



Frankfurt Book Fair 2009

Rights Guide

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Non-Fiction

Forthcoming

Julian Burnside

WORDWATCHING [rev edn]

(*Language/Current Affairs*, rev edn December 2009; orig edn December 2006)

We live in a torrent of words — from radio and television, books and newspapers, and now from the internet. But, as Julian Burnside reminds us in this new edition of the bestselling *Wordwatching*, words are a source both of pleasure and power, and can be deployed for good or for ill.

Some of these essays explore curiosities in odd corners of the English language simply to remind us of its extraordinary richness. Others use small matters of language to illustrate larger processes of cultural borrowing and change. Burnside's musings remind us that we should not be alarmed at the instability of the language; rather, we should see its wanton borrowings as a source of its strength and vitality.

Wordwatching also reminds us of the misuses of language in the service of sinister purposes — whether political, ideological, social, or personal. An ear well tuned to the nuances of vocabulary inoculates the hearer against this epidemic of deception.

With nine new essays, dealing with subjects as diverse as deadlines, fancy words, the problems with 'issue', odd sounds, oxymorons, and the fallacy of 'wading in', this revised and expanded edition of *Wordwatching* is a fascinating demonstration of the power and the pleasure of the English language.

Julian Burnside, QC, is an Australian barrister who specialises in commercial litigation and is also deeply involved in human rights work, particularly in relation to refugees. He has published a children's book, *Matilda and the Dragon*, and *Watching Brief: reflections on human rights, law, and justice*. He is also the editor of *From Nothing to Zero*, a compilation of letters written by asylum-seekers held in Australia's detention camps.

Material: book available (352 pp, B+ format pb)

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 57,000 words)

Maryrose Cuskelly

ORIGINAL SKIN: a journey of discovery

(*Popular Science*, August 2010)

Original Skin is the sweeping story of our largest organ — the exquisitely sensitive, constantly reactive, and staunchly protective human skin. Our skin is where we end and the rest of the cosmos begins, and our first port of call in understanding the way in which we each connect with the world.

Reading *Original Skin* is like revisiting a hometown long taken for granted: treading the echoing streets of history, the brisk boulevards of anatomical science, and the intimate alleyways of personal experience in the company of Cuskelly, the wonder of skin is revealed anew. It's a captivating journey, complete with surprise discoveries, rewarding diversions, and memorable characters.

From tickling to Botox to books bound in human skin, this is a complete exploration of our mysterious skin, and a must-read for anyone who wants to know more about the only thing that separates each of us from the rest of the universe.

Maryrose Cuskelly is a freelance editor and writer. Her essays and articles have been published in *The Age*, *The Australian*, and *The Big Issue*, among other places. In 2006, she co-wrote, with Nic Frances, the winning proposal for the Iremonger Award for writing on public issues, and the ensuing book *The End of Charity*, published by Allen & Unwin in 2008.

Material: manuscript available (app 65,000 words)

Matt Golding

THREE-SECOND THOUGHTS

(*Humour/Cartoons*, December 2009)

Cerebral, satirical, and downright hilarious, Matt Golding is one of our wittiest observers of modern life. His beautifully drawn cartoons, with their distinctive wash style, can be found on fridge doors and noticeboards all over the country.

Three-Second Thoughts is a brilliant new collection of wry and perceptive observations about how we live, work, and play — sophisticated silliness of the highest order from one of Australia’s favourite cartoonists.

Matt Golding is a freelance cartoonist working from Melbourne. His work is published regularly in *The Age*, *The Sunday Age*, and *The Melbourne Times*.

Material: pdf available (224pp, trade pb)

Myfanwy Jones & Spiri Tsintziras
PARLOUR GAMES FOR MODERN FAMILIES
(*Games/Recreation*, November 2009)

‘Who knew you could have this much fun without power cords? I love this book.’
— **Catherine Deveny**, *Age* columnist and author of *Say When*

Parlour Games for Modern Families sets out to revive the tradition of indoor family games: 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, wordplay, 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 jam tart, recipe found herein.

Games are organised thematically, referenced for age-appropriateness, and set out with clear rules and instructions.

Parlour Games for Modern Families, a book for fun-lovers aged four to 104, winds back the clock 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 is a games-obsessive and, as mother of two and aunty of 17, she has many great excuses to play. She has also published numerous articles and short stories, and her debut novel, *The Rainy Season*, was released by Penguin in March 2009.

