

SCRIBE

London Book Fair 2009

Rights Guide

*World rights in each title are held by Scribe,
unless otherwise stated.*

Please address rights enquiries to:

Amanda Tokar
Rights & Contracts Manager

Scribe Publications Pty Ltd
PO Box 523
Carlton North Vic Australia
Tel: +61 3 9349 5955
Fax: +61 3 9348 2752
amandatokar@scribepub.com.au

Non-Fiction

Lead Title

Joe Bageant

SHANGHAI ROAD: a memoir of the end of community in America

(Memoir, September 2010)

Shanghai Road is a coming-of-age memoir set between 1950 and 1963 in a small Appalachian farming community along a West Virginia road named Shanghai (from the seventeenth-century Scots Irish, ‘Shangi,’ meaning to celebrate).

Combining recollection, stories, accounts, remembrance, and analysis, we get an intimate look at what America lost in its post-war transformation as it went from a nation of interconnecting families and communities to a consumer culture of individuals. This loss of meaningful work and community is illustrated through Joe’s family and the Shanghai Road community, as post-World War II America experienced a massive social and economic shift from agrarian to urban consciousness.

Readers will also come away with insights into what helped create America’s politically conservative ‘red staters,’ not to mention a restless new underclass — ‘the second and third generation of displaced agrarians,’ as Gore Vidal described them.

Joe Bageant, the author of the bestselling book *Deer Hunting with Jesus*, also writes an online column (www.joebageant.com) that has made him a cult hero among gonzo-journalism junkies and progressives. He has been interviewed on Air America and comments on America’s long history of religious fundamentalism in the BBC/Owl documentary ‘The Vision: Americans on America’. Until recently he worked as a senior editor for the Primedia History Magazine Group. Bageant and his wife recently downsized their lives in America so that he could spend half the year in Belize, where he writes and sponsors a small development project with the Black Carib families of Hopkins Village.

Rights held: UK, BC excl. Canada

Material: Proposal available

Forthcoming

David Carlin

OUR FATHER WHO WASN'T THERE

(*Memoir*, February 2010)

Can a memoir begin without memories? Can a father be invented?

When David Carlin was only six months old, his father, Brian, died. It was the 1960s in isolated Western Australia, a place in which emotions were discreetly veiled, women did not attend funerals — and suicide was a sin. Brian became a mysteriously absent figure in David's family story, hardly spoken of again.

As an adult, David yearns to conjure up his father, to uncover what led to his death at his own hand. Gradually, he begins to piece together Brian's story from the faltering memories of friends and relatives, and from the voices and incidents that emerge from Brian's medical records. Into the inevitable gaps that remain, David cannot help but stray with his own imaginings.

Through David, Brian's story starts to fill out — up rise the hessian-walled house of his childhood on the edge of the wheat belt during the Depression, the outposts of heady undergraduate bohemia in late-1940s Perth, and Brian's happily married life with a brilliant and loving young wife, and an equally brilliant career. But, in among it all, there also rises a darkness — a damaging undertow of electric-shock therapy, insulin comas, and whispered wartime events.

In this masterfully rendered memoir, David moves like a ghost through time and place, deftly weaving a story from what he has always known, and from all that he will never know.

David Carlin has written and directed plays, short films, and documentaries that have been variously performed and screened internationally. He has also directed a circus, and had works published in *Overland* and *Senses of Cinema*. This is his first book of creative non-fiction.

Material: manuscript available (app 65,000 words)

Judy Horacek

2009 CARTOON COLLECTION

(*Humour*, November 2009)

This wonderful new collection from the author of *Make Cakes Not War* is filled with witty and whimsical musings and profoundly philosophical reflections on the contemporary human condition.

Judy Horacek's deceptively light and playful images of human folly, her observations of the absurdities, anxieties and excesses of daily life, and her sometimes subtle and sometimes passionate observations on social justice and environmental decay will delight and entertain, and incite and inflame.

Judy Horacek is an Australian freelance cartoonist, printmaker, writer, and illustrator whose cartoons, with their strong sassy female characters, appear on fridge doors all over the world. She has been widely published in newspapers, journals, and books, and her work also appears on tea towels, aprons, and greeting cards.

Material: pdf available September 2009 (app 144pp)

Jill Jolliffe

BALIBO [film tie-in edition; originally published as COVER-UP]

(Biography/Politics, August 2009)

In October 1975, during the decolonisation of Portuguese Timor, five young television reporters travelled from Australia to report on the brewing unrest in the region. It was a journey that would be their last: Greg Shackleton, Gary Cunningham, and Tony Stewart of Channel Seven, and Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie of Channel Nine, were killed by the Indonesian military as they filmed the infantry troops advancing into the border town of Balibo. In the months that followed, a sixth man who went to investigate their fate, freelance journalist Roger East, was also executed.

In this revised edition of the book on which the film *Balibo* is based, Jill Jolliffe reveals previously hidden details of one of the most shameful episodes in Australia's history, brings to light new material about Roger East, and details the 2007 Glebe inquest into the death of Brian Peters.

The result of over 20 years of personal investigations and tireless research, *Balibo* provides a unique first-hand account of the deaths of the five journalists and of Roger East. Jolliffe argues that the Australian government and its Western allies were always aware of the circumstances of the killings of the Balibo Five, as they came to be known, and that their cover-up of those details was a key factor in Indonesia's decision to invade and occupy East Timor.

Part memoir, part history, this searing book is as much an indictment of the Balibo killers as it is of Australia's role in East Timor's recent tragic history. The movie *Balibo*, produced by Arenafilm and starring Anthony LaPaglia, is being launched at the Melbourne Film Festival in July 2009 and being released for general exhibition in mid-August 2009.

Jill Jolliffe has been following the Balibo Five story for 26 years. She witnessed the first incursions of Indonesian regular troops into the territory in September 1975, reported on the death of her five colleagues at Balibo in October, and was evacuated from Dili by International Red Cross four days before Indonesian paratroopers attacked the capital on 7 December 1975. In 1978 Ms Jolliffe moved to Portugal, where she continued to follow the East Timor story and to work as a correspondent for *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and the BBC, among others. She now lives in Darwin and reports regularly from East Timor.

