

BLACK INC.

LONDON BOOK FAIR 2024
RIGHTS GUIDE



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NON-FICTION

Fragile Creatures

A Memoir

Khin Myint

A powerful debut from an extraordinary voice, gentle in the face of extremity

Khin's sister Theda has a strange illness. Her doctor thinks it's purely physical, and so does she, but Khin is not so sure. He knows what they both went through growing up in Perth – it wasn't welcoming back then for a Burmese-Australian family.

With Theda's condition getting worse, Khin heads off to the United States. He needs to sort things out with his ex-partner. Once there, events take a very odd turn, and he finds himself in court.

Fragile Creatures is a family story told with humour, wonderment and complete honesty. This is a book about what happens when realities clash – it's about care, truth and the hardest choices. It will sweep you up and leave you stunned at its power.

Khin Myint is an author based in Perth. His writing has appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Liminal* magazine and *The West Australian*, among other publications. He was selected as one of ten participants in the Wheeler Centre's Next Chapter scheme in 2021.



'The miracle of this book is the writer's tone: calm, patient and searching, steadfast in the face of unthinkable suffering.'

—**Helen Garner**

'A fearless and incisive exploration of masculinity, families and racism. Khin Myint brings a sharp emotional intelligence and a gentle sensibility to this extraordinary story that is at once quietly devastating and uplifting. A new and compelling voice in Australian non-fiction.'

—**Kristina Olsson**, author of
Boy, Lost: A Family Memoir

'Compelling and compassionate. Your heart will ache as you read Khin Myint's beautiful, poetic prose. Such wisdom and grace in these pages – an extraordinary story I will keep thinking about for a long time to come.'

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

JUNE 2024
Memoir

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$34.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
272pp

Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World
film/TV

Rights sold:
Audio – Bolinda

Jumbo

The Coming of Age of a Jewish Boy

Geoffrey London

*Through narrative and images,
Geoffrey London recreates his early
life moving away from the Jewish
community of Perth and into fully
fledged adulthood with a wry edge*



This is a story about a boy called Ray who, as a result of his greed and lust for life, became Jumbo both in size and in name. Ray was born into a Jewish family in Perth, Western Australia, shortly after World War II; a family living in a suburban house at a time of growing affluence and cultural change. The story follows Ray as his family relocates from the protective confines of the local Jewish community, as his own connections to the religion and to that community begin to falter.

Ray is a loner by choice, a shrewd boy who knows how to create short-cuts to reduce his effort, and a watcher of life who fancies that he doesn't miss much. He does have both natural and learned attributes that will help him later in life, and others that will create hurdles for him.

Told wistfully and with wry humour in a series of linked anecdotes, the story is one of a loss of faith,

a discovery of selfhood, and one of adventures and misadventures, from boyhood to the beginning of an adult life. As his own life approaches its late stage, as a strategy for avoiding total erasure, this tale is an attempt to add aspects of Ray's humble life to that great ocean of experience and learning that fills bookshelves of libraries and provides witness to the process and struggles of being human.

Geoffrey London is addicted to film and is also a keen reader of all sorts of books, including graphic novels. *Jumbo* began as a graphic novel, with illustrations planned to take a major role in the narrative. But, in the making, text became the dominant part of the telling, with the illustrations assuming a more static and supportive role. This is London's first book. In his previous life he was an architect, an academic and a public servant.

NOVEMBER 2024
Memoir

Imprint: Upsilon
RRP: AU\$32.99
Paperback
260 x 175mm
112pp

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Manuscript:
March 2024

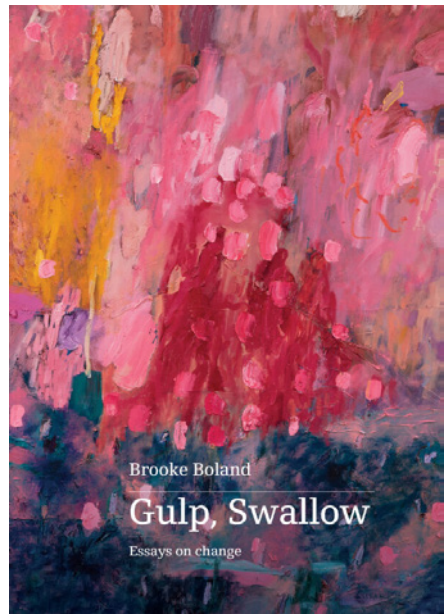
Rights held:
World
film/TV

Gulp, Swallow

Essays on change

Brooke Boland

Memoiric essays on who we were and how we have changed



What happens when who you are is different to who you imagined you'd be?

When her son was three, Brooke Boland was diagnosed with depression. She went back to find where it all started – the panic attacks, the dissociation – in the early days of motherhood. When she found it difficult to read or write.

In this wide-ranging collection of essays Boland moves on from the person she was and writes to understand who she is now. She swims with sharks, falls in love with a rabbit, and watches her father fight for his life. She is a newcomer in a small regional town and a mother, but what else? She writes about family and friends, life and mortality, memory and forgetting, and along the way she finds her voice again.

