

Genre Flash⁴

THE BEST AUSTRALIAN

GENRE FICTION & TRUE CRIME

CRIME ~ MYSTERIES ~ THRILLERS

SF ~ SCIENCE & SPECULATIVE FICTION

FANTASY ~ HORROR

*A Whole World of Fiction
and a little bit of fact*

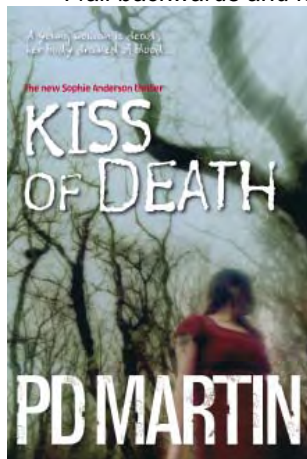
SUMMER 2010



INSIDE Genre Flash⁴ The latest and the best in Australian genre fiction and true crime.

Feature articles: by SF buff **Stephen Lord**; on fantasy & crime writer **Fiona McIntosh**; and about **Aussiecon4**.

Soon I hear the footsteps again. Definitely more than one set. I push myself harder, run harder. I glance back, hoping they're further away than they sound. But they're closer. Suddenly I come to an abrupt stop, slamming into something. I fall backwards and look up. His face is in shadows, but I can see glistening white teeth as he smiles.



Available 1 January 2010

Australian FBI profiler Sophie Anderson's latest case is strange, even for her. The victim is found dead in a state park with two puncture wounds on her neck. There is no blood at the scene, but her body looks to have been drained.

Is it a strange but straightforward murder, or part of a ritual performed by Los Angeles' secretive population of vampires?

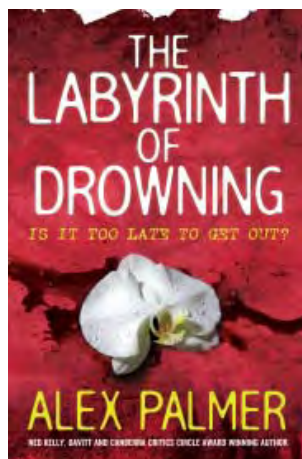
Meanwhile, Sophie's new squeeze is in town, and as usual she's hard at work. Will she be able to balance her obsession with the case with her fragile new relationship? And what does she really feel for Anton Ward, the brooding, darkly handsome leader of the bizarre sect who claim to be vampires?

Special Agent Sophie Anderson must delve into LA's world of real-life vampires to find the answers...and hopefully the killer.

Kiss of Death is Book 5 in the Sophie Anderson series by **PD Martin**.

P Pan Macmillan Aus; MIRA: USA, UK, France **C** www.pdmartin.com.au **B** All good bookshops **I** 978 1 4050 3886 7

Two years have passed since top cop Paul Harrigan walked away from the New South Wales Police Force to be his own man. Since then his life has been a gift and his home with his partner Agent Grace Riordan and their daughter a sanctuary.



When a trafficked sex-worker is found brutally murdered in Sydney bushland, it should be just another job for Grace. But the murder is too savage. And someone is watching them – perhaps Harrigan's old enemies, who want their pound of flesh.

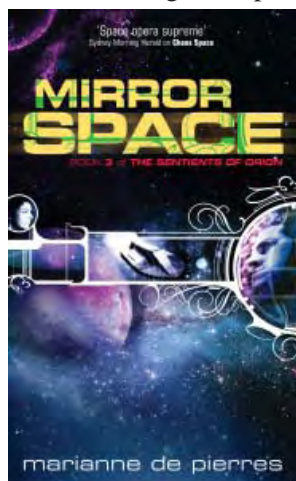
When Grace's boss pushes her into a sting to catch the sex-worker's murderer, it becomes a question of who is being hunted. Who in the end, is going to be left looking into the eyes of a killer with no place left to hide?

Suspenseful, smart and chilling; two of Australian crime fiction's most memorable characters are in a race to save themselves from an evil that even they have never faced before.

The Labyrinth of Drowning, 3rd in the Harrigan-Riordan series by **Alex Palmer**, follows *Blood Redemption* winner of both the Davitt and Ned Kelly awards; and its sequel *The Tattooed Man*.

P HarperCollins Publishers **B** Good bookshops and on-line **I** 978 0 7322 8574 6

Araldis is still occupied by hostile forces, and the Orion League of Sentient Species is seemingly unable or unwilling to help, so Mira Fedor must turn to the mercenary captain, Rast Randall, if she is to save her planet.



While Rast's contacts may be free of political constraints, what they lack in red tape they more than make up for in ruthlessness. As some of their hidden strategies are revealed, others become even more opaque.

Why have the philosophers of Scholar been targeted? How far does the Extropist influence extend into Orion space? From Lasper Farr – the Stain War veteran and ruler of the junk-planet Edo – to the Sole initiates at Belle Monde to Rast herself, everyone is pursuing their own agenda. But are they really separate goals? Or are events rushing to a single, terrifying conclusion?

Readers who hunger for perceptive, intelligent and unflinching literary science fiction should seek this book out as soon as possible. *Hub Magazine*

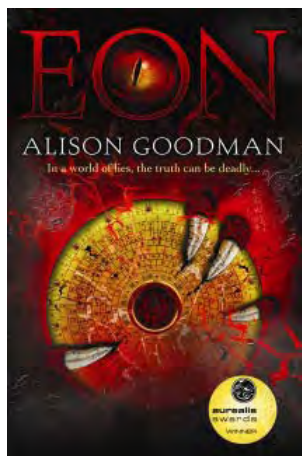
Space opera supreme *Sydney Morning Herald*

Space opera at its best...fast becoming one of the most accomplished and best modern SF offerings out there. *Fantasy Book Critic*

Mirror Space is the 3rd in the acclaimed Sentients of Orion series by **Marianne de Pierres**.

P Orbit Books **C** www.mariannedepierres.com **B** All good bookshops **I** ISBN-10 1841497606 ISBN-13 978 184 1 49760 0

Under the watch of an ambitious master, candidate Eon is training to become a Dragoneye – a powerful lord able to command one of the energy dragons of good fortune.



But Eon has a dark secret: he is actually Eona, a young woman disguised as a boy for the chance to practise the Dragoneye's art. In a world where women are only hidden wives or servants, Eona's deception is a deadly gamble.

Eon's unprecedented talent thrusts her into a lethal struggle for the Imperial throne. She is summoned to the treacherous court where she must learn to trust her unique gift and find the strength to face a vicious enemy intent on taking her power...and her life.

A gripping tale of false identities, breathtaking swordplay, sexual intrigue and murderous politics in an opulent, exotic world that pulses with danger. *Eon* has been sold into 13 countries.

Eon – originally published as *The Two Pearls of Wisdom* – won the 2008 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel.

An action-packed, well-plotted, acutely imagined fantasy.
The Age

This intelligent, vividly written tale grips from the first page.
The Times (UK)

The most purely enjoyable book I have read this year.
The Times
Christmas List 2008

Alison Goodman is the author of *Killing the Rabbit* (crime); and the Aurealis Award winning *Singing the Dogstar Blues*.

P HarperCollins Australia

C www.alisongoodman.com.au

B All bookshops

I 978 0 7322 9011 5

Isiah is having a tough time. The Devil is making his job very difficult.

Samuel Harrigan is a murdering lowlife. He used ancient blood magic to escape a deal with the Devil and now he's on the trail of a crystal skull that he believes will complete his efforts to evade Lucifer. But Lucifer wants Samuel's soul for eternity and refuses to wait a second longer for it.

Isiah needs Samuel to keep looking for the crystal skull, so he has to protect Sam and keep the Devil at bay. Not for Samuel's sake, but for all of humanity.

RealmShift is an engrossing dark fantasy thriller; a fascinating exploration of the nature of peoples beliefs and their effect on the world around them. Magic, action and intrigue, from dank city streets to the depths of Hell and beyond.

A fast-paced storyline that holds the reader right from the start...nifty devices galore, from *RealmShift* to the *Balance*.
Van Ikin, editor *Science Fiction*

Entertaining and thought-provoking...I enjoyed it immensely.
Julie Ann Dawson, *Bards & Sages*

A most surprising read. Quite a ride.
Eugen M. Bacon, *TCM Reviews*



Three years have passed since Isiah's run-in with Samuel Harrigan and the Devil. He has some time on his hands – a perfect opportunity to track down the evil Sorcerer, Harrigan's mentor. A simple enough task, but the Sorcerer has more followers than Isiah ever imagined, and a plan bigger than anyone could have dreamed.

With the help of some powerful new friends Isiah desperately tries to track down the Sorcerer and his cult of blood before they manage to change the world forever.

MageSign – second in the *Isiah series* by **Alan Baxter** – keeps a breathless pace and blistering intensity with gods, demons and humans entangled in magic and conflict.



The mounting tension is exquisitely handled, built up to a crescendo of amazing proportions.
Brenton Tomlinson, *Horrorscope*

A gritty tale of blood rituals, mystery, and mysticism...grabs hold of the reader and doesn't let go.
David Wood, author of *Dourado* and *Cibola*

Difficult to pin to any particular genre...fantastic qualities...horrific at times...I highly recommend it.
William Estep, *clubreading.com*

P Blade Red Press

C www.blade-red.com

B Amazon.com; Blade Red Press

I Book 1: 978 0 980 5782 0 1; Book 2: 978 0 9805 7821 8

Genre Flash – where books live longer lives.

If you are a writer of genre fiction or true crime, or an indie publisher, and would like to promote your next book, or your latest or last, or your whole series in the next edition of *Genre Flash* please contact the editor.

Ditto if you'd like to be on the **GF** mailing list.

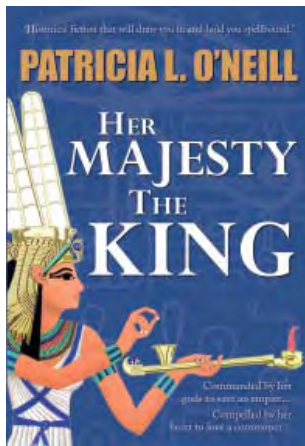
Genre Flash - the editor

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cover artwork by
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A tale of kings and queens, a bloodstained struggle for the throne and forbidden love. In a time when power was absolute and life was short, a young woman was destined to rule an empire.



Hatshepsut, the gifted and beautiful daughter of the Pharaoh, vows to accept whatever fate the gods have decreed for her. When just 14, she kills a marauder, is betrothed to her loathsome brother and becomes the most powerful priestess in Egypt.

She falls in love with Senenmut, the brilliant commoner who is torn between his yearning for Hatshepsut and his duty to protect her. When her father dies, Hatshepsut must make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of Egypt.

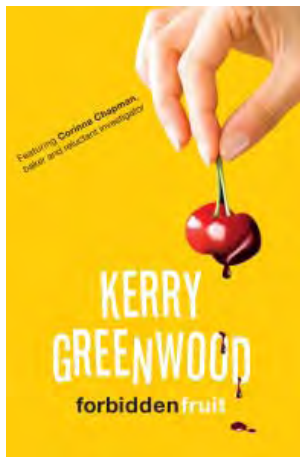
Hatshepsut battles bigotry, heartbreak and betrayal in her turbulent path to the throne of Egypt. Hatshepsut and Senenmut's forbidden passion is one of history's greatest untold love stories. The tale of the famous female Pharaoh's rise to power is a triumphant blend of historical fact and heart-stopping emotion.

Winner of the 2008 NSW Writers Centre & New Holland Publishers Genre Fiction Award, this story of the real-life Hatshepsut will draw you in and hold you spellbound.

Her Majesty the King is the first book in the Hatshepsut Trilogy by **Patricia L. O'Neill**, who also writes the Xtreme Science series which appears in *Aurealis* magazine.

