

Sienna Brown: *Master of My Fate*

About Sienna Brown

Sienna Brown was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in Canada. But it wasn't until a move to Sydney that she came across William Buchanan's story and was struck with a sense of fate – this story of a lost man far from home resonated with her own feelings of displacement.

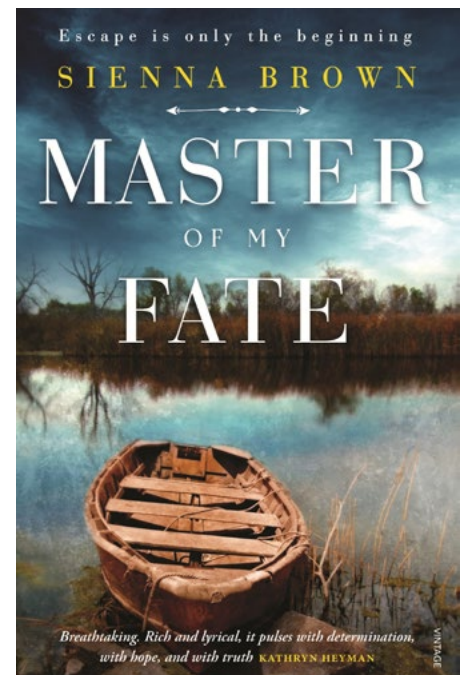
A lifelong storyteller and daughter of Jamaican parents, Sienna was captivated by William's story and the way it intersected with her own cultural background. She is a professional dancer, film editor and documentary director by trade, and worked at Sydney Living Museums, where she first came across William's story. *Master of My Fate* won the MUD Literary Prize for the best debut literary novel by an Australian writer. Sienna is currently working on her second novel.

About *Master of My Fate*

William Buchanan lived an extraordinary life. Born a slave on a plantation in Jamaica, he escaped the gallows more than once. His part in the slave uprisings of the 1830s led to his transportation across the world as one of the convicts sent to New South Wales.

This is a story not only about a boy who fought against all odds in search of freedom, but also about a world not so long ago, when the violence of colonisation was in full force. It is a story of Jamaica, and Australia, but at its heart, it is a story about how one lives a life, whether slave or free man.

Steeped in history but full of lessons that resonate for us today, William Buchanan's coming-of-age tale of survival and fate is a thrilling tale told in a singular voice, from a startling new talent in Australian writing.



Nigel Featherstone: *Bodies of Men*

About Nigel Featherstone

Nigel Featherstone is an Australian writer who has been published widely. His works include the story collection *Joy* (2000), his debut novel *Remnants* (2005), and *The Beach Volcano* (2014), which is the third in a series of novellas. He wrote the libretto for *The Weight of Light*, a contemporary song cycle that had its world premiere in 2018.

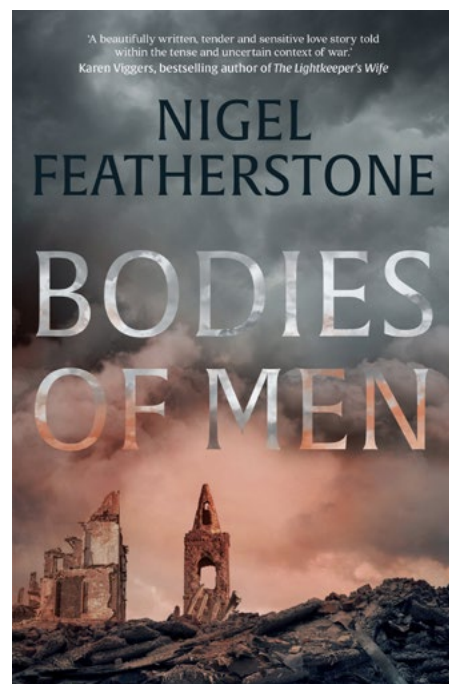
He has held residencies at Varuna (Blue Mountains), Bundanon (Shoalhaven River), and UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He lives on the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales.

About *Bodies of Men*

Egypt, 1941. Only hours after disembarking in Alexandria, William Marsh, an Australian lieutenant at twenty-one, is face down in the sand, caught in a stoush with the Italian enemy. He is saved by James Kelly, a childhood friend from Sydney and the last person he expected to see. But where William escapes unharmed, not all are so fortunate.

William is sent to supervise an army depot in the Western Desert, with a private directive to find an AWOL soldier: James Kelly. When the two are reunited, James is recovering from an accident, hidden away in the home of an unusual family - a family with secrets.

Together they will risk it all to find answers. Soon William and James are thrust headlong into territory more dangerous than either could have imagined.