This book is for anyone who has felt unmoored. It is about the unremarkable in-between, the way we try to build a home from nothing, the dirty dishes and the loads of washing. The uncertainty and the love. But written in sparkling prose with a sly and wry tone that is illuminating about the everyday as it pitches for a rich and fulfilled life.

Brooke Boland lives and works on Yuin Country in regional NSW. She is a freelance writer interested in embodiment and identity and has a PhD in Contemporary Women's Writing from the University of NSW. She also works part-time as an arts journalist, writing profiles and reviews for various publications. Her essays have been published by *Meanjin*, *Overland*, and *The Sydney Review of Books*.

NOVEMBER 2024
Essays

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$29.99
Paperback
210 x 150mm
208pp

Manuscript:
May 2024

Rights held:
World
film/TV

Vessel

The shape of absent bodies

Dani Netherclift

*A new contribution to literature
that grapples with grief, death and
the shape of what's left behind*



Dani Netherclift

Vessel

The shape of absent bodies

Who would think to call Ophelia a corpse? She is but a woman emptied of herself.

When she was 18 years old, Dani Netherclift witnessed the drowning deaths of her father and brother in an irrigation channel in North-East Victoria. Or, she saw her father and brother disappear beneath an opaque surface and never saw these loved ones again. But also, never stopped imagining the shape of this bodily loss.

Not viewing the bodies grows into a form of ambiguous loss that makes the world dangerous, making people seem liable to suddenly vanishing.

What would it have been like to have seen them, after the fact? To have looked upon their bodies. To picture the emptied vessels of her father and brother is to reach toward

a sense of closure; a form of magical thinking in which goodbye is made possible. *Vessel* pulls together a language of space and ruin, interleaving stories of what it means to lose the physical body of a person you love with a bricolage of literature, history and (vessel) translations, and the realisation that all bodies become in the end bodies of text, beautifully written palimpsests – elegies – inked on the skins of the dead.

Dani Netherclift is a writer and poet living on unceded Taungurung lands in the Victoria High Country, surrounded by mountains. She is a PhD candidate in creative writing at Deakin University, researching the lyric essay and its intersections with white space, elegy and the body. She has been published widely and is the head poetry editor of *SWAMP* mag. *Vessel* is her first book.

NOVEMBER 2024

Lyric essay

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Paperback

210 x 150mm

160pp

Manuscript:

April 2024

Rights held:

World

film/TV

Our Familiars

The Meaning of Animals in Our Lives

Anne Coombs

A beautiful meditation on the awe-inspiring responsibility we hold with other living creatures: from their containment and loss of freedom to our intense and mysteriously mutual love



Anne Coombs

Our Familiars

The meaning of animals in our lives

How do animals guard, serve, and care for us? And how and why do we love them so much?

Anne Coombs spent her entire life working to understand the profound answers that come from these two deceptively simple questions. Before her death in late 2021 she researched the topic extensively and reflected deeply on her own experiences with animals, both domestic and in the paddocks. The animals in her life were privy to her deepest and darkest emotions: her despair, her tears and her love.

In *Our Familiars* Anne calls for all animal caregivers to use our great creative imaginations to see animals as conducting lives as meaningful as our own, intersecting in our intimate spaces. She has left us with a beautiful meditation on the awe-inspiring responsibility we take on with other living creatures: from their containment and loss of freedom, to our intense and mysteriously mutual love.

Opening with the story of Anne's childhood familiar, Elsie the goat, this tender book takes us on an expansive journey that is part personal memoir, part insightful research, and part noble call to action. With her last book, Anne leaves us an invaluable gift. With wit, humour, and insight, she implores us to feel wonder as we watch how our animal companions live.

Anne Coombs was a journalist, author, political activist, and philanthropist. She authored five books, including *No Man's Land* (Simon & Schuster, 1993), *Sex and Anarchy: The life and death of the Sydney Push* (Viking, 1996) and *Broometime* (Hodder Headline, 2001), co-authored with Susan Varga. Her final novel, *Glass Houses*, was published in 2023 by Upswell.

JULY 2024

Animals & society

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Paperback

210 x 150mm

240pp

Manuscript:

Available

Rights held:

World
film/TV

Live Like a Lobster

How to extend life, avoid disease and confront cancer

Bridget Hancock BSc

A lobster might seem an unlikely object of aspiration. But lobsters, unlike humans, do not biologically age.

Live Like a Lobster

How to extend life, avoid disease and confront cancer.

Bridget Hancock BSc

In this book, naturopathic nutritionist Bridget Hancock illustrates how diet and lifestyle can complement Western medicine in pursuit of these goals.

This simple, digestible guide takes readers through the four pillars of health – imbalance, deficiencies, stress and toxicity – with a view to understanding and even reversing illness. Deliberately designed to sit alongside conventional medicine, this is a book for anyone who wants to reduce the risk of cancer, support cancer treatment and encourage a life free of disease.

Combining insight, simple instructions and fifty easy recipes, *Live Like a Lobster* will help you live your longest, healthiest life – whether you're battling a cancer diagnosis or simply looking for more balance.