Material: manuscript available (app 110,000 words)

Myfanwy Jones & Spiri Tsintziras

PARLOUR GAMES FOR MODERN FAMILIES

(Games/Recreation, November 2009)

Parlour Games for Modern Families sets out to revive the tradition of indoor family games. Its authors want you to push aside the consoles, turn off the telly, and bring some mental stimulation, silliness and laughter, joy and connection back into your living room.

This book is bursting with games of logic and memory, word play, card games, role play, and rough and tumble. Not a single game requires equipment that you won't find in your average home: a pack of cards, a dictionary, an hourglass, dice, paper and pen. You can play to your heart's content without wasting a single natural resource — except perhaps the delicious cheese straws, recipe found herein.

Games are organised thematically and are cross-referenced for age-appropriateness. All are set out with clear rules and instructions. There are games that will challenge and stimulate you and games that will have you in fits; games that can last all night and games to fill that empty half-hour before tea; games for adults and older children and games for your four-year-old's birthday party.

With *Parlour Games for Modern Families*, a book for fun-lovers 4-104, the authors want to wind back the clock. They want to remind you of games you'd forgotten and then a whole lot more. Remember: there is *always* time enough for playing. So gather the family together; ask over some friends. Warm the milk for hot cocoa. Play *Squeak Piggy Squeak* and watch the good feeling spread; see it grow exponentially. Whether you dip into it as the urge takes you, or read it from cover to cover, a very good time is guaranteed.

Myfanwy Jones' first novel, *The Rainy Season*, has been recently published by Penguin Books. She has had several short stories published in literary journals and a piece included in the 2007 Penguin anthology *How We Met*. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and two sons. They spend a lot of time playing games.

Spiri Tsintziras has been running *writing spirit*, a corporate and creative writing business, for the past ten years. She has had numerous feature and personal stories published in *The Age*. She has been known to write about the antics of her husband and children and is looking forward to including them in the research of *Parlour Games for Modern Families*.

Material: sample chapters available (app 35,000 words)

Peter Stanley

MEN OF MONT ST QUENTIN: between victory and death

(*Military History/Social History*, September 2009)

At exactly 1.30 p.m. on 1 September 1918, the dozen men of Nine Platoon, 21st Australian Infantry Battalion, rose from Elsa Trench and walked across a weedy beet-field toward the German defenders of Mont St Quentin. Within hours, three were dead and five more were wounded, one of whom died six weeks later. The survivors returned from war, more-or-less intact, to live through the next sixty-odd years in the shadow of that traumatic event.

Men of Mont St Quentin tells the story of the men of Nine Platoon and their families. This is the first time that the story of such a group of Australians has been told — only made possible because Garry Roberts, the father of one of the dead, was so grieved by his son Frank's death that he obsessively collected accounts of what happened that afternoon. The Roberts' family papers, used here in this way for the first time, reveal the lives of Frank's comrades and their families as they came to terms with loss and life after war.

In the hands of Peter Stanley, one of Australia's leading military historians, a famous battlefield in France becomes unforgettably connected with Australian men and their families in the long aftermath of the Great War.

Dr Peter Stanley is director of the Centre for Historical Research at the National Museum of Australia. He was the principal historian at the Australian War Memorial for 20 years, where he worked from 1980 to 2007. *Between Victory and Death* is Dr Stanley's 21st book. His recent books include *Quinn's Post*, *Anzac*, *Gallipoli*; *Invading Australia*; and *A Stout Pair of Boots*, and he is well known from media appearances as a leading commentator on Australian history.

Material: Pdf available (304pp + 16pp b&w photos)

Sydney Child Holocaust Survivors Group
THE WORDS TO REMEMBER IT: memoirs of child holocaust survivors
(*Memoir*, May 2009)

Accurate numbers can never be known, but it is estimated that more than one million children under the age of 16 perished during the Holocaust. For the children who survived, what they saw and heard, and what they lost, remains an indelible trauma that affects them in profound and unspeakable ways.

In 1987 in Sydney, a number of child survivors formed a group so that they could meet in a safe environment to share their stories and begin to process their grief. Later, the group began creative writing sessions.

For many, finding ways to remember was the beginning of a painful reintegration of their sense of self — a realisation that they were, in fact, child survivors of the Holocaust. In telling their stories, there was relief to be found in finally connecting their memories with context and meaning, and in having them validated. In the process, many found themselves remembering more and more details, and the stories grew and grew into a broad picture of life before, during, and after the Second World War, from Paris to Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vilno, and Shanghai.

In this indescribably moving collection, 30 members of the group share their unfathomable experiences of loss, and the stories of their ultimate endurance.

The Sydney Child Holocaust Survivors Group was formed following a visit by Sarah Moskowitz, a child psychologist and educator from the US. Sarah has specifically researched children under 12 who survived the Czechoslovakian concentration camp Theresienstadt during the Second World War. The Sydney group is now part of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust.

Material: book available (352pp, trade pb)

Vivienne Ulman
ALZHEIMER'S: A LOVE STORY
(*Memoir*, November 2009)

When Vivienne Ulman's youngest child left home, she and her husband were poised to enjoy their freedom. Then her mother's Alzheimer's intervened.

In *Alzheimer's: a love story*, Vivienne records with tender lyricism and searing honesty the progress of her mother's Alzheimer's, her own grief over the gradual loss of her beloved mother, and the way in which her parents' enduring love for each other sustains them.

Into this she weaves an account of her family's history, in particular her father's rise from farm boy to confidant of prime ministers — achievements made possible by the loving strength of the woman by his side. In a reversal of roles, he now amply returns this support.

This inspiring Australian story is a tale for the sandwich generation, squeezed on one side by concerns for their children and on the other by anxiety about their parents. It is about illness, grief, and hardship, but it is also about love, determination, and joy.

Vivienne Ulman is a prize-winning short-story writer, and a freelance journalist and book reviewer. She lives in Tasmania.

Material: manuscript available (app 60,000 words)

Previously published

Jennifer Ackerman

SEX SLEEP EAT DRINK DREAM: a day in the life of your body

(*Popular Science*, October 2008)

‘A readable and remarkably comprehensive tour of all that is new and intriguing in the study of normal human physiology’ — *The New York Times*

The acclaimed science writer Jennifer Ackerman lends her keen eye and lively voice to this marvellous exploration of the human body. Taking us through a typical day, from the arousal of the senses in the morning to the reverie of sleep and dreams, Ackerman reveals the human form as we’ve never seen it: busy, cunning, and miraculous.

