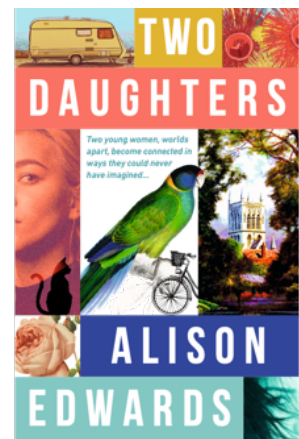
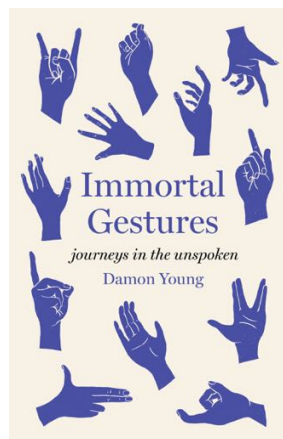
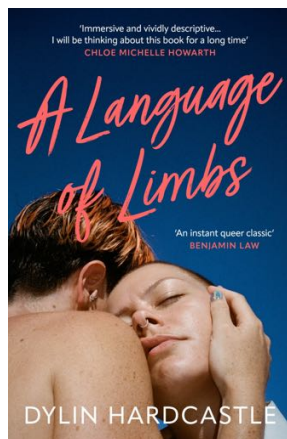


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RIGHTS CATALOGUE



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SYDNEY | BRUSSELS | LONDON

Zeitgeist Agency is a unique literary agency founded in 2009 with an international outlook. From our Sydney and Brussels offices, we represent writers from around the world including Australia, USA, UK, Europe, Russia, Turkey and China.

Our catalogue includes bestsellers, the finest literary fiction, crime and thrillers, inspiring memoirs and thought-provoking non-fiction. We also represent picture books, middle grade and YA/crossover titles from around the world.

We work directly with publishers in UK, Australia/NZ, France, Israel, Nordic region and the Baltic states. In other countries we rely on a network of 15 dedicated co-agents (see full list on the last page).

Our passion is to connect writers, publishers and media across the globe. We hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Warm regards,

Benython, Sharon, Thomasin and Samuel



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FICTION

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Fiction



UPMARKET / WOMEN'S FICTION

Australia/NZ March 2026 · Allen & Unwin

* All other rights available

*MS after structural edit available
November 1

'A wonderful debut, a tonic for the times.'
— Sofie Laguna, Miles Franklin Award winner

Lisa Kate Moule (AUSTRALIA)

The Mother of All Calamities

A heartfelt, thought-provoking, and funny story that satirises contemporary parenting culture.

In the leafy suburb of Greengully, Chrissy, an enthusiastic primary school teacher, faces the indignity of an inept male colleague promoted above her. On top of that, the expectations, hypocrisy, and prejudice of her students' parents begin to spill into the classroom, dampening her desire to have children and jeopardising her relationship with her fiancé.

Across town, Jenny's son is becoming violent towards her; Estelle is trying to advocate for her child, the school bully; Viv is hiding a dark secret from her past, risking everything she's built.

In overlapping stories, *The Mother of All Calamities* brilliantly captures the complexities of parenthood through the lives of four women as they struggle with womanhood, motherhood, and their perpetual relegation to the background, supporting others and running their families. All of them hold secrets...but some are darker than others.

The perfect read for nervous parents-to-be, parents in the thick of it, and empty nesters who will have a good laugh.



LISA KATE MOULE is a prize-winning short story writer. Lisa grew up in Melbourne and graduated from Melbourne University, before moving to Paris to study theatre at the École Jacques Lecoq. She then began a career as an actor and voice artist in London, appearing in many London theatres. She has voiced commercials, audiobooks, and animations. Lisa lives in leafy Wurundjeri country, with her husband, two children and two rescue cats. She currently co-hosts the radio show 3CR's *Published or Not*. This is Lisa's first novel. [Instagram](#)



ROMANTASY SERIES

Australia/NZ June 2025 · Harper
Collins

* All other rights available

*MS after structural edit available
November 1

Olivia O'Flynn (AUSTRALIA)

The Tides of Ever **Book 1 in a 3-book series**

In a world divided by belief, the ruling Gods lay claim to Ever, the ancient magic of the world. But now Ever is failing, and the Gods are hunting anyone able to access the magic.

