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LONDON BOOK FAIR 2026  
RIGHTS GUIDE

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BLACK INC.

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**NON-FICTION**

# What the Mountains Remember

Nicole Hasham



Australia's mountains are powerful places, rock-vaults stacked with stories and symbolism. On the world's flattest continent, they stand apart – at once menacing and magnetising, benevolent and brutal. Their creases and bulges tell the story of how Earth was formed. Australia's mountains are not high by world standards, but some were once taller than the Himalayas. Millennia of wind, water and ice have chiselled the peaks down to the sculptural forms we see today; these seemingly unyielding hulks of rock are in fact evolving and fragile worlds.

Mountains are contested places, sites of colonial power, home to Indigenous stories and lightning rods for all manner of human drama. And they are also places of inspiration, solace and quietude – the point where the sky meets the Earth and the sacred illuminates the profane.

In this book, Nicole Hasham will tell the stories of nine Australian mountains. Through vivid and telling descriptions, each chapter would seek to transport the reader to the mountain's slopes and guide them along its known and unknown trails. We would pause to consider the deep history of each mountain and delve into its many stories – tales populated with marauders, explorers, heroes, scientists, artists, philosophers, developers, miners, climbers, tourists and, most importantly, traditional owners.

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**Nicole Hasham** is a Walkley Award-winning Australian journalist, writer and former editor at *The Conversation*. Based in Canberra, Hasham has written for national outlets including *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Monthly*, *The Guardian*, *Australian Book Review* and *Griffith Review*.

**FEBRUARY 2027**  
Science, Nature & the Environment

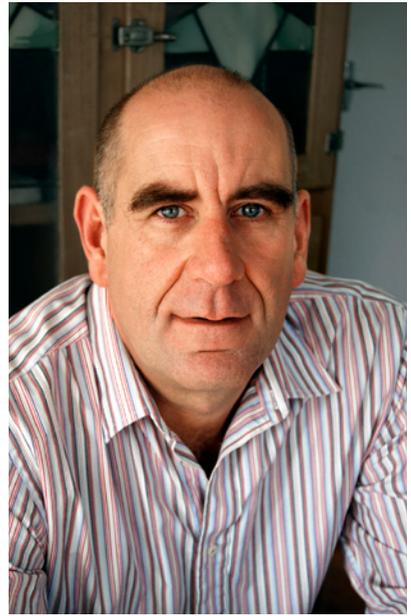
Imprint: Black Inc  
RRP: \$36.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
320pp

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**Manuscript**  
July 2026

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

# Making Australia

James Boyce



In his latest book, multi-award-winning historian James Boyce revolutionises our understanding of the beginnings of colonial Australia. This is a new history of the first forty years of the colony of Sydney and New South Wales. Boyce places the development of the colony in an international context, showing how Britain's needs and shifting attitudes helped shape it, especially in its relations with the original inhabitants. He traces the lives of the first generation of locally born Europeans.

With perceptive pen portraits of key figures of the time, Boyce discusses the formative debate between Governor Macquarie and John Bigge that helped shape the nation that Australia would become.

This is a deeply researched and highly accessible book by one of Australia's most gifted and original historians.

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**James Boyce** is a multi-award-winning historian. His first book, *Van Diemen's Land*, was described by Richard Flanagan as 'the most significant colonial history since *The Fatal Shore*'. He is also the editor of *Inga Clendinnen: Selected Writings* and the author of *Losing Streak*, *Born Bad*, *Imperial Mud* and *1835*, which was *The Age's* 2012 Book of the Year.

**NOVEMBER 2026**

History

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP \$39.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
480pp

**Manuscript:**

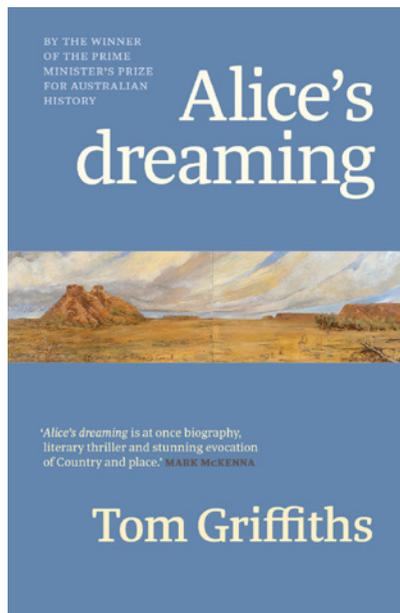
June 2026

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# Alice's dreaming

Tom Griffiths



Early last century, Alice Duncan-Kemp grew up on a remote Queensland cattle station. Later she would write down her childhood memories of learning from Aboriginal women and men at home on their own Country. In her books, she evoked a rich parallel universe of storytelling and lore, which she felt privileged to witness. She also spoke of an informal local treaty that curbed the violence of the frontier.

What are we to make of 'Alice's dreaming' today? Master historian and writer Tom Griffiths takes us into – and beyond – this revelatory encounter. Through it we glimpse the turmoil of a complex and tragic frontier, and a remarkable story of survival and cultural resilience. In recent years, the Mithaka people Alice lived among and wrote about have reclaimed their Country, drawing in part on her writing to support their claims.

*Alice's dreaming* shows how moving, intimate – and unexpected – history can be.

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**Tom Griffiths** is Emeritus Professor of History at the Australian National University. His books include *The Art of Time Travel: Historians and Their Craft* and *Slicing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica*. His writing has won prizes in literature, history, science, politics and journalism, including the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, the Alfred Deakin Prize for an Essay Advancing Public Debate and the Douglas Stewart and Nettie Palmer Prizes for Non-Fiction.

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### Praise for *Alice's dreaming*:

*'In this wonderful book Tom Griffiths reveals how 60,000 years of First Nations' history is intricately woven into the fabric of contemporary Australian values. Alice's dreaming is a work of the greatest importance to our understanding of who we are. It is also great literature, an epic story told with imaginative distinction.'*

—Alex Miller

**AUGUST 2026**

Australasian & Pacific  
History

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$36.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
288pp

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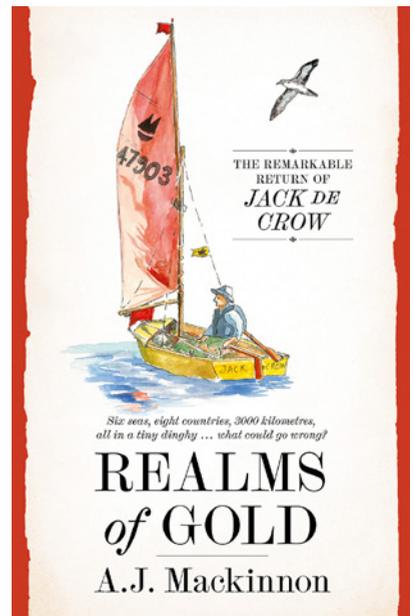
**Manuscript:**  
April 2026

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

# Realms of Gold

## The Remarkable Return of Jack de Crow

A.J. Mackinnon



Six seas, eight countries, 3000 kilometres, all in a tiny dinghy ... what could go wrong?

When A.J. 'Sandy' Mackinnon sailed a tiny dinghy through twelve countries from North Wales to the Black Sea, he survived pirates, the English Channel, international incidents and all the disasters, big and small, that can befall a little boat on a long voyage. Those adventures became his beloved bestseller *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*.

Decades later, that trip is a happy memory and Sandy is firmly back on land – until a message from a stranger presents an opportunity too good to refuse. Sandy picks up where his first voyage left off, sailing and rowing single-handedly around the coast from Romania to Venice. From Istanbul to Ithaca, Mount Olympus to the ruins of Troy, he finds himself immersed

in the legends of antiquity, plays chicken with mercurial border police, and is saved more than once by the kindness of strangers. He recounts it all with his unbreakable enthusiasm and self-deprecating humour, taking the reader on a hilarious and unforgettable adventure.

