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The Boat *ReadHowYouWant.com*

In 1979, Nam Le's family left Vietnam for

Australia, an experience that inspires the first and last stories in The Boat. In between, however, Le's imagination lays claim to the world. The Boat takes us from a tourist in Tehran to a teenage hit man in Colombia; from an ageing New York artist to a boy coming of age in a small Victorian fishing town; from the city of Hiroshima just before the bomb is dropped to the haunting waste of the South China Sea in the wake of another war. Each story uncovers a raw human truth. Each story is absorbing and fully realised as a novel. Together, they make up a collection of astonishing diversity and achievement. Prizes: Winner of NSW Premier's Literary Awards: UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing 2009 and NSW Premier's Literary Award Book of the Year 2009. Shortlisted for Nielsen BookData/ABA Book of the Year Award - Booksellers' Choice 2009.

The Boat *National Geographic Books*

The seven stories in Nam Le's masterful collection take us across the globe, guiding us to the heart of what it means to be human. From the slums of Colombia to Iowa City and from the streets of Tehran to a foundering vessel in the South China Sea, here are thrilling versatile tales that herald the arrival of a remarkable new writer.

The Boat *Vintage*

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The Boat *Canongate Books*

In this dazzling collection, Nam Le takes us across the globe as he enters the hearts and minds of characters from all over the world. Whether it's the story of fourteen-year-old Juan, a hit man in Colombia; an ageing painter in New York mourning the death of his much-younger lover; or a young refugee fleeing Vietnam, crammed in the ship's hold with two hundred others, the result is unexpectedly moving and powerful. This is an extraordinary work of fiction that takes us to the heart of what it means to be human.

Cartagena *Vintage*

A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month" Selection They call it an office job—being a sicario, a hit man—because the sicario is always waiting by the phone. In Medellín, Colombia, there's always one more job to do. Juan Pablo Merendez is a young sicario just trying to get by, but when he's summoned to meet his shadowy boss for the first time, all he wants is out—to Cartagena. "Cartagena" is a heart-pounding, urgent story of violence, unbreakable bonds, and tantalizing escape. From the collection *The Boat*, winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize and the Anisfield-Wolf Award—Nam Le's masterfully ambitious globe-hopping debut, heralding the arrival of a remarkable new author. An eBook short.

On David Malouf *Black Inc.*

Here was a very-much-alive half-Lebanese writer (from provincial Brisbane, no less) producing English-language writing of the very first order ... The poetry was in the prose; it stayed and sprung its rhythms, chorded its ideas, concentrated its images. Every other novel claims to be written in "poetic prose"; the real thing, when you come across it, is actually shocking. Nam

Le takes the reader on a thrilling intellectual ride in this sharp, bold essay. Encompassing identity politics, metaphysics, the relationship between life and art, and the 'Australianness' of Malouf's work, it is unlike anything else written about one of Australia's most acclaimed writers. In the *Writers on Writers* series, leading writers reflect on another Australian writer who has inspired and fascinated them. Provocative and crisp, these books start a fresh conversation between past and present, shed new light on the craft of writing, and introduce some intriguing and talented authors and their work. Published by Black Inc. in association with the University of Melbourne and State Library Victoria.

Native Speaker *Penguin Books*

Representing the letter "L" in a series of twenty-six collectible editions, this award-winning novel describes the isolation felt by industrial spy Henry Park, a first-generation Korean American, who doesn't feel thoroughly at home in either culture anymore.

Lucky Ticket *Text Publishing*

A debut collection of stories announcing an intelligent, vibrant and highly original Australian-Vietnamese voice in contemporary literature.

The Boat by Nam Le

The Gangster We Are All Looking For *Anchor*

This acclaimed novel reveals the life of a Vietnamese family in America through the knowing eyes of a child finding her place and voice in a new country. In 1978 six refugees—a girl, her father, and four "uncles"—are pulled from the sea to begin a new life in San Diego. In the

child's imagination, the world is transmuted into an unearthly realm: she sees everything intensely, hears the distress calls of inanimate objects, and waits for her mother to join her. But life loses none of its strangeness when the family is reunited. As the girl grows, her matter-of-fact innocence eddies increasingly around opaque and ghostly traumas: the cataclysm that engulfed her homeland, the memory of a brother who drowned and, most inescapable, her father's hopeless rage.