Elva, Captain of the Vettonian warriors, is thrust into an arranged marriage with a rival nation in order to protect her homeland from a brewing war. She soon becomes entangled in a deadly feud between the ruling Gods and followers of the Old Ways—believers who are trying to bring back an extinct race of Ever-Blessed beings powerful enough to overthrow the Gods. Elva must conceal her own connection to the Ever while navigating the growing bond with Fynton, her insolent betrothed who unknowingly harbours one of the most powerful Ever souls – and may be the key to saving the fading Ever.

Meanwhile, Innes, a midwife and Ever-Blessed Witch, embarks on a desperate quest to cure the blight caused by the fading magic. With her family's life on the line, her journey leads to Vettona where she unexpectedly meets her twin soul, a Vettonian Warrior – and Elva's ex-girlfriend. Torn between love and her mission, Innes must defy the wrath of the Gods in order to save those she loves, before it's too late.

In the spirit of *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas, *The Serpent and the Wings of Night* by Carissa Broadbent, and *The Plated Prisoner Series* by Raven Kennedy, this romantic fantasy blends mythology and magic in an epic battle for survival.



OLIVIA O'FLYNN is an award-winning Australian writer and podcast producer. She was named as one of Radio Today's 30 Under 30 to watch in podcasting. Her work has been recognised through three Australian Podcast Award nominations and in 2023 she wrote the chart topping fiction podcast *Nocturnal Worlds* for the Australian Museum which won silver in the international Anthem Awards. She regularly contributes to ABC Everyday, which you can find on her website www.oliviaoflynn.com *The Tides of Ever* is her debut.



LITERARY FICTION

Australia/NZ Aug 2024 · Hachette

Russia 2024 · Azbooka-Atticus

Turkey 2025 · Filtresiz

* All other rights available

* Final pages available

'Collins' use of second-person narration works and this is no easy feat. We embody this young girl in all her corporal and psychic angst while she tries to remember who she is, who she belongs to and who will protect her.'
– The Sydney Morning Herald

'This book is phenomenal. Bird is an incredibly emotional and moving story, filled with complexities of life and has to be the best book I have read in 2024.'
– Good Reading Magazine



Courtney Collins (AUSTRALIA)

Bird

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

Himalayas: unknown year.

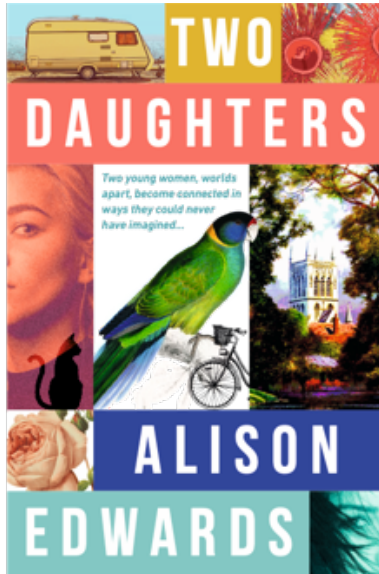
'Ten thousand strands of trouble,' is what Bird's father says, watching as Bird's sister braids her hair. On the eve of her fourteenth year, that trouble finds Bird. She recruits her only friend Teshi and flees her home to escape an arranged marriage. They vanish into a crowd of pilgrims on the way to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

Darwin: present day.

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

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

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



UPMARKET / WOMEN'S FICTION

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

* All other rights available

* Final pages available

'Totally enthralling, punchy and thought-provoking ... This book will get your heart pumping and leave you wanting more.'

– *Women's Weekly*

'A novel full of wit and heart.'

– *WHO Magazine*



Alison Edwards (UK-AUSTRALIA)

Two Daughters

'Sharply observed and skilfully drawn, this clever, debut novel is an exploration of motherhood, abandonment and class... exactly my kind of book!'

- Sally Hepworth, best-selling author of *The Good Sister*

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

For Ava, heading to university in Sydney is her escape from a poverty-stricken upbringing. Her mother is long gone, her father able to provide love but little else. On the other side of the world, Laurie tolerates university only at the insistence of her father, a Marxist professor. Her mother died in childbirth, and Laurie dreams of freedom, far from the Cambridge cloisters.

It is within these college grounds that Ava and Laurie cross paths. They could not be more different, and yet as each grapples with the lasting effects of losing a mother, their lives become entwined in ways neither could have anticipated.

Two Daughters explores family, class, social justice and love with a large dose of wit, the occasional detour into darkness, but always with the heartbeat of hope.