We learn the best time of day to drink a cocktail, take a nap, run a race, give a presentation, and take medication, along with a host of other curious facts, such as why you succumb to a cold and your spouse doesn’t, even though you’ve both been exposed to the same sick child.

Did you know that you can tell time in your sleep? Or that up to half of the calories you consume can be burned off simply by fidgeting? That women have more nightmares than men? That tuna, sardines, and walnuts may ease depression?

At once entertaining and deeply practical, this fascinating book will make you think of your body in an entirely new way.

Jennifer Ackerman is the author of *Notes from the Shore* and *Chance in the House of Fate*. She writes regularly for *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, and other publications. The recipient of an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant and Bunting Fellowship, she is married to the novelist Karl Ackerman and has two daughters. She resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Rights held: UK & BC excl. Canada

Material: book available (272pp, trade pb)

Idan Ben-Barak

SMALL WONDERS: how microbes rule our world

(*Popular Science*, September 2008)

‘An entertaining and fascinating look at organisms too small to see ... Ben-Barak provides an exuberant, informative guide to their hidden world.’ — **Rick Sullivan, *Adelaide Advertiser***

‘This is an absolutely delightful book about our smallest and most necessary friends ... Read this lovely book, and marvel at these tiny critters that make our lives possible.’ — **Dr Karl Kruszelnicki**

In the spirit of Natalie Angier’s *The Canon*, and writing with the verve and wit of Bill Bryson, *Small Wonders* takes the reader on a fantastic voyage to the microscopic, but massively influential, world of microbiology. It’s a strange and dangerous world where oxygen is a lethal poison, sulphur is a delicious treat, deception is a basic survival skill, and perfectly good alcohol is simply thrown away.

Idan Ben-Barak wears his learning lightly as he introduces us to the amazing lives of genes and proteins, bugs, and viruses, and the myriad ways in which they interact to shape life on earth. On the journey, we learn about the teamwork required to rot human teeth; the microbe superheroes who feed on radioactive waste; suicide genes; the origins of diseases and antibiotic resistance; and the numerous respects in which microbes benefit human life — from manufacturing food and medicine, to mining gold, finding oil, cleaning up the mess we make, and generally rendering the earth habitable.

Small Wonders is popular science at its best. Ben-Barak's love of bugs is infectious and makes for a scintillating, fast-moving adventure that will appeal to even the least scientifically savvy of readers.

Idan Ben-Barak gained a BSc in Medical Science and a MSc in Microbiology from the Hadassah School of Medicine at the University of Jerusalem. He now lives in Australia, and is working towards a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney.

Rights sold: North America (Basic Books); Italian (Edizioni Dedalo); Portuguese (Zahar); Complex Chinese (Commonwealth Publishing Co)

Material: book available (240pp, B+ format pb)

Gabrielle Carey

WAITING ROOM

(*Memoir*, April 2009)

‘A moving tribute to a mother’s life, one of loss and disappointment, sacrifice and silence ... but also one of immense dignity and resilience.’ — **Debra Adelaide**

‘A wise, sorrowful, and graceful work. At once exquisitely tender and beautifully written, it tracks a mother’s illness and decline within the precious complexity of family relations, reminding us that some forms of writing are also forms of love.’ — **Gail Jones**

‘It all started with her bare feet. I’d never seen them like that before, from that angle, looking so vulnerable.’

When Gabrielle Carey’s mother, who is usually pedantically punctual and organised, begins to forget basic things like where she put her dentures, Gabrielle knows that something is wrong. Scans reveal a brain tumour, and doctors advise its urgent removal. But there is another urgency at hand. Biding the dreadful passing of time in doctors’ waiting rooms, Gabrielle begins to realise how much her mother has left untold, how many questions she still wants to ask her, and how little time there is left for answers.

Amid organising appointments, looking after her own children, and battling her mother’s stubbornly principled idea that she should be left to die, Gabrielle begins to voice the unasked — to attempt to discover the mother whom she has lived with all her life, but never truly known. In this sharp and honest memoir, we see what it is that families, in all their complex dynamics, can give to each other, and just what they stand to gain when they lay down their arms and let each other in.

Gabrielle Carey was born in Sydney and published her first co-authored book, *Puberty Blues*, at the age of 20. Carey is the author of fiction and non-fiction books, including *In My Father’s House*, *The Borrowed Girl*, and *So Many Selves*. She teaches writing at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Material: book available (224pp, trade pb)

John Carroll

EGO & SOUL: the modern West in search of meaning [rev edn]

(*Sociology/Cultural Criticism*, November 2008)

'*Ego & Soul* cleverly examines the problems of being human in the 21st Century.' — *Courier Mail*

'*Ego and Soul* is written with clarity and is for anyone who wants to explore the reasons behind some of the perplexing cultural problems that face us today.' — *Bookseller & Publisher*

The Western tradition relies on a balance between fulfilling the ego and allowing the soul freedom to speak. But, with modernity, the old certainties that guided human life have faded. A crisis of meaning has followed.

In this substantially revised edition of *Ego and Soul*, John Carroll examines the battlegrounds — including work, sport, intimacy, the university, shopping, tourism, computers, democracy, and a retreat into nature — across which a struggle for meaning is being fought.

On the one side, depressive pessimism, rancour, and disenchantment have arisen, accompanied by rampant consumerism. The upper-middle-class elites, with their high culture, have lost their way. On the other side, much of what people still do disguises a search for meaning. Groping unconsciously for direction, inhabitants of the modern West are even, in their ordinary and everyday lives, casting lines into the transcendent in the hope of a catch. And there is success.

Ego and Soul offers a surprising and compelling new look at the way we live today, and the way we try to make sense of our lives.

John Carroll is professor of sociology at La Trobe University in Melbourne. His recent books include *Terror: a meditation on the meaning of September 11* (2002), *The Wreck of Western Culture: humanism revisited* (2004), and *The Existential Jesus* (2007) [all published by Scribe].

Rights sold: North America (Counterpoint Press)

Material: book available (336pp, trade pb)

Peter Ewer

FORGOTTEN ANZACS: the campaign in Greece, 1941

(*Military History*, cb edn April 2008; pb edn April 2009)

'This is an important contribution to Australian war literature ... an engrossing history of a very important Anzac campaign.' — **Bruce Elder**, *Sydney Morning Herald*

This is the previously unknown story of an Anzac force that fought not at Gallipoli, but in Greece during World War II. Desperately outnumbered, and fighting in deeply inhospitable conditions, these Anzacs found themselves engaging in a long retreat through Greece, under constant air attack. Most of the Corps was evacuated by the end of April, but many men got only as far as Crete. Fighting a German paratroop invasion there in May, large numbers were taken captive and spent four long years as prisoners of the Nazis.

