



ILLUMINATE

LONDON 2024 RIGHTS GUIDE

ROMANCE AND DIGITAL FIRST

CONTENTS

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

HISTORICAL ROMANCE

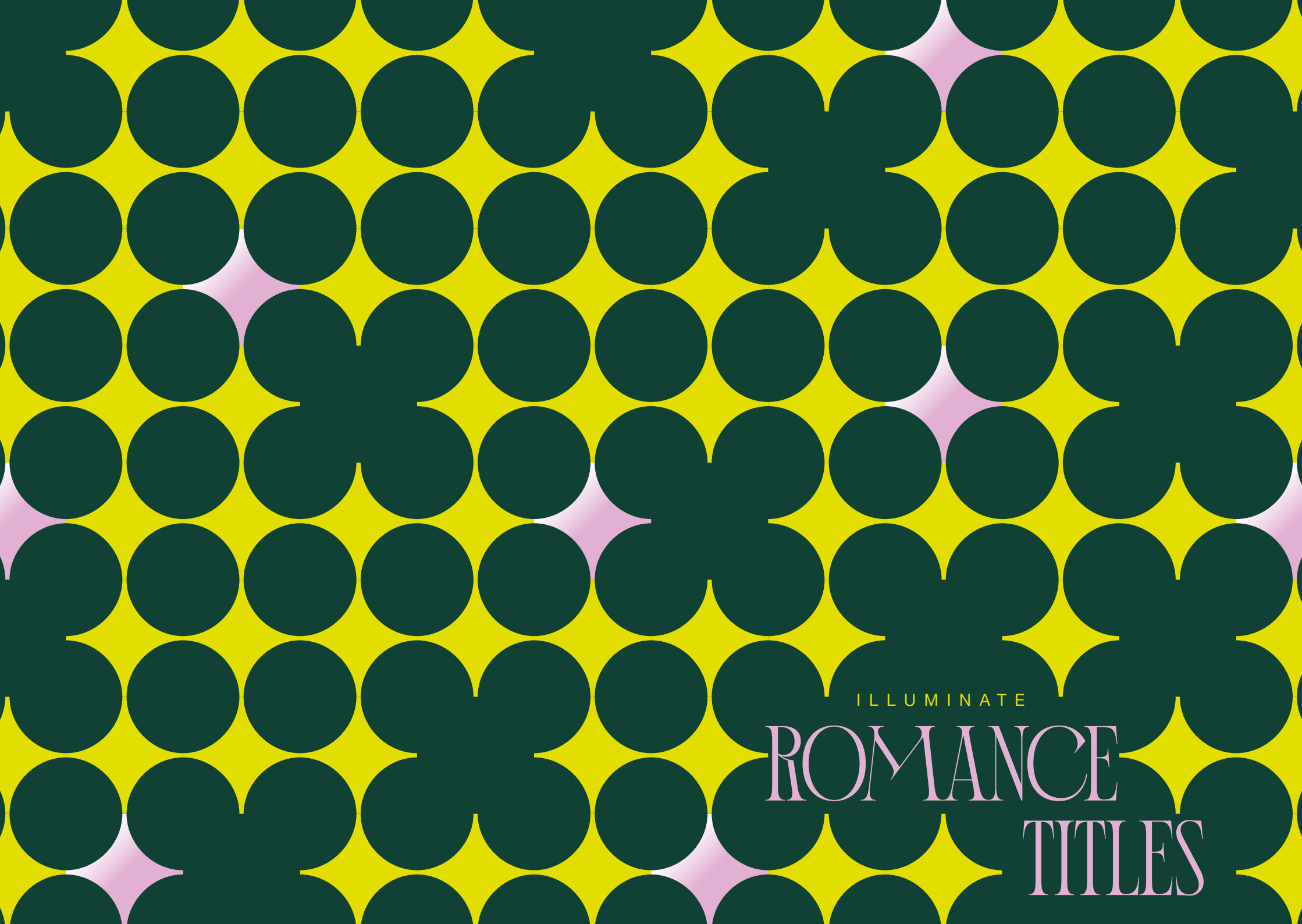
DIGITAL FIRST

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in any of the titles in this Rights Guide or would like further information, please contact us:

Elizabeth O'Donnell
Head of International Rights and Business Development
HarperCollins Publishers (ANZ)
t: +61 2 9952 5475
e: elizabeth.odonnell@harpercollins.com.au

HarperCollins Publishers Australia
Level 13, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A565, Sydney South NSW 1235
AUSTRALIA



ILLUMINATE

ROMANCE

TITLES

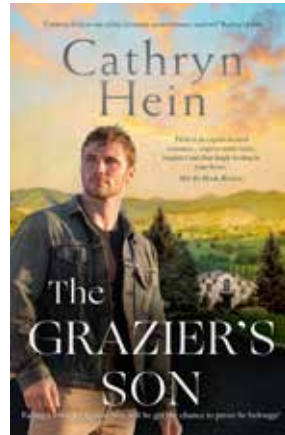
THE GRAZIER'S SON

CATHRYN HEIN

When taking up an unexpected inheritance with an unhappy past, newcomer Stirling is daunted to find a town set against him. Except, perhaps, for one sassy, big-hearted woman, who is willing to give him a chance to prove he belongs.

Manuscript available

April 2024 | 400pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN 9781867299363



When helicopter pilot Stirling Hawley travels to Grassmoor in Victoria's lush Western District to claim an inheritance, he doesn't expect to face a town that hates him.

Nor does he anticipate being saved from near-death by glamorous vintage clothing designer Darcy Sloane. Or that she'll take a personal interest in his recovery. But Grassmoor and Westwind, the historic mansion Stirling inherited from the father he never knew, prove full of surprises.

The more Stirling digs into his father's life, the more uneasy he becomes. Behind Dougal Kildare's respectable stock agent and farmer veneer was a man of secrets. While the fraud that devastated the community and led to Dougal's tragic death is one, there are others. And such things never stay buried forever ...

As Stirling's suspicions about Dougal's death grow, danger creeps ever closer. Until it's not only Stirling's life in peril but the woman he's come to love.

PRAISE

'The story is fun and the romance is a slow burn ... Cathryn Hein combines her love of romance and her love of cooking to give her readers yet another unmissable rural romance story.'
– *Burgeoning Bookshelf*

'Cathryn Hein is one of my favourite authors and her rurals are always sweet with a bit of a sassy twist.' – *1girltoomanybooks*

Cathryn Hein is a best-selling author of rural romance and romantic adventure novels, an RWA Ruby award finalist, and a regular Australian Romance Reader Awards finalist. Her romances are warm and emotional, and feature themes that don't flinch from the tougher side of life but are often happily tempered by the antics of naughty animals. Her aim is to make you smile, sigh, and perhaps snuffle a little, but most of all feel wonderful. Cathryn lives in Newcastle, NSW, with her partner of many years.