Bridget Hancock is a naturopathic nutritionist, with a BSc in pharmacology and physiology, and a transformational life coach with yoga and breathwork training. Bridget is a firm believer in the inseparable bond between mind, body and spirit, in order to restore health and wellbeing. She focuses on treating the underlying cause and addressing the physical, mental and emotional state simultaneously. Her practice combines cutting-edge science, traditional medicine and an empathetic approach gained from her own personal experiences treating a life-compromising disease as well as facing her husband's cancer diagnosis in 2007. She believes in the ability to reverse illness with diet and lifestyle, and that addressing imbalances, deficiencies, removing toxins and reducing stress are the best practices to achieve nutrition equilibrium and optimal health.

OCTOBER 2024
Self-help

Imprint: Melbourne Books
RRP: AU\$45.00
Format: Hardback
210 x 135mm
384pp

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Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World

Beyond the Snow Leopard

Travels through the Himalayas, Buddhism, mountaineering and possible paths to enlightenment

Dr Bill Crozier

The sighting of snow leopard tracks in the depths of a Ladkhi winter set off a ten-year journey through a land of mountains, Buddhism, wild creatures and adventurers ...



'You should come with me to Dolpo next year,' said Ade. No further encouragement was required. Dolpo was the land of the snow leopard immortalised by the American author Peter Matthiessen. Without hesitation I said I was going. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of Matthiessen and I dared to hope that I might see a snow leopard.'

Australian-based, British-born doctor Bill Crozier sets out to seek the snow leopard in the Himalayas: Ladakh, Nepal and Tibet, and finds adventure, friendship, wonder and enlightenment. His guides are the twentieth-century writers of the Himalayas, Peter Matthiessen (*The Snow Leopard*), George B. Schaller (*Stones of Silence*), David Snellgrove (*Himalayan Pilgrimage*), Eric Ship-ton (*That Untravelled World*), and the profound writings of Buddhist monks over the centuries.

Beyond the Snow Leopard delves in particular into the ancient land of Dolpo, and journeys to the birthplace of the Buddha at Lumbini. Crozier captures the real side of travelling through this contested and harsh region with friends and family, and relates the joys of a lifetime loving the outdoors and mountains.

Bill Crozier was born in Newcastle upon Tyne in England. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, London and, having worked in emergency medicine, cardiology and as a ship's doctor in the Arctic, he trained in anaesthesia and intensive care. As a specialist anaesthetist he worked for two years at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the United States before emigrating to Australia in 1990. For over thirty years he has been based in Brisbane. Besides his hospital work in anaesthesia he developed an interest in high-altitude medicine and physiology and has been the doctor on several mountaineering expeditions.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Travel

Imprint: Carlow Books

RRP: AU\$36.99

Paperback

234 x 153mm

368pp

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Manuscript:

May 2024

Rights held:

World

My Manifesto

A Compassionate Guide To Reveal Your Best Life

Sue Wong and Justin Robinson



My Manifesto: A Compassionate Guide To Reveal Your Best Life is a transformative book that takes you on a journey of self-discovery to assist you to live a life filled with authentic purpose and complete clarity.

This comprehensive guide, with an integrated workbook, presents a DIY approach to help you discover clarity, purpose, and authenticity in your life by crafting a personal manifesto. With its 7-Step framework, you will come to profoundly understand yourself, identify your core values, and determine your desired direction in life.

Sue Wong is an earnest retired school-teacher and coach who is making every attempt to be less earnest, without sacrificing her care factor! She understands the importance of laughter and playfulness but finds them hard to access when she really – and I mean really – cares deeply about almost everything! Sue has always wanted to write because her undergraduate studies in literature and years of teaching English made her feel that great writers are at the pinnacle of earthly success. However wonderful and inspiring that sounds, when combined with Sue’s other insecurities – which you will be aware of after having read this book – in actuality, this attitude rendered her with writing paralysis. It was

only in lightening up and channeling the Broken Hill girl with her ‘common parlance’ that she was able to write this book. For all that, her earnestness, I am sure, is still very evident.

Justin Robinson has been a passionate educator for more than thirty years. The first twenty years were spent teaching his love for mathematics and physical education, and the last ten years pioneering wellbeing education. Justin’s teaching career has been underpinned by his fulfillment in caring for the lives of young people and their families. He views his time as a Head of Year, a Head of House, and a Head of Boarding as incredibly enriching years in his life. Justin feels blessed with many rich opportunities and challenges that have presented in his life and this has enabled him to discover a purpose of caring deeply for others and gently sharing what he hopes is heartfelt wisdom. To be able to pay forward some of the experiences he has gained from others, and to be able to express aspects of his philosophy for living, is the gift he offers.

AUGUST 2024
Self-help

Imprint: Melbourne
Books
RRP: AU\$39.99
Paperback
270 x 210mm
240pp

Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World

The Good Kitchen

Love and Connection Through Food

Danny McCubbin

'The Good Kitchen is a thriving example of the power of food to bring people together. Danny has united a community through cooking and I really salute him for that. Delve into his journey in this lovely book knowing that all the royalties will go right back to the heart of the Good Kitchen. Nice one Danny.' —Jamie Oliver



After working at Jamie Oliver's 'Fifteen' restaurant in London for seventeen years, Danny McCubbin bought a house for one euro in the small Sicilian town of Mussomeli and started a community kitchen. The Good Kitchen has grown to not only help feed a village, but to inspire other community kitchens across the globe.