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**A.J. Mackinnon** was born in Australia in 1963 and travelled as a boy on P&O liners between Australia and England, developing a love of slow travel. He has taught in schools around the world, sharing his passion for English literature, mathematics, drama, art and philosophy with countless students. He now lives in the Victorian High Country of Australia. He is the author of the international bestseller *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, as well as *The Well at the World's End* and *Quaint Deeds*.

**AUGUST 2026**

Travel Writing

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$36.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

368pp

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**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**

World English-language ex ANZ (Sheridan House); Audio (Wavesound)

# Hard New World

## Australia's Post-American Future

Hugh White



What is Australia's place in the new global landscape? Are we ready for our post-American future? In an era of rising danger for all, and dramatic choices for Australia, Hugh White explores how the world is changing and Australia should respond.

Under Donald Trump, America's retreat from global leadership has been swift and erratic. China, Russia and India are on the move. White explains the big strategic trends driving the war in Ukraine, and why America has 'lost' Asia. He discusses Albanese Labor's record and why complacency about the American alliance – including AUKUS – is no longer an option. This brilliant short book urges us to navigate a hard new world with realism and confidence.

This is a thoroughly updated and significantly expanded edition of the bestselling Quarterly Essay.

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**Hugh White** is the author of *The China Choice* and *How To Defend Australia*, and the acclaimed *Quarterly Essays Power Shift, Without America* and *Sleepwalk to War*. He is emeritus professor of strategic studies at ANU and was the principal author of Australia's Defence White Paper 2000.

**JULY 2026**

Foreign Affairs

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$36.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

224pp

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**Manuscript:**

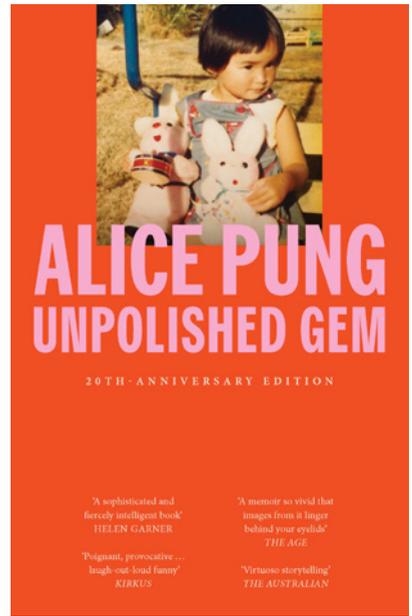
April 2026

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# Unpolished Gem

Alice Pung



This story does not begin on a boat. Nor does it contain any wild swans or falling leaves.

In a wonderland called Footscray, a girl named Alice and her Chinese-Cambodian family pursue the Australian Dream – Asian style. Armed with an ocker accent, Alice dives head-first into schooling, romance and the getting of wisdom. Her mother becomes an Aussie battler – an outworker, that is. Her father embraces the miracle of franchising and opens an electrical-appliance store. And every day her grandmother blesses Father Government for giving old people money.

*Unpolished Gem* is a book rich in comedy, a loving and irreverent portrait of a family, its everyday struggles and bittersweet triumphs. This special

twentieth-anniversary edition, with an afterword by the author, brings this Australian classic to a new generation of readers.

Alice Pung OAM is an award-winning writer based in Melbourne. She is the bestselling author of the memoir *Her Father's Daughter* and the essay collection *Close to Home*, as well as the editor of the anthologies *Growing Up Asian in Australia* and *My First Lesson*. Her first novel, *Laurinda*, won the Ethel Turner Prize at the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. *One Hundred Days*, her next novel, was shortlisted for the 2022 Miles Franklin Award.

## Praise for *Unpolished Gem*:

'Alice Pung is a gem. Her voice is the real thing.'

—Amy Tan

**JUNE 2026**

Memoir

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$32.99  
PB (210 x 135mm)  
288pp

## Manuscript:

Available

## Rights held:

World; film/TV

## Rights sold:

North America (Penguin); World audio (Bolinda Audio); Germany (editionfünf); Italy (Mobydick)

# The Enigmatic Echidna

Secrets of the World's Most Curious Creature

Danielle Clode

There are few animals more unusual than the echidna – a spiky, egg-laying mammal that eats ants. But some of the most striking things about echidnas are things most of us don't know. That they use their snout like a snorkel when they swim, that they can sense electromagnetic fields, that they have intriguingly complex brains, startling physical strength and 'backwards' back feet. That they go into torpor when conditions are poor and can survive fires by sheltering underground. And that during the mating season, male echidnas will line up behind a female, making cooing noises and forming an orderly echidna train, waiting for their chance to impress her with some very strange reproductive equipment!

In *The Enigmatic Echidna*, biologist and award-winning author Danielle Clode follows the echidna on its eclectic path through the Australian

landscape. Equal parts surprising, amusing and enlightening, it is an irresistible journey into their unique and beautiful world.

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**Danielle Clode** is a biologist and natural history author. Her books include *Koala*, winner of the 2023 Whitley Award for Popular Ecology; *Killers in Eden*, which was made into an award-winning ABC TV documentary; *Voyage to the South Seas*, winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction; *In Search of the Woman Who Sailed the World*; and *The Wasp and the Orchid*, which was shortlisted for the National Biography Award.

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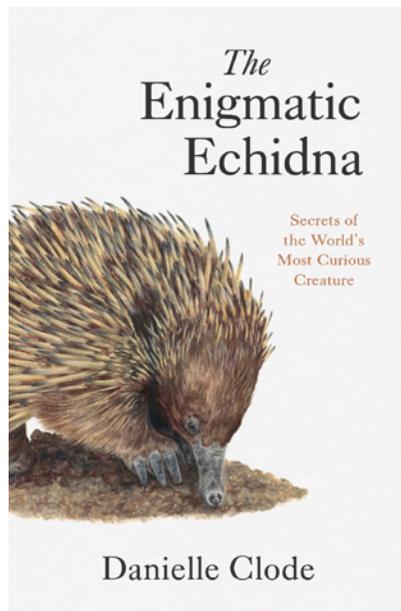
#### Praise for *The Enigmatic Echidna*:

'A new book from Danielle Clode is always a treat, and *The Enigmatic Echidna* is no exception.

—Sophie Cunningham

Written with rigour and expansive curiosity, it contains multitudes.'

—James Bradley



**MAY 2026**

Science, Nature & the Environment

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$36.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
320pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World

# Sirens

## Inside the Shadow World of First Responders

Martin McKenzie-Murray

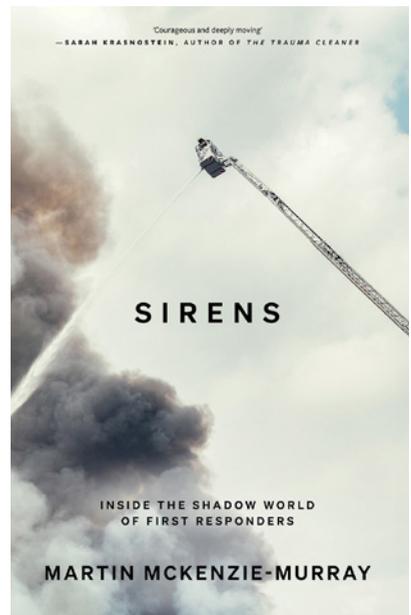
Three first responders – a paramedic, a police officer and a firefighter – are motivated by a desire to serve the community. But they are drawn to their work by more complicated impulses as well: a need for control, an acute awareness of danger, and childhood experiences they are still running from.

Peter, a paramedic, served at high-profile disasters including the Port Arthur massacre and the Beaconsfield mine collapse. Despite helping countless people, he is haunted by the lives he couldn't save. Tara, a firefighter, experienced devastating loss at a young age. She found camaraderie in the fire brigade, but also confronting reminders of her past. Brett, a police officer, survived childhood neglect and abuse. Policing offered a way to impose order, but it eventually forced him to question his rigid moral view of the world.