Rights Held: World English and translation

DOWN THE TRACK

STELLA QUINN

Digging up the past isn't easy ... Sweet, funny and feel-good, unmissable romance from the bestselling author of A Home Among the Snow Gums and The Vet From Snowy River.

Manuscript available

June 2024 | 400pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN 9781867255710



Dr Joanne Tan is an expert in a lot of things. Love isn't one of them.

Being thirty-something, broke, divorced, and in a cold war with her twelve-year-old son is a lot, but Jo's handling it. Just. At least, she is until her job at the Natural History Museum is in jeopardy. An invitation to dig up dinosaur bones on a remote Queensland sheep station arrives at just the right time.

It's not her first trip to Yindi Creek, but it's not as though anyone will remember her from fifteen years ago ... And by anyone, of course, she means the pilot she had that fling with. The fling that taught her she's far safer sticking to science ...

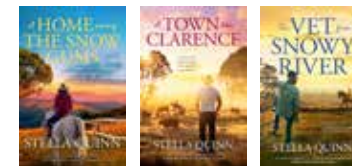
Gavin "Hux" Huxtable, helicopter pilot and reluctant sheep-shearer, has turned his broken heart into a secret (and successful) writing career. But running into Jo again, all these years down the track, stirs up a lot more than outback country dust.

A missing person, a fossilised legbone, and a nosy country cop force Jo and Hux together and the sparks that start flying don't go unnoticed by the locals ...

Digging up the past isn't easy. Digging up the truth can be even harder.

'Quinn's warm tone, gentle humour and all-pervasive kindness shines throughout *A Home Among the Snow Gums*; it's a lively gallop with endearing characters and a satisfying ending that leaves a spring in your step.' – *Better Reading*

ALSO BY
STELLA QUINN



Stella Quinn has had a love affair with books since she first discovered the alphabet. She lives in sunny Queensland now, but has lived in England, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea. Boarding school in a Queensland country town left Stella with a love of small towns and heritage buildings (and a fear of chenille bedspreads and meatloaf!) and that is why she loves writing rural romance. Stella is a keen scrabble player, she's very partial to her four kids and anything with four furry feet, and she is a mediocre grower of orchids. An active member of Romance Writers of Australia, Stella has won their Emerald, Sapphire and Valerie Parv Awards, and finaled in their R*BY Romantic Book of the Year award.

Rights Held: World English and translation

SECRETS OF RIVERSIDE

MANDY MAGRO

Can love conquer all? A moving story of overcoming the past and second chances from bestselling Australian romance author Mandy Magro.

Manuscript available

May 2024 | 304pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN 9781867264637

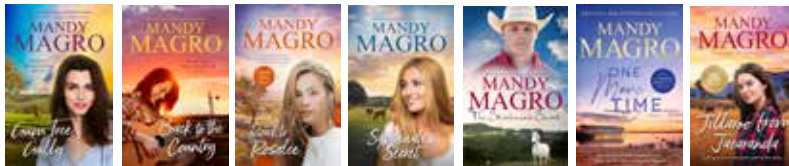
**Can their love heal the shadows of the past?**

After losing her family in a tragic fire when she was a child, Amelia Price has battled to put the shattered pieces of her life back together. Even so, she's never felt like she belongs anywhere, and she longs for stability and love. When a mysterious letter turns up at her apartment with hints that she'll uncover the truth behind what happened all those years ago if she goes to the sleepy, picturesque town of Riverside, she sets off on a journey to tropical Far North Queensland.

Jarrah King owns and runs the Riverside Roadhouse. He loves the simpleness of country living, and the fact it gives him complete anonymity. Over the years he's made a life for himself under a new name, however his past has never stopped haunting him.

When a sassy blonde takes up the new cook position, he can't help but be drawn to her vivacious personality. But he can tell there's also pain hiding underneath her bubbly facade and he longs to erase those shadows. However, lowering his defences to let her in may risk his new identity, as well as everything he holds dear.

Can Amelia show him that love is worth the risk? Or will the secrets of their entwined past tear them apart forever?

ALSO BY
MANDY
MAGRO

Mandy Magro lives in Cairns, Far North Queensland, with her fiancé, Des, their daughter, Chloe Rose, and their two adorable pooches, Sophie and Sherlock. With pristine aqua-blue coastline in one direction and sweeping rural landscapes in the other, she describes her home as heaven on earth. A passionate woman and a romantic at heart, Mandy loves writing about soul-deep love, the Australian way of life, and the wonderful characters who call the country home.

Rights Held: World English and translation

SILVERTON SHORES

MANDY MAGRO

Will they get a second chance or will it be goodbye forever? An emotional and heartfelt romance from bestselling Australian author Mandy Magro.

Manuscript available July 2024

October 2024 | 304pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN 9781867264651



Jessica Sabatini had everything she ever wanted until a tragic accident only hours before her wedding sent her world spinning out of control. In a haze of grief, she ran as far from Silverton Shores as she could.

It took her a long time to put the pieces of her world back together, but now she's a devoted mum to her young daughter, Chiara, and adores her job at her grandfather's renowned restaurant, Sabatini's, in Florence. But the secret that's gnawed at her all these years refuses to leave her alone. When her best friend and brother ask her to return for their wedding, Jessica is torn. Has enough time passed so she can find the strength to face the truth? She knows the heart of it lies in Silverton Shores, along with Morgan Savage, the man she once loved so deeply ...

When Jess left him behind, Morgan thought he'd never get over her. The only way he could move on was to completely cut her from his life. Until now. He's honoured to be the best man at his best mate's wedding but with Jessica as maid of honour, how is he going to face her?

When the wedding brings them into one another's lives once more, will it be the final chance to lay their broken hearts to rest? Or will it reignite all the passion, as well as reveal the secrets that have stood between them for all these years?

PRAISE

'If you're looking for the perfect romance to curl up with, you can't go past *Jillaroo from Jacaranda*. Steamy, heartfelt and quintessentially Australian, this was an absolute delight.' – *Better Reading*

'The land is always a key feature in Mandy Magro's books and *Jillaroo from Jacaranda* is set to a spectacular Aussie landscape ... A staple summer read.' – *Mrs B's Book Reviews*

Mandy Magro lives in Cairns, Far North Queensland, with her fiancé, Des, their daughter, Chloe Rose, and their two adorable pooches, Sophie and Sherlock. With pristine aqua-blue coastline in one direction and sweeping rural landscapes in the other, she describes her home as heaven on earth. A passionate woman and a romantic at heart, Mandy loves writing about soul-deep love, the Australian way of life, and the wonderful characters who call the country home.

Rights Held: World English and translation

SUNSHINE THROUGH THE RAIN

PENELOPE JANU

For readers of Karly Lane, Fleur McDonald, Maya Linnell and Rachael Johns - a heartfelt and fresh rural romance about trust, hope and finding your place in life from an award winning and much loved author.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 368pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN: 9781867270928



Country vet Primrose Cartwright knows more about heartache than most but in the close-knit community of Ballimore, she's found a place to call home. Prim has her work and the love of her sisters, and she doesn't need anything else – certainly not Blake Sinclair.