Danny shares the pivotal moments of his journey, the life lessons, the human connections, and the food and recipes behind it all since opening the Kitchen's doors in July, 2021.

Danny provides recipes that stay true to the rich Sicilian food tradition whilst also being adaptable according to the ingredients available, and teaches home cooks as well as aspiring community chefs how to upscale simple recipes to provide meals for many people. He also shares various hints and tips on preserving and reducing food waste, which comes as second nature to most Sicilians.

The book features recipes from Danny's friends and supporters, including: Jamie Oliver, Stephanie

Alexander, Anna Jones, Gennaro Contaldo, Fabrizia Lanza, and Olia Hercules. It offers inspiration and advice for anyone who has dreamed of creating a grassroots project with social value. Food is something we will always have in common.

Originally from Australia, **Danny McCubbin** had a successful seventeen-year career in London with chef and campaigner Jamie Oliver, working as a mentor for Jamie's 'Fifteen' apprentice program. He also mentored for San Patrignano, the world's most successful drug rehabilitation community, in Italy. He has spent years promoting food-focused social enterprises and helping diverse businesses create social value, with the belief that food has the power to transform lives. He has been a judge on the well-respected Young British Foodies Awards, been nominated for the Foodism 100 Positive Change Heroes, and collaborated on the hugely successful 'Cook for Syria' campaign. He is regularly asked to speak at international conferences on how food can be used as a tool for positive change.

AUGUST 2024

Cookbook/memoir

Imprint: Melbourne Books

RRP: AU\$39.99

Hardcover

180 x 255mm

224pp

Manuscript:

Available

Rights held:

World

The Invisible Obvious

A Homicide Detective's Story of Mental Health Crisis and Recovery

Tim Peck



Tim Peck's career was at its peak – as a homicide detective in Victoria Police's missing persons unit, he was working high-profile cases and managing complex operations, throwing everything into his career. But internally he was struggling with depression, PTSD and alcohol dependency.

In 2014, he reached a breaking point nobody had seen coming: he decided to take his own life.

In the aftermath of this crisis, Tim got sober, got serious about therapy and learnt a lot about a subject he had previously ignored: mental health. He went on to work for Beyond Blue and drew on his lived experience to support others.

In *The Invisible Obvious*, Tim shares his story candidly, exploring how the culture of emergency services work can contribute to ignoring the 'obvious': the impact of experiencing traumatic events. He argues that everyone should take responsibility for their own health, rather than fall back on blame or victimhood, and he shares his personal model of mental health 'first aid' to help others.

Tim Peck is the Deputy Director of the Centre of Excellence for Emergency Worker Mental Health at Phoenix Australia and is playing a key role in establishing effective mental health care models in the emergency services environment.

AUGUST 2024
Memoir

Imprint: Carlow Books
RRP: AU\$36.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
304pp

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Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World

The Odd Couple

Re-configuring the America–Australia relationship

Allan Behm

A set of provocative ideas about recalibrating the relationship between Australia and the USA to deliver peace and prosperity rather than conflict and disharmony



America matters. Australia matters. They matter to each other. They matter to the world. Their institutional and structural alignments are deep and powerful. Americans believe in themselves. Australians believe in each other. They are mates. They are gregarious. Americans are single-minded and ambitious. Success is the reward for effort. Australians are happy-go-lucky. They do not push themselves too hard. Americans honour success. Australians cut down tall poppies. Both are brash.

There are also many contrasts. America is religious. Australia is secular. Curiously, their differences help to explain why they are so close – and why their relationship is so superficial.

Despite the political rhetoric, America and Australians do not share values. They do not share the values of equality, inclusion, respect, tolerance and trust. They do share a pervasive sense of insecurity. America supports a gun and war culture regardless of the costs, and Australia supports American adventurism

unconditionally. Their focus on security emphasises war, not peace.

America is floundering and appears to have lost its way. It needs friends that advise and encourage. As rich and powerful first-world nations, America and Australia share a problem: how to recalibrate their relationship to deliver peace and prosperity rather than conflict and disharmony. In *The Odd Couple*, Allan Behm suggests ways that America and Australia can transcend military glitz to strengthen well-being and human security worldwide. America needs a friend, not a flunkey, and Australia may become its best ally.

Allan Behm specialises in international and security policy development, political and security risk evaluation, political analysis and development, and negotiating the policy/politics interface. He has a significant publishing record and is a respected commentator in both the electronic and print media.