ALISON EDWARDS was born in Australia but has lived and worked in UK/Europe for the last two decades. After studying journalism and German, she obtained her PhD in linguistics at the University of Cambridge, focusing on language ideologies and policy, particularly the ownership of English by non-native speakers. Her debut *Two Daughters* draws on that experience, especially the pressures on young academics to succeed at all costs. Alison lives in Amsterdam with her family where she works as a translator and editor. She started writing a second novel about a female Banksy-style artist set between NY and Amsterdam. Instagram: [@alison_edwards_lange](https://www.instagram.com/alison_edwards_lange)



COMMERCIAL FICTION /
BOOKISH ROM-COM

Australia/NZ 2025 · Allen & Unwin

* All other rights available

* MS after structural edit available

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

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

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

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



Ali Berg & Michelle Kalus (AUSTRALIA)

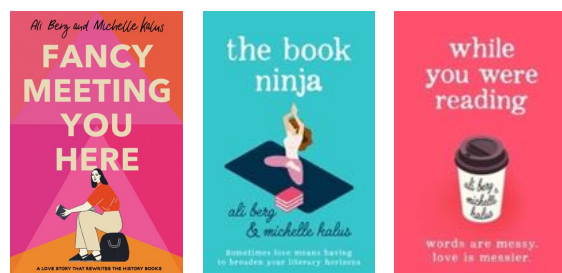
Love Overdue

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

When Vice Principal Lauren Green calls a meeting with April's parents, she is shocked when her high school sweetheart, Jamie, strolls into her office. Jamie is your typical M.I.A. dad, too busy to take an active role in rearing his own child. He's swapped his baggy jeans for a pinstriped suit and is now a hotshot publishing director, but his intoxicating smile and shrewd charm are still very much the same. What enrages Lauren the most though, is that Jamie doesn't seem to remember her. Not even in the slightest.

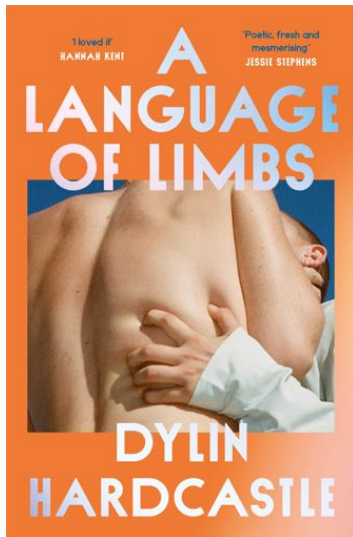
In a bid to save his daughter from being suspended, Jamie begrudgingly joins the Parent Teachers Association. When a blockage in the boy's toilets floods the school's library, Lauren and Jamie are forced to come up with a plan to save as many books as possible. And fast. But what they uncover is more than just soaked novels. Long-held secrets unfold, and each of their delicately plotted histories get an unexpected rewrite. Turns out, Jamie recalls more than he's let on. Just not the way Lauren remembers it.

Sexy, funny and nostalgic, *Love Overdue* is an enemies-to-lovers bookish rom-com about facing your past head-on and discovering that, sometimes, you shouldn't protect your heart at all costs.



Previous books sold in 10 territories

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



LITERARY FICTION / QUEER FICTION

Australia/NZ July 2024 ·

Macmillan/Picador

US/Can June 2025 · Penguin Dutton

UK June 2025 · Verve Books

Turkey 2025 · Amorf Kitap

TV rights · Curio/Sony Pictures TV

* All other rights available

'The prose is textured, viscous almost, an ooze of sweet honey shot through with golden light.'

— Australian Book Review

Dylin Hardcastle (AUSTRALIA)

A Language of Limbs

'A life-affirming, deeply-felt novel of the decisions we make and the lives that unspool from them. To read *A Language of Limbs* is to be reminded of the power of queer joy & community. I loved it..'

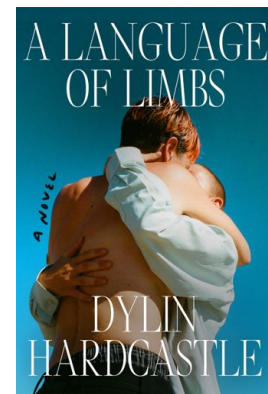
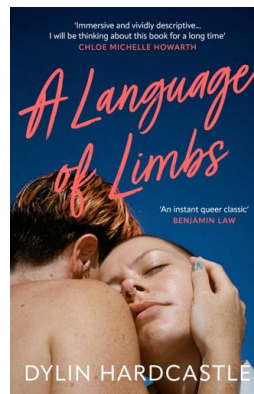
— Hannah Kent, best-selling author of *Burial Rites*