Wish Her Safe At Home *New York Review of Books*

Rachel Waring is deliriously happy. Out of nowhere, a great-aunt leaves her a Georgian mansion in another city—and she sheds her old life without delay. Gone is her dull administrative job, her mousy wardrobe, her downer of a roommate. She will live as a woman of leisure, devoted to beauty, creativity, expression, and love. Once installed in her new quarters, Rachel plants a garden, takes up writing, and impresses everyone she meets with her extraordinary optimism. But as Rachel sings and jokes the days away, her new neighbors begin to wonder if she might be taking her transformation just a bit too far. In *Wish Her Safe at Home*, Stephen Benatar finds humor and horror in the shifting region between elation and mania. His heroine could be the next-door neighbor of the Beales of Grey Gardens or a sister to Jane Gardam's oddball protagonists, but she has an ebullient charm all her own.

Graphic Embodiments *Leuven University Press*

Comics and other graphic narratives powerfully represent embodied experiences that are difficult to express

in language. A group of authors from various countries and disciplines explore the unique capacity of graphic narratives to represent human embodiment as well as the relation of human bodies to the worlds they inhabit. Using works from illustrated scientific texts to contemporary comics across national traditions, we discover how the graphic narrative can shed new light on everyday experiences. Essays examine topics that are easily recognized as anchored in the body as well as experiences like migration and concepts like environmental degradation and compassion that emanate from or impact on our embodied states. *Graphic Embodiments* is of interest to scholars and students across various interdisciplinary fields including comics studies, gender and sexuality studies, visual and cultural studies, disability studies and health and medical humanities.

It's Decorative Gourd Season, Motherfuckers *Chronicle Books*

A passionate and profane love letter to fall, the best fucking season of the year. Do you get excited at the first brisk breeze of the year? Are you overcome with delight when you see piles of red leaves? Do you lose your fucking mind at a pumpkin patch? At last, the epically funny internet sensation *It's Decorative Gourd Season, Motherfuckers* is now a visual tour-de-force, teeming with a cornucopia of perfectly paired photos and seasonal enchantments to make it really fucking sing. Whiffy candles, wicker baskets, motherfucking gourd after gourd, and people going insane they love fall so much? Check! Also included: the equally lifechanging meditation *It's Rotting Decorative Gourd Season, Motherfuckers*, because all good

things must end. Give it to everyone you love, or put it on your fucking coffee table next to a pile of shellacked vegetables to really tie the room together. Perfect for: For anyone who fucking loves fall, and fans of McSweeney's, *Go the Fuck to Sleep*, *Deep Thoughts*, *the Onion*, and *the New Yorker*.

The Plague of Doves *Harper Collins*

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *The Plague of Doves*—the first part of a loose trilogy that includes the National Book Award-winning *The Round House* and *LaRose*—is a gripping novel about a long-unsolved crime in a small North Dakota town and how, years later, the consequences are still being felt by the community and a nearby Native American reservation. Though generations have passed, the town of Pluto continues to be haunted by the murder of a farm family. Evelina Harp—part Ojibwe, part white—is an ambitious young girl whose grandfather, a repository of family and tribal history, harbors knowledge of the violent past. And Judge Antone Bazil Coutts, who bears witness, understands the weight of historical injustice better than anyone. Through the distinct and winning voices of three unforgettable narrators, the collective stories of two interwoven communities ultimately come together to reveal a final wrenching truth. Bestselling author Louise Erdrich delves into the fraught waters of historical injustice and the impact of secrets kept too long.

The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction *Simon and Schuster*

Fifty remarkable short stories from a range of contemporary fiction authors

including Junot Diaz, Amy Tan, Jamaica Kincaid, Jhumpa Lahiri, and more, selected from a survey of more than five hundred English professors, short story writers, and novelists. Contributors include Russell Banks, Donald Barthelme, Rick Bass, Richard Bausch, Charles Baxter, Amy Bloom, T.C. Boyle, Kevin Brockmeier, Robert Olen Butler, Sandra Cisneros, Peter Ho Davies, Janet Desaulniers, Junot Diaz, Anthony Doerr, Stuart Dybek, Deborah Eisenberg, Richard Ford, Mary Gaitskill, Dagoberto Gilb, Ron Hansen, A.M. Homes, Mary Hood, Denis Johnson, Edward P. Jones, Thom Jones, Jamaica Kincaid, Jhumpa Lahiri, David Leavitt, Kelly Link, Reginald McKnight, David Means, Susan Minot, Rick Moody, Bharati Mukherjee, Antonia Nelson, Joyce Carol Oates, Tim O'Brien, Daniel Orozco, Julie Orringer, ZZ Packer, Annie Proulx, Stacey Richter, George Saunders, Joan Silber, Leslie Marmon Silko, Susan Sontag, Amy Tan, Melanie Rae Thon, Alice Walker, and Steve Yarbrough.