In telling their stories, Martin McKenzie-Murray draws on his own experience and his research into trauma and recovery to ask profound questions about human motivation and survival. What draws people to these intense professions, and how does their work reshape them? And what happens when their carefully built walls between past and present, personal and professional, start to crumble?

---

**Martin McKenzie-Murray** is *The Saturday Paper*'s associate editor and a staff writer for *The Monthly*. He is a two-time Walkley finalist and winner of the Melbourne Press Club's Quill Award. His first book, *A Murder Without Motive*, was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Awards for crime writing. His second, *The Speechwriter*, won the Russell Prize for Humour Writing.



**MAY 2026**

Society & Culture

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$34.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

240pp

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**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

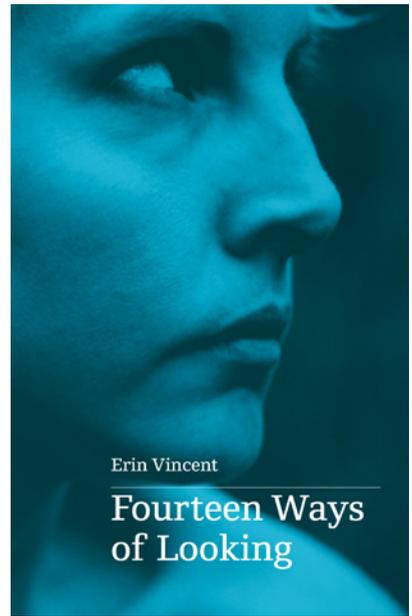
World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**

World audio (Bolinda Audio)

# Fourteen Ways of Looking

Erin Vincent



*Fourteen Ways of Looking* is a hybrid memoir in the form of a prose poem. When Erin Vincent was fourteen, both of her parents were killed in a road accident in Western Sydney. Almost forty years later, the number 14 began haunting Erin, appearing everywhere – in the books she was reading, in films, TV shows, in the news ... Fourteen. 14. This felt like a sign, so Erin embarked on a quest to seek out instances of fourteen throughout history. To her surprise, much of what she found related to her life at fourteen, so she began writing it all down. The result, *Fourteen Ways of Looking*, is written in fragments that looks at the year Erin's parents died. It is also the story of a writer reflecting on her life and her grief and commenting on the writing process as it progresses.

Erin Vincent is the author of *Grief Girl*, which was named a New

York Public Library Best Book and an American Library Association Best Book Nominee. Her work has appeared in *Meanjin*, *The Guardian*, *Electric Literature*, and the *Offing*, among other publications. She holds a Master of Arts in creative writing from the University of Technology Sydney and is currently studying for a PhD in creative writing.

## Praise for *Fourteen Ways of Looking*:

*'Simply one of the best books I've read in ages. I read it in a reverie of blissed-out, horrified amazement. I can easily imagine it becoming a cultural touchstone like Max Porter's Grief Is the Thing with Feathers or Maggie Nelson's Bluets.'*

—Sarah Manguso, author of *Liars* and *Very Cold People*

*'Deeply affecting. Grief blows a life into shards, and Vincent assembles here the precious fragments. In her efforts to free herself by going back to the source of trauma, she is both Odysseus and Euridice, damned and saved. A remarkable achievement.'*

—Anna Funder, author of *Stasiland*, *All That I Am* and *Wifedom*

## MARCH 2026

Memoir

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: \$32.99

Misc PB (210 x 150mm)

144pp

## Manuscript:

Available

## Rights held:

Translation: film/TV

## Rights sold:

USA (Deep Vellum);

UK (CB editions);

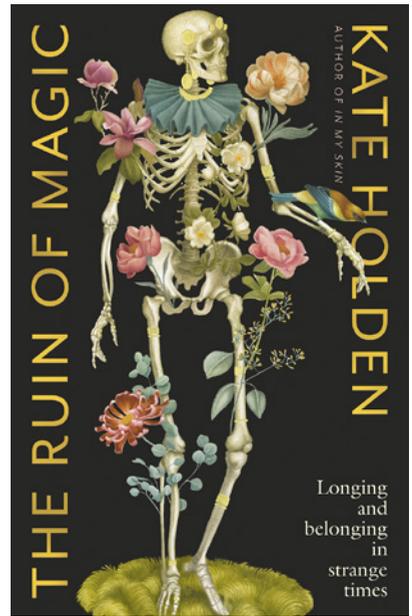
Canada (Strange

Light)

# The Ruin of Magic

Longing and Belonging in  
Strange Times

Kate Holden



‘Is it possible to live wondrously by fluorescent light?’ In *The Ruin of Magic*, award-winning writer Kate Holden follows in the footsteps of Katherine May, Maggie Nelson and André Aciman, crafting essays of intimate personal experience and sharply informed rumination on life in strange times.

In gorgeous prose Holden meditates on her instinctive yearning for long-ago Europe versus the natural belonging she feels to the Australian landscape, and asks, What is a home? The strongest shelter or the most lethal trap, a museum of ourselves or a showcase of fashions? What, then, does it mean to make ourselves at home in an Australia still finding its way amidst old and avoided truths? Is nostalgia a reasonable mourning of timeless lore lost or a dangerous fantasy? And what has happened to magic and beauty in the glare of modern life?

Reading Rainer Maria Rilke, Patti Smith, Walter Benjamin and D.H. Lawrence, dreamers and philosophers and poets, pagan history and new criticism, Holden writes with humour and sorrow of all the ways life today warps us under its glare – and how to find a haven in the subtle shadows.

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**Kate Holden** is the author of two highly praised memoirs, *In My Skin* and *The Romantic*, and the Walkley Award-winning *The Winter Road*. She is a regular contributor to *The Saturday Paper*, *The Monthly* and *The Age*.

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### Praise for *The Ruin of Magic*:

*‘Elegant and whip-smart, The Ruin of Magic is a work of beauty – a sober yet joyful quest to find home and belonging.’*

—Susan Johnson

### APRIL 2026

Personal essays

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$36.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

288pp

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### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

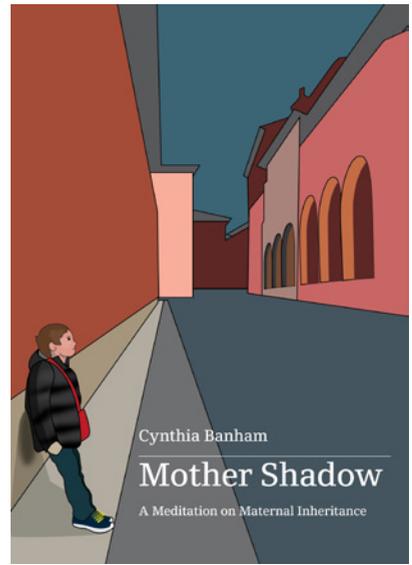
World audio

(Penguin Random  
House Audio)

# Mother Shadow

## A Meditation on Maternal Inheritance

Cynthia Banham



*Mother Shadow* opens with the unearthing of a family secret. Cynthia Banham's great-grandmother was not an orphan, as she'd been told, but a foundling, abandoned at birth by a mother who 'did not consent to be named'.

Cynthia's discovery triggers a passionate and indignant reaction: what kind of mother would relinquish her child?

Troubled by her rush to judge her ancestor, Cynthia becomes fixated on uncovering the mother's identity, a quest that takes her and her family to Bologna. As she pieces together the series of tragic events that led to the baby's abandonment, Cynthia wonders if her compulsion to understand the woman's act is linked to her own overwhelming sense of inadequacy as a mother.