Catherine Jinks: *Shepherd*

About Catherine Jinks

Catherine Jinks was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1963. She grew up in Papua New Guinea and later studied medieval history at the University of Sydney. After working for several years in a bank, she married Peter Dockrill, a Canadian journalist, and lived for a short time in Nova Scotia, Canada. She is now a full-time writer, residing in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales with Peter and their daughter Hannah.

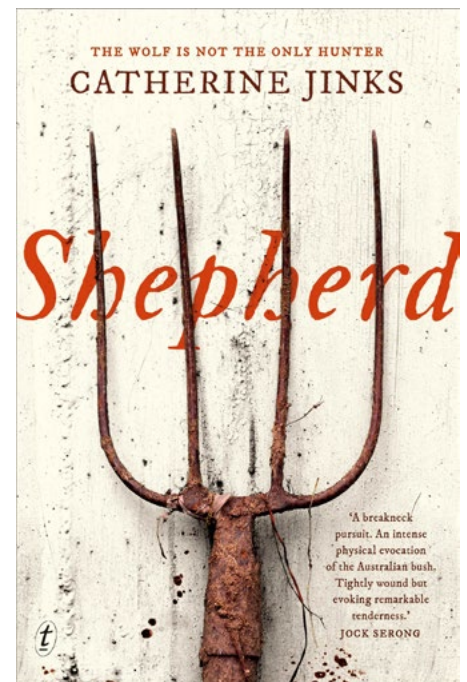
Catherine is a four-time winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year award, and has also won a Victorian Premier's Literature Award, the Adelaide Festival Award for Literature, the Ena Noel Award for Children's Literature and an Aurealis Award for Science Fiction. In 2001, she was presented with a Centenary Medal for her contribution to Australian Children's Literature.

About *Shepherd*

Tom Clay was a poacher back in Suffolk. He was twelve when he was caught, tried and transported to New South Wales.

Now, assigned to a shepherd's hut out west, he is a boy among violent men. He keeps his counsel and watches over the sheep; he steers clear of blowhards like the new man, Rowdy Cavanagh. He is alert to danger, knowing he is a foreigner here – that the land resists his understanding.

The question is: how fast can he learn? Because a vicious killer named Dan Carver is coming for Tom and Rowdy. And if Tom can't outwit Carver in the bush – and convince Rowdy to keep his stupid mouth shut – their deaths will be swift and cruel.



Mirandi Riwoe: *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*

About Mirandi Riwoe

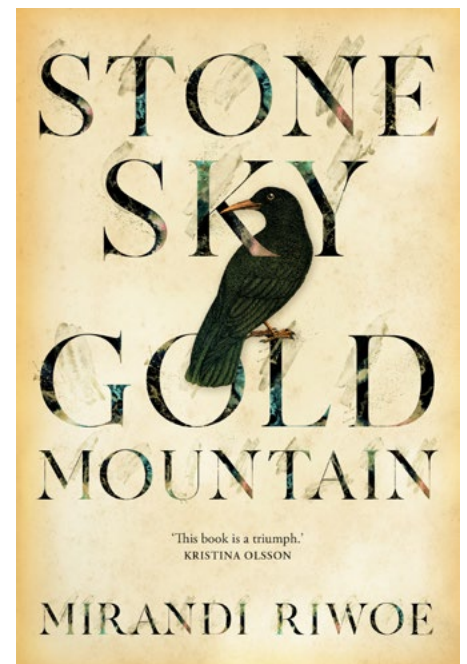
Mirandi Riwoe is a Brisbane-based writer. Her novella *The Fish Girl* won Seizure's Viva la Novella prize and her debut novel, *She be Damned*, was released in 2017. Her work has appeared in Best Australian Stories, Review of Australian Fiction, Rex, Peril and Shibboleth and Other Stories, and she has received fellowships from the Queensland Literary Awards and Griffith Review. Mirandi has a PhD in Creative Writing and Literary Studies.

About *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*

Family circumstances force siblings Ying and Lai Yue to flee their home in China to seek their fortunes in Australia. Life on the gold fields is hard, and they soon abandon the diggings and head to nearby Maytown.

Once there, Lai Yue gets a job as a carrier on an overland expedition, while Ying finds work in a local store and strikes up a friendship with Meriem, a young white woman with her own troubled past. When a serious crime is committed, suspicion falls on all those who are considered outsiders.

Evoking the rich, unfolding tapestry of Australian life in the late nineteenth century, *Stone Sky Gold Mountain* is a heartbreaking and universal story about the exiled and displaced, about those who encounter discrimination yet yearn for acceptance.