P Gibbes Street/New Holland **C** www.hermajestytheking.com **B** All good bookshops **I** 978 1 9215 1708 2

Corinna Chapman, owner of Earthly Delights, detests Christmas. The shoppers are frantic and the heat oppressive; neither of which this perfect size 20 with a genius for baking breads finds congenial.



She's dreaming of quiet, air-conditioned comfort but instead finds herself dealing with a rose-loving donkey named Serena, a maniacal mother with staring eyes, a distracted assistant searching for the perfect muffin recipe, her friend the fearless witch Meroe, and the luscious Daniel with whom she'd like to spend a lot more time.

But Daniel is on the hunt to find two young runaways, Brigid and Manny. This simple Romeo and Juliet romance is not as straightforward as it seems and the couple will go a long way to ensure they're not found. When Corinna and Daniel find that Brigid is on the streets, heavily pregnant and in danger, the stakes rise.

With the help of a troupe of free-spirited freegans, some very clever internet hackers and a bunch of vegans, Corinna and Daniel go head-to-head with a sinister religious cult on a mission, and a band of Romany gypsies out for revenge, in a wild and wonderful chase against the clock.

Forbidden Fruit is the fifth in the Corinna Chapman series by **Kerry Greenwood**.

P Allen & Unwin **C** www.earthlydelights.net.au **B** All good bookshops **I** 978 1 7417 5982 2

Get the kids reading mysteries with a contemporary Aussie Famous Five.

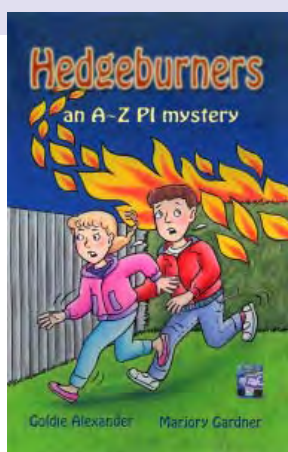
Cypress hedges are going up in smoke all over Grevillia, a leafy Melbourne suburb, and 13-year-old Anna Simpson, who's been crazy about detective work since she uncovered the culprit pinching art materials in Year 5, is determined to track down the firebugs.

Anna insists that Zach Santisi, her best friend since kindergarten, help her find the firebugs. The problem is that the fledging detectives come across all sorts of potentially suspicious activities, and a secret or two, but lack any firm evidence.

Are the culprits: the Year 9 kids, burning hedges as a dare; Bob the local homeless man; or local petty crims Jack Nelson and Stinky Holway? What about Zach's other best friend, Ruby, who's offering Zach a ticket to World Wide Wrestling but can't afford a pet?

Clues and red herrings abound but the sudden disappearance of Brett, the cadet journalist on *The Grevillea Times*, suddenly makes the A~Z PIs' investigations all that more urgent. Brett was investigating the arson attacks and had, in Annas and Zachs view, been unfairly named as a suspect by the police.

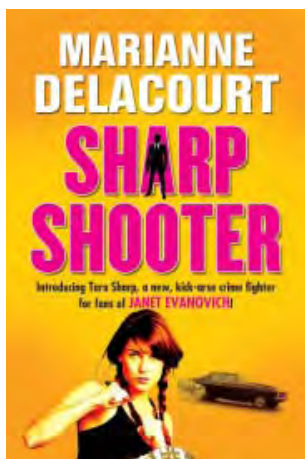
Find out more about this suspense-filled detective book for tweens, on youtube at: <http://ipoz.biz/Titles/Hedge.htm>



Hedgeburners is the first in the A-Z PI Mystery series, written by **Goldie Alexander** and illustrated by **Marjory Gardner**.

P IP Kidz **C** www.goldiealexander.com **B** Good bookshops & the author's website **I** 978 1 9214 7926 7

Tara Sharp should be just another unemployable, 20-something, ex-private schoolgirl but she has a gift – or curse as she sees it – of reading people’s auras. The trouble is, auras sometimes tell you things about people they don’t want you to know.



When a family friend recommends Mr Hara’s Paralanguage School, Tara decides to give it a whirl – and graduates with flying colours. So when Mr Hara passes on a job for a hot-shot lawyer, Tara jumps at the chance despite some of his less-than-salubrious clients.

Tara should know better than to get involved when she learns the job involves mob boss Johnny Vogue. But she’s broke and the magic words ‘retainer’ and ‘bonus’ have been mentioned. Soon Tara finds herself sucked into an underworld ‘situation’ that has her running for her life.

Sharp Shooter is the first Australian crime novel to successfully venture into Janet Evanovich territory and is a good fun read from beginning to end. *The Canberra Times*

A fast paced, easy, entertaining read...positions Delacourt as a female version of Carl Hiassen. *Australian Bookseller and Publisher*

Sharp Shooter is the first book in the Tara Sharp series by **Marianne Delacourt**.

P Allen & Unwin

C www.tarasharp.com

B All good bookshops

I 978 1 7417 5931 0

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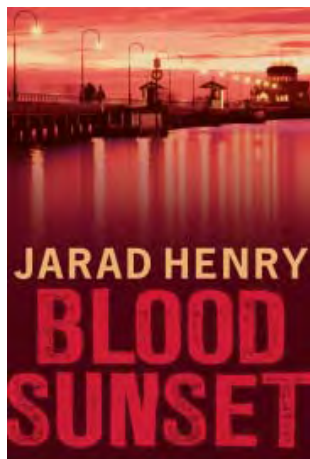
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When a young runaway is found dead in St Kilda with a syringe hanging from his arm, no one is shocked. A known junkie, the kid also had a long criminal record. Even local detective Rubens McCauley is quick to conclude he died of an accidental overdose.



But anomalies in the death – and the haunting memory of a childhood friend – nag at McCauley. Unable to shake his unease, he revives the case, only to find himself up against a secret network of paedophiles, drug dealers and underage prostitutes.

Forced to look evil in the eye, McCauley must conquer his own demons as he battles to find justice for a boy he never knew in life but comes to know intimately in death.

Blood Sunset was the winner of the FAW Jim Hamilton Award.

Testament to experience in the field...Jarad Henry has got it right. *Sydney Morning Herald*

Jarad Henry has worked in the criminal justice system for the past decade and is a strategic advisor for Victoria Police.

Blood Sunset, the second in the Rubens McCauley series, is the sequel to *Head Shot*.

P Allen & Unwin: Arena **C** www.jaradhenry.com.au **B** All good bookshops **I** 978 1 7417 5420 9

Hannah Ford, an under-cover cop, takes a surveillance job in Draper's Wharf. The small town on the banks of the Parramatta River in Australia has links to the drug trade, or so the latest whisper goes.



Hannah's brief is to observe, locate its source and report back.

When she arrives, the town is in shock after the rape and murder of its local barmaid. Hannah, a rape survivor herself, could pull out of the job but she needs to prove her competence to return to the streets and full duties.

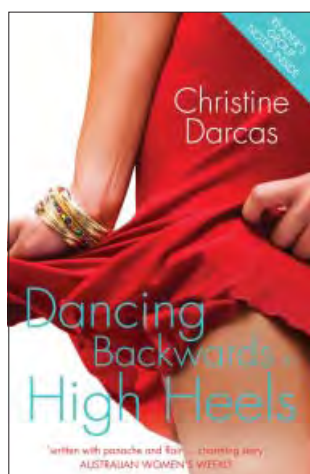
Hannah's own guilt and rage – born of her husband's death, her rape and the degradation that followed – threads through the story. In working to find the source of drugs in Draper's Wharf, the line between her case and the murder enquiry is fading fast.

Can she hack it, or is her worst nightmare about to be re-enacted, as she becomes the villain's next target.

A riveting read – Sheer entertainment in the palm of your hand. *Reviews on Amazon.com*

P New Generation Publishing **C** www.casutton.tripod.com/cazutt **B** Online bookshops **I** 978 1 8492 3833 5

Madeleine Hutchinson is in a rut. At 42 years old and newly arrived in Australia from America, she is struggling to cope with two children, a flagging marriage and an overwhelming sense of invisibility.



One winter night while trying to get her sick son to a doctor, she glimpses couples dancing, touching and laughing in a warmly lit studio. Attracted to this new world and reminded of her younger self, she decides to join a Latin American dance class.

Maddy starts reclaiming her identity on the dance floor – facing choices that threaten her marriage and temptations that could see her lose everything.

Written with panache and flair, this charming story captures that loss of identity that can come with marriage and children. *Australian Womens Weekly*

A beautifully written novel about a woman finding herself again. *New Idea*

In her novel about what happens when the body becomes young again, Christine Darcas brilliantly evokes the thrills of Latin dancing. *Australian Country Style*

Spinning Out the new book by **Christine Darcas** will be out in 2010.

P Hachette Australia **C** www.christinedarcas.com **B** All bookshops **I** 978 0 7336 2382 0



978 0 9804 841 5 1

A Book of Endings, the debut speculative fiction collection by **Deborah Biancotti**, is distinctive, dark and fiercely intelligent.

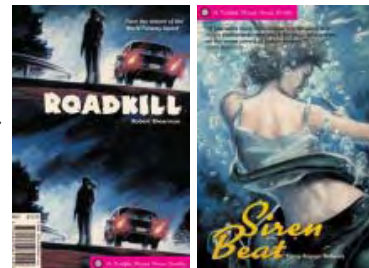
The short stories examine the darkest reaches of the human heart, the most fragile corners of the human mind, and the kindest and cruellest impulses of human society, past, present and future.

A Book of Endings is quite simply a brilliant collection Chuck McKenzie, [HorrorScope](#)

Roadkill by **Robert Shearman** is a squeamishly uncomfortable novelette about the kind of illicit weekend away that you never want to have.

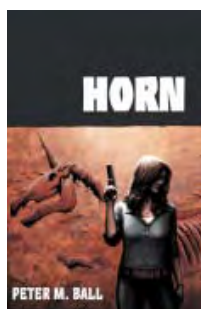
Siren Beat, by **Tansy Rayner Roberts**, is a paranormal romance about a very sexy sea pony. A minor group of man-eating sirens on the Hobart docks wouldn't normally pose a challenge for Nancy, but she's distracted by the man she blames for her sister's death.

Roadkill breaks the stereotype of the urban fantasy genre, and delivers a story with gravity... *Siren Beat* is all about kicking ass and teasing you with sensuality...Bibliophile Stalker



978 0 9804 841 6 8

Roadkill and *Siren Beat* are back-to-back – literally – in the first Twelfth Planet Press double.



978 0 9804 8414 4

Horn, the first novella by **Peter M. Ball**, is more than a little warped.

There's a dead girl in a dumpster and a unicorn on the loose, and no-one knows how bad that combination can get better than Miriam Aster.

What starts as a consulting job for city homicide soon draws Aster back into the world of the exiled fey she thought she'd left behind 10 years ago. The last time Miriam worked a case like this it cost her a badge, a partner, and her life.

[*Horn*] is smart, funny, nasty, and wicked as hell. Dirk Flinthart, [Cool Shite](#)

New Ceres Nights, edited by **Alisa Krasnostein** and **Tehani Wessely**, features 13 stories of rebellion, murder debauchery, decadence and subterfuge set against the backdrop of powdered wigs, coffee houses, duels and balls...in the shared world that is New Ceres.

A planet in the outer colonies, New Ceres embraced the Age of Enlightenment 200 years ago and refused to let go. Refugees and opportunists come to New Ceres in search of new lives, escaping the conflicts of the interstellar war that has already destroyed Earth.



978 0 9804 841 2 0

Marvel that a story set a thousand years in the future, at a remove of many light years from Earth, and seeking to recapture an era two or three centuries before our own, can hold up such a mirror to our own mode of existence. Specusphere



978 0 9804 841 0 6

2012, edited by **Alisa Krasnostein** and **Ben Payne** showcases the dark visions of some of Australia's top authors.

Here be tales of water and oil shortages, terrorism, climate change, global and regional politics, the limiting of personal freedoms, struggles with the ethics of bioengineering and genetic engineering, and alien conspiracies.