**Cynthia Banham** is the author of *Liberal Democracies and the Torture of Their Citizens* and *A Certain Light: A Memoir of Family, Loss and Hope* – an account of surviving a plane crash with life-changing injuries. Previously, she worked as a lawyer, journalist and academic.

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### Praise for *Mother Shadow*:

'Stories about mothers and children are powerful. They are stories about love, about the gentleness (and cruelty) and resilience (and weakness) of human beings, and the enduring hope that connects generations. [Banham's] rich description of centuries-old Italian city streetscapes creates an atmosphere of mystery and suspense. The story draws you in and doesn't let go as clues about her search for her Italian great-grandmother arrive at a steady pace. I was on edge to the very end in anticipation of what was going to happen next.'

—**Moreno Giovannoni**,  
author of *The Immigrants*

**APRIL 2026**

Memoir

Imprint: Upswell

RRP: \$32.99

Misc PB (210 x  
150mm)

220pp

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**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# Forthcoming in the Shortest History series



## The Shortest History of Egypt

Maria Golia

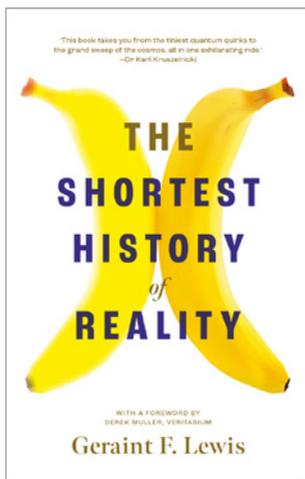
**JUNE 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**  
North America (The Experiment);  
Ukraine (Athena);  
Indian subcontinent (Picador);  
UK/Commonwealth ex ANZ,  
Canada, Indian subcontinent  
(Old Street)



## The Shortest History of Reality

Geraint F. Lewis

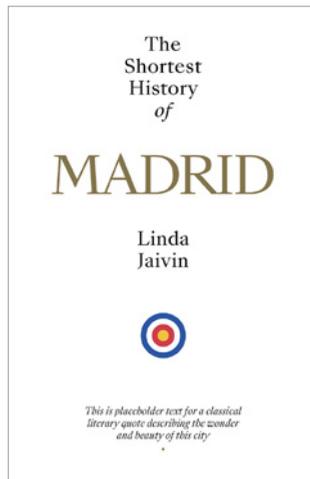
**JULY 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**  
North America (The Experiment),  
UK/Commonwealth ex ANZ,  
Canada, Indian Subcontinent  
(Old Street)



## The Shortest History of Madrid

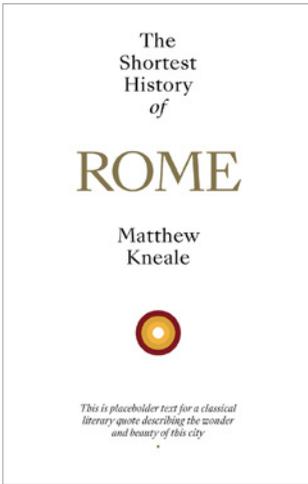
Linda Jaivin

**OCTOBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
160pp

**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World



## The Shortest History of Rome

Matthew Kneale

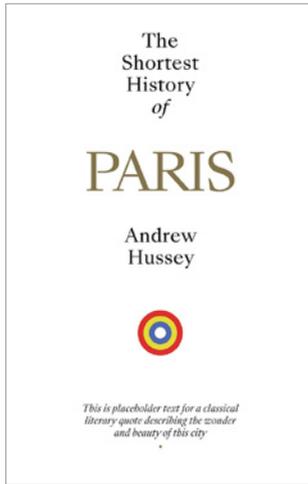
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**OCTOBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
160pp

**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World



## The Shortest History of Paris

Andrew Hussey

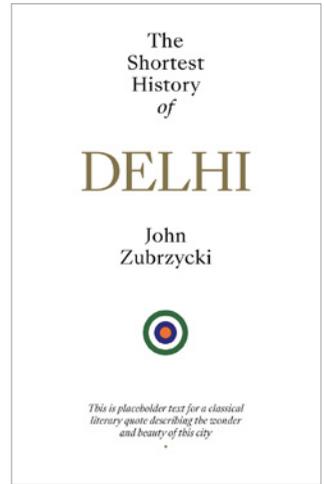
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**OCTOBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
160pp

**Manuscript:**  
May 2026

**Rights held:**  
World



## The Shortest History of Delhi

John Zubrzycki

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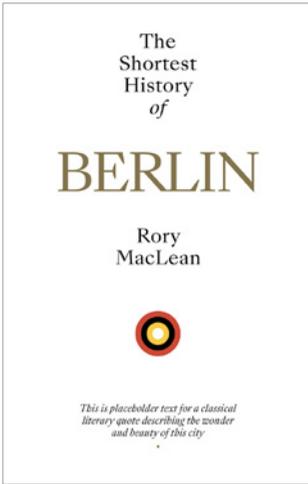
**OCTOBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
160pp

**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World

**Rights sold:**  
North America (The Experiment);  
Indian subcontinent (Picador)



## **The Shortest History of Berlin**

Rory MacLean

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**OCTOBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
160pp

**Manuscript:**  
May 2026

**Rights held:**  
World



## **The Shortest History of Wine**

Morris Gleitzman

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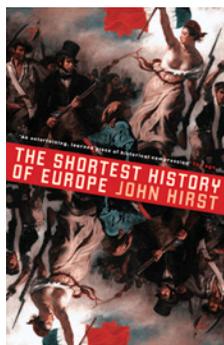
**DECEMBER 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
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PB (198 x 128mm)  
224pp

**Manuscript:**  
May 2026

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

# The Shortest History series



## The Shortest History of Europe

John Hirst

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**MAY 2012**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
192pp

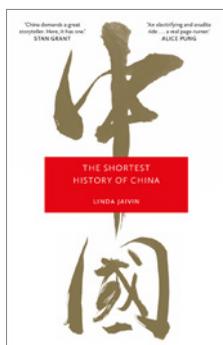
**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World

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China (Guangxi Normal University Press);  
Taiwan (Domain Publishing Company);  
Germany (Ullstein);  
Greece (Metaichmio Publications);  
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);  
Japan (Tokyo Shoseki Co. Ltd.);  
Poland (Polskie Wydawnictwo Naukowe);  
Ukraine (Nash Format);  
Thailand (Paragraph Publishing House);  
Hungary (Athenaeum Kiadó Kft);  
Slovak (Silverzen);  
Czech Republic (Leda);  
North America (The Experiment);  
Romania (Litera);  
Serbia (Laguna);  
Iran (Ana Pol);  
Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of China

Linda Jaivin

—

**MAY 2021**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

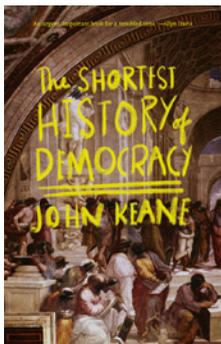
**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World

### Rights sold:

UK/Comm ex ANZ.  
Canada (Old Street Publishing);  
North America (The Experiment);  
Japan (Tokyo Shoseki Co);  
Portugal (Dom Quixote);  
Greece (Metaichmio);  
Bulgaria (Prozoretz);  
Italy (Bompiani);  
Turkey (Kronik Yayincilik);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Taiwan (Domain Publishing Company);  
Hungary (Athenaeum Kiadó Kft);  
Arabic (Dar El Shorouk);

India (Picador);  
Israel (Kinneret Zmora);  
Slovak (Silverzen);  
Ukraine (Laboratory);  
Thailand (Paragraph Publishing House);  
Czech Republic (Leda);  
Korea (Jinsungbooks);  
Serbia (Laguna);  
Romania (Litera);  
The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij);  
Germany (Ullstein);  
Denmark (Svane & Bilgrav);  
Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Democracy

