and journalist. She was born in Nelson and grew up in Waimangaroa, living now in Westport with her family. Her debut novel, *Auē*, won Aotearoa's leading fiction prizes and became one of the country's all-time fiction bestsellers.

- Longlisted for the 2025 Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction

**The much-awaited follow-up to the award-winning international bestseller *Auē*.**

In *Auē*, eight-year-old Ārama was taken by his brother, Taukiri, to live with Kat and Stu at the farm in Kaikōura, setting in train the tragedy that unfolded. Ārama's aunty Kat was at the centre of events, but, silenced by abuse, her voice was absent from the story.

In *Kataraina*, Kat and her whānau take over the telling. As one, they return to her childhood and the time when she first began to feel the greenness of the swamp in her veins — the swamp that holds her tears and the tears of her tīpuna; the swamp on the land owned by Stu that has been growing since the girl shot the man.

Unflinching in its portrayal of the darkness, tender in its harnessing of the hope that future generations represent, *Kataraina* is a stunning novel that confirms Becky Manawatu as one of the most talented and powerful writers working in Aotearoa/New Zealand today.

- This eagerly anticipated follow-up to Manawatu's award-winning debut *Auē* also works as a standalone novel
- *Auē* was the winner of the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction, the Mitoq Best First Book of Fiction, and the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel
- *Auē* has been translated into French, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, and German

'*Kataraina* is a refined and evocative novel written with such hospitable, attentive delicacy, steeped in the natural world ... Manawatu's writing is as intensely beautiful as it is diamond hard.'

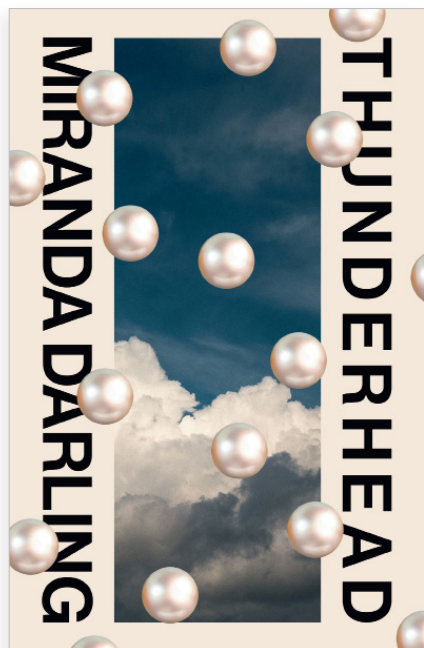
**Kiran Dass, *The Spinoff***

'The dialogue is outstanding. You can hear these people walking around the pages, too ... There are numerous times when Manawatu ramps up the volume and intensity of her prose, electrifies it. *Kataraina* is the work of a major writer who could have stuck with a single storyline to create a major novel but had other things on her Mind.'

**Steve Braunias, *Newsroom***

'Manawatu's second novel solidifies her powerful voice and astute observational prowess.'

**Denizen**



LITERARY FICTION

April 2024

160pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Turkish (Liber Plus)

MIRANDA DARLING is a writer, poet, and co-founder of Vanishing Pictures. She read English and Modern Languages at Oxford then took a Masters in Strategic Studies and Defence from the ANU (GSSD). She became an adjunct scholar at a public policy think tank, specialising in non-traditional security threats. She has published both fiction and nonfiction. *Thunderhead* is her fifth book.

## A black comedy, set in suburbia, about one woman's struggle to be free.

When Winona Dalloway begins her day — in the peaceful early hours before her children, that ‘tiny tornado of little hands and feet’, wake up — she doesn’t know that by the end of it, everything in her world will have changed.

On the outside, Winona is a seemingly unremarkable young mother: unobtrusive, quietly going about her tasks. But within is a vivid, chaotic self, teeming with voices — a mind both wild and precise. And meanwhile, a storm is brewing ...