The new vet in town, Scotsman Blake has a love-them-and-leave-them reputation. He is curiously protective of Prim, but his privileged upbringing and jet-set life are nothing like her own. Prim has tried – and failed – at the dating game. Even if there's a burning attraction between them, the last man she could ever trust is Blake.

Blake finds Prim fiercely independent, vulnerable, and unlike any other woman he has ever known. But Prim won't tell him her secrets unless he tells her his own, and Blake's pain is buried deep.

Will Prim's determination to unravel the mystery that threatens her career bring Prim and Blake together or tear them apart? As the storm clouds gather, can Prim and Blake confront their painful pasts and create a future together? Will they find the sunshine through the rain?

ALSO BY
PENELOPE JANU



Penelope Janu lives on the coast in northern Sydney with six wonderful children and a distracting husband. A lawyer for many years, she has a passion for social justice, and the natural environment.

Rights Held: World English and translation

TALK TO THE HEART

RACHAEL JOHNS

How hard can it be to resist temptation?

Manuscript available

November 2023 | 432pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN: 9781867220251



Adeline Walsh never thought she would give up her worldly possessions – her iPhone, her make-up and even her successful life as a dog breeder – to join a convent on the other side of the country. But after the discovery of a shocking family secret she feels called to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Life at the Smallton convent is nothing like Adeline expected. The other sisters quickly become like family and Adeline feels like she's found her place in the world. Until she meets Holden Campbell, a man as tempting as the devil himself.

Due to a devastating accident in his past, Holden is not interested in any relationship or even a friendship with Adeline, but when their dogs keep bringing them together, he reluctantly accepts her help to organise a charity event. An accidental kiss tests both their resolves, but they are determined to fight the attraction raging between them.

Holden doesn't believe in love and Adeline isn't going to risk everything she's just found. Can they resist each other while continuing to work on a cause they both passionately believe in?

An emotional and uplifting story about overcoming your past from bestselling author Rachael Johns.

ALSO BY
RACHAEL JOHNS



Rachael JoŪs, an English teacher by trade and a mum 24/7, is the bestselling ABIA-winning author of *The Patterson Girls* and a number of other romance and women's fiction books including *The Art of Keeping Secrets*, *The Greatest Gift* and *Lost Without You*. She is currently Australia's leading writer of contemporary relationship stories around women's issues, a genre she has coined 'life-lit'. Rachael lives in the Perth hills with her hyperactive husband, three mostly gorgeous heroes-in-training and a very badly behaved dog. She rarely sleeps and never irons.

Rights Held: World English and translation

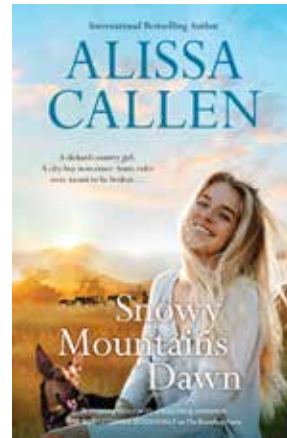
SNOWY MOUNTAINS DAWN

ALISSA CALLEN

A diehard country girl. A city-boy newcomer. Some rules were meant to be broken ...
Opposites attract in this delightful rural romance, set in charming small-town Bundilla.

Manuscript available

February 2024 | 432pp | 234x153mm
 Paperback | ISBN: 9781867215875



Horsewoman Brenna Lancaster has no time for relationships. Unless a man looks good on a horse and lets her call the shots, she isn't interested. She'd rather wear a dress and heels than give someone else power over her life.

Finance guru Wyatt Killian is a self-made man who has left the train wreck of his childhood behind. There is zero room in his workaholic world for downtime and distractions, let alone emotions or country girls.

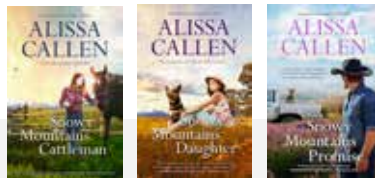
When Wyatt's corporate horse-riding retreat is led by a woman determined to unplug him from his urban life, it isn't just his laser focus that becomes compromised. Being in a saddle unlocks a part of himself that he'd long ago discarded. In a rare moment of nostalgia, he prolongs his stay in the high country.

After Brenna becomes mired in a family secret that involves a historic feud and bushrangers, she has no choice but to involve Wyatt in the search for answers. But as Wyatt's past collides with his future, and the only home Brenna has known comes under threat, both must decide what they need to let go of and what is worth fighting for.

PRAISE FOR ALISSA CALLEN:

'Snowy Mountains Promise is a delightfully charming rural story about love and healing. If you love rural romance, electrifying chemistry and page-turning prose, this is the book for you.' – *Better Reading*

ALSO BY
 ALISSA CALLEN



Alissa Callen is a country girl happiest living far from the city fringe. She draws inspiration from the countryside around her and from the resilience of local bush communities. Once a teacher and a counsellor, she remains interested in the life journeys that people take. Alissa lives with her family on a small slice of rural Australia in NSW.

Rights Held: World English and translation

THE LAWSON LEGACY

JANET GOVER

Beloved key characters from *The Lawson Sisters* return in a standalone rural romance about motherhood, family traditions and having the courage to chart a new future. A new novel from an internationally award-winning romance author.

Manuscript available

January 2024 | 400pp | 234x153mm
 Paperback | ISBN: 9781867230069



Kayla Lawson believes nothing is good unless it's perfect. This search for perfection has made her a successful high-end wedding planner. But all that comes crashing down when Kayla discovers she is pregnant. She retreats to the sanctuary of Willowbrook Stud to consider this imperfect future as a single mother.

Connor Knight has never known perfection. A kid from the wrong side of the tracks and a motorcycle gang member, he's no stranger to trouble with the law. But he's trying to leave that past behind. By giving a run-down pub in Scone a new lease on life, he's hoping to rebuild his own.

At Willowbrook, Kayla is reunited with her childhood best friend. Jen and her two kids have come to stay while her husband is awaiting trial for a crime he didn't commit. While struggling to decide her future, Kayla is suddenly exposed to what motherhood really looks like.

When she meets Connor there's instant chemistry between them that can't be denied. But with her plans in tatters around her, is there any way to make the pieces fit? Or are the obstacles in front of them insurmountable?

ALSO BY
 JANET GOVER



WINNER RWA (AUST)
 RUBY 2023

Janet Gover grew up in outback Australia, surrounded by wide open spaces, horses ... and many, many books. When her cat lets her actually sit in her chair, she writes stories of strong women, rural communities and falling in love. Her novel *Little Girl Lost* won the Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award presented by the Romantic Novelists' Association in the UK, and she has won or been shortlisted for awards in Australia and the USA. The author of 15 published novels, Janet divides her time between West London and Australia.