Dominic Smith: *The Electric Hotel*

About Dominic Smith

Dominic grew up in Sydney, Australia and now lives in Seattle, Washington. He is the author of four novels, including *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, which was a New York Times Bestseller and a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. Sold into more than a dozen countries, the novel was chosen as a best book of 2016 by Amazon, Slate, the San Francisco Chronicle, and Kirkus Reviews.

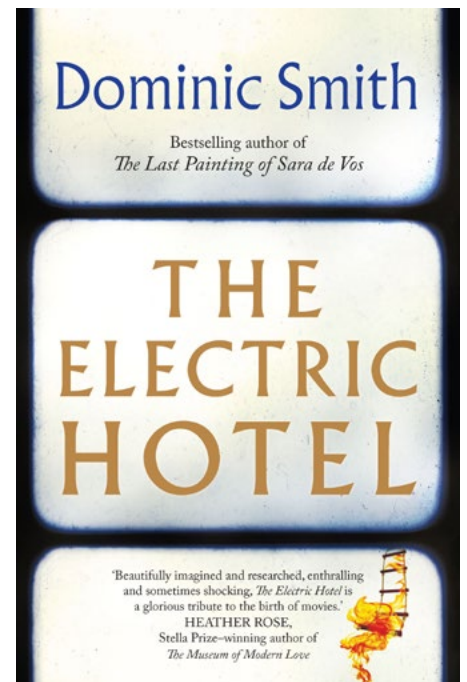
In Australia, the novel won the Fiction Indie Book of the Year Award from the Independent Booksellers Association and was named the Literary Fiction Book of the Year as part of the Australian Book Industry Awards.

His other novels include: *The Mercury Visions of Louis Daguerre*, *The Beautiful Miscellaneous*, and *Bright and Distant Shores*.

Dominic serves on the fiction faculty in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers and has taught at the University of Texas at Austin, Southern Methodist University, and Rice University.

About *The Electric Hotel*

The Electric Hotel winds through the nascent days of cinema in Paris and Fort Lee, New Jersey— America's first movie town—and on the battlefields of Belgium during World War I. A sweeping work of historical fiction, it shimmers between past and present as it tells the story of the rise and fall of a prodigious film studio and one man's doomed obsession with all that passes in front of the viewfinder.



Christos Tsiolkas: *Damascus*

About Christos Tsiolkas

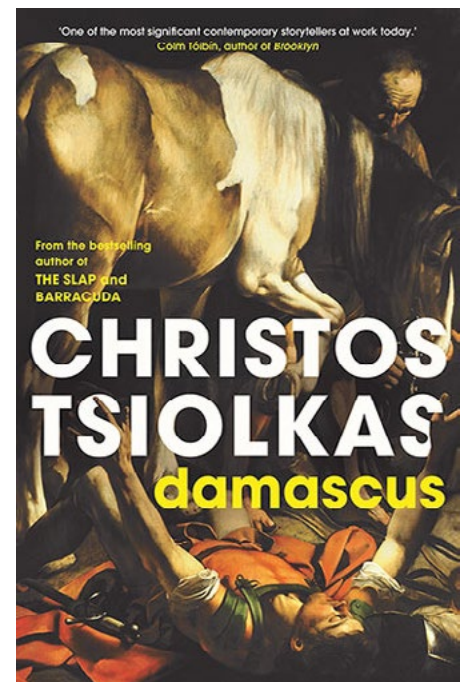
Christos Tsiolkas is the author of six novels, including *Loaded*, which was made into the feature film *Head-On*, *The Jesus Man* and *Dead Europe*, which won the 2006 Age Fiction Prize and the 2006 Melbourne Best Writing Award, as well as being made into a feature film. His fourth novel, the international bestseller *The Slap*, won Overall Best Book in the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2009, was shortlisted for the 2009 Miles Franklin Literary Award, longlisted for the 2010 Man Booker Prize and won the Australian Literary Society Gold, as well as the 2009 Australian Booksellers Association and Australian Book Industry Awards Books of the Year. Christos's fifth novel *Barracuda* was shortlisted for the ALS Gold Medal and the inaugural Voss Literary Prize. *The Slap* and *Barracuda* were both adapted into celebrated television series. Christos's acclaimed collection of short stories, *Merciless Gods*, was published in 2014 and his critical literary study *On Patrick White* came out in 2018. He is also a playwright, essayist and screen writer. He lives in Melbourne.