Full of suspense, and unfolding over a single day in the life of its narrator, *Thunderhead* is a sharp and illuminating exploration of domestic entrapment and abuse, and a moving portrait of an unusual and determined young woman and the moments of joy and grace that sustain her.

- Winona Dalloway is a singular character with a delightfully rich inner world
- Perfect for book clubs – both sophisticated and compulsively readable
- Will appeal to readers of Claire Keegan, Deborah Levy, Rachel Cusk, and Jenny Offill

‘Darling’s whip-smart short novel creates a strong narrative voice spiked with caustic wit, intertextual reference, and intelligent humour. It’s formidably brilliant feminist fiction that sparks a compelling conversation with its literary forebears, Woolf in particular.’

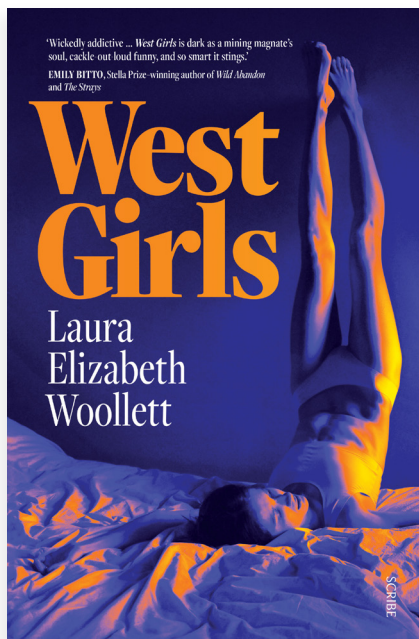
**Cameron Woodhead, *The Sydney Morning Herald***

‘A daring book, adopting the aesthetics of Deborah Levy with the velocity of a crime thriller and an off-kilter voice, deeply internal, darkly comic, clipped, and Woolfish ... It’s a strong, complex and self-aware voice, and it is the primary vehicle through which we gauge Winona’s resilience and determination. If *The Catcher in the Rye* were instead penned by a domestic violence survivor, it might read a little like *Thunderhead*. For fans of Melissa Broder, Elizabeth Hardwick and Edwina Preston.’ **Mel Fulton, *Books + Publishing***

‘A feminist triumph and homage to Virginia Woolf, Miranda Darling’s *Thunderhead* is a potent exploration of suburban entrapment for women.’ **Cassandra Atherton, *Australian Book Review***

‘*Thunderhead* takes the brewing storm of domesticity and cracks it open with incredible vulnerability, generosity, and humour. At once Rachel Cusk, at once Jenny Offill, and altogether entirely Miranda Darling, this powerful, restless, irresistible novel is essential reading.’ **Laura Jean McKay, author of *The Animals In That Country***





**LITERARY FICTION**

**August 2023**

**256pp**

**Rights held: World**

LAURA ELIZABETH WOOLLETT is the author of *The Love of a Bad Man* (2016), *Beautiful Revolutionary* (2018), and *The Newcomer* (2021). *The Love of a Bad Man* was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction and the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction. *Beautiful Revolutionary* was shortlisted for the 2019 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction, the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal, and the Kathleen Mitchell Award. In 2017, Laura was an Asialink Artist-in-Residence at Komunitas Salihara in Jakarta. She was the 2020 City of Melbourne Boyd Garret Writer-in-Residence and a 2020-22 Marten Bequest Scholar for Prose.

• **Longlisted for the 2024 Stella Prize**

**A bold and ambitious collection of interlinked stories, in the vein of Bernardine Evaristo and Jennifer Egan.**

*I chose the jagged rocks, the broken bones, the spattered brains.  
I chose beauty. I'd choose it again.*

Luna Lewis is white. But her friends aren't, nor are her brothers, nor her one-time Princess of Indonesia-finalist stepmother. After transforming from pudgy preteen to 'exotic' beauty, Luna reinvents herself as 'Luna Lu' and takes her ticket out of the most isolated city on earth. However, as her international modelling career approaches its expiry date, Luna must grapple with what she's sacrificed – and who she's become – in her mission to conquer the world.