The planet of New Ceres is also the setting for *Angel Rising* by **Dirk Flinthart**.

The planetary charter forbids the use of all modern technology. So what brings Proctor George Gordon to the Sunrise Isles to be confronted by ninja and warrior nuns?

Who is the strange but compelling amnesiac girl he finds in the convent, and what do the off-world nations want with her?

Angel Rising is an exciting, funny and engaging adventure romp. Keith Stevenson, [Aurealis](#)



978 0 9804 841 1 3

P Twelfth Planet Press **C** www.twelfthplanetpress.com **B** All good bookshops & the publisher's website

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A WRITER FOR ALL SEASONS

Since embarking on a writing career at the turn of the millennium, Fiona McIntosh has become a cottage industry.

Her three fantasy series *Trinity*, *The Quickening*, *Percheron*, and the trilogy in progress *Valisar*, have captured the hearts and imaginations of readers worldwide, earning high praise from the likes of Sara Douglass and Robin Hobb.

While most writers would be content to carve out a niche and remain comfortably within its boundaries, Fiona remains as versatile as she is motivated. With the same determination and curiosity that inspired her to travel the world before settling in Australia in 1980, she has now expanded her horizons to crime fiction, children's books and a forthcoming mainstream historical saga.

I spoke with Fiona after the release of her second crime novel *Beautiful Death*, about genre, her writing methods and a great many points in between.

STEPHEN LORD: You've often said you do no planning and little, if any, research for your fantasy novels. Have you had to vary this approach for work in other genres and if so, how has that changed your writing process?

FIONA MCINTOSH: This is true. I do no planning and I work to only the thinnest of story lines and this remains the case for all my work - whether it's fantasy or crime or mainstream. I have tried planning but I end up writing out a shopping list or an action list. I have proved time and again to myself that I am not wired to plan my stories. So I free-fall and just see where the characters take me. And it really makes no difference whether I'm walking with a serial killer or a medieval king...character is certainly plot for me.

In terms of research I wrote my first two fantasy series almost entirely out of imagination. And perhaps that shows. Subsequent trilogies – *Percheron* and *Valisar* – and certainly the two crime novels I've written, and now this big new saga I'm working on, I have put in significant research hours. In fact for all of them I have travelled extensively overseas to gather up appropriate material but

essentially to immerse myself into the right landscape and to get a feel for the history and culture of a place.

For *Percheron* I spent time in Istanbul and the middle east to get that proper Eastern Medieval feel to the story. For *Valisar* I spent time roaming around Wales and Scotland. For the crimes I stomp around London and the whole southern end of Britain and I get very detailed – walking into and out of the pubs that my characters frequent and hurtling through the Underground to get

Book One of the Valisar series



Fiona McIntosh

the tube stations right. I need to understand the streets that I've got the police and the criminals haunting. As far as the mainstream novel goes it's had me in all sorts of places: up to the top of a very scary bell tower in southern India; down in a tin mine in Cornwall. And I've discovered that my writing and the whole experience for the reader is far richer for that investment of time, money and effort in research. I believe I'll always write my books to no plan but I will now always research meticulously

SL: *Bye Bye Baby* and *Beautiful Death* are dedicated to Tony Berry, who you describe as 'my brilliant guide into the world of crime'. What advice did you seek before trying your hand at the genre?

FMc: Tony came on board at the same time as I was beginning to write *Bye Bye Baby* so he was a tremendous boost of confidence and has proved to be an all round boon to my crime writing. Essentially he's my sounding board. I can come up with all manner of situations but he can shoot them down in flames and send me back to the drawing board by simply saying: "well, not with the saturation of CCTV units in London, they couldn't" or "no, that won't work, you'd have to get an accredited, registered, police translator who is familiar with juvenile crime and has experience in the Hasidic Jewish culture".

He knows every step of police procedure that I would consider essential and this detail makes a story feel real. So I test run crime situations on



A WRITER FOR ALL SEASONS

him and that usually sends his imagination soaring and he begins to sleuth out the right locations in and around southern England that we can use for the novel. When he feels he's got a good load sorted, I fly to London and spend about 10 days usually walking the streets of London, making notes, taking photos, driving to all the other locations he feels could work e.g. Lincoln and Hastings in *Bye Bye Baby*. During that 10 days Tony and I talk through scenarios and how the police would handle them. His inside knowledge of New Scotland Yard operations and police procedure in general is precious stuff and he knows all the right protocols and language that help to give the books the credibility demanded by crime readers.

SL: Your crime novels have been favourably, and deservedly, compared with those of Val McDermid. Who are your other crime writing influences?

FMc: The greatest influence on me has been reading all sorts of writers. I could cite fantasy or mainstream writers who have taught me my craft and I'm now transferring that into my crime writing. I do really like McDermid's Tony Hill series; but I've read so much crime now that I think it's all blurred and I couldn't tell you whether I'm emulating someone else's work or being inspired by others across the genres.

Perhaps the work closest to mine is Michael Robotham because he allows character to drive his plot. I adore his work and I know my stories rely very heavily on getting into the minds of the key characters, both police and villains, and permitting the readers to walk in their shoes. I like the work of Mark Billingham too.

I really enjoyed the Dexter books. I thought that by seeing the TV series before I read them might have spoiled the reading experience but, as much as I am hooked on the TV version, the Dexter books are brilliant.

I prefer Britcrime so I'm always going to choose a British crime writer as first preference. I'm not heavily into guns, FBI and cutting edge forensics. But I would be lying if I didn't say I really enjoy the work of writers such as Michael Connolly. One of my favourite crime writers who dances around several genres including horror and fantasy but embeds his stories in crime and revolves them around the wonderful character of Charlie Parker is Irish crime thriller author, John Connolly.

SL: Is the second or third book easier to manage if you've already created the story's world and its characters and know what you'll be working with ahead of time?

FMc: In crime it's probably easier for a writer when you do know the landscape of the key character's world. In my case it's DCI Jack Hawksworth. I'm letting him evolve over the books so have deliberately changed where he lives in London so that it doesn't all get too comfortable. But, by knowing him and his ways, I can leap into the story with greater confidence. It doesn't make the workload of writing any easier or hatching out the crime itself, or the research that has to be done but knowing Jack, Kate, and the other characters, I don't have to focus too hard on their back stories. There was certainly a vague sense of pulling on a pair of comfy slippers when I plunged into *Beautiful Death*.



When it comes to fantasy, knowing the world already is a tremendous boon. Fantasy writers – because of the pure fact that they create other worlds – do an enormous amount of work in setting up for a trilogy. Knowing how your world works, what its rules are – by that I mean how its magic might work – is a huge and very important piece of the jigsaw. Lots of angst goes into working out the 'laws' and then you have to know the landscape really well because you have to make it come alive for a reader.

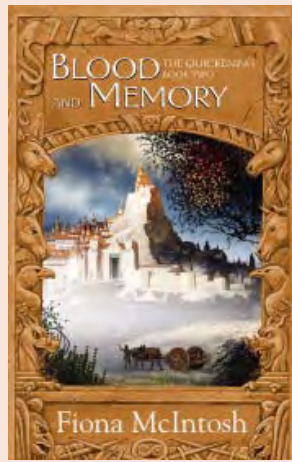
If I say Britain or even just London in a sentence, most people have a general idea of what that looks like. But if I said Percheron or Morgravia, Tallinor or Penraven, that mean absolutely nothing until I begin to paint a picture of what that city or realm or continent looks like, feels like, smells like, sounds like and so on.

World building is a big part of fantasy and so obviously once you've got book one done and everyone's happy with it, it does make jumping into the second and third volumes a lot easier. That said, because I liked my original world of Tallinor in my first series, I've really just continued setting each series 'somewhere down the road' or 'across the waters' in different eras and different compass points of that same world. The readers quite likes the familiarity of it and I certainly find it gives me a wonderful head start.

SL: Despite the best efforts of editors, publishers and even some fans, the boundaries between horror, fantasy and SF are getting blurrier all the time. What defines fantasy for you, and do you ever feel tempted to 'colour outside the lines'?

FMc: YES! It's precisely what I want to do all the time. My crime is definitely a mix of thriller, romance and straight-out police procedural. Meanwhile I see my fantasy books as trampling across several genres including horror, adventure, romance, saga, and yes, even crime. I strive to ensure my fantasy tales are usually about human

A WRITER FOR ALL SEASONS



struggle and with that premise I can allow all aspects of human relationships and lives to come into play.

I know it makes it easier for publishers and booksellers to pigeon-hole writers in order to market and sell books more efficiently and profitably, but most writers love the notion of not being found only on a specific shelf. My style of fantasy could easily sit on a romance shelf. It would freak out some readers with the level of brutality, but they'd still enjoy a poignant romance.

The definition of fantasy for me is simply that a story has a 'fantastic' element to it that defies what we know; what science tells us. John Connolly blurs the lines between horror, fantasy, crime; which is precisely why I love his work. *Outlander* by Diana Gabalon is a rollicking big romance series that is also fantasy and sits comfortably in mainstream. Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* series is clearly fantasy, clearly paranormal romance, clearly a dash of old-fashioned horror and now 'mainstream'.

I will always attempt to colour outside of the lines and that is probably the reason why I write fantasy, crime, saga, children's and will probably one day put out a cookery book or something. I don't want to belong to only one section of the book store or shelf.

SL: You've said Hawksworth is your favourite character, and his vulnerable ladies' man persona makes it easy to see why. Did you have these traits in mind for him or did he evolve on the page?

FMc: I definitely set out to give Jack certain qualities. I wanted him to be dashing handsome in a very traditional sense but also a bit 'fragile'; if I can use that word. It's his vulnerability I think that makes him attractive. He is heroic but I like that he has to rely on others so much. Kate, Sarah, Geoff, they're all very important in his working life. On a personal level we're only just getting to know Jack. We know there's been grief in earlier years; he's a bit quirky; and he has a truly good friend in Geoff. We know he's fond of Sarah and wants to encourage her development. I like Sarah as a perfect foil for fashionable, prickly, emotionally-troubled Kate.

Jack is an everyman and, for the majority of women, the ideal man. I enjoyed writing him, punishing him, forcing him into uncomfortable situations, pushing him to show his strength of character.

SL: You're busy working on the last of your *Valisar* trilogy, and a mainstream family saga. Do you find it difficult to change gears when working on more than one projects?

FMc: I really enjoy the changeover and don't find it hard at all; in fact I welcome it. I sincerely believe it keeps my writing sharp to keep shifting gears and moving into new territory. And when I return to fantasy after eight months away from it, the story has a fresh quality for me as I craft another volume in a series. I don't feel stale,

there's never a threat of feeling bored by it and my heart is always in the project I'm working on.

That said, I have written three novels this year; and have had three released – one anthology, and two paperbacks. That means that, while I may not be writing a fantasy because I'm writing crime or saga, I do still have my finger on the pulse of my fantasy novels because I'm probably editing or proofing one of them. Because of this frantic schedule, I like shifting genres to keep me interested and feeling creative. I am never crafting two novels at once though; that would be fraught with dangers for me. I am usually crafting a new novel, editing another, proofing pages of one about to go to print, and researching for a future book. In this way I can compartmentalise with greater ease and it seems to work for me.

SL: *Beautiful Death* ends on a very well set-up cliffhanger. Do you know how book three will resolve it and can you give us a clue?

FMc: I think this is a hangover – no pun intended – from my training as a fantasy author. Cliffhangers are the norm in fantasy because you're usually writing three big books per series, so the first two need the cliffhangers; and even the last one almost always has a sort of open ending. It's just how it is in fantasy. I have never returned to a trilogy to add on another series but even in my third books, the epilogue – or last chapter of the final volume – has a habit of keeping the story alive. It's though it could continue, while bringing closure to the epic tale that readers have been following over the series.