The Happiest Refugee *ReadHowYouWant.com*

The bestselling, laugh-out-loud, reach for your hanky story of one of Australia's best-loved comedians.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 *Food & Agriculture Org.*

Updates for many countries have made it possible to estimate hunger in the world with greater accuracy this year. In particular, newly accessible data enabled the revision of the entire series of undernourishment estimates for China back to 2000, resulting in a substantial downward shift of the series of the number of undernourished in the world. Nevertheless, the revision confirms the

trend reported in past editions: the number of people affected by hunger globally has been slowly on the rise since 2014. The report also shows that the burden of malnutrition in all its forms continues to be a challenge. There has been some progress for child stunting, low birthweight and exclusive breastfeeding, but at a pace that is still too slow. Childhood overweight is not improving and adult obesity is on the rise in all regions. The report complements the usual assessment of food security and nutrition with projections of what the world may look like in 2030, if trends of the last decade continue. Projections show that the world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 and, despite some progress, most indicators are also not on track to meet global nutrition targets. The food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report puts a spotlight on diet quality as a critical link between food security and nutrition. Meeting SDG 2 targets will only be possible if people have enough food to eat and if what they are eating is nutritious and affordable. The report also introduces new analysis of the cost and affordability of healthy diets around the world, by region and in different development contexts. It presents valuations of the health and climate-change costs associated with current food consumption patterns, as well as the potential cost savings if food consumption patterns were to shift towards healthy diets that include sustainability considerations. The report then concludes with a discussion of the policies and strategies to transform food systems to ensure affordable healthy

diets, as part of the required efforts to end both hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family *W. W. Norton & Company*

Winner of the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize: "[A] commanding and important book." —Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker* This epic work—named a best book of the year by the Washington Post, Time, the Los Angeles Times, Amazon, the San Francisco Chronicle, and a notable book by the New York Times—tells the story of the Hemingses, whose close blood ties to our third president had been systematically expunged from American history until very recently. Now, historian and legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed traces the Hemings family from its origins in Virginia in the 1700s to the family's dispersal after Jefferson's death in 1826.

The Dead Fish Museum *Vintage*

"In the fall, I went for walks and brought home bones. The best bones weren't on trails—deer and moose don't die conveniently—and soon I was wandering so far into the woods that I needed a map and compass to find my way home. When winter came and snow blew into the mountains, burying the bones, I continued to spend my days and often my nights in the woods. I vaguely understood that I was doing this because I could no longer think; I found relief in walking up hills. When the night temperatures dropped below zero, I felt visited by necessity, a baseline purpose, and I walked for miles, my only objective to remain upright, keep moving, preserve warmth. When I was lost, I told myself stories . . ." So Charles D'Ambrosio recounted his life in

Philipsburg, Montana, the genesis of the brilliant stories collected here, six of which originally appeared in *The New Yorker*. Each of these eight burnished, terrifying, masterfully crafted stories is set against a landscape that is both deeply American and unmistakably universal. A son confronts his father's madness and his own hunger for connection on a misguided hike in the Pacific Northwest. A screenwriter fights for his sanity in the bleak corridors of a Manhattan psych ward while lusting after a ballerina who sets herself ablaze. A Thanksgiving hunting trip in Northern Michigan becomes the scene of a haunting reckoning with marital infidelity and desperation. And in the magnificent title story, carpenters building sets for a porn movie drift dreamily beneath a surface of sexual tension toward a racial violence they will never fully comprehend. Taking place in remote cabins, asylums, Indian reservations, the backroads of Iowa and the streets of Seattle, this collection of stories, as muscular and challenging as the best novels, is about people who have been orphaned, who have lost connection, and who have exhausted the ability to generate meaning in their lives. Yet in the midst of lacerating difficulty, the sensibility at work in these fictions boldly insists on the enduring power of love. D'Ambrosio conjures a world that is fearfully inhospitable, darkly humorous, and touched by glory; here are characters, tested by every kind of failure, who struggle to remain human, whose lives have been sharpened rather than numbed by adversity, whose apprehension of truth and beauty has been deepened rather than defeated by their troubles. Many writers speak of the abyss. Charles D'Ambrosio writes as if he is inside of it, gazing upward, and the