John Keane

—

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
240pp

### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Comm ex ANZ,  
Canada (Old Street);  
Arabic (Al Sharq Forum);  
Turkey (Say Dagitim);  
India (Picador);  
Greece (Metaichmio);  
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);

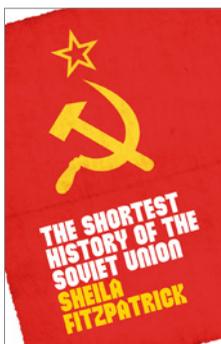
Ukraine (Prometey

Publishing House);

Serbia (Laguna);

Lithuania (Hubris);

Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of the Soviet Union

Sheila Fitzpatrick

—

**MARCH 2022**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

North America (Columbia University Press);  
UK/Comm ex ANZ (Old Street Publishing);  
Russia (Alpina);  
Portugal (Editorial Presença S.A);  
Italy (Bompiani);  
Turkey (Say Dagitim Ltd);  
Greece (Metaichmio);

Czech Republic

(Academia);

Brazil (Todavia);

Spain (Antoni Bosch);

Japan (Jimbun Shoin);

India (Picador);

Slovak (Silverzen);

Taiwan (Rye Field

Publications);

Korea (Rollercoaster

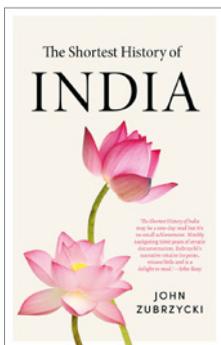
Press);

Ukraine (Laboratory);

Albania (AIISS);

Sweden (Lind & Co);

Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of India

John Zubrzycki

—

**MAY 2022**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Comm ex ANZ,  
Canada, India (Old Street Publishing);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
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);

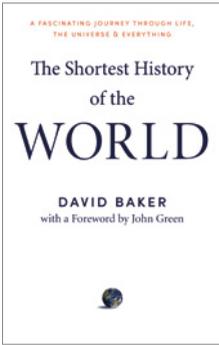
Czech Republic (Leda);

Serbia (Laguna);

The Netherlands (De

Bezige Bij);

Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of the World

David Baker,  
with a Foreword by  
John Green

—

**JULY 2022**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

### Manuscript:

Available

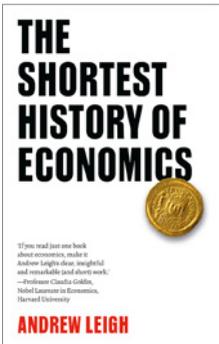
### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

UK/Comm ex ANZ, India,  
Canada (Scribe);  
North America (The  
Experiment);  
Bulgaria (Prozoretz);  
Greece (Metachmio);  
Spain (Antoni Bosch);  
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.);  
Turkey (Say Yayinlari);  
Serbia (Laguna);  
Romania (Litera);  
Iran (Ana Pol);  
Egypt (Bayt Elkotob);  
Lithuania (Obuolys);  
Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Economics

Andrew Leigh

—

**FEBRUARY 2024**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
224pp

### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

North America (Mariner);  
UK/Comm ex ANZ, India,  
Canada (Old Street);  
Indian Subcontinent  
(Picador);  
Turkey (Say);  
Japan (Toyo Keizai Inc.);  
Taiwan (Azoth Books Co.);  
China (China Machine  
Press Co.);  
Brazil (Alta Books);  
Greece (Metaichmio);  
Ukraine (Laboratory);

Saudi Arabia (Jarir  
Bookstore);  
Germany (Piper);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Spain (Antoni Bosch);  
Hoepfl (Italy);  
Czech Republic  
(Dokoran);  
Serbia (Laguna);  
Portugal (Presença);  
Vietnam (Development  
and Policies Research  
Center);  
Korea (Woongjin Think Big);  
UK/Comm Audio  
(Penguin Random  
House)



## The Shortest History of Italy

Ross King

—

**MARCH 2024**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

### Manuscript:

Available

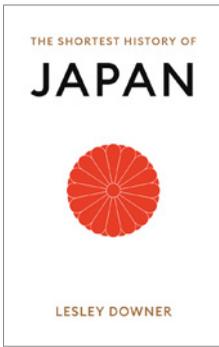
### Rights held:

World

### Rights sold:

UK/Commonwealth ex  
India, Canada, ANZ (Old  
Street);  
North America (The  
Experiment);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);

De Bezige Bij  
(Netherlands);  
Hoepfl (Italy);  
Svane & Bilgrav  
(Denmark);  
Portugal (Presença);  
Sweden (Karavan Förlag);  
UK/Commonwealth ex  
Canada audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Japan

Lesley Downer

—

**JUNE 2024**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

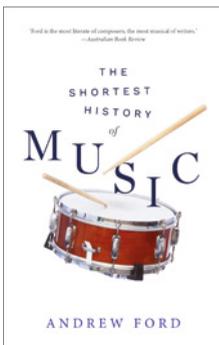
**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Commonwealth ex ANZ, Canada, India (Old Street);  
India (Picador);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Bulgaria (Prozoretz);  
Serbia (Laguna);

Ukraine (Laboratory);  
Lithuania (Aukso Pieva);  
Greece (Metaichmio);  
Hungary (Athenaeum);  
Denmark (Svane & Bilgrav);  
Portugal (Presença);  
Romania (Litera);  
Poland (Copernicus Center Press);  
Germany (FinanzBuch Verlag);  
Italy (Silani);  
UK/Commonwealth audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Music

Andrew Ford

—

**JULY 2024**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
288pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

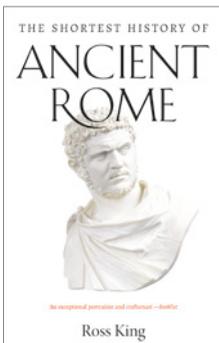
**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

UK/Commonwealth ex India, Canada, ANZ (Old Street);  
North America (The Experiment);  
India (Picador);

Russia (Alpina);  
Taiwan (Sunrise Press);  
Ukraine (Ranok);  
Turkey (Say Yayinlari);  
Iran (Ana Pol);  
UK/Comm Audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Ancient Rome

Ross King

—

**NOVEMBER 2024**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
272pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

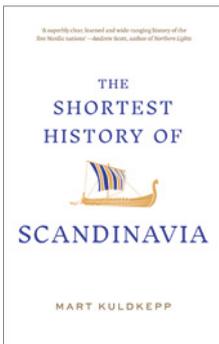
**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

UK/Commonwealth ex Canada, ANZ, India (Old Street);  
North America (The Experiment);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Taiwan (Sunrise Press);

The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij);  
India (Picador);  
Portugal (Presença);  
Ukraine (Atena);  
World audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Scandinavia

Mart Kuldkepp

—  
**APRIL 2025**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
272pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

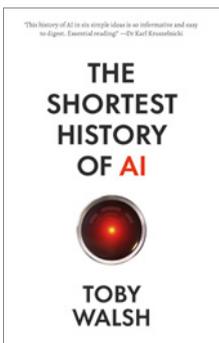
**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Commonwealth ex ANZ, Canada, Indian Subcontinent (Old Street);  
Turkey (Say Yayinlari);

Ukraine (Laboratory);  
Estonia (Eesti Raamat);  
Indian Subcontinent (Picador)



## The Shortest History of AI

Toby Walsh

—  
**APRIL 2025**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
224pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

UK/Commonwealth ex India, ANZ, Canada (Old Street);  
North America (The Experiment);  
India (Picador);  
Taiwan (Sunrise Press);  
Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House);

Korea (Sejong University Press);  
Spain (Antoni Bosch);  
The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Hungary (Athenaeum);  
Hebrew (Tchelet);  
Simplified Chinese Character (Chongqing University Press);  
Romania (Editura Vremea);  
(North American audio (Tantor)



## The Shortest History of Turkey

Benjamin C. Fortna

—  
**JULY 2025**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
256pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**