JULY 2024

Foreign affairs

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: AU\$29.99

Paperback

210 x 150mm

240pp

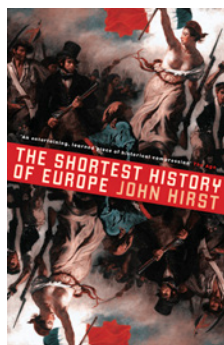
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Manuscript:

Available

Rights held:

World
film/TV

The Shortest History series



The Shortest History of Europe

John Hirst

—
Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
192pp

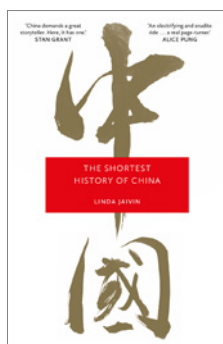
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Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World
film/TV

Rights sold:

China – Guangxi Normal University Press
Taiwan – Domain Publishing Company
Germany – Hoffmann und Campe
Greece – Metaichmio Publications
Sweden – Natur och Kultur
UK & Comm. ex ANZ & Canada – Old Street Publishing
Saudi Arabia – Dar El Shorouk
Italy – Giunti Editore Spa
Portugal – Publicacoes Dom Quixote
Spain – RBA Libros
Turkey – Say Yayinlari

Korea – Wisdomhouse Publishing Co.
Brazil – Editores Sextante
France – City Editions
Japan – Tokyo Shoseki Co. Ltd.
Estonia – Eesti Raamat
Poland – Polskie Wydawnictwo Naukowe
Russia – Eksmo Publishing
Ukraine – Nash Format
Thailand – Paragraph Publishing House
Hungary – Athenaeum Kiadó Kft
Slovak – Silverzen
Czech Republic – Leda
North America – The Experiment
Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of China

Linda Jaivin

—
Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
288pp

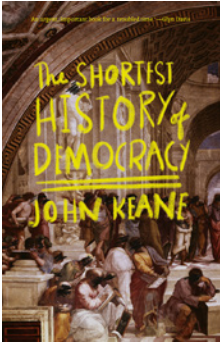
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North America – The Experiment
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Russia – Azbooka-Atticus
Taiwan – Domain Publishing Company
Hungary – Athenaeum Kiadó Kft
Arabic – Dar El Shorouk
India – Picador

Israel – Kinneret Zmora
Slovak – Silverzen
Ukraine – Laboratory Publishing House
Thailand – Paragraph Publishing House
Czech Republic – Leda
Korea – Jinsungbooks
Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of Democracy

John Keane

—

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
240pp

Manuscript:

Available

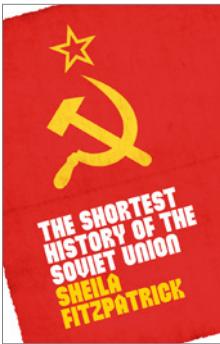
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Taiwan – Ye-Ren
Publishing House
Spain – Antoni Bosch
Portugal –
Editorial Presença
Brazil – Alta
Japan – Diamond Inc.
Hungary – Athenaeum
Kiadó
Israel – Tchelet Books
Korea – Jinsungbooks
Thailand – Paragraph
Publishing House
Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of the Soviet Union

Sheila Fitzpatrick

—

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
256pp

Manuscript:

Available

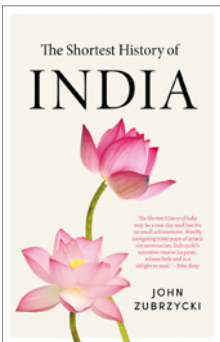
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Taiwan – Rye Field
Publications
Korea – Rollercoaster
Press
Ukraine – Laboratory
Albania – AHS
Sweden – Lind & Co
Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of India

John Zubrzycki

—

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
288pp

Manuscript:

Available

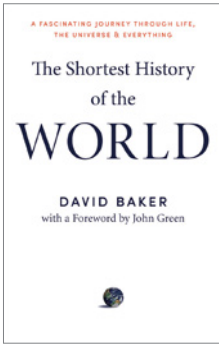
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Bulgaria – Prozoretz
Publishing House
India – Picador
Turkey – Say Yayinlari

China – CITIC Press
Corporation
Arabic – Dar El Shorouk
Portugal – Editorial
Presença S.A
Taiwan – As If Publishing
Marathi – Madhushree
Publication
Tamil – Kalachuvadu
Publications
Hindi, Tamil, Telugu,
Kannada, Malayalam,
Marathi, Bangla
audiobooks – Kuku FM
Germany – Reclam
Czech Republic – Leda
Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of the World

David Baker,
with an introduction
from John Green

—

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
256pp

Manuscript:

Available

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Greece – Metachmio
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Slovak – Silverzen

Portugal – Editorial

Presença

India – Picador

Japan – Diamond Inc.

China – China Science and
Technology Press Co.

Russia – Azbooka-Atticus

Korea – Sejong University
Press

Brazil – Universo dos

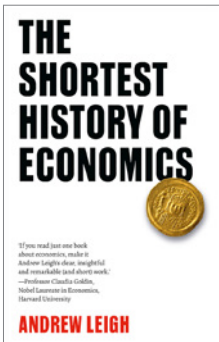
Livros

Czech Republic – Dokoran

Taiwan – Azoth Books Co.

Say Yayinlari – Turkey

Audio – Tantor



The Shortest History of Economics

Andrew Leigh

—

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
224pp

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The Shortest History of Italy

Ross King

—

MARCH 2024

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
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256pp

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The Shortest History of Japan

Lesley Downer

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JUNE 2024

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
288pp

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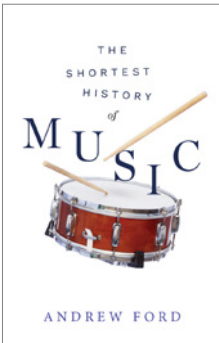
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The Shortest History of Music

Andrew Ford

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JULY 2024

Imprint: Black Inc.
RRP: AU\$27.99
Paperback
198 x 128mm
288pp

Manuscript:

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Rights held:

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FICTION

Imperial Harvest

Bruce Pascoe



Imperial Harvest is a timely book that speaks to the universal lessons of war. This fiction by bestselling Australian author Bruce Pascoe is set in 13th-century Mongolia and addresses pertinent themes of dispossession, tracing imperialist tactics all the way back to the rise of the Khan empire.