gaze itself is redemptive, a great yearning ache, poignant and wondrous, equal parts grit and grace. A must read for everyone who cares about literary writing, *The Dead Fish Museum* belongs on the same shelf with the best American short fiction.

Two Girls, Fat and Thin *Simon and Schuster*

This captivating novel shimmers with dark intensity and wicked wit. In a stunning synthesis of eroticism, rage, pathos, and humor, Gaitskill's "fine storyteller's pace and brilliant metaphors" (*The New York Times Book Review*) create a haunting and unforgettable journey into the dark side of contemporary life and the deepest recesses of the soul.

You Are Not a Stranger Here *Anchor*

In these unforgettable stories, the acclaimed author of *Imagine Me Gone* explores lives that appear shuttered by loss and discovers entire worlds hidden inside them. The impact is at once harrowing and thrilling. An elderly inventor, burning with manic creativity, tries to reconcile with his estranged gay son. A bereaved boy draws a thuggish classmate into a relationship of escalating guilt and violence. A genteel middle-aged woman, a long-time resident of a psychiatric hospital, becomes the confidante of a lovelorn teenaged volunteer. Told with Chekhovian restraint and compassion, and conveying both the sorrow of life and the courage with which people rise to meet it, *You Are Not a Stranger Here* is a triumph of storytelling.

Awayland *Penguin*

An inventive story collection that spans the globe as it explores love, childhood,

and parenthood with an electric mix of humor and emotion. Acclaimed for the grace, wit, and magic of her novels, Ramona Ausubel introduces us to a geography both fantastic and familiar in eleven new stories, some of them previously published in *The New Yorker* and *The Paris Review*. Elegantly structured, these stories span the globe and beyond, from small-town America and sunny Caribbean islands to the Arctic Ocean and the very gates of Heaven itself. And though some of the stories are steeped in mythology, they remain grounded in universal experiences: loss of identity, leaving home, parenthood, joy, and longing. Crisscrossing the pages of *Awayland* are travelers and expats, shadows and ghosts. A girl watches as her homesick mother slowly dissolves into literal mist. The mayor of a small Midwestern town offers a strange prize, for stranger reasons, to the parents of any baby born on Lenin's birthday. A chef bound for Mars begins an even more treacherous journey much closer to home. And a lonely heart searches for love online--never mind that he's a Cyclops. With her signature tenderness, Ramona Ausubel applies a mapmaker's eye to landscapes both real and imagined, all the while providing a keen guide to the wild, uncharted terrain of the human heart.

Eva Moves the Furniture *Henry Holt and Company*

From a highly acclaimed author--the enchanting, bittersweet story of a motherless young woman torn between real life and the otherworldly companions only she can see. On the morning of Eva McEwen's birth, six magpies congregate in the apple tree outside the window--a bad omen, according to Scottish legend. That night Eva's mother dies, leaving her

to be raised by her aunt and heartsick father in the small town of Troon, Scotland. As a child, Eva is often visited by two companions: a woman and a girl. Invisible to everyone else, they seem benevolent at first, helping her to tidy her room and collect the hens' eggs. But as she grows older, their intentions become increasingly unclear: Do they wish to protect or harm her? Is their meddling in her best interest or prompted by darker motivations? In the shadow of World War II, Eva studies nursing in Glasgow, tending to the wounded soldiers. But when she falls in love with a young plastic surgeon, the companions seem to have a very different idea as to her fate, and once again she finds herself unable to resist their pull. A magical novel about loneliness, love, and the profound connection between mother and daughter, *Eva Moves the Furniture* fuses the simplicity of a fairy tale with the complexity of adult passions.