UK/Commonwealth ex Canada, ANZ, Indian Subcontinent (Old Street);  
North America (The Experiment);

Indian Subcontinent (Picador);  
Russia (Azbooka-Atticus);  
Poland (Copernicus)



## The Shortest History of Australia

Mark McKenna

—

**NOVEMBER 2025**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$39.99  
HB (210 x 135mm)  
304pp

**Manuscript:**

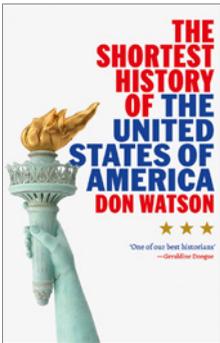
Available

**Rights held:**

World

**Rights sold:**

North America (The Experiment);  
Turkey (Say Yayinlari)



## The Shortest History of the United States of America

Don Watson

—

**NOVEMBER 2025**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$39.99  
HB (210 x 135mm)  
304pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

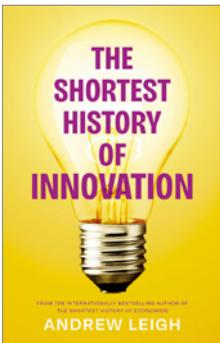
**Rights held:**

World: film/TV

**Rights sold:**

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Commonwealth ex Canada, ANZ, India (Old Street);  
Greece (Metaichmio);  
Korea (RollerCoaster Press);  
Hungary (Athenaeum);  
Taiwan (Sunrise Press);

Germany (Ullstein);  
The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij);  
Portugal (Casa das Letras);  
Denmark (Svane og Bilgrav)



## The Shortest History of Innovation

Andrew Leigh

—

**FEBRUARY 2026**

Imprint: Black Inc.  
RRP: \$27.99  
PB (198 x 128mm)  
224pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**

North America (The Experiment);  
UK/Commonwealth ex ANZ, India, Canada (Old Street);  
Taiwan (Sunrise Press);  
China (China Machine Press Co.);

Korea (Vision B&P);  
Indian Subcontinent (Picador);  
Germany (Hoffmann & Campe)

FICTION

# International

Anneliz Marie Erese



After a breakup, an international student from the Philippines finds herself lost, alone and broke in Melbourne. As she starts to build a new life, she becomes a solitary body exploring the city, moving between share-houses and drifting from job to job while navigating a Kafkaesque migration system. She develops an intense desire for what this foreign city has to offer – friendship and love, sex, material possessions, creative success, a stable living situation – and finds various ways to satiate this hunger. But when she learns that her dreams are no pathway to the permanence she’s craving, she contemplates a move that would threaten to destroy everything.

An outstanding debut novel, deftly written, lyrical and poetic. For readers of Amina Cain, Aysegul Savas, Lydia Davis, Sarah Bernstein, Jessica Au, Rachel Cusk and Katie Kitamura.

**Anneliz Marie Erese** is a Filipino writer of prose and poetry. Her works have appeared in both print and online publications, including *The Saturday Paper*, *Mascara Literary Review*, *Meanjin*, *Island Online* and *Cordite Poetry Review*, among others. In 2024, she was a writer-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center. She was also the 2023 scholar of the Faber Writing Academy Writing a Novel Course in Melbourne and a recipient of the Hot Desk Fellowship at The Wheeler Centre. In 2022, she was named the winner of the Deborah Cass Prize and the Deakin Postgraduate Prize in Writing and Literature.

**MARCH 2027**

Literary Fiction

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$34.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

288pp

—

**Manuscript:**

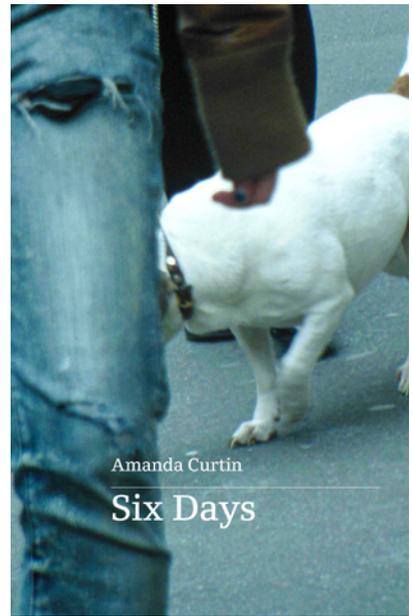
Available

**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# Six Days

Amanda Curtin



Daniel, an expatriate Australian who has lived in Paris for more than forty years, has made a mess of his life and is trying to atone, to become the ‘good man’ his friend Marcelline believes him to be. But Marcelline has disappeared, the quotidian world has been tipped out of balance and Daniel makes an error of judgment that places at risk everything he values.

The novel’s six-day narrative, set in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the winter of 2012, expands into lifetimes, histories, as interconnecting stories weave through Daniel’s. Stories of abandonment and fractured families, rape and coercion, addiction, ambition, loss and grief, are told in moments and set within the context of war and occupation, the revolutionary sixties, riots in a Catalan town in the south of France, a grassroots movement to make visible the invisible homeless. The personal stitched into, and inseparable from, the political.

And throughout, the constant sound of footsteps and pawpatter as Daniel and his old dog walk the streets of one of the most idealised and romanticised cities on earth.

---

**Amanda Curtin** is the author of two novels, *Elemental* and *The Sinkings*; a collection of short fiction, *Inherited*; and a work of narrative non-fiction, *Kathleen O’Connor of Paris*. As well as writing, Amanda has been a freelance book editor for more than 30 years. She lives in suburban Perth, Western Australia – traditional lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation – and works in a backyard studio among magpies, doves and old trees.

---

#### Praise for *Six Days*:

*‘To walk these streets of Paris with a man stripped of all but compassion is to grapple with endurance, each surrender to kindness poised to bring him down. Exquisite. Aching. Real.’*

—**Robyn Mundy**, author of *Cold Coast*, *Wildlight* and *The Nature of Ice*

#### AUGUST 2026

Modern &  
Contemporary  
Fiction

Imprint: Upswell  
RRP: \$32.99  
Misc PB (210 x  
150mm)  
272pp

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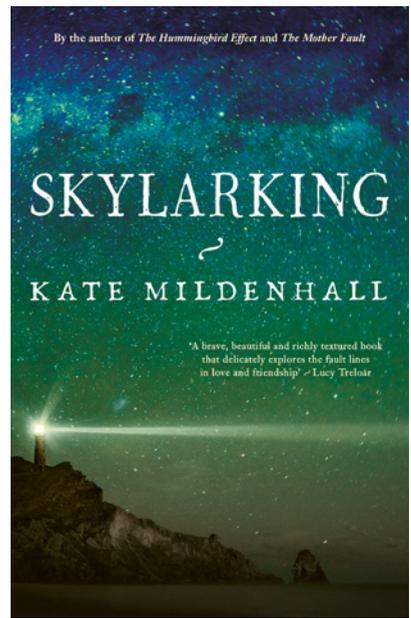
**Manuscript:**  
Available

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

**Rights sold:**  
Audio (Penguin  
Random House  
Audio)

# Skylarking

Kate Mildenhall



Kate and Harriet are best friends, growing up together on an isolated Australian cape in the 1880s. As daughters of the lighthouse keepers, the two girls share everything until a fisherman, McPhail, arrives in their small community. When Kate witnesses the desire that flares between him and Harriet, she is torn by her feelings of envy and longing. But one moment in McPhail's hut will change the course of their lives forever.

Inspired by a true story, *Skylarking* is a stunning debut novel about friendship, love and loss, one that questions what it is to remember and how tempting it can be to forget.