The campaign in Greece turned out to have uncanny parallels to the original Gallipoli operation: both were inspired by Winston Churchill, both were badly planned by British military leaders, and both ended in defeat and evacuation. British bungling at Gallipoli was one thing; but in Greece, Churchill authorised his commanders to leave the Anzacs to their fate if their rescue compromised wider British interests.

Until now, there has been no history on the campaign in Greece and Crete written from a truly Anzac perspective. Based on rarely accessed archives and more than 30 interviews with Australian, Greek, and New Zealand veterans, this superb book gives overdue recognition to the brave, forgotten Anzacs of 1941.

Peter Ewer completed a first-class honours degree in politics at Macquarie University in 1983, and a doctorate in technology and culture from RMIT University in 2005 that also won a university research prize. Dr Ewer is currently an official in the Victorian Department of Justice, and has published in local and international history journals.

Material: book available (432pp + 16pp b&w photos, trade pb)

Robin Gerster

TRAVELS IN ATOMIC SUNSHINE: Australia and the occupation of Japan

(Australian History/Military History, November 2008)

‘Robin Gerster’s brilliant account of the little-known story of Australia’s occupation force provides new, and often unsettling, insights into Australian responses to Japan and the Japanese at the end of the Second World War.’ — **Kate Darian-Smith**

‘In a rich meeting of history and literature, Gerster explores the big issues of race, culture, and national identity as victor and vanquished meet in the aftermath of a world war.’ — **Hank Nelson**

In February 1946, the Australians of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) moved into western Japan to ‘demilitarise and democratise’ the atom-bombed backwater of Hiroshima Prefecture. For over six years, up to 20,000 Australian servicemen, including their wives and children, participated in an historic experiment in nation-rebuilding dominated by the United States and the occupation’s supreme commander, General MacArthur.

Yet the occupation of Japan was also a compelling human experience. It was a cultural reconnaissance — the first time a large number of Australians were able to explore in depth an Asian society and country. It was an unprecedented domestic encounter between peoples with apparently incompatible traditions and temperaments. Many relished exercising power over a despised former enemy, and basked in the ‘atomic sunshine’ of American Japan. Yet numerous Australians developed an intimacy with the old enemy, which put them at odds with the ‘Jap’ haters back home, and became the trailblazers of a new era of bilateral friendship.

Robin Gerster is the author of several books, including *Big-noting: the heroic theme in Australian war writing* (1987), *Hotel Asia* (1995), and *Legless in Ginza: orientating Japan* (1999). In the 1990s, he taught at the University of Tokyo, holding the chair in Australian Studies. He is currently associate professor in the School of English, Communications and Performance Studies at Monash University, and he lives in Melbourne with his wife and two sons.

Material: book available (336pp + 16pp b&w photographs, cased)

Carole Hungerford

GOOD HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: a family doctor's unconventional guide
[rev edn]

(*Health/Self-Help*, October 2008)

Winner of the Science Writing Award in the 2006 Queensland Premier's Literary Awards

'Explains what we all want to know: why we get sick, how we stay well. No snake oil, just good science and good sense.' — **Kate Grenville**

Like a growing number of doctors throughout the developed world, general practitioner Carole Hungerford began to question a health industry based on a model of 'curing disease'. She came to the conclusion that, to have any chance of really helping her patients, she needed a sound understanding of biochemistry and nutrition, combined with up-to-date knowledge of the latest medical research. The result is *Good Health in the 21st Century*, an encyclopaedic health-guide that provides an extraordinary amount of easily understood information and a radically different way of maintaining wellbeing.

The subjects covered in *Good Health in the 21st Century* include asthma, arthritis, cancer, obesity, and cardiovascular disease, mental health and neurological disorders; hormone-replacement therapy and vaccination; and macronutrients and minerals, vitamins, and essential fatty acids. This monumental work will be used for many years to come.

Dr Carole Hungerford became a general practitioner in 1975. After working for five years in London, she has shared her time during the last fifteen years between her rural practice in Bathurst, New South Wales, and her inner-city practice in Sydney. She has helped educate young graduates for the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, and she is also a fellow of the Australian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine.

Rights sold: UK & North America (Marion Boyars)

Material: book available (544pp, trade pb)

Peter Rodgers

ARABIAN PLIGHTS: the future Middle East

(*International Affairs/Politics*, March 2009)

'Rodgers' book is a great primer for the region and everything that's wrong with it, including the poisonous grip it holds over the economy of the rest of the world. He plainly outlines the cornerstones that underpin Arabian history and explains how they've resulted in the culturally and politically stalled states we have today.' — **Bookseller & Publisher**

The Arab footprint on our world is profound — from Islam to astronomy, from oil to Osama bin Laden. But can the threads of a shared language, a mostly shared religion, and overlapping historical experience equip Arab states to meet the intense pressures of the twenty-first century? The demand for food, water, education, and jobs — all driven by huge population growth — plus the big-picture issues of global warming and national and regional security are the stuff of nightmares. Osama bin Laden's attacks on America made him popular on the Arab street. But it was an admiration of despair.

Former Australian diplomat Peter Rodgers argues that the most direct way of cleaning up the mess that is today's Middle East is to remove the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as the prop both for Arab illiberalism and for foreign meddling. He challenges those who balk at the idea of putting serious

pressure on Israel, of dealing with Hamas, or of talking to Iran under the mullahtocracy, to explain how they see the Middle East in 20 years' time.

The region's problems, he says will continue to stain the wider world. The West will continue to guzzle Arab oil at an ever-increasing rate, to wring its hands over the unresolved Israeli–Palestinian conflict, to fret about Iran, and to decry the shortcomings of the Arab world, while ensuring that no arms sales goes unclosed. Perhaps the real problem of the Arab world, Rodgers concludes, is that it too closely mirrors the hypocrisies of our own.

Peter Rodgers is a former Australian ambassador to Israel and is a regular commentator on Middle Eastern affairs. He is also the author of *Herzl's Nightmare*, and a former journalist and winner of the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award for his reporting on East Timor.