Featuring an intersecting cast of glamour-hungry schoolgirls, WAGs, mining heiresses, backpacker-barmaids, and cosmetic nurses, *West Girls* examines beauty, race, class divisions, and social mobility. It's also a devastating catalogue of the myriad, inventive ways in which women love and hurt one another.

- Perfect for readers of Emma Cline
- Interlinked stories as compelling and page-turning as they are socially conscious and psychologically acute, with dual literary and commercial appeal
- Teenage girlhood, female desire, and complex, flawed women take centre stage, but not in the ways we usually encounter them in fiction. Woollett's work is dazzlingly unpredictable
- Set largely in and around Perth, Western Australia, but spans the globe, from Malta and Tunisia to Jakarta and London

'Woollett's extraordinary talent is to make the "real" more grotesque than the satire, and to infuse every sentence with her poet's vision and every character with a true melancholy and flawed humanity.'

**Alice Pung, author of *One Hundred Days***

'What a talent! It's rare indeed to find a book this intelligent and this wickedly addictive. *West Girls* is dark as a mining magnate's soul, cackle-out-loud funny, and so smart it stings. Ah-mazing.'

**Emily Bitto, author of *The Strays***

'Whilst subverting assumptions of fixed identities, [Woollett] poses uneasy questions around cultural appropriation, racially and sexually structured gaze under capitalism, and disciplined bodies.'

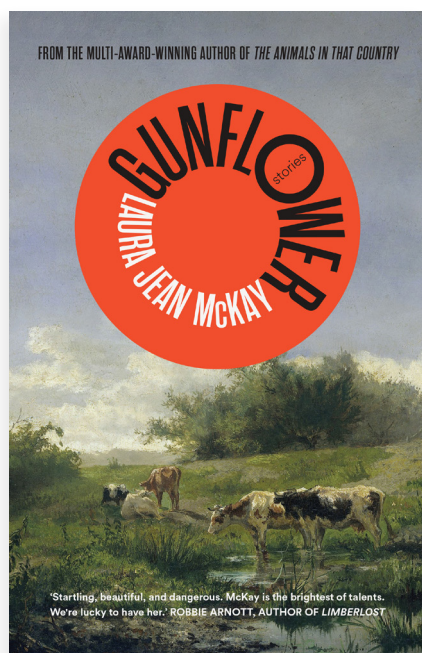
**Intan Paramaditha, author of *The Wandering***

'Stylish and sophisticated ... a self-assured and supremely talented writer, and the social and cultural subject matter of her novel sets it apart.'

**Liz Evans, *The Conversation***

Laura Jean McKay

## Gunflower



LITERARY FICTION (SHORT STORIES)

October 2023

256pp

Rights held: World

LAURA JEAN MCKAY is the author of *The Animals in That Country* (2020) — winner of The Arthur C. Clarke Award, The Victorian Prize for Literature, the ABIA Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year, and co-winner of the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel. Laura is also the author of *Holiday in Cambodia* (Black Inc., 2013). She was awarded the NZSA Waitangi Day Literary Honours in 2022.

**The brilliant new short story collection from the Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning author of *The Animals in That Country*.**

A family of cat farmers gets the chance to set the felines free. A group of chickens tells it like it is. A female-crewed ship ploughs through the patriarchy. A support group finds solace in a world without men.

With her trademark humour, energy, and flair, McKay offers glimpses into places where dreams subsume reality, where childhood restarts, where humans embrace their animal selves and animals talk like humans. These stories explode and bloom in mesmerising ways, showing the world both as it is and as it could be.