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

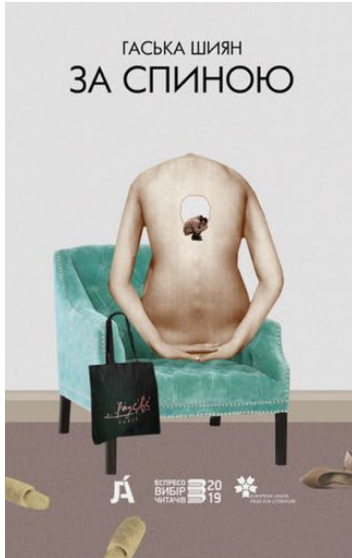
In alternating chapters poetically called Limb One and Limb Two, the novel follows two unnamed women over three decades, starting in the 1980s during the AIDS epidemic. Their lives nearly intersect in pivotal moments where the physical distance between them draws so thin that their bodies almost collide.

From their high school in a steel city to Sydney University and then a small Welsh town; from classrooms and art galleries; to beds and bars, hospitals and homes, we watch these two lives ebb and flow, with joy and grief and loss and desire, shadowing each other through the decades until, at last, they coalesce in the most beautiful and surprising of fashions.

A LANGUAGE OF LIMBS offers an intimate portrait of queer bodies, art, heartbreak, joy and the unseen connections that bind us.



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



**LITERARY FICTION /
CONTEMPORARY**

Ukraine 2019 · Fabula Publishing

Bulgaria 2021 · Colibri

Croatia 2021 · Božičević

Lithuania 2022 · Aukso Zuvys

Germany April 2023 · fotoTAPETA

Poland 2024 · Czarne

Serbia 2024 · Treći

Georgia 2024 · Ibis

English World excl ANZ 2024 ·

Harvard University Press

Armenia 2024 · Edge

France 2025 · Robert Laffont

Italy 2025 · first offer in

** English and French samples available.
Full German translation available*

** International rights handled by Zeitgeist
Agency on behalf of Fabula Publishing*



Haska Shyyan (UKRAINE)

Behind Their Backs

ЗА СПИНОЮ (original title)

Winner European Union Prize for Literature 2019

Winner Odessa Film Festival Book Pitch 2020

'Shyyan's novel continues to cause heated debate in Ukraine. Her anti-heroine Marta provokes readers to expose their hidden feelings, opinions and inner revelations.'

- Andrey Kurkov, award-winning Ukrainian novelist

When men are at war, what is expected of the women left behind.

When her boyfriend Max decides to enlist in the army, Marta is torn. It is 2015 and the fighting is in the Donbas region, thousands of kilometers away from the comfortable nest the young couple have built themselves in Lviv. Both have successful careers and have a cosy life, distant from politics and war. Until Max's decision to go and fight at the front.

With Max away, Marta tries hard to fit the model of a war hero's girlfriend and to embrace the new patriotic spirit. She volunteers for the Army, meeting other women whose partners are away fighting, but she struggles with letting the war into her life the way others do, and her resentment towards Max builds.

At breaking point, one drunken night, Marta has a passionate liaison with a female friend. Then she jumps at an opportunity to travel to France where she meets Xavier. On the way to a party, they are separated in the chaos following a terrorist attack. Left with nothing but her purse, she has no idea what happened to Xavier or how to find him.

Back home in Ukraine, depression sets in and she stops returning Max's phone calls. Marta realizes that the burden to conform is impeding her from living her true spirit. The idea of leaving Ukraine, mixed with guilt and bitterness takes hold of her.

HASKA SHYYAN is a writer, poet, and translator. Born in Lviv where she co-owns a bookshop, Haska studied Classical Philology and wrote her first novel *Hunt, Doctor, Hunt!* on her cell phone while bedridden with a rare complication of meningitis called Hunt syndrome. *Behind Their Backs* was the first Ukrainian novel to receive the European Union Prize for Literature in 2019, as well as two Ukrainian literary awards (LitAccent Award and Espresso TV Readers Choice). She regularly contributes short stories and poetry to literary magazines. After the war began she moved to Brussels and has just returned to Lviv with her husband and daughter. Instagram: [@haska_shyyan_author](https://www.instagram.com/haska_shyyan_author)

Film
deck
image



**HISTORICAL FICTION / LGBTQ+ /
REGENCY ROMANCE**

USA 2025 · Row House / Generous
Press

Film option · Impact Film Group

** All other rights available*

** MS available*

Jess Stevens (AUSTRALIA)

A Change of Pace

A queer Bridgerton: bringing pride without prejudice to the past!