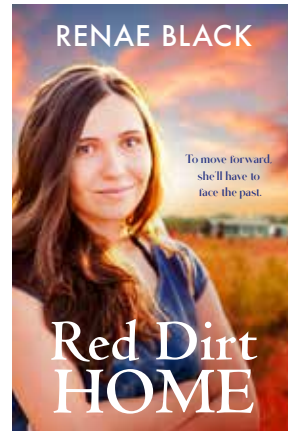
Rights Held: World English and translation

RED DIRT HOME

RENAE BLACK

To move forward, she'll have to face the past.**Manuscript available**

March 2024 | 300pp | 234x153mm
 ISBN: 9781867299745



Paige Bennett is fulfilling her childhood dream of working and living on the land as a station hand on Whitetail Ridge. Getting her hands dirty, riding horses, working with cattle and kicking up red dust. Life can't get much better. Or so she thinks, until a devastating act of violent betrayal leaves her unemployed, homeless and broken.

A fight with his father drove Jackson Brady off Karilga, his family's cattle station in the Queensland outback. Now he's made a life for himself away from the land, joining a band and settling into the city. When the girl he's always had his eye on shows up with news from back home, he's faced with a difficult choice: go home where he's needed or stay where he's wanted.

Winding up on Karilga Station, Paige is a shadow of the person she once was. Desperate to forget what happened to her, she considers leaving her beloved channel country. But things aren't so easily forgotten in the outback. When fate gives her no option but to trust again, will she find love as well? Or at least a safe place to land?

Jackson knows he's never been more to Paige than a country larrikin who only takes the beer at the end of the day seriously – a sentiment closely echoed by his father. Can Jackson prove himself to his father and become the man Paige needs him to be? Or will it all crumble in the red dirt of the outback?

A heartfelt, deeply emotional story about finding home, facing the past and falling in love, from a captivating new voice in rural romance.

Renae Black lives in Queensland with her husband and two young bookworms. By day she works as a social worker within the child protection industry. By night, she escapes to the romantic fictional realms of rural Australia that transport her back to her childhood home, a large property that bred cattle and hosted the odd ostrich sale.

Rights Held: World English and translation

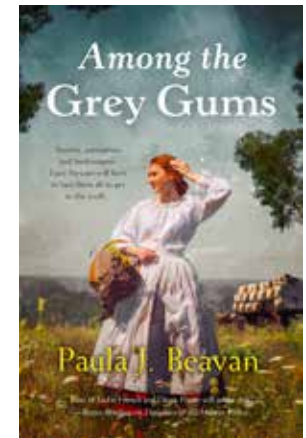
AMONG THE GREY GUMS

PAULA J. BEAVAN

A woman must track down a murderer to save her brother from the hangman's noose ...
A rollicking and entertaining historical mystery, filled with adventure and romance from the Australian author of *Daughter of the Hunter Valley*.

Manuscript available

June 2024 | 336pp | 234x153mm
 Paperback | ISBN 9781867286370



1842, Hunter Valley: Lucy Stewart's life turns chaotic when she finds herself caught up in a murder investigation in order to save her brother-in-law, Joe, from the hangman's noose. Constable Sam Donovan believes the accusations levelled at Joe Stewart are suspicious at best and feels compelled to work with Lucy to find the real killer. Getting to know this fiercely independent woman in the process is a bonus.

Their pursuit brings them to the attention of the notorious Smokey Gang, and when Lucy is ambushed on a deserted bush track and threatened, they realise they must be getting close to finding out what is really going on in the Valley.

Life has taught Lucy the hard way not to rely on anyone, but Lucy needs Sam's sleuthing skills. However, she has secrets in her past, the kind that once revealed change everything, and the only way she can find out if she can place her confidence in him, is to trust him. And that's the hard part...

Bushrangers, corruption and cover-ups, it's a perilous journey to the truth ...

PRAISE FOR PAULA J. BEAVAN:

'Set against an untamed natural landscape with an incredible heroine at its heart, *Daughter of the Hunter Valley* is a spectacular piece of historical fiction. Fans of Jackie French and Darry Fraser will adore this.' – *Better Reading*

'An enjoyable read with great characters and a setting that I haven't read too much in stories set during this time.'
 – *1girltoomanybooks*

ALSO BY
 PAULA J.
 BEAVAN



An avid reader from childhood, Paula J Beavan grew up on a small property in the Hunter Valley, riding horses, mustering cattle and listening to the tales of local farriers, cattlemen and farmers. Her love of the land and its history together with a curiosity about the challenges faced by the pioneering women of the region led her to seek out stories of the area's early European settlers. Serendipitously, she discovered a family connection to William Harpur, local landowner and one of Australia's early surveyors. Inspired by this connection, she delved deeper to discover when William Harpur lost his sight, his wife Catherine managed their Hunter River property – a perfect illustration of the women she writes about.

Rights Held: World English and translation

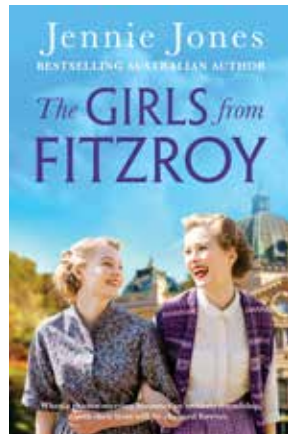
THE GIRLS FROM FITZROY

JENNIE JONES

An unlikely friendship between two young women from opposite ends of Fitzroy sparks lifechanging transformations they could never have anticipated.

Manuscript available

July 2024 | 400pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN 9781489270764



Melbourne, 1945. Born into a well-to-do family, Maggie JoÚson wants freedom from her parents' strict conservative beliefs and their unbending desire for her to marry the right sort of man. Instead, Maggie longs to forge her own path in life. Lil Kelly, who lives in the slums, works tirelessly to care for her mother and sister. Lil looks for contentment wherever she can find it, not daring to dream of more.

When their paths cross during the exhilarating celebrations of Victory in the Pacific Day, they form a secret friendship. Determined to help lift Lil out of poverty, Maggie finds herself in need of her friend's help when her own carefully ordered world collapses.

As Maggie discovers the strength and vibrancy within the close-knit community of southern Fitzroy, Lil is inspired to take a chance and look beyond the only life she has ever known.

In a world where destiny is dictated by the street where you were born, can Maggie and Lil find the courage to pursue their dreams and follow their hearts?

ALSO BY
JENNIE JONES



Jennie Jones has been professionally involved in the arts for most of her life. Theatre by theatre, stage by stage and later book by book, from Wales to London to Auckland to Australia.

Jennie lives in Perth, Western Australia and remains a countryfied girl at heart. She has a passion for stately homes and rustic cottages, is fond of collecting too many vintage wares, has numerous pot plants she's learning how to keep alive, and is happiest when writing stories about life, love, and everything between.