Material: book available (256pp, B+ format pb)

David Spratt & Philip Sutton

CLIMATE CODE RED: the case for emergency action

(Environment/Politics, July 2008)

'Spratt and Sutton make an unimpeachable case that "a sustainability emergency is not a radical idea. It has become necessary to save our future."' — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

'Excellent ... a concise and compelling assessment of how the science of climate change is being radically revised to account for the possibility, now approaching a likelihood, of a number of threshold events, any number of which would be catastrophic.' — **Clive Hamilton**, *The Monthly*

In this meticulously documented call to action, David Spratt and Philip Sutton reveal extensive scientific evidence that the global warming crisis is far worse than official reports and national governments have indicated — and that we're almost at the point of no return.

This means that the dangers we all face are already much greater than the headlines indicate. According to the USA's most eminent climate scientist, James Hansen, it is no longer a case of how much more we can 'safely' emit, but whether we can quickly enough stop emissions and produce a deliberate cooling before the earth's climate system reaches a runaway trajectory that is beyond any hope of human restoration.

These imperatives are incompatible with 'politics as usual' and 'business as usual'. *Climate Code Red* argues that there is an urgent need for all of us to recognise that we face a sustainability emergency which requires a clear break from the politics of failure-inducing compromise.

David Spratt is a climate policy analyst, and co-founder of the Carbon Equity network. He has extensive advocacy experience in the peace and anti-nuclear movements, and in developing community-campaign communication and marketing strategies.

Philip Sutton is convener of the Greenleap Strategic Institute, a non-profit advisory organisation promoting the rapid achievement of global and local ecological sustainability. He has worked on policy committees for Australian state and federal governments, and has written widely on sustainability-oriented environmental, economic, industrial, and urban policy.

Material: book available (320pp, B+ format pb)

Richard Watson

FUTURE FILES: the history of the next 50 years

(*Business/Futurism*, rev edn October 2009; orig edn September 2007)

'*Future Files* is filled with common sense and surprising data ... and offers intriguing connections ... Overall, Watson delivers a sane, crisp and stimulating report from the futures frontier.' — **Richard Neville**, *The Australian*

'Part Jules Verne, part Malcolm Gladwell, Watson has a puckish sense of humor and his book is a thought-provoking, laughter-inducing delight.' — *Publishers Weekly*

Prediction is a dangerous game — the future is never a straight, linear extrapolation from the present. Unexpected innovations and events will conspire to trip up the best-laid plans — but it's better than not thinking about the future at all.

Future Files is filled with provocative forecasts about how the world might change in the next half century. It examines emerging patterns and developments in society, technology, economy, and business, and makes educated speculations as to where they might take us.

But *Future Files* is not primarily about prediction. Its goal is to liberate our collective and individual imaginations so that we can see the familiar in a new light and the unfamiliar with greater clarity, and to make us all — individuals and organisations — think about where we are going and to consider whether, when we get there, it will be worth staying.

This revised edition of *Future Files* will prove indispensable to business analysts, strategists, and organisations, and provides rich and fascinating material for us all to contemplate as we rush headlong into the future.

Richard Watson advises organisations on the future, focusing on innovation and scenario planning. He is the author and publisher of *What's Next*, a quarterly report on global trends, and is a columnist for a number of magazines including *Fast Company* (USA).

Rights sold: World English excl. ANZ, South Africa, Singapore and Malaysia (Nicholas Brealey Publishing); Hungarian (HVG Kiado); Simplified Chinese (Jing Hua Publishing House); Complex Chinese (IF Culture Publishing); Korean (Chung Rim Publishing); Croatian (Alfa D.D.), Lithuanian (Verslo Zinios), Turkish (Yakamov Yayınevi); Russian (Mann, Ivanov & Ferber); Portuguese (Caleidoscopio)

Material: book available (288pp, trade pb) + new material (July 2009)

Fiction

Forthcoming

Lead Title

Cate Kennedy

THE WORLD BENEATH

(Fiction, September 2009)

Once Rich and Sandy were environmental activists, part of a world-famous blockade in Tasmania to save the wilderness. Now, twenty-five years later, they have both settled into the uncomfortable compromises of middle-age — although they've gone about it in very different ways. About the only thing they have in common these days is their fifteen-year-old daughter, Sophie.

When the perennially restless Rich decides to take Sophie, whom he hardly knows, on a six-day walk into the Tasmanian bush, his overconfidence and her growing disillusion with him set off a chain of events that none of them could have predicted. Instead of respect, Rich finds antagonism in the relationship he hoped to create with Sophie, and, in the vast wilderness he once felt an affinity with, nothing but disorientation and fear. The uneasy truce established long ago between Rich and Sandy is shattered when he and Sophie leave the track to explore the remote terrain known as the Labyrinth.

As days pass with no word, all three characters begin to understand that if they are to survive, each must traverse not only the secret territories that lie between them but also those within themselves.

Cate Kennedy is an award-winning short-story writer who has twice won *The Age* short-story competition. *Dark Roots* was shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Award in the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. 'Cold Snap', one of Cate's stories in *Dark Roots*, was published in *The New Yorker*. Cate is also the author of the travel memoir *Sing and Don't Cry: a Mexican journal*, and the poetry collections *Joyflight* and *Signs of Other Fires*.

Rights sold: North America (Grove Atlantic); UK & CW, excl ANZ (Atlantic)

Material: manuscript available May 2009 (app 100,000 words)

Lenny Bartulin
THE BLACK RUSSIAN
(*Crime/Thriller*, October 2009)

‘There’s wisecracking humour, sticky situations and dark fun. I can hardly wait for the promised sequel.’
— *West Australian* on the first in the series, *A Deadly Business*

After yet another slow week at the cash register, that fine purveyor of second-hand books, Susko Books, is facing financial ruin. Jack Susko sets off to a gallery in Woollahra to scrape up some cash with the sale of an old art catalogue. With his usual panache and exquisite timing, he arrives just as De Groot Galleries is being done over by masked thieves. Along with a mysterious object from the safe, the robbers seize a valuable first edition from Jack’s bag, too.

When the owner of the gallery doesn’t want to call the cops, Jack is offered a sizeable sum to keep silent, but when a couple of heavies arrive at the bookshop the next day to renege on the deal, he soon changes his mind. With an ease that almost constitutes a talent, Jack Susko finds himself at the centre of a world full of duplicity, lies and art theft.