Spiri Tsintziras, along with her tribe of young and not-so-young research assistants, has re-discovered the joy of games in the writing of this book. When she is not playing, she writes for work and pleasure, and has had a number of articles published in *The Age*.

Material: book available (288pp, trade pb + flaps)

Ben Naparstek

IN CONVERSATION: encounters with 39 great writers

(Writing/Biography, November 2009)

Why did Jay McInerney once blow up a lavatory? Why does Peter Handke still mourn the passing of Slobodan Milosević? Why does Michel Houellebecq miss being in a psychiatric hospital? Why doesn't Wole Soyinka want to visit Australia? And what made Elfriede Jelinek afraid of receiving her Nobel Prize?

From Ben Naparstek, the editor of *The Monthly*, comes a collection of interviews with 39 of the world's best writers. In the course of these remarkable encounters, he finds out why — amongst other things — Tony Judt refuses to debate Christopher Hitchens, why Umberto Eco snubbed Stanley Kubrick, why John Malkovich threatened to shoot Robert Fisk, and why James Wood wants to hide behind a pseudonym.

In Conversation offers a series of personal and provocative portraits that illuminate what makes great writers tick.

Ben Naparstek was born in Melbourne in 1986, and gained degrees in arts and law from the University of Melbourne before taking up a graduate fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He returned to Melbourne to become editor of *The Monthly* in May 2009, after eight years of writing about books and ideas for more than 40 newspapers and magazines. He is co-editor with Justin Clemens of *The Jacqueline Rose Reader*, forthcoming from Duke University Press. *In Conversation* is his first book.

Material: book available (272pp, trade pb)

Vivienne Ulman

ALZHEIMER'S: A LOVE STORY

(Memoir, November 2009)

'A heartrendingly beautiful book, moving and sometimes unsettling.' — **Raimond Gaita, author of *Romulus, My Father***

When the last of Vivienne Ulman's four children 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*, Ulman 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 sustained 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 amply returned 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: book available (224pp, trade pb)

Previously published

Jennifer Ackerman

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

(*Popular Science*, B-format edn December 2009; original edn 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.

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 for *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, and other publications. She resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Rights held: UK & BC excl. Canada

Material: book available (272pp, B-format 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***

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.

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); German (Spektrum Akademischer Verlag); Croatian (Alfa D.D.)

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

Gabrielle Carey
WAITING ROOM
(*Memoir*, April 2009)

‘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, author of *Sixty Lights and Sorry***

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.

Gabrielle Carey was born in Sydney and published her first co-authored book, *Puberty Blues*, at the age of twenty. 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 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.

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)

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

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. 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)

Jill Jolliffe

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

(*Biography/Politics*, August 2009)

'Comprehensive and compelling ... This book is up there with the great Neal Ascherson's work on Poland, and I can't say more than that.' — *Inside Story*

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: they were killed by the Indonesian military as they filmed its infantry 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 this shameful episode, brings to light new material about Roger East, and details the 2007 Glebe inquest into the death of Brian Peters. The movie *Balibo*, produced by Arenafilm and starring Anthony LaPaglia, was released in Australia in August 2009.

Jill Jolliffe has been following the Balibo Five story for 34 years: she witnessed the first incursions of Indonesian regular troops in September 1975, and reported on the death of her five colleagues at Balibo in October. She has worked 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: book available (416pp + 16pp b&w photos)

David Spratt & Philip Sutton

CLIMATE CODE RED: the case for emergency action

(Environment/Politics, July 2008)

‘A frightening but clear-eyed, well-informed, and sober consideration of the weight of evidence and argument on the imminent and quite possibly cataclysmic impacts of climate change.’

— **Dr Joseph Retter**

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.

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 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 the Australian government, and has written widely on environmental, economic, industrial, and urban policy.

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

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

Sydney Child Holocaust Survivors Group

THE WORDS TO REMEMBER IT: memoirs of child holocaust survivors

(*Memoir*, May 2009)

'The Words to Remember It speaks simply, directly, without undue rancour, and with tremendous spirit and optimism to everybody'— *The Courier Mail*

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)

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*

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.

This updated and revised edition of *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.