Rights Held: World English and translation

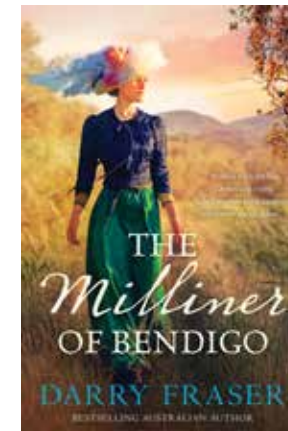
THE MILLINER OF BENDIGO

DARRY FRASER

Trouble with the law, a missing sister, and a growing attachment to the wrong man – Evie Emerson has a dangerous path ahead of her ...
An exciting and twisty historical mystery and adventure from a bestselling author.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 400pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN: 9781867237617



1898: Bendigo, Victoria

Evie Emerson has worked hard to build a fashionable clientele for her hats. But when an ex-paramour employs underhanded tactics after his attempt to coerce an engagement fails, Evie's reputation is in tatters. On the heels of having to put a case together to defend herself in court, Evie's life is thrown into further turmoil when the disappearance of her sister takes her to Cobram.

Roving reporter Fitzmorgan O'Shea has troubles of his own: his involvement in uncovering police corruption has placed a target on his back. And while hunting a new story in Cobram his problems collide with Evie's when his research exposes malicious intimidation and threats designed to make local landholders give up their properties.

For Raffety Dolan, he accepted long ago it's Fitz Evie loves – and his feelings will remain unrequited. But when a disgraced ex-policeman comes searching for revenge, he's ready to go save his friends.

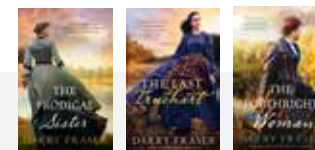
There, on the banks of the mighty Murray, with so much misunderstood history and secrets between the three friends – plus the legitimate threat of being shot at – will they survive long enough to discover the truth?

PRAISE FOR DARRY FRASER:

'Fraser's excellent research makes the reader feel like they are actually back in 1898 with her richly detailed settings: bustling train stations and port docks, flies and dust ...' – *GLAM Adelaide*

'A fabulous storyteller who underlies this compelling plot with strong female characters who challenge the status quo ... an authentic, seamless and riveting tale.' – *Better Reading*

ALSO BY
DARRY FRASER



Darry Fraser fell in love with the great Murray River when her family moved to her childhood town of Swan Hill in Victoria. Stories of the river have been with her ever since and it's where a number of her novels are set. Her stories are of ordinary people in nineteenth century Australia who are drawn into difficult circumstances – adventure, mystery and mayhem, love and life, and against the backdrop of historical events. Darry is now the author of nine novels, and currently lives on Kangaroo Island, SA.

Rights Held: World English and translation

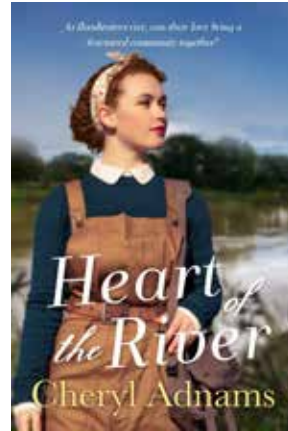
HEART OF THE RIVER

CHERYL ADNAMS

As floodwaters rise, can a forbidden love bring a fractured community together?

Manuscript available

January 2024 | 400pp | 234x153mm
Paperback | ISBN: 9781867242000



Mildura, Northern Victoria – 1956

Isabel Hayward has ambitions of being a great chef. But cooking for the locals at the country pub she and her mother run doesn't really allow for experimenting with haute cuisine.

When she meets local Italian farmer Matteo Sorrenti, their connection is instant and intense – much to the displeasure of Ross Burrows, one of the region's wealthiest sons, who has been keen on Isabel since they were kids.

Isabel and Matteo's blossoming relationship has challenges to overcome: their cultural differences, prejudice, Ross' jealousy, and the worst flood in Australia's history.

As the Murray River rises to its peak, threatening the Sorrentis' farm and the Haywards' pub, secrets are revealed that show Matteo, Isabel and Ross are inextricably linked by their fathers' wartime experiences. Will the secrets their fathers kept threaten Isabel and Matteo's relationship? Or can their love break down the remnants of prejudice left behind by the war?

'A Romeo and Juliet story, set against the background of old secrets, deep resentments and the unstoppable forces of nature. A fabulous insight into the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. An unputdownable read from Cheryl Adnams.' - Alison Stuart, author of *The Postmistress*

ALSO BY
CHERYL ADNAMS



Cheryl Adnams is the author of four Australian rural romance novels and three Australian historical novels. She has a Diploma in Freelance Travel Writing and Photography and has lived and worked in the United States, Canada and spent two years with a tour company in Switzerland and Austria, and now lives in Adelaide, SA. When she's not writing, Cheryl is still creating in her busy full-time job as a trainer and learning designer.

Rights Held: World English and translation



ILLUMINATE

DIGITAL

FIRST

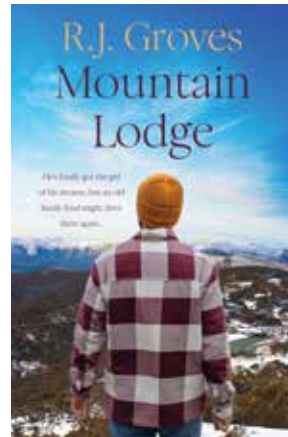
MOUNTAIN LODGE

R.J. GROVES

Can their love overcome an old family feud?

Manuscript available

May 2024 | 250pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781038906533



Josephine Romano has a history of dating people her parents would not approve of. But since returning to her hometown of Ash Gully as a schoolteacher, her love life is basically non-existent. She's ready to settle down — just not with someone her parents set her up with.

Angelo Rossi, the owner of Ash Gully's only pub, has long known there's something special about the dark-haired schoolteacher. The only problem is she's never shown an interest in him as anything more than a friend.

But when a snowstorm at Mount Hotham forces the two of them to share a room, the long-simmering attraction between them comes to a head.

Feeling like she's finally found someone her parents will approve of, Josephine is thrilled to break the news to them — only to discover that an old family feud means Angelo is the last man they'd want her to be with.

Can they heal the rift between their families, or will the pressure break their relationship before it's even really begun?

Australian author R.J. Groves has been passionate about writing since she could put pen to paper and can usually be found jotting plots and stories down on anything she can get her hands on. Describing herself as a mum, wife, author, and coffee lover, her other passions include music, cooking, books, adventures, and searching for plot bunnies in even the most mundane activities.

Rights Held: World English and translation

RETURN TO HOPE CREEK

ALYSSA J. MONTGOMERY

When two old flames come back to their home town, sparks are bound to ignite. A rural romance from *USA Today* bestselling author Alyssa J. Montgomery.