Lenny Bartulin was born in Hobart in 1969 and lives in Sydney. He has previously published poetry in *Heat* and *Meanjin*.

Material: manuscript available July 2009 (app 60,000 words)

Patrick Cullen
WHAT CAME BETWEEN
(*Fiction*, August 2009)

One street. Three couples. A world of possibilities.

In 1989, the Newcastle earthquake opens up faultlines in the relationships of three couples who reside in adjoining terraces, changing their lives irreparably. Each of those six people must now rediscover ways to negotiate marriage and infidelity, work and unemployment, friendship and loss. First they must learn how to survive each new day and then, a decade later — as the city’s major employer, the steelworks, shuts down — they will come to realise how to live as if each night were their last.

In this novel-in-stories, written in spare prose, Patrick Cullen creates a compelling portrait of what it really means to live. In one street. One city. Any place on earth.

Patrick Cullen is a widely published and highly esteemed short-story writer. He is completing a PhD at the University of Newcastle, and in 2008 travelled to Ireland to read from his work at the International Conference of the Short Story in English. *What Came Between* is his first book.

Material: manuscript available (app 60,000 words)

Barry Heard

TAG

(*Fiction*, June 2009)

As a lad in the high country of eastern Victoria, Tag Wardpod shows an extraordinary gift with animals. Later, when he becomes a blacksmith, locals come to watch him at work, amazed at his ability to calm the meanest of nags. But 1914 brings war, and the government's patriotic fervour entices Tag and his mates to join the Light Horse Brigade.

For Tag, war begins as an adventure. On the convoy to Egypt, he is quickly singled out to help the distressed horses. Then, while on leave in Cairo, he meets Jill, a nurse, but their brief romance is cut short as Gallipoli looms. Tag's life spirals into one of survival in the day-to-day madness of the trenches. In the years that follow, Tag comes up against conditions that are terrible for man and beast, and he discovers the hardship and joy that come with wartime love. In the face of it all, his unique abilities bring about essential changes in the handling of horses under fire — and expose him to death and disaster.

Barry Heard has here produced a deeply moving, fiercely anti-war novel that blazes with authenticity, and brings new insights to the Gallipoli legend and Australia's battles on the Western Front. *Tag* is unforgettable — a bush tale, a family saga, a romance, and a revelation of the human spirit's ability to survive war's inhumanity.

Barry Heard's first book, *Well Done, Those Men*, a bestselling memoir, dealt mainly with his Vietnam War-related experiences; his second book, *The View from Connor's Hill*, also a memoir, dealt with his youth in the Victorian countryside. *Tag* is his first work of fiction. He lives with his family in rural Victoria.

Material: pdf available (384pp, trade pb)

G. J. Stroud

MEASURING UP

(*YA Fiction*, August 2009)

Until recently, Jonah's life has been wonderfully simple — school, partying, and surfing with his good buddies Dan, Ferret, and Mel. It's been uncomplicated, like riding the perfect wave ... suspended in time. But that's all about to change.

While the stress of year 12 is hovering like a massive grey fog, Jonah's most pressing problem is how to have sex before his eighteenth birthday. If only he can get this out of the way, he'll be free to concentrate on other things. His main concern is that he's destined to live in the shadow of his legendary older brother Link and, worse, remain a virgin until he's forty. And just when he thinks his life couldn't get any more complicated, his older brother drops a bombshell on his unsuspecting family.

But life has a funny way of sorting out the big issues from the small. And Jonah discovers that sometimes the answers you're looking for are right in front of you ...

This is a wonderfully humorous coming-of-age tale of friendship, surf, and raging hormones.

G. J. (Gabrielle) Stroud is a primary school teacher who loves reading and writing fiction. She has been awarded two residencies at Varuna Writers' House and contributes a regular column for her local paper. *Measuring Up* is her first YA novel. Gabbie lives by the sea with her husband, baby, and loyal dog, Shirley.

Material: pdf available April 2009 (app 40,000 words)

Translated Fiction

Milena Agus [translated by Brigid Maher]

THE HOUSE IN VIA MANNO

(*Fiction*, August 2009)

A young Sardinian woman narrates the story of her beloved, beautiful, and somewhat crazy grandmother, and in the telling evokes a whole family, the unique landscape of her country, and an aspect of history, including the Second World War, from a perspective unusual for Australian readers.

Her grandmother, her nonna, is a dreamer who yearns for a love that eludes her. She marries a man, the narrator's nonno, who arrives in the village having lost his house and family in a bombing raid. Their relationship is warm but loveless. It is only when nonna visits thermal baths for the treatment of her kidney-stones that she finds the perfect, vivid love that she has yearned for — with the Veteran, a crippled married man suffering from the same illness.

This is a short novel, but not a simple one. The plot is highly inventive, perfectly shaped, and surprising. The themes of the novel are grounded in characters and landscapes that are intense and real, but move into areas that are universally profound: the deep frustrations and loyalties within a family, the irrational sexual desires of a married couple, and the way that being born in a particular place at a particular point in history will shape these relationships.

Milena Agus' deep love for her country and its people radiates from every page. Her great skill is in drawing her readers into the warmth and colour of this vision. Scribe is thrilled to introduce her novels to an English-reading audience.

Milena Agus was born in Genoa to Sardinian parents and now lives in Cagliari, where she teaches Italian and history at a secondary school. *The House in Via Manno* (published in Italy as *Mal di pietre*), her second novel, won three Italian literary awards, and has sold 150,000 copies in Italy, 170,000 copies in France, and over 180,000 copies in Germany. A film adaptation of the novel is in production.

Rights held: ANZ + English-language translation

Material: pdf available (128pp, 215 x 138mm pb + flaps)

Willem Jan Otten [translated by David Colmer]

THE PORTRAIT

(*Fiction*, September 2009)

'If you, like me, come into the world white and completely blank, with nothing on you at all, you are totally dependant on what they make of you.'

This is a short and extremely powerful new novel from one of Holland's greatest living writers. Reminiscent of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, it is narrated by a canvas, a key eye-witness and participant in an extraordinary story.

A young painter, loved for his fine and true-to-life portraits, receives a commission that is unlike any he's had before: make a portrait of a dead boy. 'You will save a life with it', says the boy's extremely rich father. The painter, knowing he will have to surpass himself, takes on the job. But who was the boy? Why is he dead? Why, when the painting is finished, does the father not come to collect it? And why does the painter undertake this painting?