Miss Georgina Pace is a striking womaniser who unexpectedly finds herself drawn into a web of danger and desire when she discovers her vulnerable acquaintance, Mr Arthur Coombes, is being extorted out of his fortune by the formidable proprietor of the popular gaming house, Solitaires. With the help of her best friends, Lord Robert Coulthurst and Mrs Sarah Fortescue, Georgina seeks to restore justice for Arthur.

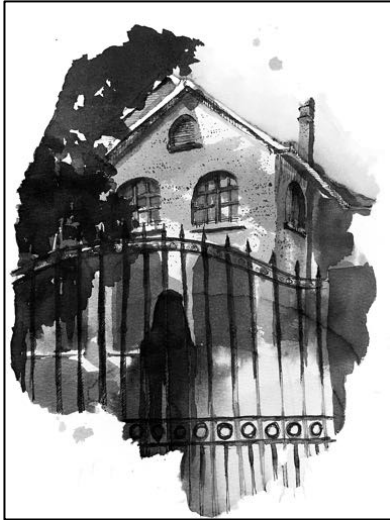
At the gaming house Solitaires, Georgina encounters the mysterious Lady Elizabeth Mortimer, whose immunity to her charm piques Georgina's interest, compelling her to go to increasingly outrageous lengths to seduce her.

Georgina's adventure includes running half-naked through London, attending balls and masquerades, lazing in dens of iniquity, interrupting duels and finding herself in a prison cell. Her days are rarely quiet.

In her quest to restore Arthur's fortune, Georgina navigates a complex world of villains and secrets, all the while discovering her own heart. After almost losing her chance with Elizabeth through mistrust, reckless behaviour, and an unresolved issue from the past, Georgina finally surrenders to her happy-ever-after. The pace finally changes.



JESS STEVENS is an emerging voice from Brisbane, dedicated to reshaping historical narratives through a lens of inclusion. As a mother to a daughter with Down Syndrome and partner to a transgender woman, Jessica draws from a well of personal experience that enriches her storytelling. Her own journey with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, coupled with her love for historical romance, fuels her literary pursuits, and she crafts tales where visibility, equality, and love flourish. Her writing weaves together themes of sexual orientation, gender, race and disability, ensuring broad appeal that transcends boundaries and invites all to see themselves on the page. *A Change of Pace* is her debut.



HISTORICAL FICTION
GOthic / SUSPENSE

US & Can Autumn 2025 · Berkley/PRH

* All other rights available

* MS available November 1

From the author of

The Last Russian Doll (US) /

The Porcelain Doll (UK)



Kristen Loesch (USA)

The Shadow Artist of Shanghai (working title)

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

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

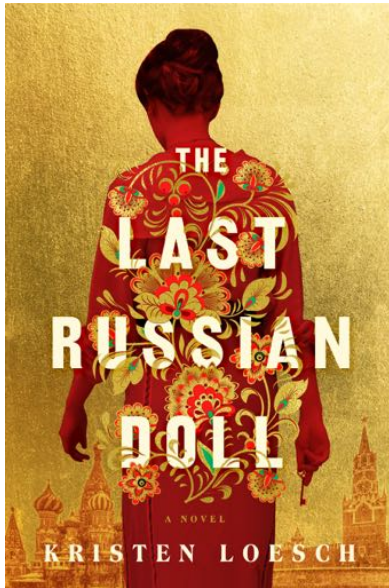
One day, she receives an invitation to come and stay at Maidenhair House, the home of a famous actress on Victoria Peak, Hong Kong's richest and remotest point. And it's not just any invitation - several spirit mediums like her have also been invited to compete against one another, to see who can contact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

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

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



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



HISTORICAL FICTION /
FAMILY SAGA / EPIC LOVE STORY

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

** All other rights available*

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

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



Kristen Loesch (USA)

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

Shortlisted Edgar Award 2024

Shortlisted Caledonia Novel Award 2020

Longlisted Bath Novel Award 2019 (under a previous title)

Rosie's only inheritance from her reclusive mother is a book of fairy tales. But there is another story lurking between the lines and in all the white spaces...