Manuscript available

April 2024 | 304pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781038912640



A horrific car accident ended former world number-one Stella Simpson's tennis career, and a betrayal ended her relationship with her fiancé/coach. When a family friend offers to sell her half of a property in the rural community where she grew up, it seems like the perfect place to escape, heal and begin the next phase of her life. Until she discovers that the man who broke her heart ten years ago has bought the other half of the same property.

Mitchell Scott seemingly had it all: fame and fortune as one of the NFL's highest-paid quarterbacks, and a beautiful family. But wealth and celebrity can't compensate for a loveless, toxic marriage, and he's glad to give it all up to raise his son in the one place that always brought him peace. Encountering Stella again so long after the messy end to their relationship is a complication he doesn't need — but one he finds himself wanting.

As each tries to build a new life, they are drawn to each other, and find that their chemistry is just as strong as it ever was. When the press gets wind of their romance and descend on Hope Creek looking for a scoop, Mitchell's malicious ex-wife isn't far behind. Will she tear apart everything they've built, or will their love be stronger the second time around?

USA Today bestselling author Alyssa J. Montgomery lives with her husband and three children on a five-acre property nestled into a mountain range south of Sydney, Australia, and enjoys having the space for gardens, a dog, horses, goats and chickens. Visits from the native wildlife (echidnas, wallabies and a variety of native birds) are particularly welcome ... although visits from native wildlife with scales and fangs aren't met with quite as much enthusiasm!

She continues to work in her private practice as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Previously she's done a stint with Qantas Airways as an international flight attendant, completed her Master of Science degree, and has also been a professional pianist.

Rights Held: World English and translation

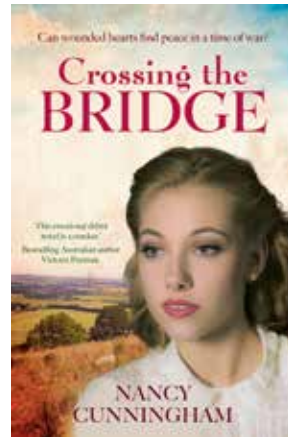
CROSSING THE BRIDGE

NANCY CUNNINGHAM

Can two wounded hearts find peace in a time of war?

Manuscript available

January 2024 | 352pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781867299738



1944. Widow Poppy Guilford is fighting to save her farm, the one thing tethering her to her husband – and the legacy promised for their young son. But a devastating secret from her husband's past threatens to derail her struggle to save the property and keep her son by her side.

Former soldier JB Beaton's wartime injuries and personal losses have left him with scars, both inside and out. Believing he's too damaged to be the father his son deserves, he leaves him with his sister and takes on a job as a farmhand, far away from the city and his failures.

Poppy, battling the elements and the heartache of her husband's secret, finds the new farmhand is never far from her thoughts, and JB's world is thrown into disarray by one of the most beautiful and capable women he has ever met. Neither can battle the surge of attraction they both feel.

In a small town where gossip reigns, will they surrender to duty or follow their hearts?

PRAISE:

'You'll be cheering for this wartime Australian heroine well before the last page as she fights to find her voice, her feet and love after heartbreak. Nancy Cunningham's emotional debut novel is a cracker.' Bestselling Australian author Victoria Purman

Nancy is a historical romance writer from Adelaide, South Australia where she lives with her partner, her book obsessed, gorgeous, curly-haired daughter, and a retired greyhound named Molly. When not writing fiction, Nancy works as a research scientist in entomology.

When not obsessing over historical romance in books and on screen, or being the family chief spider wrangler, her creative heart beats loudest when writing stories involving stoic heroines of the past overcoming adversity.

Her debut novel, *In the Deluge* (previously *The Bridge*), has been a winner and finalist in several awards, including the prestigious Valerie Parv Award and the Romance Writers of America West Houston 'Emilys', and was longlisted for the Romance Writers of Australia Emerald Award in 2020 and the Sapphire in 2021. In 2020 it won the CYA All-Stars Conference Unpublished Adult Manuscript prize.

Rights Held: World English and translation

A CHANCE TO BELIEVE

FIONA MARSDEN

Can a fling turn into a family?

Manuscript available

February 2024 | 250pp | Ebook
ISBN: 9781038903594



After a chance meeting in Brisbane, Shayne Smith and Cassie Long had a perfect fortnight together. But when Shayne returned to his historic sheep property, they both assumed there was no future in a relationship between a city girl and a grazier.

Six months later, Cassie arrives at Maiden's Landing to let Shayne know they made more than memories in their brief idyll. She has no expectations, only a duty to let him know.

Shayne's life is already complicated with a property to run and a sixteen-year-old daughter growing up fast. He never expected the woman he can't forget to turn up on his doorstep bringing news that is all too familiar.

Fiercely independent Cassie isn't asking anything of him, but he persuades her to stay at his homestead until the babies are born. Cassie's difficult pregnancy means that any possibility of romance must be put on hold – despite the intense attraction they feel for each other. How long can they resist? And will each of them overcome their own baggage so they can build a future together?

Fiona Marsden has lived most of her life in rural Australia, sharing her five-acre block with kangaroos, wallabies and the odd koala and possum. Born and bred in Queensland, Australia, Fiona grew up in the far west of the state, lived for several years in Brisbane and is now settled on the Granite Belt in the rural south east. Fiona has worked as a governess, a clerk, a teacher aide, an enrolled nurse, a disability support worker and financial manager. She has also glued thousands of plant samples on card for storage. Married with seven children and two grandchildren, Fiona spent the last thirty-two years working and advocating in the disability sector serving on a local committee for thirty years and as project manager for the purchase and construction of buildings for the service. Writing has always been a passion, from poetry published in the *Courier Mail* and school annuals to fanfiction in the seventies, before we had the internet. She honed her craft writing grant applications that require a vivid imagination, to finally finding her place writing happy endings. She is an avid reader and has read most genres over the years. Fiona has been fortunate in winning and placing in a number of writing awards both here and overseas. Several stories have been published in anthologies and she has self-published several novellas and two 60k word romances.

Rights Held: World English and translation

BREAKING FREE

RENAE BLACK

From the author of *On the Down Low* comes a powerful and compelling story of second chances, escaping toxic relationships and forging your own path.

Manuscript available May 2024

August 2024 | 256pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781867295143



Georgia Williams knows firsthand how love can turn violent. Running from her past, stalked by daily phone calls she refuses to answer, she arrives in the small country town of Gleneagle looking for a place to hide. And even though the local men – admittedly one rather attractive guy in particular – try to catch her attention, the last thing she needs is another man making her life a living hell.

Country boy Trent Turner works his family's cattle stud. After a childhood marked by tragedy, he's working hard to earn his father's approval. He dreams of one day running the farm and being a husband and a father himself. But, unlucky in love, he's losing hope of finding someone to share that dream with. When Trent meets Georgia, he can't help but bank his happily ever after on their sizzling attraction. With Georgia dodging his attention and his father having secret meetings with a city accountant, is it all for nothing?