I think I'm subconsciously doing this with my crime novels. I didn't set out to leave them with a few threads that could be picked up but it's happened in both books now, so I must be a creature of habit. The familiar territory of having the same characters – in this case Jack and his offsidars – lends itself to leading into the next book. Even bringing Lily the florist from *Bye Bye Baby* into *Beautiful Death* felt very normal and right for me. I'm hoping readers will find this an enjoyable aspect to my crime writing.

So yes, the next crime thriller featuring Hawksworth will pick up the few threads left gently trailing from *Beautiful Death*, that had nothing to do with the story but everything to do with the personal lives of the key characters.

A WRITER FOR ALL SEASONS

SL: You draw inspiration for your fantasy writing from your own travels. Which memories are the most resonant for you and how have they translated into your work?

FMc: Over the 16 or so years that I spent directly working in travel and now all the travelling overseas for my books in the last six years, I draw constant inspiration from the sights and experiences.

In fact these days I wouldn't start a new novel without having some sort of reference for its setting. If it's my crime then I head off to London for each new outing with Jack Hawksworth. For the fantasies anywhere in Europe and the UK can inspire great ideas. And my new mainstream novels must be meticulously researched by going to the places where they are set.

I have very strong memories of a trip to Chile and into Patagonia; India will have a very powerful effect on anyone who travels there and so I think I'll carry those memories and draw upon them constantly. My trip to Egypt, particularly Cairo, not so long ago was awesome in every sense of the word and I cannot ignore its effect. Where Egypt might emerge in my stories I'm not sure but visiting Istanbul made Percheron feel very alive in my mind. A visit to Wales quite recently made a big impact on me for *Royal Exile* and while I don't always base an imaginary land on a particular part of the real world – it's often a composite of many places – there is a feeling you get from certain destinations, such as Scotland for example, where stories and settings just scream at you.

France is going to be very important to me in coming years. I return to Paris regularly and after my last visit in March this year I sense that this very beautiful city is going to find its way into a novel soon. It has to! Europe's history and landscapes have the most impact on my books.

SL: Dealing with the real New Scotland Yard leaves little room for leaps of imagination in terms of setting. Did you find the need for detail and accuracy helpful or restrictive?



FMc: Curiously enough I found it an enormous help. Because of my rather strange way of writing to no plan and just free-falling through a story I didn't think the detail would do much more than allow the setting to gel in my mind but it was so much more than that in reality. It actually made Jack Hawksworth feel very real in my mind.

Walking into and out of the police offices of a working New Scotland Yard, I could all but hear Jack's voice and I could imagine what it felt like for him to use the lifts, walk into the canteen, work out in the yard's gym. I knew what the whole place smelled like and its colours. The detail I was able to soak up over those days in London and particularly

my time behind those hallowed doors of NSY at Westminster actually became my anchor, and knowing so much about it gave me tremendous confidence.

The more detail I could gather, the less daunted I felt by the project and the switch from fantasy to crime. I really think it would be very hard to be a crime writer without someone from the police, who knows how it all works behind the scenes being on your side; and giving you an opportunity to glimpse behind the closed doors - whether it's through their eyes, or your own. The detail is actually critical because it helps to lay down the clues for your readers.

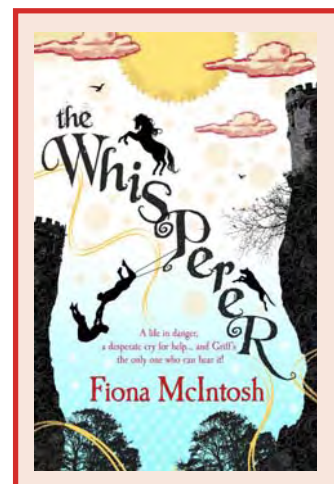
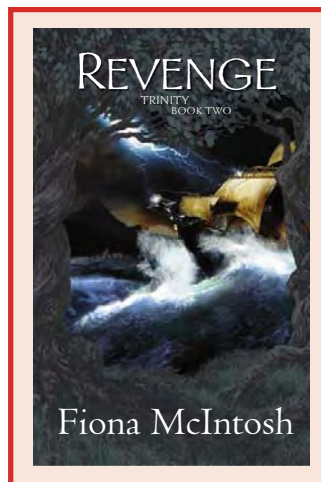
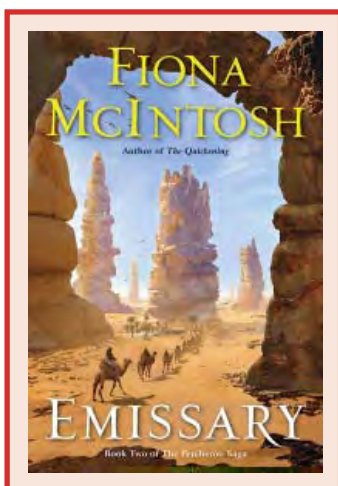
STEPHEN LORD

My thanks to Fiona for taking the time out from far more pressing matters to answer these questions, and for encouraging would-be writers by example.

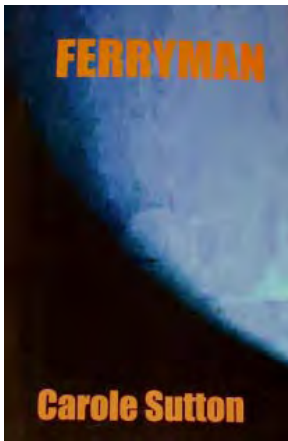
Tyrant's Blood, book two of the Valisar trilogy, and *The Whisperer*, a stand-alone fantasy for younger readers, are out now through Harper Collins.

of Gold, her new mainstream novel, is released by Penguin in March 2010.

The third Jack Hawksworth novel is due in 2011.



A detective with a conscience, a woman's betrayal and a powerful businessman with a sinister secret are some of the intriguing characters in a thriller set in Cornwall in the 1970s.



Angela Dupont is missing. Despite the absence of a body, blood smears inside Steven Pengelly's boat convince Detective Inspector Alec Grimstone that he has apprehended her murderer. But when Angela's freshly-deceased body washes up two years later, Alec is shocked to discover he has convicted the wrong man.

Steven is determined to find where Angela has been these last two years and, after his release from jail, he teams up with a woman searching for her missing sister.

Alec and Steven's separate investigations take very different routes but they arrive at the same destination. When another vibrant young woman goes missing, the circumstances force the old enemies to work together to solve the mystery.

Murder on the English Channel — Wonderful who-dunnit — Non-stop action, mystery and intrigue — ...murder trail on land and beneath the sea. Reviews on Amazon.com

Carole Sutton knows her stuff. Before moving to Australia in 1981, she lived, worked and sailed in Cornish waters.

P YouWriteOn.com **C** www.casutton.tripod.com/cazutt **B** Online bookshops **I** 978 1 8492 33194 7

When a bloodless corpse turns up on the floor of her favourite bar, Melbourne PI Kit O'Malley has no choice but to get involved; it's what she does.



But, when it's revealed that the dead guy belongs to a notorious Melbourne crime family, a bad situation gets a lot worse. Is the city heading for a violent gang war?

Kit navigates through the city's underworld, dealing with crooks and crooked cops, good guys, bad guys, good bad guys and a couple of complete idiots...and finally ends up in the kitchen of crime matriarch Queenie Riley.

The PI with the mean right hook knows how to look after herself but asking the right questions of the wrong people sees Kit's friends dragged into serious danger.

As usual Kit's personal and work lives get tangled as she struggles to stay on top of events fast moving beyond her control.

Kit O'Malley is smart-mouthed, sharp-witted and sexy. Val McDermid

Thicker than Water is the 3rd in the Kit O'Malley series by **Lindy Cameron**.

Release date: February 2009

P Bywaterbooks USA **C** www.lindycameron.com.au **B** Good bookshops & the Clan Destine Portal **I** 978 1 9328 5940 9



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A CELEBRATION OF SPECULATIVE FICTION

About once every ten years or so, Australian readers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror are treated to a local World Science Fiction Convention – an annual global celebration of all things speculative in fiction.

Held most often in the USA, the 'Worldcon' was last held in Australia in 1999, when registered members were thrilled by discussions and presentations by such luminaries as Greg Benford, Terry Pratchett, George RR Martin, and J Michael Straczynski.

The good news is that the Worldcon will be back next year with another pantheon of stellar authors, headed by Guests of Honour **Kim Stanley Robinson** and **Shaun Tan**.

The 4th Australian Worldcon – **Aussiecon 4** – lands in Melbourne 2-6 September 2010.

As much writers festival as fan fest, Aussiecon 4 represents a rare opportunity for Australian science fiction, fantasy and horror aficionados to mingle with authors, artists, editors, agents, and other members of the international and Australian science fiction community.

From a literary perspective, whether you're a reader or writer, Aussiecon 4 promises the ideal forum for insight, inspiration, and networking.

Multiple concurrent streams of panel discussions on a wide range of speculative fiction topics – including writing process and craft, explorations of popular culture, young adult fiction and themes, Guest Of Honour presentations, academic theory, and more – will be fielded by some of the biggest names in global SF. What is more, there is always an opportunity in the relaxed and convivial atmosphere of the con to stop, sit, and share a drink.

Aussiecon 4 is by no means just for those interested in the written word, though. Encompassing books, movies, TV series, gaming, art, memorabilia, comic books, graphic novels and more, the Worldcon embraces every aspect of science fiction.

Other key attractions include one of the largest science fiction Art Shows for the year, a Dealers Room offering books, magazines, comics, DVDs, jewellery, and collectables, and a glittering Masquerade.

One of the star events of every Worldcon is the presentation of the prestigious Hugo awards for achievements in science fiction and fantasy fiction, film, fandom, and more. The 2010 Hugo award winners will be determined by the votes of those who register to attend Aussiecon 4 early.

Although several science fiction conventions are held in different states of Australia each year, none come close to the scale and sophistication of a Worldcon. The event brings together a few thousand professionals and enthusiasts from around the world. In fact, the premium field of authors, illustrators, and other leading industry figures at Aussiecon 4 is expected to be the largest ever assembled in Australia.

If you're interested in the speculative fiction genre, **Aussiecon 4** is simply not to be missed.



AUSSIECON 4 AT A GLANCE

**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
2 – 6 September 2010**

Five-day gathering of authors, artists, fans and publishing industry professionals to celebrate international and Australian science fiction, fantasy, and horror.

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- **Shaun Tan** Award-winning artist and writer whose works include the acclaimed wordless novel *The Arrival* and *The Rabbits*
- **Robin Johnson:** Dedicated Australian fan

Inspirational program

- **Concurrent streams of panel discussions** Guest of Honour presentations, author insights, writing craft, popular culture and politics, young adult fiction, academic theory
- **Art Show** Hundreds of original pieces for sale, including children's and young adult exhibits
- **Dealers Room** Booksellers and specialist dealers of jewellery, new and second-hand books, toys, and other science fiction, fantasy, and horror merchandise
- **Hugo Awards ceremony** The 'Oscars' of science fiction, voted on exclusively by Aussiecon 4 members/registered attendees
- **Masquerade** Professional and amateur costumers present their best work
- **Special Events** Concerts, live theatrical presentations, artist and writer workshops
- **Film and Video Program** Genre classics, movies, TV episodes, incl. the latest Hugo Award nominees

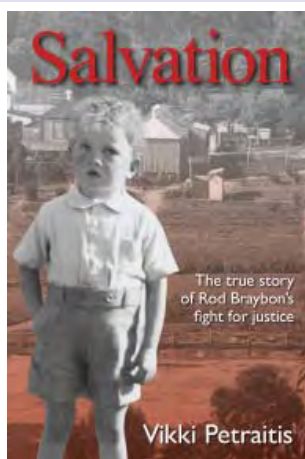
Contact/register

info@aussiecon4.org.au

GPO Box 1212, Melbourne, Vic 3001 Australia

www.aussiecon4.org.au

In 1950 Rod Braybon's father died, leaving his mother with eight children she couldn't care for. As a ward of the state, Rod was passed from institution to institution until he finally ended up at the notorious Bayswater Boys' Home run by the Salvation Army.