1991. Rosie regularly hears the voice of her older sister who was killed eleven years ago in their Moscow apartment. Now an Oxford University student, Rosie lives in exile with her reclusive, alcoholic mother who refuses to talk about the past. When she dies, Rosie sees a chance to find out what really happened in Moscow. She answers a job ad to become the assistant to charismatic and celebrated Soviet dissident Alexey Ivanov, and accompanies him to Russia to research the fate of a mysterious woman known as Kukolka who disappeared decades ago.

This research and the book of handwritten fairy tales left behind by her mother plunge Rosie into Russia on the eve of the 1917 Revolution, a world of sweeping romance, violence, and betrayal. The deeper she goes, the more everything she believed to be true about her family begins to unravel. Before she reaches the final tale, Rosie must decide how much she truly wants to know.

The Last Russian Doll is a family saga that spans three generations and the lifetime of Soviet Russia. It explores how our innate yearning for family and identity can lead to devastating truths – but also forgiveness and redemption.

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



**DOMESTIC THRILLER / TWISTY
MYSTERY**

Australia/NZ June 2025 · Harper
Collins/HQ

* All other rights available

* MS available Oct 1

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

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

Jo Dixon (AUSTRALIA)

An Act of Truth and Fiction

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

Best-selling author Marnie Elliott is about to be exposed. Her last two books haven't been great, and she is well behind the deadline on the next. Now a journalist has uncovered the 'lies, untruths and exaggerations' she has used to garner sympathy. Keen to escape the vitriol and outrage, she organises a holiday in a remote corner of Tasmania with her three oldest friends. Amidst the laughter, hugs, champagne, and reminiscing, it becomes clear they all have their own issues.

When Marnie receives a copy of the article, she realizes a far more serious allegation is being made—that she didn't write her first three books. She is a fraud. As accusations and recriminations escalate between the friends, Marnie goes for a bushwalk to escape the tension. She doesn't return.

After two weeks the search is called off. No one survives in the bush in that weather for so long. Did she lose her way? Could she have chosen to vanish? Or is the disappearance of Marnie something more sinister? With twists and suspense, *An Act of Truth and Fiction* is a story of friendship and betrayal and the lengths some will go to maintain a façade.



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



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

Non-Fiction



**MEMOIR / FOSTER FAMILY /
RELIGIOUS MANIA**

353 pages

Australia/NZ Nov 2024 · Black Inc

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**Final pages available*

'Blaine's native tongue, an ocker irreverence, gives his writing an amiable charm and reflects the styles of artists such as Tim Winton, Stella Franklin and Helen Garner.'

—Australian Book Review

Lech Blaine (AUSTRALIA)

Australian Gospel **A Family Saga**

"The astonishing tale of a foster family created and held together by ferocious love, laughter and courage ... Irreverently joyful."

— Charlotte Wood

A gripping true story about the tangled fates of two couples and the foster children trapped between them.

Michael and Mary Shelley are Christian fanatics who loathe their fellow Australians – especially their 'foul language, reckless indulgence of alcohol and obsession with idiotic ball sports'.

Lenore and Tom Blaine are working-class Queensland pub owners raising a large family in a raucous, loving, rugby-league-obsessed home.

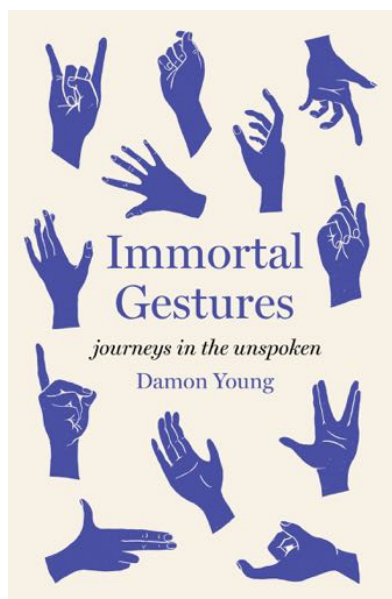
There's just one problem. The Blaines are foster parents to three of the Shelleys' children, who were removed from Michael and Mary as infants. And the Shelleys are prepared to do anything to get them back. Anything.

Australian Gospel is a family saga like no other – heartbreaking, hilarious and altogether astonishing. It's a tender tragicomedy - a story about religious mania and the rage of a narcissistic man, that also shows how the kindness of a humble foster family triumphed over blind hate.