About *Damascus*

Christos Tsiolkas' stunning new novel *Damascus* is a work of soaring ambition and achievement, of immense power and epic scope, taking as its subject nothing less than events surrounding the birth and establishment of the Christian church. Based around the gospels and letters of St Paul, and focusing on characters one and two generations on from the death of Christ, as well as Paul (Saul) himself, *Damascus* nevertheless explores the themes that have always obsessed Tsiolkas as a writer: class, religion, masculinity, patriarchy, colonisation, exile; the ways in which nations, societies, communities, families and individuals are united and divided - it's all here, the contemporary and urgent questions, perennial concerns made vivid and visceral.

In *Damascus*, Tsiolkas has written a masterpiece of imagination and transformation: an historical novel of immense power and an unflinching dissection of doubt and faith, tyranny and revolution, and cruelty and sacrifice.



Pip Williams: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

About Pip Williams

Pip was born in London, grew up in Sydney and now calls the Adelaide Hills home. She is co-author of the book *Time Bomb: Work Rest and Play in Australia Today* and in 2017 she wrote *One Italian Summer*, a memoir of her family's travels in search of the good life, which was published with Affirm Press to wide acclaim. Pip has also published travel articles, book reviews, flash fiction and poetry.

In *The Dictionary of Lost Words* she combines her talent for historical research with beautiful storytelling. She has delved into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary and found a tale of missing words and the lives of women lived between the lines.

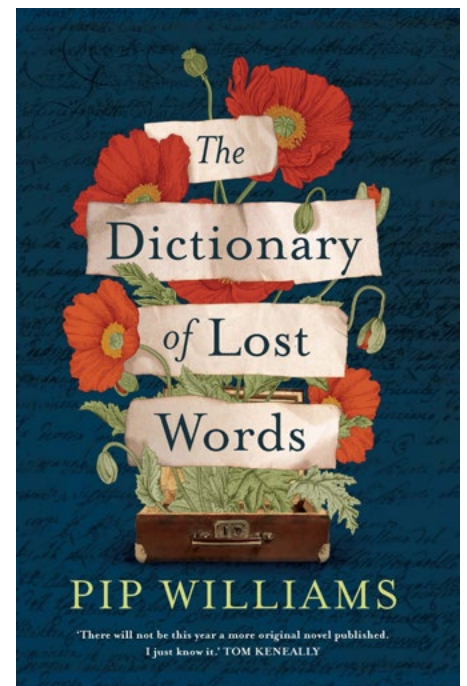
About *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

In 1901, the word bondmaid was discovered missing from the Oxford English Dictionary. This is the story of the girl who stole it.

Motherless and irrepressibly curious, Esme spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of lexicographers are gathering words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard.

One day, she sees a slip containing the word bondmaid flutter to the floor unclaimed. Esme seizes the word and hides it in an old wooden trunk that belongs to her friend, Lizzie, a young servant in the big house. Esme begins to collect other words from the Scriptorium that are misplaced, discarded or have been neglected by the dictionary men. They help her make sense of the world.

Over time, Esme realises that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded. She begins to collect words for another dictionary: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*.



Tara June Winch: *The Yield*

About Tara June Winch

Tara June Winch is a Wiradjuri author, born in Australia in 1983 and based in France. Her first novel, *Swallow the Air* was critically acclaimed and won numerous literary awards. In 2008, Tara was mentored by Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka as part of the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

Her second book, the story collection *After the Carnage* was published in 2016, and was longlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for fiction, and shortlisted for the 2017 NSW Premier's Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and the Queensland Literary Award for a collection. She wrote the Indigenous dance documentary, *Carriberrie*, which screened at the 71st Cannes Film Festival and toured internationally. *The Yield* won the 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award, Christina Stead Prize for Fiction, the People's Choice Award and Book of the Year at the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

About *The Yield*

In English, the yield is the reaping, the things that man can take from the land. In the language of the Wiradjuri yield is the things you give to, the movement, the space between things: baayanha.

Knowing that he will soon die, Albert 'Poppy' Gondiwindi takes pen to paper. His life has been spent on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River at Prosperous House, on Massacre Plains. Albert is determined to pass on the language of his people and everything that was ever remembered. He finds the words on the wind.

August Gondiwindi has been living on the other side of the world for ten years when she learns of her grandfather's death. She returns home for his burial, wracked with grief and burdened with all she tried to leave behind. Her homecoming is bittersweet as she confronts the love of her kin and news that Prosperous is to be repossessed by a mining company.

Determined to make amends she endeavours to save their land – a quest that leads her to the voice of her grandfather and into the past, the stories of her people, the secrets of the river.