Georgia can't avoid Trent entirely in their small town, and amid blossoming trust and deepening desire, she lowers her walls enough to let him in. As they grow closer, Trent notices the calls Georgia refuses to answer. Who's so desperate to speak with her? And what trouble will answering them lead to?

Renae Black lives in Queensland with her husband and two young bookworms. By day she works as a social worker within the child protection industry. By night, she escapes to the romantic fictional realms of rural Australia that transport her back to her childhood home, a large property that bred cattle and hosted the odd ostrich sale.

Rights Held: World English and translation

BALI ESCAPE WITH THE SINGLE DAD

RACHEL ARMSTRONG

From witnessing mountaintop sunrises to exploring the depths of the ocean, can Mia and Aiden discover their hearts' true desires and form a family together?

Manuscript available

June 2024 | 176pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781038909619



Mia has arrived in Bali for a solo holiday – her tentative first steps into the world after her mother's death. With an abundance of adventure at her fingertips, Mia is seeking courage to try new things while she chooses a new career path. She wants to do something meaningful and with purpose, and romance is far from her mind.

Single-dad Aiden has been gifted a holiday – without his beloved daughter – to help him find joy again after his divorce. Alone in Bali, Aiden needs to remember how to have fun again so he can be a happy father. But haunted by the pain in his past, Aiden doesn't plan to fall in love again.

When the two shy Australians meet on a sunrise volcano hike, they discover the value in a holiday friendship. But as Bali helps Mia face her fears and brings Aiden his forgotten happiness, the walls around their hearts begin to crumble.

Rachel Armstrong is a writer of contemporary romantic fiction ranging from rural to suspense. She creates epic feel-good stories and has a weakness for an adventurous holiday escape.

Rachel lives with her border collie, Jacob, in Townsville, Queensland, where she rehabilitates hearts as an exercise physiologist. In her spare time, she is either reading on the treadmill or plotting her next novel at yoga. Rachel's a keen traveller and has enjoyed many holidays exploring historic London, flying through the Grand Canyon, and hiking volcanos in Bali.

Rights Held: World English and translation

WEDDING BELLS BY THE CREEK: A COORAH CREEK NOVEL

JANET GOVER

Are there some things that can't be forgiven?

Manuscript available April 2024

July 2024 | 128pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781867288961



Helen Walsh has never stopped searching for the daughter who ran away from home when she was just fifteen. Now Tia has found her. Helen longs for her daughter's forgiveness. Will a Coorah Creek wedding help heal their rift?

Ed Collins has walked Helen's path, and he knows that she needs more than her daughter's forgiveness. Ed feels compelled to help her, as he is increasingly drawn to her kind and loving heart.

Then Ed's wife Stephanie returns to the tiny outback town – thirteen years after she deserted Ed and their young son, Scott. Steph was his first and only love, and now Ed is being asked to forgive.

But how do you forgive what you will never forget?

Janet Gover grew up in outback Australia, surrounded by wide open spaces, horses ... and many, many books. When her cat lets her actually sit in her chair, she writes stories of strong women, rural communities and falling in love. Her novel *Little Girl Lost* won the Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award presented by the Romantic Novelists' Association in the UK, and she has won or been shortlisted for awards in Australia and the USA. As Juliet Bell, in collaboration with Alison May, she rewrites misunderstood classic fiction, with an emphasis on heroes who are not so heroic. Her favourite food is tomato. She spends too much time playing silly computer games, and is an enthusiastic, if not always successful, cook.

Rights Held: World English and translation

LITTLE LOST GIRL

JANET GOVER

There's more than one way to be lost.

Manuscript available

December 2023 | 288pp | Ebook
ISBN: 9781867288954



A runaway at fifteen, Tia Walsh lost herself amid the squats and the gangs in the inner city. Years later she's come to Coorah Creek seeking a new start. Sergeant Max Delaney senses that everything about Tia spells trouble. But that trouble is not all of her own making, and the dangerous past she tried to leave behind is hot on her heels.

Sarah Travers has returned home after three years of studying to find that her parents have been keeping a devastating secret. Her teenage crush, Pete Rankin, is facing his own struggle with a harsh reality that will take him away from the girl and the life that he loves.

But when a little girl goes missing in the harsh outback, all that matters is finding her safe.

Winner of the Romantic Novelists' Association Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award

Janet Gover grew up in outback Australia, surrounded by wide open spaces, horses ... and many, many books. When her cat lets her actually sit in her chair, she writes stories of strong women, rural communities and falling in love. Her novel *Little Girl Lost* won the Epic Romantic Novel of the Year Award presented by the Romantic Novelists' Association in the UK, and she has won or been shortlisted for awards in Australia and the USA.

Rights Held: World English and translation

FOUR NIGHT STAND

GEORGIA MOORE

Two colleagues. One conference. No strings attached?

Manuscript available

March 2024 | 304pp | Ebook
ISBN 9781867298526



Two people who've been burned by past lovers settle for a conference fling while secretly wanting more.

Jules lives in her comfort zone. Years ago, taking a risk left her dumped and heartbroken, and now the status quo is her safe space. It's not so bad. She lives with two awesome friends, has a manageable crush on Cameron, a colleague she's never met in person, and her job ... well, she used to love her IT job at a publishing company. Now it feels like ticking a box. So when she's asked at the last minute to attend a conference, she figures it could be the thing she needs to reinspire her. And then she finds out Cameron is coming too.

Cameron left his last workplace abruptly after a break-up gone wrong. In a new city and a new team, he's content to keep everyone at arm's length so there's no chance of the past repeating. Except for one person in the IT department who always answers his calls for help, and shares his humour and taste in music. But they've never met face-to-face, so it doesn't count. Until they get sent to a conference together and suddenly, Cameron realises it does count. A lot.

Thrown together away from the office and their colleagues, Jules and Cameron decide to have a conference fling. It's risk-free and has a guaranteed amicable ending. But emotions are never predictable.

PRAISE:

'Four Night Stand is a great read - flirtatious fun becoming hot and spicy and layered with deep, emotional vulnerability.' – USA Today bestselling author Alyssa J. Montgomery

Georgia Moore is an author of steamy contemporary romance. Her stories feature competent heroines who are still figuring out what they want from life, and heroes who've got emotional baggage to unpack.

When not consuming copious amounts of pop culture (mostly romance novels), Georgia can be found singing in a choir, eating an endless amount of carbs, or being overly competitive at board games and trivia.

Rights Held: World English and translation

THE DEVIL INSIDE

LEISL LEIGHTON

Dark secrets. A mysterious past. And an unforgettable passion

Manuscript available

November 2023 | 336pp | Ebook
ISBN: 9781867293927



After months in a coma, music promoter Melissa Linklater wakes up to a world she doesn't remember. She's shocked to discover she's married – to Phil Paris, the intensely handsome drummer of world-famous band The Sidhe – and has a baby daughter. She has lost the memory of the last eight years of her life. Phil, their baby and his bandmates are all strangers.