LECH BLAINE is an award-winning author born in 1992. His first book *Car Crash: A Memoir* was called "unforgettable" by Tim Winton and "heart-soaring" by Trent Dalton. Lech has also published two Quarterly Essays: *Top Blokes* and *Bad Cop*. He was the 2023 Charles Perkins Centre, Judy Harris writer in residence. His [instagram](#) and www.lechblaine.com

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POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

UK March 2025 · Scribe

USA May 2025 · Scribe

ANZ April 2025 · Scribe

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PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORKS:

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

– Sydney Morning Herald

'Young writes with a delightful combination of humour and insight.'

- The Literary Review

'Young has a deftness with language that lays out complex ideas with such beautifully written digestibility.'

- The Irish Times



Damon Young (AUSTRALIA)

Immortal Gestures

Journeys in the Unspoken

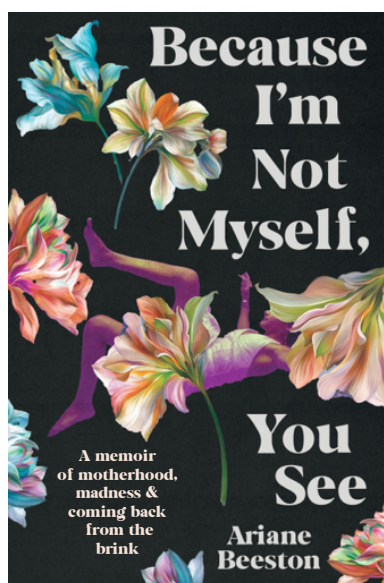
An exploration of 13 curious gestures and how events, ideas and traditions from the past inform these seemingly trivial movements.

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

From the finger guns of cinema, from hand-washing in Islam to hand-waving in swordplay, from Jane Austen to Mister Spock, Young reveals the big histories in our small, brief movements. Here, the past is not simply passed. Yesterday is alive in us today—as us. It lives through our flesh: our waving palms, bent knees, lifted chins.

Drawing equally from classical poetry and science-fiction, heavy metal and ballet, Young illuminates our varied humanity from prehistory to today, with curiosity and wit. He shows how our gestures are much more than they seem—and how we are much more than we seem.

DAMON YOUNG is an award-winning philosopher and writer. His thirteen books include *On Getting Off: Sex & Philosophy*, *The Art of Reading*, *How to Think About Exercise*, *Philosophy in the Garden* and are published internationally. He has also written poetry and short fiction. Young is University of Melbourne Associate and a founding member of The School of Life in Melbourne. A prominent public intellectual, he has written for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, ABC and BBC, and is a frequent radio guest. [@damonayoung](https://twitter.com/damonayoung)



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

Australia/NZ May 2024 · Black Inc

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Ariane Beeston (AUSTRALIA)

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

A raw, hopeful and darkly funny memoir of postpartum psychosis and recovery.

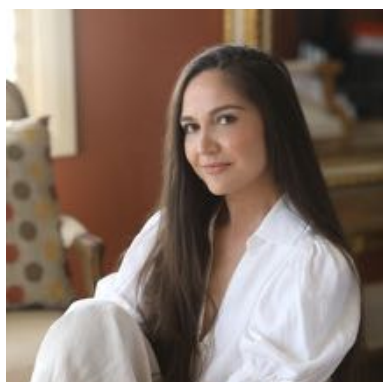
Ariane Beeston is a psychologist working for child protection when she gives birth to her first child – and experiences postnatal psychosis. As she navigates new motherhood, she suffers from scary delusions and hallucinations, which she keeps secret out of fear and shame.

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

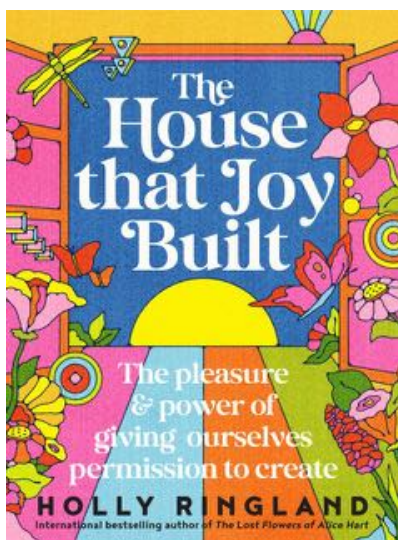
Months pass and Ariane breaks further from reality, with thoughts of harming herself and her son. While trying to get help for sleeping issues, breastfeeding and psychiatric support, she faces conflicting advice and one setback after another in a stretched and fragmented system.