Yen Se has lost everything to the Khan's brutality.

Left with one eye and one arm, he is forced out of his home village to work in the city as a horse handler. Witness to the Khan's violent crusade, their raids sweeping across Eurasia, he travels with the theatre of war, but exists outside of it; stunned every morning to find himself alive.

Yen Se moves randomly across Europe with a loose band of survivors – men who think of survival, men who think of resistance, and women who dare to dream of peace.

Whilst narrated by a male, women are at the forefront of this story; often the most active of the characters, both for their plight and for their guidance.

Imperial Harvest tells the story of war, but more importantly, of hope.

Bruce Pascoe is a Yuin, Bunurong, and Tasmanian writer and farmer. He has published thirty-six books, including the bestselling *Dark Emu*, which won the NSW Premier's Award for Literature in 2016, and *Young Dark Emu: A Truer History*, which won both the Booksellers Association Prize and the CBCA Non-Fiction Award in 2020.

As a farmer, he grows Australian Aboriginal grains and tubers. He is also a Board Member of First Languages Australia, Black Duck Foods, and Twofold Aboriginal Corporation.

JUNE 2024

Historical fiction

Imprint: Melbourne
Books

RRP: AU\$32.99

Paperback

234 x 153mm

240pp

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Manuscript:

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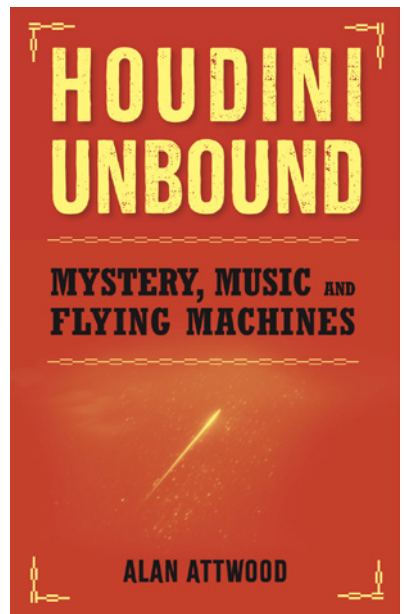
Rights held:

World

Houdini Unbound

Mystery, Music and
Flying Machines

Alan Attwood



It is 1910. Halley's Comet is coming. Harry Houdini is in Australia for the first time. The most celebrated escape artist in the world has sold-out seasons in both Melbourne and Sydney.

Houdini has a new obsession: aviation. He has brought with him from Europe his own Voisin biplane, being put together and prepared in a Diggers Rest paddock by his French mechanic, Brassac. Houdini is intent on claiming a record: first to fly in Australia. But he has competition from aspiring aviators in several states, and is left restless and distracted when his promotional leap-in-chains from a Melbourne bridge disturbs a corpse in the Yarra.

Meanwhile, his wife Bess, left alone in their hotel, stumbles upon her own mystery: music with no apparent source. Then she realises that her preoccupied husband is far from being the most famous visitor to Australia: also present, though in hiding, is an Italian composer who has performed his own vanishing act.

This intriguing story, set in the year of Halley's Comet, merges history and invention, reality and illusion. Like Houdini's own act, is it possible to believe what you see or hear?

Alan Attwood has worked as an abalone packer, dishwasher and mail sorter, but mainly as a journalist. He has written for publications ranging from *The Sunday Times*, London, to *Time* magazine and covered events as diverse as the first free elections in South Africa, soccer in Northern Greece, political intrigue in Morocco and four Olympic Games. Between 1995 and 1998 he was the New York-based correspondent for *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* newspapers. From 2006–16 he was editor of *The Big Issue* magazine in Australia. His previous novels include *Sinking into Winter*, shortlisted for The Australian/Vogel Literary Award in 1990, *Breathing Underwater* (1997) and *Burke's Soldier*, shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2004.

MAY 2024

Historical fiction

Imprint: Melbourne
Books

RRP: AU\$34.95

Paperback

234 x 153mm

272pp

Manuscript:

Available

Rights held:

World

POETRY

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soft meteorites

Nathan Shepherdson

When assembling my work, I assembled myself, laid out on an autopsy table (of sorts). And soft meteorites presented itself as three themes – art, death, and friendship.



In *soft meteorites* Nathan Shepherdson has installed a type of two-way valve that attaches the page to the flesh. Moments are emptied of words then refilled with fresh observations. The pulse quietly excludes standard angles for a free-form geometry that collects spiralling perspectives. He sings inside the silence he listens to. Meditations are a material. Sometimes lean and elegant, almost emaciated. At other times the complexities compound themselves under lingua-thermal pressure, moving very fast, jumping ship like a sailor who doesn't even know if the ocean is still there. Wry smiles are laid out like the silver-plated cake forks inherited from your grandmother, tattered velvet a warm home for memories used only on special occasions. Memory and Memoriam are primary yet differentiated blocks by which Shepherdson's body is drawn but not yet quartered. Elastic hands reach into holes that aren't there to find the ones that are.