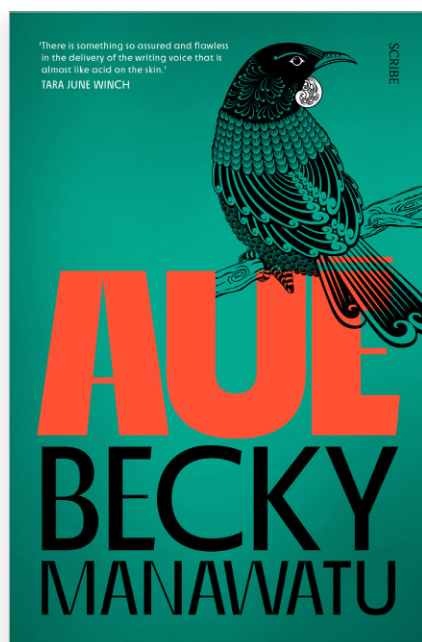
Charting the political, ecological, and bodily themes that are the backbone of McKay's work, this exciting new collection is set to further propel her international acclaim.

- For readers of Carmen Maria Machado and Ceridwen Dovey
- *The Animals in That Country* is an international sensation that has won, as well as the most prestigious science fiction award in the world, the Victorian Prize for Literature, the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the ABIA Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year award and the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel
- *Gunflower* further showcases McKay's signature wit, originality, and prescience

'Amidst a pile of shed skin and fur, McKay moulds a kaleidoscopic and horrifyingly real portrait of life at the fringes. By turns gritty, surreal, and absurd, *Gunflower* isn't afraid to weigh flesh on the scales of our own judgments, a delicate balancing act between life and death, connection and disconnection. Perhaps part Kelly Link and Ottessa Moshfegh, McKay delivers an assured follow-up to *The Animals in That Country* in her own singular voice that zeroes in on our anxieties and existential crises with deft and often poetic flair.' **Sequoia Nagamatsu, bestselling author of *How High We Go in the Dark***

'Both extends and deepens the achievement of *Animals* ... underlines not just the significant intellectual project underpinning McKay's work, but also the exuberant variety of her range as a writer.' **James Bradley, *The Saturday Paper***

'Startling, beautiful, and dangerous. McKay is the brightest of talents. We're lucky to have her.' **Robbie Arnott, author of *Limberlost***



LITERARY FICTION

March 2022

336pp

Rights held: World (ex. NZ)

Rights sold: Bulgarian (Aviana); Turkish (New Human); German (Kroener Verlag); French (Au Vent des Isles); Spanish (Uruguay and Argentina only) (Foresteria); Vietnamese (Longfin)

BECKY MANAWATU (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoē, Waitaha) is a West Coast author and journalist. She was born in Nelson and grew up in Waimangaroa, living now in Westport with her family. Her debut novel, *Auē*, won Aotearoa's leading fiction prizes and became one of the country's all-time fiction bestsellers.

- Winner of the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction
- Winner of the Mitoq Best First Book of Fiction
- Winner of the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel

auē

1. (verb) to cry, howl, groan, wail, bawl.
2. (interjection) expression of astonishment or distress.

Taukiri was born into sorrow. Auē can be heard in the sound of the sea he loves and hates, and in the music he draws out of the guitar that was his father's. It spills out of the gang violence that killed his father and sent his mother into hiding, and the shame he feels about abandoning his eight-year-old brother to a violent home.

But Taukiri's brother, Ārama, is braver than he looks, and he has a friend, and his friend has a dog, and the three of them together might just be strong enough to turn back the tide of sadness.

- This bestselling, multi-award-winning novel is both raw and sublime, introducing a new voice in New Zealand fiction
- Brutally compelling, *Auē* is a remarkable rollercoaster of a read that keeps the reader glued to its pages until the end
- An award-winning bestseller in New Zealand that has stayed in the top ten since it was published there in 2019