Rod endured years of abuse at the hands of the Salvation Army, then spent his life repressing the haunting memories. When he finally spoke out, Rod's story created a nation-wide sensation and won a prestigious award for the journalist who broke it.

That Rod was willing to speak out to try and ease the suffering of others like him, is incredible. That he survived at all, is nothing short of a miracle. *Salvation* is a story of courage and the indomitable Aussie spirit.

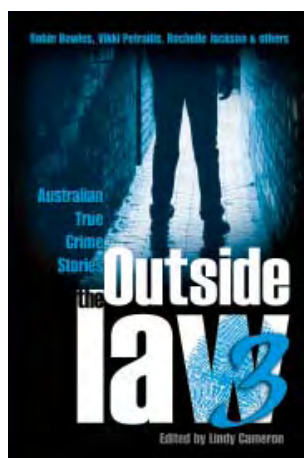
The writing of a book like this can't be an easy task – for the teller or the author. *Salvation* tells this tale in a sympathetic, but not sensationalist way, respectful to the other victims who are also still alive. Working with Vikki, Rod told his personal story... and in this telling there's a sense of this man firstly re-empowering himself...and restarting a life so dreadfully, stupidly, pointlessly diminished. *Karen Chisholm AustCrime*

Salvation is the ninth book by true crime writer **Vikki Petraitis**, author of true crime classic *The Frankston Murders* and *The Phillip Island Murder*.

P Jewel Publishing **C** www.vikkipetraitis.com **B** Bookshops; Author's website & the Clan Destine Book Portal **I** 978 0 9806 2130 3

Some of Australia's best crime writers take you on another trip into the shadows of Australian society.

It's true that number three of this best-selling series features true stories about drug dealers, robbers, child pornographers and murderers...



But in these pages you will also meet those teams and individuals – like cops and other professionals – who fight the bad guys and predators walking our streets; as well as the survivors and other ordinary people who campaign for justice, or just to be heard.

Again, the writers gathered for *Outside the Law* come armed with extra credentials and include: journalists, a broadcaster, a PI, a forensic pathologist, and authors who usually write fiction.

Outside the Law 3, edited by **Lindy Cameron** features true crime stories by authors: **Robin Bowles, Leslie Falkiner-Rose, Liz Filleul, Peter Haddow, Jacqui Horwood, John Kerr, Vikki Petraitis, Dr Shelley Robertson, Narrelle Harris, John Allin, Renee Otmar and Rochelle Jackson.**

This latest offering from some of Australia's foremost crime writers won't disappoint... Fascinating, but not for the faint-hearted. *Melbourne Herald Sun*

P The Five Mile Press **C** www.clandestine-books.com.au **B** Bookshops & the Clan Destine Book Portal **I** 978 1 7421 1588 7

'All that people know about me is that I'm a corrupt cop, shot three men and was a drinking mate of Neddy Smith.'

Roger Rogerson hasn't been a cop for over 20 years, but he's seldom mentioned without the 'detective sergeant'.

One of New South Wales most decorated cops, Rogerson was feared by the army of stick-up merchants of the 1970s, and enjoyed the respect of his colleagues.

But after he shot drug-dealer-and-armed-robber Warren Lanfranchi dead in 1981, his career was dogged by controversy. He was alleged to have supplied drugs, and was accused of assault, attempted bribery and attempted murder. The charges all failed: in court, before court or on appeal. But a charge of perverting the course of justice, regarding a false bank account, succeeded in sending Rogerson to prison.

He's been a hot media topic since the 80's, and Richard Roxburgh portrayed him in the 1995 TV miniseries, *Blue Murder*, which screened nationally; except in NSW where other on-going prosecutions kept it banned until 2001.

Rogerson finally decided to own tell his story, and he's done it his way – by ignoring the host of allegations levelled against him, and sticking to what he knows is the truth.

The Dark Side by **Roger Rogerson** is gripping and often funny memoir. It's the author's own words, and they echo like a copper's. It's 'like listening to him down at the pub'.



P Kerr Publishing **C** www.crimedictionary.com.au **B** Bookshops; Publisher's website & the Clan Destine Book Portal **I** 978 0 9581 2831 5

a passage to Neverland

by Stephen Lord

I have never believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.

I do, however, believe stories give us the strength to get through everyday life in one piece. This is the closest thing I have to a manifesto and I hope it's the only one I'll ever need.

I am not alone in my conviction. Stephen King, one of few popular writers ever to achieve both mass appeal and a degree of critical respect in his own lifetime, once remarked ‘...those lovely figures who dance in the smoke have saved my life from time to time’.

They've saved mine once or twice too, by giving me something to believe in and aspire to when I found the ‘real’ world either lacking or disappointing.

Human beings are storytellers by nature. This ability stems from the need to imagine a meaning, or at least a sense of purpose. Such a unique power, gift and curse in equal measure, is either a quirk of evolution or proof that God (who or whatever it may be) has a very strange sense of humour!

Nowhere do we put this dubious talent to better use than in the realms of the fantastique. I use the French word as an umbrella term for all flavours of fantasy, science fiction and horror because, unlike many overzealous editors, publishers, librarians, book sellers or readers, I see no need to divide them into separate categories. They each involve building worlds that are shadows or reflections of one we recognise and they each depend on a willing suspension of disbelief for their narrative conceits to work.

Are the ‘scientific romances’ of Jules Verne or HG Wells so far removed from the (albeit allegorical) escapism of CS Lewis’ Narnia or JRR Tolkien’s Middle Earth that they don’t require a similar leap of imagination?

Not at all, because every story, whatever its genre, begins in the same place. Neil Gaiman, in his *Books of Magic* series, explains:

‘There are only two worlds – your world, which is the real world, and the other worlds, the fantasy. Worlds like this are worlds of the human imagination: their reality, or lack of reality, is not important. What is important is that they are there. These worlds provide an alternative. Provide an escape. Provide a threat. Provide a dream, and power; provide refuge, and pain. They give your world meaning. They do not exist; and thus they are all that matters. Do you understand?’

Gaiman speaks these words through Titania, queen of Faerie. Habitual rationalists and that particular species of adult who thinks grown-up has to be a synonym for boring, insist our adventures in this enchanted land are mere trifles to be outgrown and discarded with the coming of age, like the childish things St Paul boasts about putting away. They couldn’t be more wrong. Regular visits to the realm we know as Neverland, Eden, Faerie or Make-Believe are not indulgences but necessities to keep us going, keep us dreaming and keep us sane.

Having said all that, I often find the overly-derivative approach to modern fantasy a little *too* escapist. Tolkien’s faux-medieval Middle Earth was an idyllic response to the horrors of war. It found a place in the hearts of the peace and love generation and the many writers who followed its architect’s example, but very little of it resonated with me.

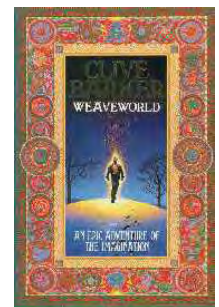
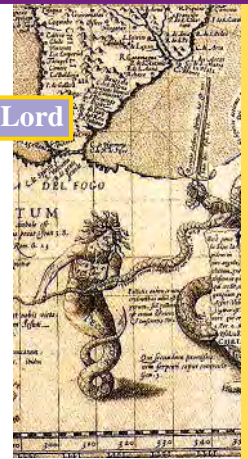
I prefer the sort of book whose dream, nightmare or parallel world exists alongside our own. The temporary and imperfect marriage of the mundane and the miraculous gives the players a point of reference, just as the process of slaying the dragon, completing the quest or rescuing the princess shows them they have abilities and resources they never imagined. Knowledge of these newfound skills gives them confidence to confront and resolve any problems in their everyday lives when they step back through the mirror and have to resume the dreary business of being. That is a true hero’s journey, with lessons and self-discoveries aplenty.

After scaring many critics, and even more readers, silly with six volumes of visionary and visceral horror stories (*The Books of Blood*), Clive Barker’s fiction took an unexpected but very welcome turn toward the fantastique.

In novels like *Weaveworld*, *The Great and Secret Show* and *Imajica*, he maps worlds beneath, between and beyond the one we have been conditioned to accept as real. He opens the eyes and minds of his characters and readers and, in doing so, rails against the arbitrarily-imposed conventions of genre.

I do not consider myself to be a horror writer, any more than I consider myself a fantasy writer or a science fiction writer. I am a writer who works in my imagination. The only difference in the world of literature, it seems to me, is between the guy who writes out of a perceived reality and the guy who creates one for himself.

Champions of quality capital-L literature should note that this single and simple distinction makes no claims of superiority. The ‘perceived reality’ of the realistic human drama, complete with examinations of and insights into the condition of its cast, is no more or less significant than an epic, life and death struggle on the alien shores of



a passage to Neverland

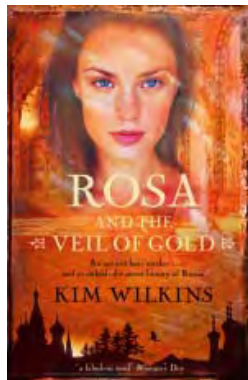
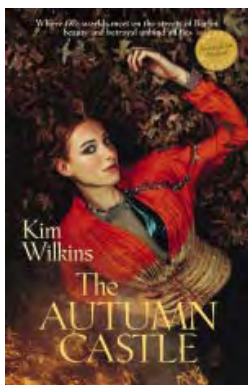
an invented world. Indeed, themes are universal no matter which universe their parent stories occur in.

The final, and perhaps most important, function of the fantastique is to re-imagine and reinvent tales we've told each other since we first learned how to share them.

If, as singer/songwriter Tori Amos suggests, 'mythology is just history that we've forgotten', I can think of no better way to refresh my memory.

Beginning with *The Autumn Castle* in 2003, Australia's own Kim Wilkins set off on her own trek through the dreamscape of European folklore. The three-book Europa Suite (whose other volumes are *Giants of the Frost* and *Rosa and the Veil of Gold*) may draw its inspiration from sources as old as storytelling itself, yet it is fresher and more exciting than many of its contemporaries.

Wilkins makes superb use of established devices – like the quest and the dream voyage from one reality to another – as catalysts for innovative and unforgettable stories. Her intertwining of the real world with the mythical and legendary is powerful and seamless, lingering in the memory long after each adventure ends.



Whether it means a temporary return to the innocence of childhood, a welcome reprieve from the demands of the daily drudge or an overdue escape to a realm whose rules make more sense to us than those of the world we're fated to live in, the lure of the fantastique is immeasurable and inestimable.

As GK Chesterton puts it:

Fairy tales are more than true – not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten.

Stephen Lord lives in Adelaide, where he divides his time between daydreaming and writing moderately supernatural crime fiction. He has not yet learned to fly, but has so far managed to avoid growing up.

'A Passage to Neverland' was written for and first appeared in the July/August 2009 edition of *The Write Angle*.



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The Sentients of Orion series by Marianne de Pierres

While lost and drifting in space a mineral scout discovers an entity so powerful and alien, it can only be described with one word: God.

While many academics from the studiums across Orion scramble to gain the Sole Entity's favour, not all the sentients of Orion hold this god in awe and are deeply suspicious.

Dark Space Onto this grand stage of inter-planetary academic politics, intellectual conceit and dubious theology, walks Baronessa Mira Fedor. Her planet, Araldis, has been invaded by a race of giant tardigrades and she must find a way to save her homeworld.

In her quest to save Araldis, Mira unmasks a galaxy-size intrigue. But will she live long enough to tell anyone?

Chaos Space Mira Fedor seeks aid for Araldis from an Orion League planet, but finds the authorities want to steal her bio-ship, *Insignia*.