The Commoner *Vintage*

In this national bestseller from the author of *Reservation Road*, a young woman, Haruko, becomes the first nonaristocratic woman to penetrate the Japanese monarchy. When she marries the Crown Prince of Japan in 1959, Haruko is met with cruelty and suspicion by the Empress, and controlled at every turn as she tries to navigate this mysterious, hermetic world, suffering a nervous breakdown after finally giving birth to a son. Thirty years later, now Empress herself, she plays a crucial role in persuading another young woman to accept the marriage proposal of her son, with tragic consequences. Based on extensive research, *The Commoner* is a stunning novel about a brutally rarified and controlled existence, and the

complex relationship between two isolated women who are truly understood only by each other.

Because They Wanted To *Simon and Schuster*

A collection of startling and breathtaking stories about people struggling with the disparity between what they want and what they know. A New York Times Notable Book A man tells a story to a woman sitting beside him on a plane, little suspecting what it reveals about his capacity for cruelty and contempt. A callow runaway girl is stranded in a strange city with another woman's fractiously needy children. An uncomprehending father helplessly lashes out at the daughter he both loves and resents. In these raw, startling, and incandescently lovely stories, the author of *Veronica* yields twelve indelible portraits of people struggling with the disparity between what they want and what they know. *Because They Wanted To* is further evidence that Gaitskill is one of the fiercest, funniest, and most subversively compassionate writers at work today.

Netherland *Vintage*

A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR • WINNER OF THE PEN/FAULKNER AWARD • "Netherland tells the fragmented story of a man in exile—from home, family and, most poignantly, from himself." —Washington Post Book World In a New York City made phantasmagorical by the events of 9/11, and left alone after his English wife and son return to London, Hans van den Broek stumbles upon the vibrant New York subculture of cricket, where he revisits his lost childhood and, thanks to a friendship with a charismatic and charming Trinidadian named Chuck

Ramkissoo, begins to reconnect with his life and his adopted country. As the two men share their vastly different experiences of contemporary immigrant life in America, an unforgettable portrait emerges of an "other" New York populated by immigrants and strivers of every race and nationality.

We Should Never Meet *St. Martin's Press*

Compelling, moving, and beautifully written, the interlinked stories that make up *We Should Never Meet* alternate between Saigon before the city's fall in 1975 and present-day "Little Saigon" in Southern California---exploring the reverberations of the Vietnam War in a completely new light. Intersecting the lives of eight characters across three decades and two continents, these stories dramatize the events of Operation Babylift, the U.S.-led evacuation of thousands of Vietnamese orphans to America just weeks before the fall of Saigon. Unwitting reminders of the war, these children were considered *bui doi*, the dust of life, and faced an uncertain, dangerous existence if left behind in Vietnam. Four of the stories follow the saga of one orphan's journey from the points-of-view of a teenage mother, a duck farmer and a Catholic nun from the Mekong Delta, a social worker in Saigon, and a volunteer doctor from America. The other four take place twenty years later and chronicle the lives of four Vietnamese orphans now living in America: Kim, an embittered Amerasian searching for her unknown mother; Vinh, her gang member ex-boyfriend who preys on Vietnamese families; Mai, an ambitious orphan who faces her emancipation from the American foster-care system; and Huan, an Amerasian adopted by a white family,

who returns to Vietnam with his adoptive mother. *We Should Never Meet* is one of those rare books that truly takes an original look at the human condition--- and marks the exciting debut of a major new writer for our time.

The Same River Twice *Simon and Schuster*

From the critically acclaimed author of the novel *The Good Brother* and memoir *My Father the Pornographer*, *Same River Twice* is the second volume from an American literary star. "If you haven't read Chris Offutt, you've missed an accomplished and compelling writer" (*Chicago Tribune*). At the age of nineteen, Chris Offutt had already been rejected by the army, the Peace Corps, the park rangers, and the police. So he left his home in the Kentucky Appalachians and thumbed his way north—into a series of odd jobs and even stranger encounters with his fellow Americans. Fifteen years later, Offutt finds himself in a place he never thought he'd be: settled down with a pregnant wife. Writing from the banks of the Iowa River, where he came to rest, he intersperses the story of his youthful journeys with that of his journey to fatherhood in a memoir that is uniquely candid, occasionally brutal, and often wonderfully funny. As he reckons with the comforts and terrors of maturity, Offutt finally discovers what is best in life and in himself.