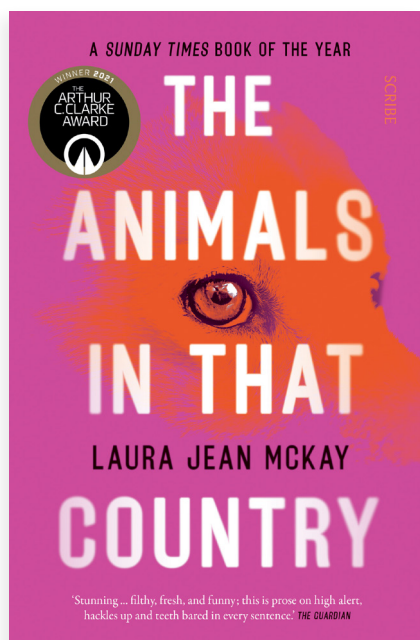
"Auē" is the Maori word for a howling cry, and this layered work weaves a striking tapestry of fierce love and unflinching violence worthy of its poetic title ... Manawatu excels at enriching her characters and story lines with heartbreaking detail ... [A] devastating, beautifully written tale imbued with Maori culture and language.' **Gregory Brown, *The New York Times***

'*Auē* is a heartbreaking yet gripping drama ... Despite the misery faced by its characters, the book maintains a sense of hope ... It's reminiscent of Douglas Stuart's *Shuggie Bain* and Romy Ash's *Floundering* in its exploration of tragedy through the innocent eyes of a child.' **Brad Jefferies, *Books + Publishing***

'The word *Auē* is a Maori verb to cry, howl, groan, wail, bawl and yes, yes, yes, yes and yes, you may do all of these things when reading Becky Manawatu's incredibly assured debut novel. Small word, big emotions – and the perfect title for a book that deals in deceptively simple narration and oceanic feeling ... Manawatu elicits compassion from ugly places, and threads through redemptive spiritual beauty, and innocence, too, via alternating voices.' **Lucy Clark, *The Guardian***

Laura Jean McKay

## The Animals in That Country



LITERARY FICTION/SCI-FI

March 2020

304pp

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Russian (Polyandria No Age); Italian (Il Margine); French (Dalva Editions)

Film rights optioned (details to come)

LAURA JEAN MCKAY is the author of *The Animals in That Country* (2020) — winner of The Arthur C. Clarke Award, The Victorian Prize for Literature, the ABIA Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year, and co-winner of the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel. Laura is also the author of *Holiday in Cambodia* (Black Inc., 2013). She was awarded the NZSA Waitangi Day Literary Honours in 2022.

- Winner of the 2021 Arthur C. Clarke Award, the 2021 Victorian Prize for Literature, the 2021 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the 2021 ABIA Small Publishers' Adult Book of the Year and the Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel
- Longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award
- Shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction
- A *Slate* and *Sunday Times* Book of the Year

### Out on the road, no one speaks, everything talks.

Hard-drinking, foul-mouthed, and allergic to bullshit, Jean is not your usual grandma. She's never been good at getting on with other humans, apart from her beloved granddaughter, Kimberly. Instead, she surrounds herself with animals, working as a guide in an outback wildlife park. And although Jean talks to all her charges, she has a particular soft spot for a young dingo called Sue.

As disturbing news arrives of a pandemic sweeping the country, Jean realises this is no ordinary flu: its chief symptom is that its victims begin to understand the language of animals. As the flu progresses, the unstoppable voices become overwhelming, and many people begin to lose their minds, including Jean's infected son, Lee. When he takes off with Kimberly, heading south, Jean feels the pull to follow her kin.

Setting off on their trail, with Sue the dingo riding shotgun, they find themselves in a stark, strange world in which the animal apocalypse has only further isolated people from other species. Bold, exhilarating, and wholly original, *The Animals in That Country* asks what would happen, for better or worse, if we finally understood what animals were saying.

'*The Animals in That Country* will be the wildest ride you take all year.'

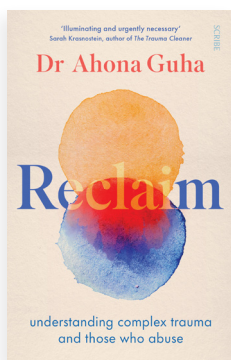
**Maria Takolander, *The Saturday Paper***

'[A] game-changing, life-changing novel ... Compulsively readable and yet also pushing the boundaries of what is possible in terms of language and narrative, this is a brilliant and disturbing book that will make you rethink everything you thought you understood about non-human animal sentience and agency.' **Ceridwen Dovey, author of *Only the Animals***

'A wildly inventive dystopian adventure ... Both a hell of a ride and a revealing thought experiment about our place in the natural world.'