**Kate Mildenhall's** debut novel, *Skylarking*, was longlisted for Debut Fiction in the 2017 Indie Book Awards and for the 2017 Voss Literary Prize. She is also the author of *The Hiding Place*, *The Mother Fault* and

*The Hummingbird Effect*, which was shortlisted for the 2024 ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year. Her first picture book, *To Stir with Love*, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft, was shortlisted for the 2025 Indie Book Awards and the 2025 ABIA Children's Book of the Year. Kate also co-hosted *The First Time Podcast*, interviewing more than 200 Australian and international writers. She lives on Wurundjeri lands in Hurstbridge.

### Praise for *Skylarking*:

'*Skylarking* is a strikingly real and deeply moving meditation on adolescent friendship in all its complexities - a heart-wrenching work.'

—Olga Lorenzo

'*This impressive novel takes an historical case and re-imagines it with such sensitivity and insight that we feel this must be how it truly happened.*'

—Emily Bitto

### MARCH 2026

Literary Fiction

Imprint: Black Inc.

RRP: \$24.99

PB (198 x 128mm)

288pp

### Manuscript:

Available

### Rights held:

World; film/TV

**LA TROBE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

# Going Digital

Margaret Simons



A renowned journalist tells the story of how the ABC transformed itself under the leadership of Mark Scott. This is a gripping, deeply researched account of Australia's most important media institution that covers everything from *The Chaser* to Radio National, *Back Roads* to the ABC's endless battles against political interference.

---

**Margaret Simons** is an award-winning journalist and the author of thirteen books, including a biography of Malcolm Fraser that was the 2011 Book of the Year at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She won the 2015 Walkley Award for Social Equity Journalism and has been honoured with several Quill Awards for journalistic excellence.

*'One of Australia's very best journalists, Margaret Simons is ideally suited to tell this story of media, politics, people and tumultuous change.'*

—Chris Feik, Publisher

**NOVEMBER 2026**

Narrative nonfiction

Imprint: La Trobe

University Press

RRP: \$39.99

PB (234 x 153mm)

368pp

—  
**Manuscript:**

June 2026

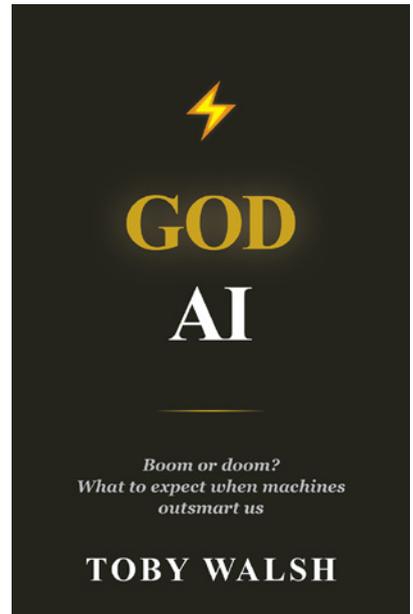
**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# God AI

## Boom or Doom? What to Expect When Machines Outsmart Us

Toby Walsh



AI is turning up in every sector of our economy. But despite all the benefits, many public and private conversations are increasingly about how this AI future might be worse than the present. The anxieties around AI go much deeper than deepfakes, cloned voices, rogue chatbots and killer drones. Many people have existential concerns about artificial intelligence – fears that it threatens humanity’s very existence.

What happens if AI hits a technological singularity? Could machines become much smarter than us? And could AI perhaps become so intelligent that it is game over, humanity? These are serious questions that demand good answers.

No one is better positioned to provide these than Toby Walsh. In this book he discusses the risks and dangers posed by AI in a deeply informed and credible way.

**Toby Walsh** is one of the world’s leading researchers in Artificial Intelligence. He is a Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of New South Wales and leads a research group at Data61, Australia’s Centre of Excellence for ICT Research. He has been elected a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of AI for his contributions to AI research and has won the prestigious Humboldt research award. He has previously held research positions in England, Scotland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland and Sweden.

### **Praise for *God AI*:**

*‘God AI stands out even amidst all the clamour around the topic. Not only is the title eye-popping; Toby’s voice stands out as commanding and accessible – the pilot I’d trust to navigate this terrifying moment.’*

—**Elizabeth Finkel**

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

Science, Nature & the Environment

Imprint: La Trobe University Press  
RRP: \$36.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
320pp

**Manuscript:**

Available

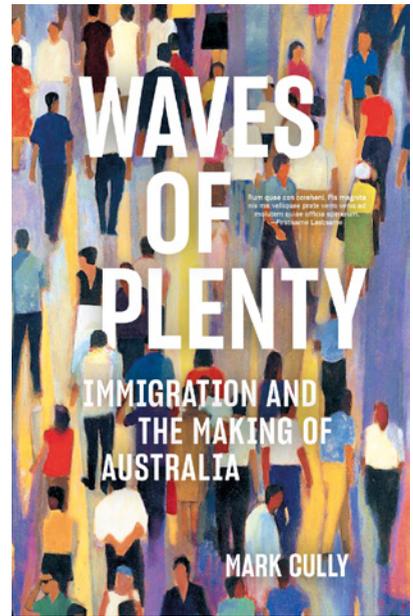
**Rights held:**

World; film/TV

# Waves of Plenty

Immigration and the Making of Australia

Mark Cully



An important new history of immigration to Australia. In this groundbreaking and highly readable book, Mark Cully looks at peopling a nation, from colonisation to the multicultural mix of Australia today.

He shows that arguing about immigration has been a national pastime – from ‘we will decide who comes to this country’ to ‘boundless plains to share’.

He unpicks myths, puts faces to statistics, and maps the big shifts – including the post-war immigration boom, the end of the White Australia policy, and the new policy of temporary migration.

To close, he discusses how immigration has changed Australia.

**Mark Cully** has been Chief Economist for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Industry, and chair of the OECD’s Working Party on Migration. He was head of macroeconomic policy in the Treasury where, during the pandemic, he led the design of the JobKeeper program. He is an Expert Member of the Fair Work Commission and a Visiting Fellow in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the ANU.

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

Society & Culture

Imprint: La Trobe  
University Press  
RRP: \$36.99  
PB (234 x 153mm)  
400pp

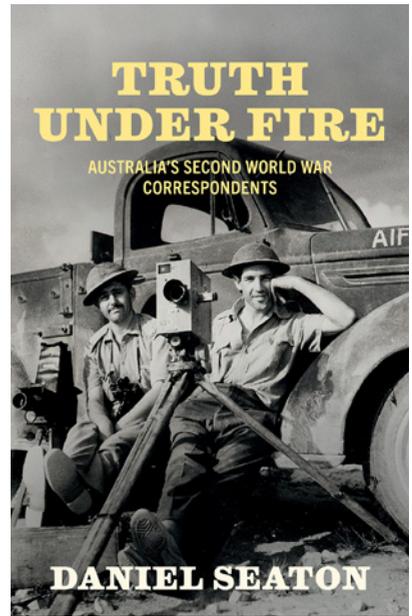
—  
**Manuscript:**  
May 2026

**Rights held:**  
World; film/TV

# Truth Under Fire

## Australia's Second World War Correspondents

Daniel Seaton



This is a group biography of six of Australia's most notable Second World War correspondents, who were also significant cultural figures: Kenneth Slessor, Damien Parer, Chester Wilmot, George Johnston, Osmar White and George Silk. Some believe Chester Wilmot was the best Allied war correspondent of all, especially as seen in his book, *The Struggle for Europe*. Kenneth Slessor is now regarded as one of Australia's finest poets. There is continuing interest in George Johnston because of his novel *My Brother Jack* and his marriage to Charmian Clift and their writing partnership.

Daniel Seaton argues that to truly understand the individuals who made up this network, we have to consider them not just as a series of separate journalists but as a group connected through their work, social and professional interaction, journalistic ambition and philosophy, artistic interests

and engagement with the Anzac legend, to name a few.

Writing on Australia's war history and its key protagonists is of perennial interest. These Second World War correspondents were a notably accomplished and interesting crew. This book thus has the potential to find a wide readership.