Only the Animals *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

Perhaps only the animals can tell us what it is to be human. The souls of ten animals caught up in human conflicts over the last century and connected to both famous and little-known writers in surprising ways tell their astonishing

stories of life and death. In a trench on the Western Front, a cat recalls her owner Colette's theatrical antics in Paris. In Nazi Germany, a dog seeks enlightenment. A Russian tortoise once owned by the Tolstoys drifts in space during the Cold War. During the Siege of Sarajevo, a starving bear tells a fairy tale. And a dolphin sent to Iraq by the U.S. Navy writes a letter to Sylvia Plath. Exquisitely written, playful, and poignant, Ceridwen Dovey's *Only the Animals* is a remarkable literary achievement by one of our brightest young writers. An animal's-eye-view of humans at our brutal, violent worst and our creative, imaginative best, it asks us to find our way back to empathy not only for animals but for other people, and to believe again in the redemptive power of reading and writing fiction.

Belonging *Walker*

As in the author's previous picture book, *Window*, this book is observed through the window of a house in a typical urban neighbourhood, each picture shows time passing. This is *Window* in reverse, with the land being reclaimed from built-up concrete to a gradual greening.

The Boat *Penguin Group Australia*

'The Boat raises the bar for Australian writing.' Peter Craven, *Heat* 'Nam Le is . . . a disturber of the peace. 'Consider the subjects of his stories: a child assassin in Colombia ('Cartagena'), an ageing New York artist desperate for a reconciliation with his daughter ('Meeting Elise'), a boy's coming of age in a rough Victorian fishing town ('Halflead Bay'), before the first atomic bomb falls in Japan ('Hiroshima'), The suffocations of theocracy in Iran ('Tehran Calling'). This astonishing range is topped and tailed by accounts of the uneasy reunion of a

young Vietnamese writer in America with his ex-soldier father, and by the title story – the escape of a group of exhausted refugees from the Vietcong in a wallowing boat. 'One might be permitted to think, after all this high seriousness and intensity, Nam Le can't do funny. But this criminally talented 29-year-old can do that as well.' Barry Oakley, *Australian Literary Review* 'Stunning' *The Times* 'A fearless new Australian voice that accepts no geographical limits: these are stories of leaping power and the most breathtaking grace and intimacy.' Helen Garner 'Wonderful stories that snarl and pant across our crazed world . . . an extraordinary performance. Nam Le is a heartbreaker, not easily forgotten.' Junot Diaz 'The fiction debut of the year.' James Ley, *Australian Book Review* 'The best book debut of 2008.' *New York Magazine* 'The runaway literary success of 2008.' *Weekend Australian*

Glimmer Train Stories

Last Evenings on Earth *New Directions Publishing*

Fourteen dark tales about the tragic qualities of exile feature protagonists who are struggling with marginal lives and private, often ill-fated, quests, in a collection set in the Chilean exile diaspora of Latin America and Europe. Reprint.

While They Slept *Random House*

Early on an April morning, eighteen-year-old Billy Frank Gilley, Jr., killed his sleeping parents. Surprised in the act by his younger sister, Becky, he turned on her as well. Billy then climbed the stairs to the bedroom of his other sister, Jody, and said, "We're free." But is one ever free after an unredeemable act of

violence? The Gilley family murders ended a lifetime of physical and mental abuse suffered by Billy and Jody at the hands of their parents. And it required each of the two survivors—one a convicted murderer, the other suddenly an orphan—to create a new identity, a new life.

Foreign Soil *Simon and Schuster*

From a new voice in international fiction, a prize-winning collection of stories that cross the world—Africa, London, the West Indies, Australia—and express the global experience "with exquisite sensitivity" (Dave Eggers, author of *The Circle*). In this collection of award-winning stories, Maxine Beneba Clarke gives voice to the disenfranchised, the lost, and the mistreated. Her stories will challenge you, move you, and change the way you view this complex world we inhabit. Within these pages, a desperate asylum seeker is pacing the hallways of Sydney's notorious Villawood detention centre; a seven-year-old Sudanese boy has found solace in a patchwork bike; an enraged black militant is on the war-path through the rebel squats of 1960s Brixton; a Mississippi housewife decides to make the ultimate sacrifice to save her son from small-town ignorance; a young woman leaves rural Jamaica in search of her destiny; and a Sydney schoolgirl loses her way. In the bestselling tradition of novelists such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Marlon James, this urgent, poetic, and essential work announces the arrival of a fresh and talented voice in international fiction.