**Dan Koisi, *Slate***

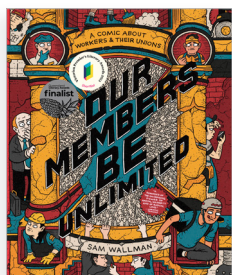




## Reclaim

Ahona Guha

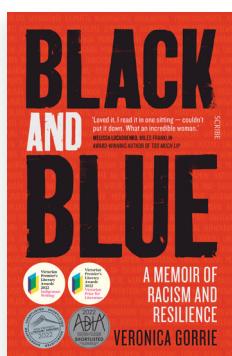
A groundbreaking book that will expand your thinking, whether you are a trauma survivor, a clinician, someone who loves a survivor, or someone seeking to understand abuse. Dr Guha explores complex traumas, how survivors can recover and heal, and the nature of those who abuse. She shines a light on the 'difficult' trauma victims that society often ignores, and tackles vital questions about why some people harm others, and how we can protect ourselves. By emphasising compassion above all else, Dr Guha gives a call to action: one that will help us reclaim a safer, healthier society for everyone. For readers of Esther Perel, Bessel van der Kolk, and Lori Gottlieb. **March 2023, 256pp** Rights held: World Rights sold: Russian (EKSMO); Vietnamese (First News Co., Ltd.)



## Our Members Be Unlimited

Sam Wallman

An original, visually powerful exploration of unionism around the world. In our current political climate, people are looking for alternatives. The promise of unions is that they don't belong to the rich or the powerful, but to all workers. How did the idea of unionism arise? And what are its challenges today? From Britain to Bangladesh, from the first union of the 18th century to today, comics journalist Sam Wallman explores the urge to come together and cooperate. An entry point for young people or those new to collective action, but also an invigorating read to those already engaged in the struggle for better working conditions and a better world. **May 2022, 256pp** Rights held: World



## Black and Blue

Veronica Gorrie

**Winner — 2022 Victorian Prize for Literature, 2022 Victorian Premier's Prize for Indigenous Writing; Shortlisted — 2022 Victorian Premier's Prize for Nonfiction**

The story of an Aboriginal woman who worked as a police officer and fought for justice within and beyond the police force. A proud Gunai/Kurnai woman, Gorrie grew up with a fierce sense of justice. After watching her friends and family suffer under a deeply compromised law-enforcement system, Gorrie became one of a few Aboriginal police officers in Australia. Witnessing appalling institutional racism, she fought to provide compassionate service to civilians in need. A memoir of remarkable fortitude and resilience, told with wit, wisdom, and great heart. **March 2021, 256pp** Rights held: World Rights sold: Polish (Społeczny Instytut)



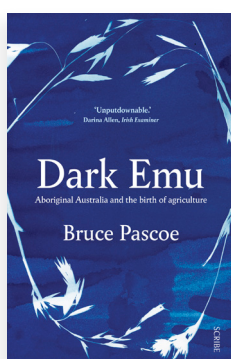
## Fathoms: the world in the whale

Rebecca Giggs

**Winner — 2021 Andrew Carnegie Medal, 2020 NIB Literary Award; Shortlisted — 2021 Stella Prize, 2021 PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing award, 2020 Kirkus nonfiction prize**

In the spirit of Rachel Carson and John Berger, *Fathoms* is a work of profound insight and wonder. When Giggs encountered a humpback whale stranded on her local beach, she began to wonder how the lives of whales might shed light on the condition of our seas. How do whales experience environmental change? Has our connection to these fabled animals been transformed by technology? What future awaits us, and them? Giggs blends natural history, philosophy, and science to explore these questions with clarity and hope.