Mirror Space Araldis is still under occupation by hostile forces, and with the Orion League of Sentient Species seemingly unable – or unwilling – to help, Mira Fedor is forced to turn to the mercenary captain, Rast Randall, if she is to save her planet.

Deliciously Machiavellian...Brilliant in all senses of the word. *Sean Williams*



Book 1
ISBN-13 978 1 8414 9428 9
ISBN-10 1841 494 283

Transformation Space

~ the series finale ~ is coming in 2010



Book 2
978 1 8414 9429 6
1841 494 291



Book 2
978 1 8414 9760 0
1841 497 606

© www.mariannedepierres.com P Orbit Books

The Sophie Anderson series by PD Martin

Sophie Anderson has an extraordinary life, filled with bodies, crime scenes and gruesome nightmares about her cases...nightmares that often come true. She is an FBI profiler who delves into the twisted minds of killers...but that doesn't explain the dreams.

Body Count kicks off the series, shortly after Aussie Sophie Anderson re-locates to the US and the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit.

In **The Murderers' Club** the clues don't stack up – until a man emerges from the desert with a story of unspeakable evil.

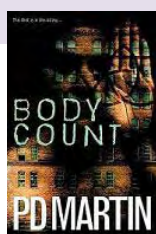
Fan Mail sees Sophie working a case where fiction has become fatal.

A popular crime writer is murdered and posed just like the crime scene in the dead author's last book.

In the **The Killing Hands** Sophie discovers that a killer doesn't always need a weapon – sometimes they are the weapon.

In **Kiss of Death** Special Agent Sophie Anderson must delve into LA's world of real-life vampires to find the answers...and hopefully the killer.

The Silence of the Lambs meets Medium... *Sydney Morning Herald*



Book 1
978 1 4050 3656 6



Book 2
978 1 4050 3759 4



Book 5
978 1 4050 3886 7



Book 3
978 1 4050 3826 3



Book 4
978 1 4050 3902 4

© www.pdmartin.com.au P Pan Macmillan Aus; MIRA: USA, UK, France

The Corinna Chapman series by Kerry Greenwood

Corinna Chapman, baker extraordinaire and somewhat-reluctant amateur sleuth, stars in a delicious new series from the creator of Phryne Fisher.

Gastronomical delights, humour and unexpected twists are the highlights of Kerry's contemporary series which quite naturally features cats, crime, crumpets and cravings.

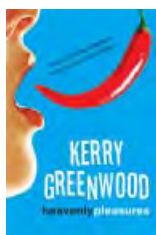
Baking is an alchemical process for Corinna and Earthly Delights, her bakery in Melbourne's Calico Alley, is her domain. But, while no one has less interest in mysteries than Corinna, they seem to be arising spontaneously on her patch.

Whether it's missing girls, witchcraft, Goths, dead bodies, strange cults, spiked chocolates, or Starshine (her own hippie mother), Corinna will always find out exactly what is going on and still manage to bake some beautiful bread. And she'll do it all with flair, chutzpah and a talent for kneading; and all under the watchful eye of her gentleman cat, Horatio.

Kerry Greenwood has created a masterly chick-lit thriller, filled with sensual delights, twists and turns. *Cairns Post*



Book 1
978 1 7411 4236 5



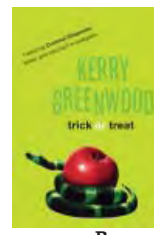
Book 2
978 1 7411 4512 0



Book 5
978 1 7417 5982 2



Book 3
978 1 7411 4710 0



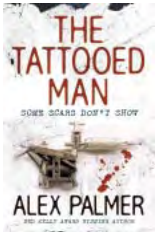
Book 4
978 1 7417 5000 3

© www.earthlydelights.net.au P Allen & Unwin

The Harrigan - Riordan series by Alex Palmer



Book 1
978 0 7322 7131 2



Book 2
978 0 7322 8572 2

Paul Harrigan and Grace Riordan – two individuals whose lives have been marked by violence and who carry those scars with them, even as they seek to resolve the violent actions of others.

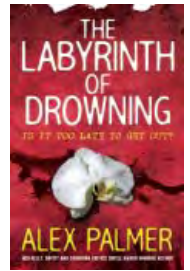
an intelligent and compelling thriller that turns the notions of evil inside out. *Canberra Times*

Blood Redemption Dr Agnes Liu, head of a Sydney womans health clinic, and her husband are gunned down on morning in front of their son, Matthew. Miraculously, Agnes survives; and her son is able to identify his father's killer as a teenage girl.

Paul Harrigan, an ambitious, sometimes ruthless senior policeman, takes control of the case. As his team, including new squad member Grace Riordan, digs deeper, they uncover a history of abuse, corrupt religion and manipulation.

The Tattooed Man Harrigan is in line for a promotion and Grace now works in the shadowy world of undercover intelligence but their cases cross into a world of political corruption and violence.

The Labyrinth of Drowning Harrigan and Riordan are in a race to save themselves from a savage killer, the likes of whom even they have never had to face before.

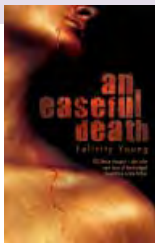


Book 3
978 0 7322 8574 6

Blood Redemption won the **Ned Kelly** for Best First Crime Novel, the **2003 Davitt Award** for Best Crime Novel (jointly with Gabrielle Lord) and the **Canberra Critics Circle Award** for Literature.

HarperCollins Publishers

The Stevie Hooper series by Felicity Young



Book 1
978 1 9207 3113 7



Book 2
978 1 9213 6110 4

Perth Detective Sergeant Stevie Hooper sees the worst of human behaviour as she moves from Western Australia's Serious Crimes Squad to the Cyber Predator Team.

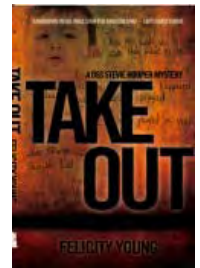
An Easeful Death Someone is killing beautiful young women and taking extraordinary risks to pose their painted bodies in public places.

Hooper discovers the carefully drawn line between her professional and personal life becomes increasingly blurred until she no longer knows who can be trusted.

Harum Scarum DS Stevie Hooper knows that the dumped body of an 11-year-old girl is connected to the paedophile internet site, the Dream Team.

The investigation is threatened by her own squad's inability to control their anger at the perpetrator; Stevie soon fears she may also have a vigilante on her hands.

Take Out When DSS Hooper steps into the empty Pavel house, and someone else's jurisdiction, she upsets more than the ego of a suburban cop. She has breached the defences of a world that has at its rotten heart a ruthless disregard for human life.



Book 3
978 1 9213 6183 8

A pot pourri of police corruption, injustice, tangled emotions, treachery and misunderstanding. *Mary Martin Website*

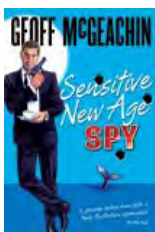
Felicity Young is an intriguing new addition to the upper echelons of Australian thriller writing. *Sun-Herald*

www.felicityyoung.com Fremantle Press

The Alby Murdoch series by Geoff McGeachin



Book 1
978 0 1430 0423 3



Book 2
978 0 1430 0765 4

Alby is a highly competent larrikin...this is the way all spy novels should be written. *crimedownunder.com*

Alby Murdoch is an Australian secret agent and international photographer – a man with a taste for good coffee, fine food and interesting women

D-E-D DEAD! Alby races from Bondi to Bali to the Australian outback on the hunt for his partner's killer and to unravel the dodgy dealing at a top secret military base.

Sensitive New Age Spy An adventurous tale of whales, crazed environmentalists, stolen nukes and a white-collar crim turned pastor to the super rich.

Dead and Kicking Alby is on an adrenalin-charged mission through the streets of Saigon, Hong Kong, Macau and Darwin and into Canberra's corridors of power in pursuit of a war hero missing for 30 years.



Book 3
978 0 7181 0504 4

A genuine action hero, with a truly Australian irreverence. *Sunday Age*

Cheekier than a runway full of g-string models. *Sunday Tasmanian*

Alby is a hero never too good to be true. *Gold Coast Bulletin*

Stay tuned for Geoff's new stand-alone **Diggers Rest Hotel** June 2010

www.geoffreymcgeachin.com Penguin

The Phryne Fisher series by Kerry Greenwood

The fabulous Phryne Fisher – the 1920s most elegant and irrepressible sleuth – is brave, intelligent, gorgeous and adventurous; whether she's catching murderers, foiling kidnappers, seducing beautiful young men, or simply deciding what to wear for dinner.

A force of nature, daredevil Phryne – in her 17 adventures, *so far* – has taken, in her very elegant stride, what might make others quail, including bullets, sexy ex-anarchists, tattooists, circus folk, ghosts, human sacrifices, spirit guides, pirates, and maps to buried treasure; as well as love, lovers, more danger, silken lingerie.

Whether wing-walking a Tiger Moth or driving at speed through Melbourne, Phryne Fisher is as delectable as the finest chocolate and as sharp as razor blades.

With Phryne Fisher, the indefatigable Greenwood has invented the character-you-fall-in-love-with genre. *The Australian*

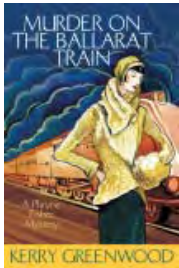
Kerry Greenwood is also the author of:
the Corinna Chapman mysteries;
and the Delphic Women trilogy:
Cassandra, Electra and Medea.



Book 1
978 1 7411 4566 3



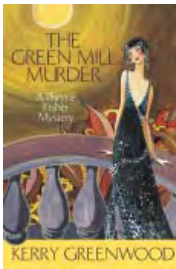
Book 2
978 1 7411 4567 0



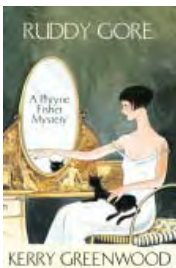
Book 3
978 1 7411 4557 1



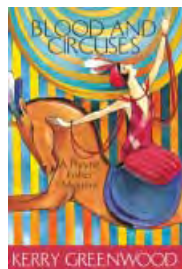
Book 4
978 1 7411 4556 4



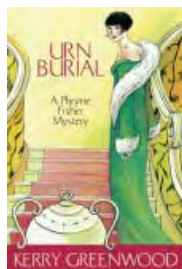
Book 5
978 1 7411 4555 7



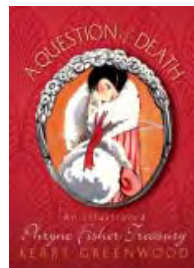
Book 7
978 1 7411 4314 0



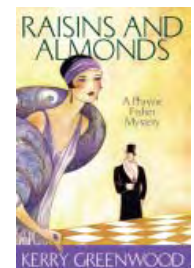
Book 6
978 1 7411 4554 0



Book 8
978 1 7411 4140 5



Treasury
978 1 747 5363 9



Book 9
978 1 8650 8880 8



Book 11
978 1 8650 8489 3



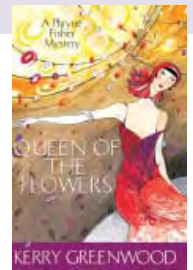
Book 10
978 1 7411 4095 8



Book 12
978 1 8650 8806 8



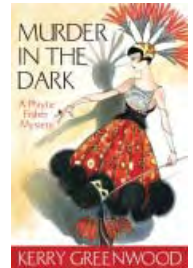
Book 13
978 1 7411 4074 3



Book 14
978 1 7411 4246 4



Book 15
978 1 7411 4552 6



Book 16
978 1 7411 4709 4



Book 17
978 1 7411 4999 9

www.phrynefisher.com

Allen & Unwin

The David Cavanaugh series by Sydney Bauer

Boston defense attorney David Cavanaugh always takes on the unwinnable cases.

Undertow In Cavanaugh's debut, a tragic accident turns into something else entirely, when Rayna Martin, a respected African-American attorney, is charged with murder.