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 Yayinevi); Portuguese (Caleidoscopio); Arabic (Kalima)

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

Fiction

Forthcoming

Lenny Bartulin

THE BLACK RUSSIAN: a Jack Susko mystery

(*Crime/Thriller*, February 2010)

‘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. His first novel, *A Deadly Business*, was the first in the Jake Susko series. He has previously published poetry in *Heat* and *Meanjin*.

Material: manuscript available (app 60,000 words)

Fiona McGregor

INDELIBLE INK

(*Fiction*, March 2010)

Indelible Ink centres on Marie King, a 59-year-old divorcée from Sydney’s affluent north shore. Having devoted her rather conventional life to looking after her husband and three children — who have now all departed the family home — she is experiencing something of an identity crisis, especially as she must now sell the family home and thus lose her beloved garden. On a folly, she gets a tattoo.

Marie forges a friendship with her tattoo artist, Rhys, who introduces her to an alternative side of Sydney from that to which Marie is accustomed. Through their burgeoning connection, Marie’s two worlds collide, causing great friction within Marie’s family and with her circle of rich friends.

With echoes of Jonathan Franzen’s *The Corrections* and Christos Tsiolkas’s *The Slap*, *Indelible Ink* is a multi-layered examination of how we live now, in which one family becomes a microcosm for the changes operating in society at large.

Fiona McGregor is the prize-winning author of three books of fiction. Her short stories, essays and reviews have appeared in publications including the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Heat*, *Meanjin*, and *Griffith Review*.

Material: manuscript available (approx 110,000 words)

Katie Wall
I SAY TOMATO
(*Fiction*, May 2010)

Sunday ‘Sunny’ Triggs is a young Australian actress trying to make it in Hollywood. She’s only recently arrived in LA — having left heartbreak behind at home — and she’s still finding her feet. This charming, quirky first novel follows Sunny as she auditions for parts, gets swept off to the Sundance Film Festival, negotiates relationships, and tries to work out what — and who — is really important in her life.

I Say Tomato is both a witty satire on the LA film scene and a charming romantic comedy, filled with humour and heart. It’s about a young woman trying to find herself, but perhaps looking in all the wrong places.

Katie Wall is an Australian actress. She has appeared in films and TV series including *Clubland*, *My Year without Sex*, *Underbelly 2*, *Dirt Game*, *All Saints*, and *Love My Way*. She won an AFI Award for Best Supporting Actress for *Marking Time*. *I Say Tomato* is her first novel.

Material: manuscript available (60,000 words)

Chris Womersley
BEREFT
(*Fiction*, August 2010)

In 1909, sixteen-year-old Quinn Walker is forced to flee the tiny Australian country town of Flint, falsely accused of raping and murdering his younger sister, Sarah. Ten years later, having served in the Great War, Quinn returns to his home town to clear his name. The Spanish Flu pandemic is raging, compounding the grief and distress caused by the losses from the war.

Quinn is shell-shocked and fearful, damaged from his time at war. He hides out in the hills surrounding Flint but cautiously meets with his flu-stricken mother, with whom he re-establishes a tender and loving relationship. He tells her stories of where he has been in the intervening years, but cannot reveal the true identity of Sarah’s killer for fear of hastening her death. In the bush, Quinn befriends a young orphan girl, Sadie Fox, who encourages him to take revenge on Sarah’s murderers.

Bereft is a searing gothic novel about the suffering endured not only by those who go to war but also by those who are forever left behind.

Chris Womersley was born in Melbourne in 1968. He won the Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize for short story in 2007. *The Low Road*, his first novel, was shortlisted for the 2006 Victorian Premier’s Award for an unpublished manuscript and won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Book in 2008.

Material: manuscript available (90,000 words)

Translated Fiction

Milena Agus [translated by Brigid Maher]

THE HOUSE IN VIA MANNO

(*Fiction*, August 2009)

‘The strikingly drawn characters, the unforced and graceful narrative voice, the postwar Sardinian setting, and the genuine surprises throughout and especially at the end, all combine to make this wholly original novel a bittersweet pleasure to read.’ — **Lorien Kaye**, *The Age*

In this magical, jewel-like novel, a young Sardinian woman explores the life of her Nonna — her romantic, beautiful, and somewhat crazy grandmother. Nonna is an unforgettable character whose life spans much of the twentieth century. A dreamer with fierce loyalties and unbridled passions, we follow her search for perfect love to an ending both surprising and profound. Along the way, against the stunning Sardinian landscape of cities, marinas and mountains, we meet the members of her large family, and the mysterious Veteran, the man of her dreams — each one drawn with warmth, humour and deep insight.