**April 2020, 368pp** Rights held: World Rights sold: North American (S&S); Italian (Aboca Edizioni); Korean (BADA Publishing); Slovakian (IKAR); Chinese (Simplified) (Shanghai 99); Spanish (Capitan Swing)

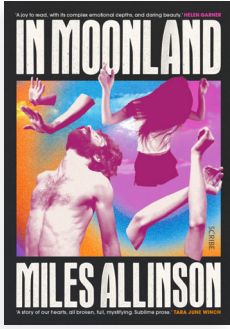


## Dark Emu

Bruce Pascoe

Long before the arrival of white men, Aboriginal people across the continent were building dams; planting, irrigating, harvesting, and preserving surplus; creating elaborate cemeteries; and manipulating the landscape. In this seminal book, Pascoe reveals that Aboriginal systems of land management have been blatantly understated in modern retellings of early Aboriginal history, which have served to justify dispossession. A new look at Australia's past is required, for the benefit of us all. **Over 260,000 copies sold in Australia alone.**

**May 2018, 288pp** Rights held: World (ex. ANZ and Japan) Rights sold: French (Editions Petra); Chinese (Simplified) (Fudan University Press); Spanish (Capitan Swing)



## In Moonland

Miles Allinson

**Winner of the 2022 Age Book of the Year award**

In present-day Melbourne, a man attempts to piece together the mystery of his father's apparent suicide, as his young family slowly implodes. At the ashram of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, in 1976, a man searching for salvation confronts his capacity for violence. And in a not-too-distant future, a woman travels through a climate-ravaged landscape to visit her estranged father. *In Moonland* is a portrait of three generations, each grappling with their own mortality. Spanning the wild idealism of the 70s to the fragile hope of the future, it is a novel about the struggle for transcendence and the reverberating effects of family bonds. For readers of Ben Lerner.

**August 2021, 256pp Rights held: World**

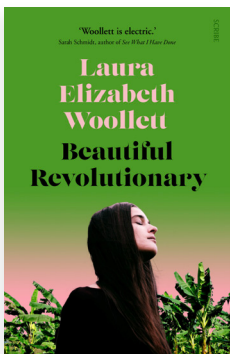


## A Room Called Earth

Madeleine Ryan

A young woman gets ready to go to a party. She arrives, feels overwhelmed, leaves, and then returns. Minutely attuned to the people who come into her view, and alternating between alienation and profound connection, she is hilarious, self-aware, sometimes acerbic, and always honest. And by the end of the night, she's shown us something radical about love, loss, and the need to belong. A brilliant debut novel from a neurodiverse author that explores a young woman's magical, sensitive, and passionate inner world.

**March 2021, 304pp Rights held: World (ex. North America, Russia)**



## Beautiful Revolutionary

Laura Elizabeth Woollett

**Shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction, the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal, and the Kathleen Mitchell Award**

Summer of 1968. Evelyn Lynden is at war with herself. Following her conscientious-objector husband Lenny to Evergreen Valley, California, Evelyn wants to be happy. Yet as the world is rocked by war and social upheaval, she finds herself disillusioned. Enter Reverend Jim Jones, leader of revolutionary church the Peoples Temple. As Evelyn grows closer to Jones, her marriage is just the first casualty. Meticulously researched and utterly engrossing, *Beautiful Revolutionary* explores the allure of the real-life charismatic leader who would destroy so many.

**July 2018, 416pp Rights held: World**



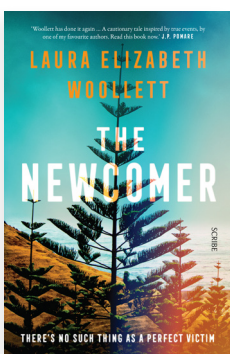
## The Love of a Bad Man

Laura Elizabeth Woollett

**Shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction and the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction**

A schoolgirl catches the eye of the future leader of Nazi Germany. An aspiring playwright writes to a convicted serial killer. A pair of childhood sweethearts reunite to commit rape and murder. A devoted Mormon wife follows her husband into the wilderness. These twelve stories imagine the lives of real women, all of whom were the lovers, wives, or mistresses of various 'bad' men in history. Beautifully observed, fascinating, and at times horrifying, the stories interrogate power, the nature of obsession, and the lengths some women will go to for the men they love.