The counterbalance is in the mood and gestures Shepherdson creates, which invite and repel the chaos which parades unnoticed in its endless supply of costumes. The question mark, inverted, bristles added to its profiled dome sweeps it all away with thinking. Falling is the secondary purpose of any cliff small or large. Micro-shadows from dust disturbed form answers and shapes for capture and translation before they again settle into nothing.

Nathan Shepherdson is the author of eight books of poetry. He has been the recipient of a number of awards including the Newcastle Poetry Prize, the Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize, and the Mary Gilmore Award. He is a sometime collaborator with artists and poets including Pascalle Burton, Sandra Selig, Jonathan McBurnie and Alun Leach-Jones.

SEPTEMBER 2024
Poetry

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$24.99
Paperback
210 x 150mm
112pp

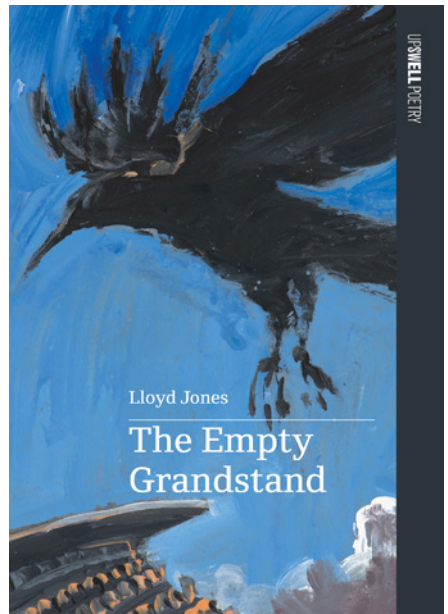
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Manuscript:
March 2024

Rights held:
World
film/TV

The Empty Grandstand

Lloyd Jones

The wild secrets of boyhood are where Lloyd Jones sets off in his first book of poetry; intoxicated with images, and invoking dream spaces where language is forever in play.



Lloyd Jones was seven years old the first time he climbed high into a grandstand to watch rugby with his father. The experience was baptismal. From his new elevated perspective Jones believed he could see everything that mattered – a field of play that rolled out, green with promise, from suburban New Zealand to the wider world.

The grandstand is a guiding metaphor for these questing narrative poems that reach back into childhood and forward into the life of a writer constantly experimenting with form and voice.

Jones writes of the wild secrets of boyhood – riding dogs, falling from trees, destroying the class ukuleles, learning to sail in small boats. He is alert to the airless small-town grievances that must inevitably be escaped.

As an aspiring young writer Jones travelled widely, testing his identity against difference – places, people, politics and importantly, language.

The more recent poems are a re-assembling of coordinates and a return to the local view. The grandstand has long been decommissioned – it's a housing estate now, but the poems are full of air and greenery. Dream spaces where language is forever in play.

Lloyd Jones is one of New Zealand's most innovative and accomplished writers. A former journalist who has travelled the world and lived for extended periods in other countries, he has published award-winning short stories, novellas, novels, essays, and a memoir. His novels include *The Book of Fame*, winner of the Tasmania Pacific Prize for Fiction; *Mister Pip*, winner of the Commonwealth Prize for Literature and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, *Hand Me Down World*, shortlisted for the Berlin International Prize for Literature, *The Cage*, and *The Fish*. He is a New Zealand Arts laureate and recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize for Literature. *The Empty Grandstand* is his first book of poems.

SEPTEMBER 2024
Poetry

Imprint: Upswell
RRP: AU\$24.99
Paperback
210 x 150mm
144pp

Manuscript:
Available

Rights held:
World
film/TV

LA TROBE
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PRESS

The Outrageous Fortunes

The Adventures of
Mary Fortune, Crime-writer,
and her Criminal Son George

Lucy Sussex and Megan Brown



Mary Fortune (1832–1911) was very nearly lost to history but is now recognised as a major early crime writer, with her work reprinted, even published by the British Library. After emigrating to Australia in the 1850s, she was responsible for *The Detective's Album*, a police procedural serial which lasted 40 years, and was written convincingly in the persona of a male detective. She was also a pioneering female journalist. The lady wrote under a pseudonym for good reason: she had run away from her Canadian husband, had an illegitimate son on the goldfields, and made a bigamous marriage with a policeman.

Mary's son George grew up to be a career criminal, robbing banks and cracking safes. In the Fortune family, crime fiction meets true crime: she was accused of inspiring her son via her fiction, and she wrote about him.

Here is a woman very unconventional, a bohemian when that term could only apply to males without

moral loathing. She innovated as a journalist and crime writer. Her literary reputation has grown, from complete invisibility to translations and reprints. Her life was extraordinary, confounding notions of Victorian femininity. What she could not write about openly as a woman, she expressed through her male persona.

Lucy Sussex is a New Zealand-born writer living in Australia. She has a PhD from the University of Wales and is an Honorary Fellow at La Trobe University.