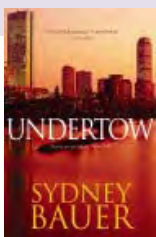
Gospel Cavanaugh's long-time ex-wife asks him to represent her husband in the case of the century: the charge – murder; the victim – the Vice President of the United States.

Alibi It's a high-society case when a heiress is murdered on her father's estate and a wealthy law student is arrested for her murder.

Move To Strike Cavanaugh represents a TV psychologist who has confessed to killing his own wife; Cavanaugh's old law-school friend.

Matter of Trust Buried family secrets, and a seemingly uncatchable killer, plague Cavanaugh and his unlikeliest of allies – the career cop, who is supposed to be working for the prosecution.

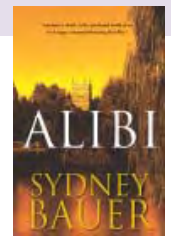
Obvious comparisons with John Grisham are unfair. Unfair to Sydney Bauer. Sydney Bauer is better – much better. *Australian Publisher & Bookseller*



Book 1
978 0 3304 2311 3



Book 2
978 0 3304 2375 5



Book 3
978 1 4050 3848 5



Book 5
978 1 4050 3959 8

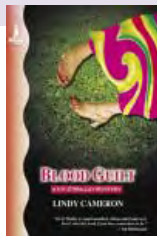


Book 4
978 1 4050 3907 9

Undertow won the 2007 Davitt Award for Best Crime Novel.

www.sydneybauer.com Pan Macmillan

The Kit O'Malley Mysteries by Lindy Cameron



Book 1
978 1 932 8512 6



Book 2
978 1 9328 5916 4

Melbourne private investigator Kit O'Malley has a knack for getting more involved in her cases than she should.

Juggling a new love affair, an eccentric mother, and some loyal but crazy friends who always 'want to help', ex-cop O'Malley always starts with a simple case but ends up in chaos, dealing with murderous spouses, gangland families, stalkers, dodgy politicians and the odd bimbo or three.

Kit O'Malley is smart-mouthed, sharp-witted and sexy. Don't start this book if you have somewhere to be. Val McDermid

Kit O'Malley is resourceful, determined and tough - but she's got more pals than most PIs walking the mean streets, and she's also a lot funnier. Carmel Shute SinC-Oz



Book 3
978 1 9328 5940 9

Bleeding Hearts won the Readers' Vote category of both the the Ned Kelly awards (2001) and the Davitt (2002), and *Thicker Than Water* took out the Davitt Readers' Vote (2004).

Lindy is also the author of the adventrue thriller *Redback*; and co-author of the true crime collections *Killer in the Family* (with Fin J. Ross); and *Women Who Kill* (with Ruth Wykes).

[C www.lindycameron.com.au](http://www.lindycameron.com.au) [B www.clandestine-books.com.au](http://www.clandestine-books.com.au) [P Bywaterbooks USA](http://Bywaterbooks.com)

The Janna Mysteries, a medieval crime series by Felicity Pulman.



Books 1 & 2
IN ONE VOLUME
978 1 7416 6251 1



Book 3
978 1 7416 6290 0

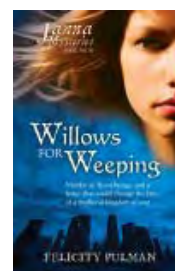
After Janna's mother dies in mysterious circumstances Janna's quest is to find her unknown father and, with his help, bring her mother's murderer to justice.

Set against the turbulent years of the civil war between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda, in the 1140's, this crime series for teenagers follows Janna's journey from forest to farm and abbey and finally to the royal city of Winchester and the heart of the battle for the crown.

Janna encounters mystery, romance, intrigue and treachery in her quest for vengeance, leading to knowledge of her true identity, her destiny and the secrets of her heart.

The plot is excellent ... cleverly designed to leave you guessing (and frantically turning pages) until the very end! Teagan, 15

I really loved the book! It was filled with action, drama and romance...it left me on the edge of my seat. Cara, 15



Book 4
978 1 7416 6250 4

Felicity is also the author of the award-winning time-travel historical fantasy '*Shalott trilogy*' in which five Australian teenagers find themselves in Camelot. *Willows for Weeping* won a youth category Highly Commended in the Society of Women Writers biennial book award.

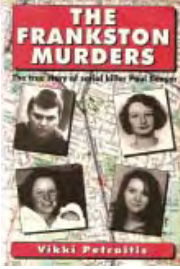
[C www.felicitypulman.com.au](http://www.felicitypulman.com.au) [P Random House Australia](http://RandomHouseAustralia.com)

Stay Tuned

With Genre Flash we celebrate genre fiction in its many and wondrous forms; and look forward to the new or the next in a series from Australia's best genre writers. Coming soon:

Angela Savage	2nd in the Jayne Keeney series:	DOWN BY PATTAYA BAY
Kerry Greenwood	18th in the Phryne Fisher series:	DEAD MAN'S CHEST
Alison Goodman	The Eon / Two Pearls of Wisdom sequel:	EONA
Lindy Cameron	2nd in the Bryn Gideon series:	TRAPDOOR
Robin Bowles	3rd in the Cornelia Finnigan series:	THE SECRET OF THE SILVER SCIMITAR
Christine Darcas	A stand alone	SPINNING OUT
Marianne De Pierres	4th in the Sentients of Orion series:	TRANSFORMATION SPACE
Merrilee Moss	2nd in the Julie Bernard series:	FEDORA DANCES
Marianne Delacourt	2nd in the Tara Sharp series:	SHARP END
Alex Palmer	A stand alone	A BRACELET OF BRIGHT HAIR
Geoff McGeachin	1st in the new Charlie Berlin series:	DIGGERS REST HOTEL
PD Martin	6th in the Sophie Anderson series:	COMING HOME

The true crime of Vikki Petraitis

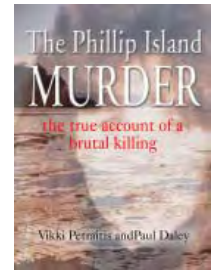


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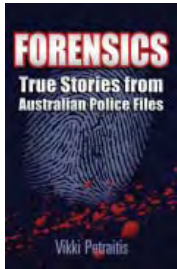
The Frankston Murders The chilling crimes of serial killer Paul Denyer who struck three times on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula in 1993. The book covers the police investigation, Denyer's arrest and trial, and the effect the murders had on the community and the families of the victims.

The Phillip Island Murder The 1986 murder of 23-year-old Beth Barnard – savagely knifed to death in the bedroom of her Phillip Island farmhouse – is a compelling true-life mystery, made all the more intriguing because of the disappearance of another woman on the same day.

Vivienne Cameron, the wife of Beth's lover, vanished without a trace; except for her car, abandoned near the bridge to the mainland.



P Pennon Press
I 187 702 981 5



P The Five Mile Press
I 174 124 080 8

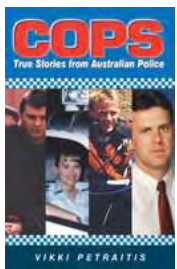
Forensics Stories from the frontline of Australian policing. Officers from Forensics, Fingerprints, Criminal Investigation Units, and Homicide tell some of their most memorable stories.

Forensics and the determination of the cops working on these riveting real-life Australian cases led to the conviction of all the perpetrators.

Crime Scene Investigations In-depth investigations into four of Australia's most notorious cases, portraying the dogged work of individuals: the local heroes in local police departments, forensics, fingerprints, Criminal Investigation Units and Homicide.



P The Five Mile Press
I 978 1 7417 8409 1



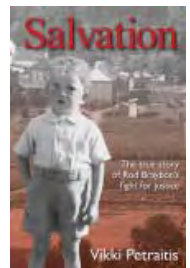
P The Five Mile Press
I 978 1 7412 4608 7

Cops Vikki spent hundreds of hours interviewing police – and even tagged along with them on active duty – to compile this collection of stories from the frontline of policing.

Officers from Fingerprints, Search and Rescue to Homicide, told Vikki their 'best stories' – the ones they'll never forget.

Salvation Rod Braybon endured years of abuse at the hands of the Salvation Army, then spent his life repressing the haunting memories. When he finally spoke out, Rod's story created a nation-wide sensation.

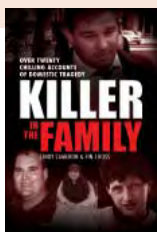
That Rod survived at all, is nothing short of a miracle. That he was willing to speak out to help ease the suffering of others like him, is incredible.



P Jewel Publishing
I 978 0 9806 2130 3

C www.vikkipetraitis.com **B** Bookshops; Author's website & the Clan Destine Book Portal

The true crime of Lindy Cameron, and...

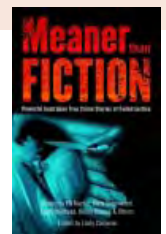


978 1 7421 1521 4

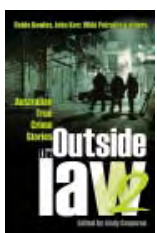
Killer in the Family Two-thirds of Australian homicide victims are killed in their own homes... by someone they know.

Authors **Lindy Cameron & Fin J. Ross** explore the horror of domestic homicide.

Meaner Than Fiction Where is justice in Australia hiding? A book that will outrage and intrigue you, with tales of injustice from some of Australia's top writers: Robin Bowles, Lindy Cameron, Kathryn Deans, Liz Filleul, Kerry Greenwood, PD Martin, Susan Metcalfe, Leigh Redhead, Shelley Robertson & Lucy Sussex.



978 1 7417 8470 1



978 1 7417 8893 8

In **Outside the Law 2 & 3** some of Australia's best crime writers take you on a trip into the shadows of Australian society. In these pages you'll find crooks, killers, robbers, drug dealers and firebugs. But you'll also meet the cops and firefighters who keep us safe.

The writers too have *extra* credentials, and include: journalists, private investigators, mystery and thriller writers, an inquiring nonagenarian, and a forensic pathologist.

John Allin, Robin Bowles, Lindy Cameron, Liz Filleul, Leslie Falkiner-Rose, Peter Haddow, Narrelle M. Harris, Jacqui Horwood, Rochelle Jackson, John Kerr, Renee Otmar, Vikki Petraitis, Dr Shelley Robertson, Syd Wright & Ruth Wykes.



978 1 7421 1588 7



COMING SOON

P The Five Mile Press **C** www.clandestine-books.com.au **B** Good bookshops & the Clan Destine Book Portal

The Retro List



Aussie Jayne Keeney, a PI in Bangkok, finds herself investigating murder in Chiang Mai, when the police seem to have no interest in justice.

Jayne must dig deep – past the tacky glamour of the city's clubs and bars, arrogant expats, corrupt officials, and a steamy affair – to find out what happened behind the Night Bazaar.

Coolly elegant... without sacrificing the requisite violence, corrupt police and edgy social commentary. *Graeme Blundell, Weekend Australian*

Angela's long-awaited sequel, *Down By Pattaya Bay*, is coming in 2010.

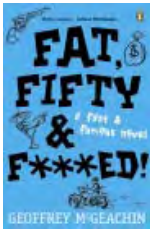
Angela Savage

C www.angelasavage.wordpress.com

B Good bookshops;
Asia Books, Thailand;
Louis Braille Audio

P Text

I 978 1 9211 4522 6



On his 50th birthday, bored and mild-mannered bank manager Martin Carter becomes the hero of his own life when he's suddenly on the run from cops and a cold-blooded assassin.

In a hijacked police car, a motorcycle sidecar and finally a turbo-charged campervan, Martin is running for his life...with only a sexy smart-talking librarian and half a million dollars in stolen cash for company.