The Portrait is a thrilling novel about the desire to bring someone into the world. But it also about love and death, betrayal and trust, truth and falsehood, and lies and honesty.

Willem Jan Otten plays with secrets and riddles that the reader can only unravel at the very end. Demonstrating his rare gifts to English readers for the first time in this book, Otten has written an ingenious, contemporary, and extraordinarily gripping novel.

Willem Jan Otten is an award-winning poet, essayist, and playwright in addition to being a novelist. *The Portrait*, published in Holland as *Specht en zoon* (*Specht and Son*) was awarded the 2005 Libris Literary Prize.

Rights held: ANZ + English-language translation

Material: pdf available (192pp, 215 x 138mm pb + flaps)

Mario Sabino [translated by Alison Entrekin]

THE DAY I KILLED MY FATHER

(*Fiction*, April 2009)

‘I couldn’t put the book down. Chilling and sad, even on the same page, this book is one of the best I have read for a long time.’ — *Readings Monthly Newsletter*

‘The day I killed my father was a bright day, although the light was hazy, without shadows or contours.’

So begins a work of suspense, tragedy, and profound reflections on the human soul that marks the unforgettable debut of Mario Sabino, one of Brazil’s most exciting novelists.

In charming and chilling prose, Sabino draws the reader directly into the mind of a man who has committed patricide. Readers will hang on every word of this bold and stark book, which calls on complex themes of religion, philosophy, and literature in seeking to understand the nature of evil.

Part psychological thriller, part intellectual puzzle, this novel plays on some of humankind’s most profound archetypes and fables, all the while lulling the reader with the brilliance of its voice.

This Brazilian bestseller, rendered into English for Scribe by renowned Australian translator Alison Entrekin, is a tour de force.

Mario Sabino is editor in chief of *Veja*, Brazil’s most influential weekly magazine. His second book, the collection of short stories, *O Antinarciso* (*The Antinarcissist*), won the Brazilian National Library’s Clarice Lispector Award. He has completed his second collection of short stories, *A Boca da Verdade* (*The Mouth of Truth*), and is currently working on his second novel, entitled *O Vicio do Amor* (*Addicted to Love*).

Rights held: ANZ + English-language translation

Material: book available (192pp, B+ format)

Cristovão Tezza [translated by Alison Entrekin]

THE ETERNAL SON

(*Autobiographical Fiction*, October 2009)

Beginning with the birth of his son Felipe, born with Down syndrome, in 1980, Tezza draws readers into a keenly detailed world seen through the eyes of a young writer, who seems to write his life as he lives it.

Cristovão Tezza threads the story of his son's life through his own; the most marked difference being that, for Felipe, time is reset every day. He lives in an eternal present, in which today and tomorrow are abstractions with no bearing on his reality, and the world is 10 metres in diameter. For Tezza, however, it is a settling of accounts with himself and his own limitations – a making sense of the sublime irony and arbitrariness of life. He struggles with the phantom of shame, as if his son's condition were an indication of his own worth, and the irony of the fact that, although he has always taken pride in not being one of the pack, in many ways, Felipe's syndrome makes him seek refuge in normalcy where he can find it.

Set against a slice of Brazilian history that takes in the last days of the military dictatorship and the horror of hyperinflation, this story is all the more fascinating for the author's gift for turning situations inside out, philosophising about them, finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. Reading this book, it is as if you have stumbled through a trap door into the writer's mind, where nothing is censored and everything is constantly in check, being written and rewritten as it happens. The writing is full of texture and surprise, and has the magical power of insight that makes this book thoroughly memorable.

This richly detailed, brutally honest book is Brazilian (and world) literature at its finest.

Cristovão Tezza is one of Brazil's foremost contemporary novelists. He has published thirteen novels, including *O Filho Eterno* (*The Eternal Son*), which won every major literary prize in Brazil in 2008 and is currently being translated into seven different languages. He was also the recipient of the Brazilian National Library Award in 1998 and the Brazilian Academia of Letters Award in 2004. He teaches Portuguese at the Federal University of Paraná, has published textbooks and articles in a number of magazines and newspapers, and is presently working on a book of short stories.

Rights held: UK & BC incl. Canada + English-language translation

Material: sample translation available

Previously published

Lenny Bartulin

A DEADLY BUSINESS

(*Crime/Thriller*, May 2008)

‘A stunning debut.’ — *Sydney Morning Herald*

‘A witty, engaging romp, stuffed full of beguiling characters and bulging with wry humour. Charming, cheeky and immensely readable.’ — **Max Barry**

Jack Susko is trying for a quiet life in his second-hand bookshop in downtown Sydney. It’s more tin mine than gold mine, yet it’s his and that’s something. But when a wealthy businessman hires Jack to locate some books for him, life starts to get a little more complicated.

Soon he’s up to his neck in family secrets, corruption, and murder, plunged into a world he thought he’d left behind. Making a play for the businessman’s beautiful daughter doesn’t help matters. And as the bodies start piling up, Jack can’t help but wonder when second-hand book dealing became so dangerous.

A Deadly Business introduces a new crime hero who’s not a detective and whose motives aren’t always pure, but he’s sure got a talent for finding trouble.

Lenny Bartulin was born in Hobart in 1969 and lives in Sydney. He has previously published poetry in *Heat* and *Meanjin*.

Rights sold: North America (Thomas Dunne)

Material: book available (256pp, B+ format pb)

Jacinta Halloran

DISSECTION

(*Fiction*, June 2008)

Shortlisted for the 2007 Victorian Premier’s Award for an unpublished manuscript

‘A bracing and beautiful novel ... I recommend it as an unputdownable and richly rewarding read, an extended ethical work-out of the classiest kind.’ — **Helen Garner**

‘A tiny gem of a novel ... *Dissection* is a deeply empathetic story.’ — **Daily Telegraph**

Doctor Anna McBride’s life is starting to unravel. The mother of two boys and a dedicated GP, she is being sued for medical negligence — a case of delayed diagnosis. Anna’s day-to-day work becomes increasingly difficult as she starts to scrutinise her every action and question her worth. Deeply ashamed of her mistake, she retreats into family life, only to find that her husband seems preoccupied with a younger colleague. As the date for mediation draws closer and the lawyers’ demands become ever more pressing, Anna also vaguely senses someone else’s cries for attention — someone who wishes her harm.