Megan Brown completed her doctorate at the University of Wollongong, examining aspects of the prolific writings of Mary Fortune. She has continued to research, publish and present papers about Fortune, including chapters in *The Routledge Companion to Australian Literature* and *The Unsocial Sociability of Women's Life Writing*.

FEBRUARY 2025
Biography

Imprint: La Trobe
University Press
RRP: AU\$36.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
336pp

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Manuscript:
July 2024

Rights held:
World
film/TV

Untitled Memoir

Robert Manne



The recollections of Australia's leading public intellectual. A fascinating portrait of the key political controversies of the past forty years – the people, the ideas and the battles. Manne remains one of Australia's most profound political analysts and this book distils that wisdom into an unforgettable set of episodes and reflections. The inside story of a life of engagement and reflection, and a book for anyone interested in the shape and meaning of the past forty years of politics.

Robert Manne is emeritus professor of politics at La Trobe University. His recent books include *On Borrowed Time*, *Making Trouble: Essays Against the New Complacency*, and *The Words that Made Australia* (as co-editor). He has written three Quarterly Essays and is a regular contributor to *The Monthly* and *The Guardian*.

DECEMBER 2024
Memoir

Imprint: La Trobe
University Press
RRP: AU\$59.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
384pp

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Manuscript:
May 2024

Rights held:
World
film/TV

Broken Heart

A True History of the Voice Referendum

Shireen Morris

In late 2023, Australians voted No to recognising Indigenous peoples through a constitutional Voice. *Broken Heart* unpacks the true complex history of the referendum, illuminating how an alliance with constitutional conservatives fractured under political pressure, and a proposal conceived in compromise got killed by partisan politics.

Told from the unique insider perspective of a constitutional lawyer who worked closely with Noel Pearson for over a decade, this book analyses the mistakes of the government and Yes advocates, the fickleness and ultimate intransigence of the right, and the betrayals and lies that led to the referendum's defeat.

Broken Heart tells a story of hope and tragedy. But its lessons will assist future reformers and leaders who want to make Australia a better place.

Shireen Morris is a lawyer and constitutional reform fellow at the Cape York Institute and a researcher at Monash University.

Enim, qui nostrud exercitium ullamcorper laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea
commodo consequat—FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

A TRUE HISTORY
BROKEN
OF THE VOICE
HEART
REFERENDUM
SHIREEN MORRIS

SEPTEMBER 2024
Politics

Imprint: La Trobe
University Press
RRP: AU\$36.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
256pp

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Manuscript:
May 2024

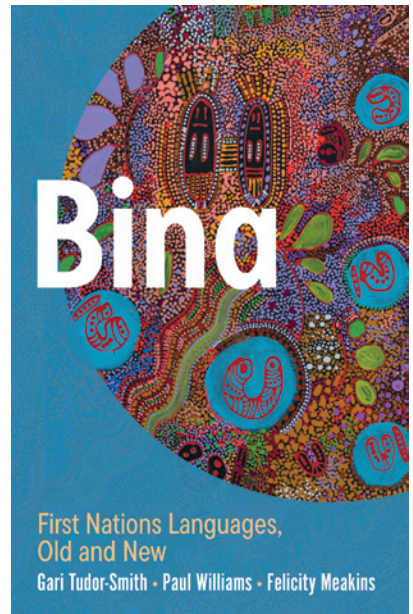
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Bina

First Nations Languages, Old and New

Gari Tudor-Smith, Paul Williams
and Felicity Meakins

*The incredible story of the
resilience and recovery of
Australia's First Nations languages*



Australia's language diversity is truly breathtaking. This continent lays claim to the world's longest continuous collection of cultures, including over 440 unique languages and many more dialects. Sadly, European invasion has had severe consequences for the vitality of these languages.

Amid devastating loss, there has also been the birth of new languages such as Kriol and Yumplatok, both English-based Creoles. Aboriginal English dialects are spoken widely, and recently there has been an inspiring renaissance of First Nations languages, as communities reclaim and renew them.

Bina: First Nations Languages, Old and New tells this story, from the earliest exchange of words between colonists and First Nations people to today's reclamations. It is a creative and exciting introduction to a vital and dynamic world of language.

With a foreword by Nardi Simpson, author of *Song of the Crocodile*.

Gari Tudor-Smith is a Barada, Yiman, Gangulu and Gureng Gureng linguist. Gari's focus is on language and cultural reclamation and empowering First Nations communities. They are currently working as a linguist at the University of Queensland, contributing to the development of a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalisation and working on legacy language collections.

Paul Williams is a Gamilaraay man from Tamworth, New South Wales. Since 2020, Paul has worked as a linguist at the University of Queensland, where he has contributed to a number of Indigenous language projects including dictionaries and grammars and working with archival materials.

Felicity Meakins is a professor of linguistics at the University of Queensland. She has worked for over two decades with Indigenous communities documenting their languages. This work extends beyond the traditional boundaries of linguistic research, such as dictionaries and grammars, to projects grounded in the artistic, cultural and land-based practices of these communities.

AUGUST 2024
Society & culture

Imprint: La Trobe
University Press
RRP: AU\$37.99
Paperback
234 x 153mm
384pp

Manuscript:
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Rights held:
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