...a rib-tickling romp of a novel...wildly imaginative, irreverent, biting funny, beautifully paced and populated by the sort of characters we'd all love to know. *Sunday Tasmanian*

Geoff McGeachin

C www.geoffreymcgeachin.com

B Good bookshops;
Audiobook by Bolinda

P Penguin

I 978 0 1430 0257 4



The Redbacks: a crack team of Australian retrieval agents led by Commander Bryn Gideon.

After tracking down comrades on the lawless Pakistan frontier, the Redbacks stumble across the plans of new terrorist group Atarsa Kára. Meanwhile, an American reporter's story on 'game training' for real war reveals links between his government and known terrorists; and an assassin dispatches people on his hit list. It's soon a race against time to unravel a crazy conspiracy to fuel war everywhere.

Redback is comprehensively imagined, packed with incident and detail, and is more absorbing and more vividly written than most of its ilk. *The Age*

Lindy Cameron

C www.lindycameron.com

B the Clan Destine Book Portal
www.clandestine-books.com.au

I 978 1 7411 6572 2



Lissa Wilson has seen more than enough death in her family, so when people start getting savagely killed whenever she has a night out in Melbourne with her new boyfriend, she's determined to investigate and make the killing stop. Even when she realises the murders must be the work of a vampire.

Lissa teams up with the awkward Gary to get to the undead heart of the matter, and finds there are more challenges in store than Gary's appalling fashion sense. For a start, the idea of living forever is a big temptation for someone who has lost so much.

An absolute humdinger of a novel. *Prudence Russell, Arealis*

Narrelle M. Harris

C www.narrellemharris.com

B Good bookshops

P Pulp Fiction

I 978 0 9751 1292 2



Hannie Reynard used her film grant to party in Paris. Back in Melbourne, she is 'blackmailed' by grant auditor Mosson Ferret. Together they try to track down the subject of Hannie's documentary – Regina Wilcox, the 'Rabbit Woman' of Melbourne.

But Regina is on the run from hitman Trojan Carmichael, hired to kill all the rabbit women in Australia. It's up to Hannie and Mosson to expose the conspiracy.

A crime thriller with a dark twist of humour, this is a cross-genre rollercoaster of excitement and violent action, with a uniquely Australian flavour.

A mesmerizing read that grabs you in the gut from the very first page and never lets go. *Mindunbound.com*

Alison Goodman

C www.alisongoodman.com.au

B Amazon.com or
Alison's website

P Bantam Books USA

I 978 0 5535 9011 1



Glenroyd Ladies college has a reputation to protect – and a charred corpse in the grounds.

A grisly murder is the last thing Senior Sgt Cam Fraser needs when he returns to the sleepy Australian town of his youth to recover from the loss of his own family.

The investigation soon forces him to confront the layers of secrecy in the Outback community; and when another fire rips through the evidence, Cam is already in more danger than he could ever imagine.

Felicity Young

C www.felicityyoung.com

B Online Bookstores

P Crème de la Crème Books UK

I 978 0 9547 6344 2



'Sex, silence and sin,' is what newly-appointed anthropology professor Dee P. Scrutari writes in her notebook about the tribe of non-reproducing males who dominate St Judes, a prestigious Catholic liberal arts college.

What happened to the previous occupant of her freshly painted office? There are disturbing odours that no air cleanser will disperse, turbulent faculty meetings, tenure politics, secret student alliances, predatory priests, a radical mass and a dissident feminist liturgy.

'Evil,' Dee declares, 'is visceral, pervasive, subtle, not an abstract conceit at all'.

Diane Bell

B www.spinifexpress.com
online bookshops

P Spinifex Press

I 978 1 8767 5655 0

e-book also available



When the ghostly Fedora interrupts Julie Bernard's coffee in a Brunswick Street cafe, Julie's life is set to change.

An out-of-work private investigator, Julie is seduced by Fedora's French accent and beautiful hats, but soon discovers that wearing gorgeous millinery is a dangerous activity.

Fedora Walks is a laugh-out-loud, satirical take on lesbian crime fiction, with a spectacular mix of fantasy and otherworldly theatricals.

The long-awaited sequel, *Fedora Dances*, is on the way.

Merrilee Moss

- C** the Clan Destine Book Portal
- B** www.clandestine-books.com.au
- I** 978 1 8767 5604 8

The Jane Doe paranormal mystery series.

Senior Detective Jane Doe is a Melbourne cop, who heads a team that specialises in investigating high profile murders.



BOOK 1
978 1 9213 1403 2

Following a near-death experience from a head injury, Jane has developed an ability to see the ghosts of murder victims. Her dilemma is how to use this new talent, without letting the police force know.

Flowers from the Grave Jane Doe, head of Melbourne Homicide, is recovering in an isolated seaside cottage from the near-fatal injuries inflicted by a serial killer, when her life takes a decidedly ghostly turn.

Severance Package In the otherwise peaceful town of Sunbury, Detective Jane Doe is on the hunt for a killer after the grizzly discovery of a dismembered body at a local winery. She gets help from the ghost of one of the victims; but, as each of his body parts are found, his ghost begins to disappear.

Haunted Heart, Book 3 in the Jane Doe series, will be out soon.

Wendy Laing

- C** www.wendylaing.com
- B** www.readerseden.com
amazon.com
Author's website
- P** Reader's Eden



BOOK 2
978 1 9213 1401 8

A superb collection of rivetting crime fiction stories culled from the trophy and category winners of the annual **Sisters in Crime Australia Scarlet Stiletto** short story competition.

Twenty-six stories, from the first 13 years of the Scarlet Stiletto Awards, will chill your spine, test your deductive skills, or make you laugh out loud.

The First Cut naturally includes the Scarlet Stiletto winners – 13 First Prize stories by only nine women. Four trophy winners were 'repeat offenders'.

They are given solid back-up by a team of 13 category winners who were awarded second, third, or young writer's prizes; or won with their malice domestic or police procedural, or their stories in verse or with humour.

Scarlet Stiletto: The First Cut is a truly diverse collection of murder and mystery, where solving the crime carries only a little more weight than getting away with it.

The stories reveal evidence of the twisted, the nefarious, the dark and the sinister; but mostly expose the guilty pleasure of the perfectly executed crime ... story.

It also begs the question: Why do so many women want to get away with murder?



Sisters in Crime Australia

- C** www.sistersincrime.org.au
- B** Sisters in Crime Melbourne events;
the SinC-Oz website;
the Clan Destine Book Portal:
www.clandestine-books.com.au
- I** 978 1 7411 6556 2

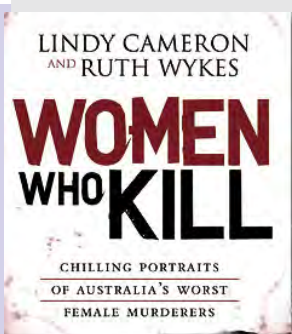
Coming Soon

It's chilling to think there are women amongst us who kill simply because they can. Women who kill not because they're threatened, not because they're broken, not because they've been hurt and abused – but just because they want to.

Women Who Kill explores over a dozen murders in Australia and New Zealand, where women have taken the lives of loved ones and strangers for the thrill of it.

True crime writers **Lindy Cameron** and **Ruth Wykes** examine the evidence and look inside the hearts and minds of women who end the lives of others because it gives them power, because it arouses them, because human life has no value, because the victim had something they wanted.

Take a trip into the dark and forbidding worlds of Catherine Birnie, Tania Herman, Irene Maslin, Kath Knight, Vicky Efandis, Shirley Withers, Valerie Parashumti and other women killers.

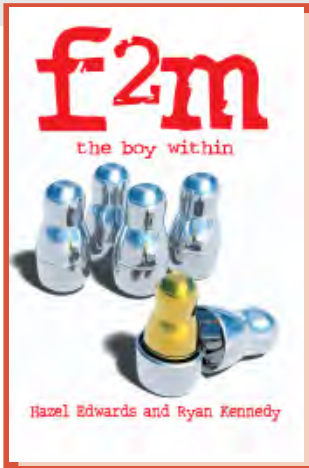


Release date: May 2010

f2m: the boy within is an international first in YA fiction because one of the co-writers is a trans author.

A compassionate, candid and funny 'coming of age' via punk music and family history genetic clues,

f2m is the story of Skye and her gender transition from female to male.



Release date: February 2010

All adolescents face the quest for identity, but gender change can make things even more complicated.

Skye plays guitar in the all-female Chronic Cramps punk band but now she's presenting as a male, called Finn. With help from bemused mates and family who don't want to lose a daughter, but who love their teenager, Finn is transitioning.

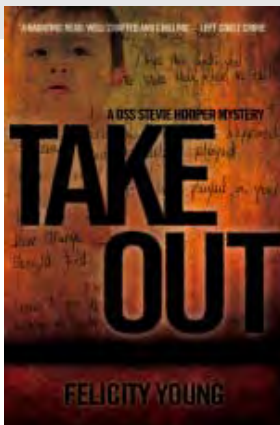
f2m: the boy within is also a creative collaboration – via Skype plotting – between first-time author **Ryan Kennedy**, and prolific (200 books) YA and childrens' author **Hazel Edwards**.

While the story is not autobiographical, Ryan has undergone gender reassignment. Now New Zealand-based, **Ryan** lived as female until his transition to male at the age of 27.

Hazel is a 2010 Astrid Lindgren Award nominee; and she has known 34-year-old Ryan since he was an 11-year-old girl.

P Ford Street Publishing **C** www.ryanscottkennedy.com www.hazeledwards.com **B** Good bookshops **I** 978 1 8764 6290 1

A deserted house. The remains of an unfinished meal. An unexpected find. A routine police investigation going nowhere.



Release date:
February 2010

When DSS Stevie Hooper, of the Sex Crimes Unit, steps into the empty Pavel house – and someone else's jurisdiction – she upsets more than the ego of a struggling suburban cop.

She breaches the defences of a world that has, at its rotten heart, a ruthless disregard for human life.

With her own family in crisis, a case like this is the last thing Hooper needs. And she is about to discover that those who cross the Mamsan do so at their own peril.

Take Out is the 3rd book in the Stevie Hooper series by **Felicity Young**.

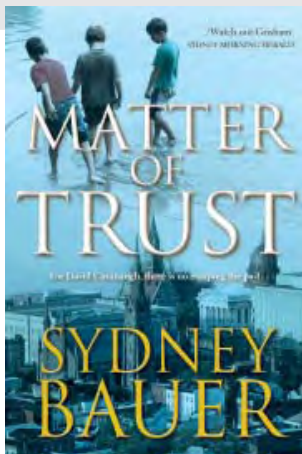
A haunting read, well crafted and chilling Left Coast Crime

Another skin-tight DSS Stevie Hooper Investigation Carmel Shute Sisters in Crime Australia

Take Out is the next sure-to-be-successful book featuring protagonist DS Stevie Hooper Bookseller & Publisher Summer Edition

P Fremantle Press **C** www.felicityyoung.com **B** Good bookshops **I** 978 1 9213 6183 8

Boston attorney David Cavanaugh reluctantly agrees to return home to Newark to help his childhood friend, and now US Senator, Chris Kincaid, locate 'the girl he used to love'. For Cavanaugh, home is also where his older brother, Sean, has a long-held grudge to settle.



Release date: March 2010

What starts as a favour to a friend soon turns into a major homicide investigation, when a woman's bruised and battered body is hauled from the freezing waters of the Passaic.

Marilyn is dead, Kincaid is charged with her murder, and Cavanaugh faces the harrowing responsibility of defending one childhood friend accused of killing another.

Buried family secrets, devastating lies and a seemingly uncatchable killer, plague Cavanaugh and his unlikely ally – the career cop, who is supposed to be working for the prosecution.

Worse still, Cavanaugh soon discovers that proving Kincaid's innocence is linked directly to another mistake made by someone very close to him, many years before...

Matter of Trust is Book 5 in the David Cavanaugh series by **Sydney Bauer**.

P Pan Macmillan **C** www.sydneybauer.com **B** Good Bookshops **I** 978 1 4050 3959 8