Phil is devastated that Mel can't remember her years with him. He needs her to remember – because he is nothing without his wife. Fame and wealth, even his music, no longer bring him joy. The only things that matter are Mel and their baby. He throws all he is into helping Mel remember, but instead of recovering memories of them, she starts to remember a secret past and a web of lies that threatens to destroy everything she knew about herself.

Someone else is also after those secrets. As her mysterious stalker escalates from anonymous phone calls to break-ins and physical threats, the police and her doctors don't believe her – but Phil does. While she still can't remember anything about her life with him, she does feel things for him – passionate, needful things that make her want to trust him with her darkest secrets. Will sharing those secrets make them closer or bring more danger to their door?

Leisl is a tall redhead with an overly large imagination. As a child, she identified strongly with Anne of Green Gables. A voracious reader and a born performer, it came as no surprise to anyone when she did a double major in English Literature and Drama for her BA, then went on to a career as an actor, singer and dancer, as well as script writer, stage manager and musical director for cabaret and theatre restaurants (one of which she co-owned and ran for six years). After starting a family, Leisl stopped performing and instead, began writing the stories that had been plaguing her dreams. Leisl's stories have won and placed in many competitions in Australia and the US, including the STALI, Golden Opportunities, Heart of the West, Linda Howard Award of Excellence, Touch of Magic and many others. Leisl lives in the leafy suburbs of Melbourne with her two beautiful boys, lovely hubby, overly spunky dogs, Buffy and Skye, and likes to spend time with family and friends. She is addicted to the Syfy channel, and her shelves are full of fantasy and paranormal books and sci-fi DVDs. She sometimes sings in a choir, has worked as a swim teacher, loves to ski, can talk the hind leg off a donkey and was President of Romance Writers of Australia from 2014-2017

Rights Held: World English and translation

SUBAGENTS

BALTIC REGION

(Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan)
Tatjana Zoldnere
Eastern European and Asian Rights Agency
19/21-3 Gertrudes St, LV-1011 Riga, Latvia
t: +371 67506 495
e: zoldnere@anab.apollo.lv

CHINA

Gray Tan
The Grayhawk Agency.
1F, No 18, Lane 206, Sec 1, Daan Road, Daan Dist, Taipei 106070, Taiwan.
t: +886-2-27059231
WeChat ID: Grayhawk
e: grayhawk@grayhawk-agency.com

CZECH REBOOKLIC

Kristin Olson
Literary Agency s.r.o. Klimentská 24 110 00 Praha
Czech REbooklic
t: +420 222 582 042
e: kristin.olson@litag.cz

FRANCE

Sophie Langlais
#BAM agency
t: +33 6 86 58 17 42
e: sophie@bamlitagency.com

GERMANY

Niclas Schmoll
Michael Meller Agency
Landwehrstrasse 17
80336 Munchen
Germany
t: +49 89 36 63 71
e: n.schmoll@melleragency.com

GREECE

Nike Davarinou
Read 'n' Right Agency
9 Amazonon Street
34100 Chalkida
Greece
t: +30 2 221029798
e: readrgh@ath.fortUet.gr

HUNGARY

Orsi Mészáros
Katai & Bolza Literary Agents
Vamhaz krt 15
1093 Budapest
Hungary
t: +36 1 456 0313
e: oris@kataibolza.hu

INDONESIA

Santo Manurung
Maxima Creative Agency
Beryl Timur No.41
Gading Serpong
Tangerang - 15810
Indonesia
t: +62-21-5421 7768
e: santo.maxima@gmail.com

ISRAEL

Geula Guerts
The Deborah Harris Agency
P.O. Box 8528a
Jerusalem 91083
Israel
t: +972 (0)2 5633237
e: geula@thedeborahharrisagency.com

ITALY

Massimiliano Zantedeschi
Zantedeschi Agency
Via Francesco da Levanto 14
37138 Verona
Italy
t: +39 045913917
e: massimiliano@zantedeschiagency.com

JAPAN

Miko Yamanouchi
Japan UNI Agency Inc
1-27 Kanda Jinbocho No. 2 Bldg.
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-0051
Japan
t: +81-3-3295 0301
e: miko.yamanouchi@japanuni.co.jp

SUBAGENTS

KOREA

Seoyoung Oh
BC Agency
3F Youngjun B/D(annex),
22 World Cup buk-ro, Mapo-gu,
Seoul 03992,
REbooklic of Korea
t: +82-2-3143-2896
e: english@bcagency.kr

Sona Seo

AMO Agency
Gwanggyo SK View Lake A-508,
Beopjo-ro 25, Yeongtong-gu,
Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do, 16514
REbooklic of Korea
t: +82 (0)31 211 4160
e: sona.amoagency@gmail.com

Youngwan Choi

EntersKorea Co., Ltd
4F, KD Bldg, #123,
World Cup-ro, Mapo-gu
Seoul, 121-827
Korea
t: +82-70-7126-3017
e: enters@ekagency.co.kr

Henry Shin

Eric Yang Agency
3F E Building, 54-7
Banpo-Dong, Seocho-gu
Seoul 137-803
Korea
t: +82-2-592-3356
e: henryshin@eyagency.com

POLAND

Marcin Biegaj
Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Warsaw
ul. Młodawska 9, 6th floor
02-127 Warsaw
Poland
e: marcin.biegaj@nurnberg.pl

ROMANIA

Marina Adriana
Simona Kessler International
Copyright Agency
Str. Banul Antonache 37
011663 Bucharest
Romania
t: +4021 3164806
e: marina@kessler-agency.ro

RUSSIA

Olga Lutova
Andrew Nurnberg Literary Agency
21 Tsvetnoy Blvd.,
6 Stroenie, Suite 72
Moscow 127051
Russia
t: 495 625 81 88
e: o.lutova@lit-agency.com

SPAIN

Alicia González Sterling
Bookbank S.L. Agencia Literaria
San Martin de Porres 14
28035 Madrid
Spain
t: +34 91 3733539
e: alicia@bookbank.es

TAIWAN

Gray Tan
The Grayhawk Agency.
14F, No.63, Sec.4, Xinyi Rd
Taiwan
t: +886-2-27059231
WeChat ID: Grayhawk
e: grayhawk@grayhawk-agency.com

THE NETHERLANDS

Monique Oosterhof
Mo Literary Services
Spechtstraat 72
1021 VW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
t: +31 20 632 58 10
e: mo@moliterary.nl

TURKEY

Filiz Karaman
Nurcihan Kesim Literary Agency
Cagaloglu Yokusu Saadet Han
No:42 D:202
Sirkeci Istanbul 34112
Turkey
t: +90 212 526 9130
e: filiz@nurcihankesim.net