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

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



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



CREATIVITY / SELF-HELP

Australia/NZ 2023 · Harper Collins

Russia 2024 · MTS Library

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‘A non-fiction masterpiece.’
– Apple Books Review

‘A joyous gift from the heart, practical and wise. Blasts those I-can’t-do-this-terrors with both barrels.’
– The Chronicle



Holly Ringland (AUSTRALIA)

The House That Joy Built

The pleasure and power of giving ourselves permission to create.

*****Best-seller in Australia with 20,000+ copies sold*****

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

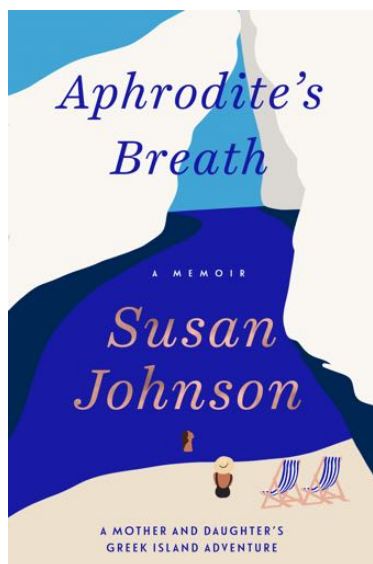
How do we give ourselves permission to be creative? This book explores two big forces – fear and joy – and offers a jump-start for the nervous heart of anyone whose desire to create is overruled by fear.

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

Divided into seven chapters, each addresses an obstruction to creativity with a suggested remedy. An exhilarating and empowering book in the vein of Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*, Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird* and Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic*, this book is an openhearted clarion call to experience the joy and freedom of creating.

After a sell-out tour, Holly identified a huge hunger for honest and vulnerable conversations about creative courage. She launched the Substack newsletter [The Joy Rise](#) to engage with her global readership. It has 4.5k subscribers and is read in 50 countries, growing every day. Another book spin-off is her podcast [Creativity, Joy, Grace](#).

HOLLY RINGLAND is a writer, storyteller, and television presenter. She grew up barefoot and wild in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. In her twenties, Holly worked in a remote Indigenous community in the central Australian desert. Moving to England in 2009, Holly obtained her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Manchester. Holly's bestselling debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* sold in 30 countries and is an Amazon Prime TV mini-series (August 2023). Her second novel, *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding*, written in a vintage caravan named Frenchie, is also a bestseller in Australia and rights sold in 14 countries. Instagram: [@hollygoeslightly](#)



MEMOIR / AGING / CREATIVITY /
GREECE

Australia/NZ May 2023 · Allen & Unwin

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'Heartbreaking, funny and deeply moving. The immense beauty of the Greek island is reflected in the depth of the poetry in Johnson's prose. This is writing to savour.'

– Books + Publishing

'One of those sublime books that both pleases and pursues you with its imagery and thoughts, long after you've put the book down.'

– The Conversation



Susan Johnson (AUSTRALIA)

Aphrodite's Breath

A Mother and Daughter's Greek Island Adventure

Official Selection Cannes Film Festival, Shoot the Book 2024

'Susan Johnson is a writer in her prime, and her most enduring love affair is with language itself.'

– Geraldine Brooks, best-selling author of *People of the Book*

Is it possible for an 85-year-old woman and her 60-something daughter to walk out of their lives into a new one?

In life, as in myth, women are supposed to stay home, like Penelope at her loom, rather than leaving for war and adventure like Odysseus.

Meet 85-year-old Barbara who could give Zeus a run for his money, and her 62-year-old daughter Susan, who asked her mother—on a whim—if she wanted to accompany her to live on a Greek island.

What follows is a moving exploration of the mother-daughter relationship told in poetic, irresistible prose. A strikingly original, funny, and forensic examination of love and finding home, amongst wild goats, olives, Edward Lear, a Japanese ghost and the people and wonders of Kythera, birthplace of Aphrodite.

SUSAN JOHNSON is one of Australia's most loved writers. Her twelve books, ten of which are novels have been nominated for the Association for the Study of Australian Literature Gold Medal, the Miles Franklin Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the National Biography Award, the Queensland and Victorian Premier's Prize, the Banjo Award and the Kibble Prize. She has been published by Faber & Faber UK/US; Transworld, Washington Square Press; Actes Sud (France) and Klub dla Ciebie (Poland). After ten years in London and two years in Greece, Susan now resides in Brisbane, Australia.
<https://susanjohnson.net>

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