Milena Agus writes of family loves and secrets, of sexuality, of music, and of the harsh realities of war and migration in twentieth-century Europe in a powerful, compelling, and yet whimsical voice.

A bestseller in Europe, *The House in Via Manno* introduces Milena Agus to English-speaking readers in this sparkling translation by Brigid Maher.

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 been a bestseller in Italy, France, and Germany. In December 2008, Milena was awarded the prestigious Zerilli-Marimò prize in New York. A film adaptation of the novel is in production.

Rights held: ANZ + English-language translation

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

Willem Jan Otten [translated by David Colmer]

THE PORTRAIT

(*Fiction*, September 2009)

‘One of the strangest and more enchanting works I have come across in some time ...’ — **Liam Davison**, *Weekend Australian*

The Portrait is an ingenious 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 to, 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 knows he will have to surpass himself. He 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 artist undertake this painting?

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

In a breathtaking feat, Otten plays with secrets and riddles that the reader can only unravel at the very end. Masterfully translated by the award-winning David Colmer, Otten here demonstrates his rare gifts to English readers for the first time.

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

Rights held: ANZ + English-language translation
Material: book 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*

'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*, March 2010)

In this multi-award-winning autobiographical novel, Cristovão Tezza draws his readers into the mind of a young father whose son, Felipe, is born with Down syndrome. From the initial shock of diagnosis, and through his growing understanding of the world of hospitals and therapies, Tezza threads the story of his son's life with his own.

Felipe, who lives in an eternal present, becomes a remarkable young man; for Tezza, however, the story is a settling of accounts with himself and his own limitations and, ultimately, a coming to terms with the sublime ironies 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 yearns for a 'normal' world that is always out of reach.

Reading this compelling book is like stumbling through a trap door into the writer's mind, where nothing is censored, and everything is constantly examined and reinterpreted. What emerges is a hard-won philosophy of everyday life.

It is extraordinary to encounter a common human drama — the birth of a disabled child — investigated profoundly by a father who happens to be a gifted novelist. *The Eternal Son* is an honest and insightful story that touches us all, written by one of Brazil's foremost novelists and beautifully translated by Alison Entrekin.

Cristovão Tezza is one of Brazil's foremost contemporary novelists. He has published 13 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: manuscript available (approx 55,000 words)

Previously published

Lenny Bartulin

A DEADLY BUSINESS: a Jack Susko mystery

(*Crime/Thriller*, May 2008)

‘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 who’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)

Patrick Cullen

WHAT CAME BETWEEN

(*Fiction*, August 2009)

‘*What Came Between* is brilliant in conception, pitch-perfect in narrative voice, and complex in its vision of how we seek our deepest selves in the crush of the quotidian.’ — **Robert Olen Butler**

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: book available (192pp, 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**

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)

Barry Heard
TAG
(*Fiction*, June 2009)

‘This is a poignant, anti-war story which pulls no punches, describing the shellshock and depression which was the legacy of many World War I veterans, including the valiant nurses.’ — **Courier Mail**

As a lad in the high country of eastern Victoria, Tag Wardell 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 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: book available (384pp, trade pb)

Vivienne Kelly

COOEE

(*Fiction*, November 2008)

Shortlisted for the 2009 Age Book of the Year

'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

THE WORLD BENEATH

(*Fiction*, September 2009)

'Cate Kennedy is a brilliant storyteller. She possesses the power to find in ordinary lives their poetic and mythic dimensions and to remind us that vernacular speech and everyday experiences betoken the tender mysteries that lie beneath family life.' — **Gail Jones**

'This is a thought-provoking journey into contemporary Australia; an impressive debut novel.' — **Jo Case**, *Australian Book Review*

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: book available (352pp, 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

'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.

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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 this bestselling author.

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)

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. 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.

Material: book available (192pp, B-format pb)

Chris Womersley
THE LOW ROAD

(*Fiction/Crime*, September 2007)

Winner of the 2008 Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction
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. His latest novel is *Bereft*.

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

Material: book available (288pp, trade pb)