**August 2016, 240pp Rights held: World**



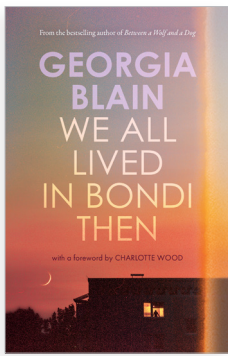
## The Newcomer

Laura Elizabeth Woollett

In a hotel room on a sleepy Pacific island, Judy Novak waits. And worries. It isn't the first time 29-year-old Paulina has kept her mother waiting. But Judy can't ignore the island's jagged cliffs, or the dread that Paulina has finally acted on her threats to take her own life. When Paulina's body is discovered, Judy's worst fears seem confirmed. Only, Paulina didn't kill herself. She was murdered. So begins a thorny investigation, wherein every man is a suspect yet none are as maligned as Paulina: the newcomer known for her hard drinking, disastrous relationships, and habit of walking alone. Based on a real-life murder, *The Newcomer* subverts crime tropes to interrogate the true aftermath and injustice of murder and the societal complicity in gendered violence.

**July 2021, 368pp Rights held: World**



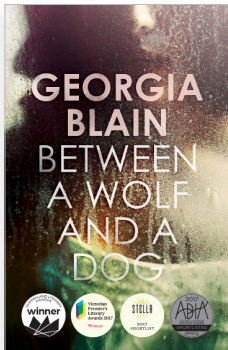


## We All Lived In Bondi Then

Georgia Blain

From the author of the multi-award-winning bestseller *Between a Wolf and a Dog*, a powerful collection of previously unpublished stories. A sister is haunted by the consequences of a simple mistake. A daughter searches for certainty as her mother's memory degrades. An encounter at a house party changes the course of a life. Beloved Australian author Georgia Blain returns to her resonant themes of relationships and family, illness and health, love and death. Composed in Blain's final years, these nine stories grapple with large questions on a human scale, brimming with her trademark acuity, nuance, and warmth.

January 2024, 176pp Rights held: World



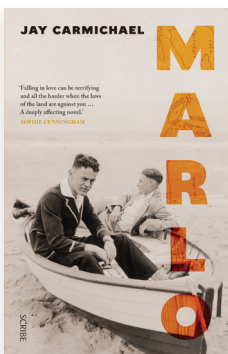
## Between a Wolf and a Dog

Georgia Blain

**Winner — 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award; Shortlisted — 2017 Stella Prize**

Ester is a family therapist; her appointment book catalogues the anxieties of the middle class: loneliness, relationships, death. Her own relationships are tense and frayed. Estranged from both her sister, April, and her ex-husband, Lawrence, Ester wants to fall in love again. April is struggling through her own directionless life; Lawrence's reckless past decisions are catching up with him; and Ester and April's mother, Hilary, is about to make a choice that will profoundly affect them all.

March 2016, 272pp Rights held: World



## Marlo

Jay Carmichael

**Winner of the 2023 Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist Award**

It's the 1950s in conservative Australia, and Christopher, a young gay man, moves to 'the City' to escape the repressive atmosphere of his tiny hometown. Once there, he finds it censorial and punitive in its own way. When Christopher meets Morgan, the two fall in love — a love that breathes truth back into Christopher's stifled life. But the society around them remains rigid, and what begins as a refuge for both men buckles as they navigate a world that wants them to refuse what they are. Reviving a time that is so recent yet so vastly different from now, Carmichael explores the claustrophobia of queer life in a hostile era, in the vein of Patricia Highsmith.

August 2022, 160pp Rights held: World

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