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**Daniel Seaton** is originally from the UK but spent time studying at the Menzies Australia Institute in London before completing a PhD at the University of Sydney. He worked as a research scholar at the Australian War Memorial. He has written for *ABR*, *Overland* and *Openbook* magazine. He currently lives just outside London and works for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as a historical researcher.

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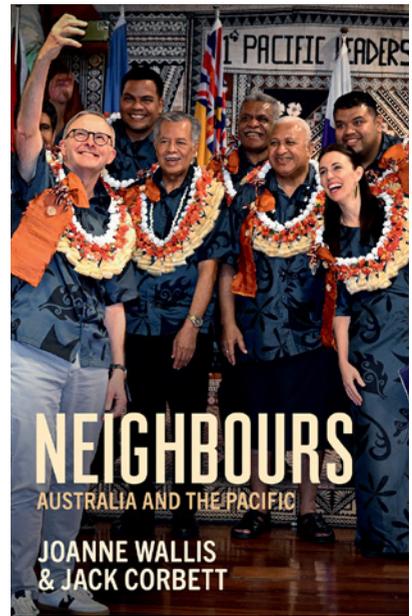
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# Neighbours

## Australia and the Pacific

Joanne Wallis & Jack Corbett



Australia has a long history in the Pacific. Many Australians might have forgotten it, but the region has not forgotten us.

This book provides a new vision of the way Australia might relate to its Pacific neighbours. It replaces amnesia with storytelling that emphasises common ancestors, interests and language. It replaces Australian ambivalence with recognition, humility and respect. It does not seek to wish away the realities of asymmetry and hierarchy between Australia and Pacific Island countries, but instead outlines how Australia can work more productively within them.

It argues that Australia can only work towards being a better neighbour if it understands its history in the Pacific Islands, and the ideas that have guided its foreign policy in the region for the last two centuries. Tracing the many dimensions of that past engagement, it provides an

up-to-date account, written by two highly experienced experts. In doing so it presents a new vision for our wonderfully diverse region.

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**Joanne Wallis** is Professor of International Security and Director of the Stretton Institute Security in the Pacific Islands Research Program at Adelaide University, and a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution. She is the author or editor of eleven books, including *Girt by Sea: Reimagining Australia's Security*, *Constitution Making During State Building* and *Pacific Power? Australia's Strategy in the Pacific Islands*.

**Jack Corbett** is Professor and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Monash University. This is his twelfth book. Previous titles include *Being Political: Leadership and Democracy in the Pacific Islands*; *Australia's Foreign Aid Dilemma: Humanitarian Aspirations Confront Democratic Legitimacy*; and *Statehood À la Carte in the Caribbean and the Pacific: Secession, Regionalism and Postcolonial Politics*.

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# Overseas Co-Agents

## Arab region

Mr. Fahad Al-Odah (Founder)  
Kalamat Agency  
Said Bin Zaid, Building No. 6113  
Secondary No. 2678 Qurtubah  
Dist. 12348  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
info@kalamatagency.com  
www.kalamatagency.com  
+966508442901

## Brazil

João Paulo Riff & Laura Riff  
Agência Riff  
Avenida Calógeras nº 6, sl 1007  
20030-070 – Centro  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ Brasil  
+55 21 2287-6299  
joापaulo@agenciariff.com.br  
laura@agenciariff.com.br  
www.agenciariff.com.br

## Czech Republic & Slovak Republic

Martina Knapkova  
Kristin Olson Literary Agency  
Klimentská 24  
110 00 Praha 1  
Czech Republic  
+420 222 582 042  
martina.knapkova@litag.cz  
litag.cz

## France

Anna Jarota  
A.JA Anna Jarota Agency  
77 boulevard Saint-Michel  
Paris 75005  
France  
ajarota@ajafr.com  
annajarota.fr

## Germany

Christian Dittus  
Paul & Peter Fritz AG  
Neptunstrasse 20  
8032 Zurich  
Switzerland  
+41 44 388 41 48  
cdittus@fritzagency.com  
www.fritzagency.com

## Greece

Avgi Daferera  
Ersilia Literary Agency  
Aktaiou 38-40  
118 51 Athens  
Greece  
+30 693 8454 332  
childrensbooks@ersilialit.com  
ersilialit.com/cms

## Hungary

Margit Gruber  
DS Budapest  
Budapest  
Bartók Béla út 79. fsz. 2  
H-1115, Hungary  
+36 1 4560363  
margit@dsbudapest.hu

## Iran

Majid Jafari  
POL Literary Agency  
polliteraryagency@gmail.com  
www.pol-ir.ir

## Israel

Sharon Galant & Thomasin Chinnery  
Zeitgeist Agency  
75 Rue E. Van Driessche  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium  
+32 479 262 843  
sharon@zeitgeistagency.com  
thomasin@zeitgeistagency.com  
www.zeitgeistagency.com

## Italy

Beatrice Beraldo  
The Italian Literary Agency  
Via De Amicis, 53  
20123 Milano, Italy  
+39 02 86 54 45  
beatrice.beraldo@italianliterary.com  
www.italianliterary.com

## Japan

Fumika Ogihara  
Tuttle-Mori Agency  
Kanda Jimbocho Bldg., 4F,  
2-17 Kanda Jimbocho,  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051  
Japan  
+81(0)3 3230 4083  
fumika-ogihara@tuttlemori.com  
www.tuttlemori.com

## Korea

Michelle Nam  
Duran Kim Agency Co. Ltd.  
#203 Century II  
56 Banpodaero-18-gil, Seocho-gu  
Seoul 06651, Republic of Korea  
+82-2-583-5724  
michellenam@durankim.com

## Mainland China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand & Vietnam

Zoe Tso  
Big Apple Agency  
3F, No. 838, Zhong Shan Bei Road  
Zha-Bei District  
Shanghai 200070  
PR China  
+86-0-21-6658-0055  
Zoe-tso@bigapple1-china.com  
www.bigapple1.info

## Netherlands & Scandinavia

Monique Oosterhof  
Mo Literary Services  
Zwaluwtong 41  
1141 KN Monnickendam  
The Netherlands  
+31 20 632 58 10  
mo@moliterary.nl  
www.moliterary.nl

## Poland

Paulina Machnik  
Graag Literary Agency  
Pruszkowska 29/252  
02-119 Warszawa  
Poland  
+48 609 626 243  
paulina.machnik@graal.com.pl  
graalagency.com

**Russia & Georgia**

Anastasya Markova  
Synopsis Literary Agency  
Office 404  
Leninsky prospect 111, bld.1  
Moscow 119421  
Russia  
+7 (095) 781 0183/82  
ay@synopsis-agency.ru

**Spain & Portugal**

Jennifer Brooke Hoge  
International Editors' Co  
Calle Còrsega 288,  
1º 2º, 08008  
Barcelona, Spain  
+34 93 215 88 12  
jennifer.hoge@internationaleditors.com  
www.internationaleditors.com

**Turkey**

Filiz Karaman  
Nurcihan Kesim Literary Agency  
Dumankaya Vizyon  
Esentepe Mah. Milangaz Cad. No. 77  
A1 Blok Kat 23 D. 128  
Kartal-Istanbul  
Turkey  
+90 212 5269130  
filiz@nurcihankesim.net

**Ukraine, Romania, Baltic States, Croatia,  
Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia & Albania**

Izabela Cupiał  
AJA Anna Jarota Agency  
ul. Wilcza 42/11  
00-679 Warsaw  
Poland  
+48 22 635 80 61  
Iza@ajapl.com  
annajarota-poland.com

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22–24 Northumberland Street  
Collingwood VIC 3066  
Australia  
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For additional information about English-language rights, audio, film/TV/dramatic and translation territories not listed above, please contact:

Sophy Williams  
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[sophyw@blackincbooks.com](mailto:sophyw@blackincbooks.com)



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