Dissection is an original and confronting portrayal of a woman facing personal and professional crises. It examines an extended moment of inner turmoil, after which nothing will ever be the same again.

Jacinta Halloran has worked as a GP for a number of years and is currently completing an MA in creative writing at RMIT. She has published short stories and wrote a regular column for *The Sunday Age* on medical ethics. She is married and has three sons.

Rights sold: ANZ audio (Louis Braille Audio)

Material: book available (240pp, B+ format pb)

Vivienne Kelly

COOEE

(*Fiction*, November 2008)

‘How masterfully Vivienne Kelly turns the screws in this drolly gothic morality tale ... *Cooee* is a tantalising story of denial, delusion and suspense by a wonderfully fresh and confident new voice.’

— **Cate Kennedy**

‘An ebulliently clever black comedy ... acid at its corrosively elegant, equivocal and entertaining best.’

— **Katharine England**, *Adelaide Advertiser*

Isabel Weaving is not quite who she seems. True, she’s a daughter, a sister, a mother, and an ex-wife, having escaped one unsatisfactory marriage, although not with her relationships with her children intact. Her second husband, Max, is the love of her life but is no longer around, the grief caused by his absence made bearable only by the visits of her beloved granddaughter. Gradually and unwittingly, Isabel discloses more about herself, her family, and the enigmatic Max.

This dark and elegant literary mystery will have you gasping at its unexpected revelations, but also doubled over at Isabel’s blackly comic wit.

Vivienne Kelly has spent most of her working life as a university administrator, and is currently a freelance researcher based in Melbourne. Her fiction has appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, and in 2008 she won *The Australian Women’s Weekly*/Penguin short-story competition. *Cooee* is her first novel.

Material: book available (288pp, trade pb)

Cate Kennedy

DARK ROOTS

(*Short Stories*, Original edition, September 2006; B-format edition, November 2008)

Shortlisted for 2007 Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards for a short-story collection
‘New Voice of the Month’, *Oprah Magazine*

‘Cate Kennedy’s collection of short stories, *Dark Roots*, announces the arrival of a major talent in Australian fiction. She has a near pitch-perfect voice and a feeling for the precise moment when stars move in the cosmos.’ — **Peter Temple**, *The Age*

‘Kennedy’s prose walks the line between sparse and lush, and she trusts that her readers welcome well-articulated ideas balanced with reassuring doses of mystery.’ — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

This collection of prize-winning short stories opens up worlds of small, finely observed detail, which resonate in the reader’s mind long after the story is finished. From the awkward strain of dissolving relationships to the revealing vagaries of chance occurrences upon ordinary people, the voices that inhabit these worlds speak eloquently of the hidden motivations that propel us all to act. Often without realising it, these characters hold in their hands both the consequences of small decisions and — sometimes — the power of life and death.

Cate Kennedy is one of the best practitioners of the short story in Australia today. By turns heart-breaking and richly comic, *Dark Roots* showcases Kennedy’s many talents.

Cate Kennedy is an award-winning short-story writer who has twice won *The Age* short-story competition. *Dark Roots* was shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Award in the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards and for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. Cate is also the author of the travel memoir *Sing and Don’t Cry: a Mexican journal* and the poetry collections *Joyflight* and *Signs of Other Fires*.

Rights sold: North America (Grove Atlantic); UK & CW, excl ANZ (Atlantic); ANZ Audio (Louis Braille Audio)

Material: book available (192pp B+ format pb)

Jenny Patrick

GRACE NOTES

(*Fiction*, December 2008)

‘*Grace Notes* is a lively read, with well-rounded characters, feisty dialogue and excellent sense of location ... a wonderful read and will particularly appeal to women 40 plus.’ — *Bookseller & Publisher*

It is the 1990s. Letter-writing is about to give way to email, but elderly Grace will resist the trend. Through letters and stories, we learn of her friendships, the interactions of the argumentative bowling club, her growing attraction to and relationship with Max, and the jealousy this engenders in her closest friend, Mildred. As the story unfolds, Grace faces new challenges: the problems of younger people invade her solitary life. Grace touches the lives of many with her warmth, her feistiness, her intelligence, and her frailty.

Starting life as a popular radio series, this is another compelling novel from bestselling author Jenny Patrick.

Jenny Patrick is a writer and jeweller who lives in Wellington, New Zealand. She has written fiction and commentary for radio, and, with her musician husband, Laughton, songs and musical shows for children.

Material: book available (288pp, B+ format)

Chris Womersley
THE LOW ROAD

(*Fiction/Crime*, September 2007)

Winner of the 2008 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction
'The year's best book' — *The Australian Financial Review Magazine*, Summer 2007
Shortlisted for the 2006 Victorian Premier's Award for an unpublished manuscript

'As unflinching as Cormac McCarthy and as perverse as Ian McEwan, *The Low Road* blazes too with the lyricism of T.C. Boyle. It is a surprising and stunning debut.' — **Simon Hughes**, (*Australian Financial Review Magazine*)

A young petty criminal, Lee, wakes in a seedy motel with a bullet in his side and a suitcase of stolen money, his memory hazy as to how he got there. Soon he meets Wild, a doctor who is escaping his own disastrous life, and the two men set out for the safety of the countryside.

As they flee the city, they develop an uneasy intimacy, inevitably revisiting their pasts even as they desperately seek to evade them. Lee is haunted by a brief stint in jail, while Wild is on the run from the legacy of medical malpractice. But Lee and Wild are not alone: they are pursued through an increasingly alien and gothic landscape by the ageing gangster Josef, who must retrieve the stolen money and deal with Lee to ensure his own survival. Ultimately, all three men are forced to confront the parts of themselves they sought to outrun.

Part noir thriller, part modern tale of alienation and despair, *The Low Road* seduces the reader into a story that unfolds and deepens hypnotically. This is a brilliant debut novel.

Chris Womersley was born in Melbourne in 1968, where he lived for many years. His story 'The Shed' appeared in *Granta New Writing 14* (Granta Books, 2006) and was reprinted in *Best Australian Stories 2006*. He is also the recipient of the 2007 Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize for a short story.

Rights sold: Vietnamese (Le Chi Culture & Communications); ANZ audio (Louis Braille Audio); film option (Enjoy Entertainment)

Material: book available (288pp, trade pb)