The Fellowship Of The Ring *HarperCollins*

Begin your journey into Middle-earth... The inspiration for the upcoming original

series on Prime Video, *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. The Fellowship of the Ring is the first part of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic adventure *The Lord of the Rings*. One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them. Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power—the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring—the ring that rules them all—which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

Coconut Children, The *Random House Australia*

From the winner of the SMH/Age Best Young Novelist of the Year and the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year. Growing up can feel like a death sentence. Life in the troubled neighbourhood of Cabramatta demands too much too young. But Sonny wouldn't really know. Watching the world from her bedroom window, she exists only in second-hand romance novels and falls for any fast-food employee who happens to spare her a glance. Everything changes with the return of Vince, a boy who became a legend after he was hauled away in handcuffs. Sonny and Vince used to be childhood friends. But with all that happened in-between, childhood seems so long ago. It will take two years of juvie, an inebriated grandmother and an unexpected discovery for them to meet again. The

Coconut Children is an urgent, moving and wise debut from a young and gifted storyteller.

The Bodysurfers: Penguin Special *Penguin Group Australia*

Haunted by the brutal murder of a local couple, David heads to his weekend shack with his new lover, Lydia, and his children from his recently crumbled marriage. Together they find escape, if only briefly, in the ocean and the bush. *The Bodysurfers*, the title story of Robert Drewe's classic first collection, is a vivid evocation of love, passion, terror and the beauty of the beach.

Australia Day Text Publishing

Winner, Prize for Fiction, The 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 'Melanie Cheng is an astonishingly deft and incisive writer. With economy and elegance, she creates a dazzling mosaic of contemporary life, of how we live now. Hers is a compelling new voice in Australian literature.' Christos Tsiolkas *Australia Day* is a collection of stories by debut author Melanie Cheng. The people she writes about are young, old, rich, poor, married, widowed, Chinese, Lebanese, Christian, Muslim. What they have in common—no matter where they come from—is the desire we all share to feel that we belong. The stories explore universal themes of love, loss, family and identity, while at the same time asking crucial questions about the possibility of human connection in a globalised world. Melanie Cheng is a writer and general practitioner. She was born in Adelaide, grew up in Hong Kong and now lives in Melbourne. Her debut collection of short stories, *Australia Day*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript in 2016 and the Victorian Premier's Literary

Award for Fiction in 2018. *Room for a Stranger* is her first novel. 'A stunning debut that takes its place among Australian short story greats.' AU Review 'The book bears witness to the author's empathetic eye, multicultural characterisation and easy facility with dialogue...This short story collection explores what it means to belong, to be Australian; its insight from different vantage points and its photo-realistic narrative make it an exciting and impressive debut.' Judges' Report, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, 2018 'All of her characters—a diverse cast of difference races and faiths—are searching for connection or a sense of belonging, and coming up short. Despite its title the focus of this collection is not explicitly on that increasingly controversial public holiday. Rather, it is on the struggles, internal and external, that occur when people from different backgrounds meet by chance or are brought together...Australia Day is a bittersweet, beautifully crafted collection that will be much admired by fans of Cate Kennedy and Tony Birch.' Books+Publishing 'Melanie Cheng's voice is strong, compassionate and embracing in these 14 stories that reflect the diversity of Australians and the starkness of human frailty. The recurring theme in all these stories is the ability to re-form lives that, at first, might seem to be shattered beyond repair.' Good Reading, FOUR STARS 'The different cultures, the intriguing characters all left me wanting more. I'd love to see some longer fiction from Melanie Cheng in the future but I'll happily accept anything and everything she writes. A fantastic talent who has nailed the art of the short story.' Sam Still Reading 'What a wonderful book, a book with bite. These stories have a real

edge to them. They are complex without being contrived, humanising, but never sentimental or cloying—and, ultimately, very moving.' Alice Pung 'In each story, Melanie Cheng creates an entire microcosm, peeling back the superficial to expose the raw nerves of contemporary Australian society. Her eye is sharp and sympathetic, her characters flawed and funny and utterly believable.' Jennifer Down 'Melanie Cheng's stories are a deep dive into the diversity of humanity. They lead you into lives, into hearts, into unexplored places, and bring you back transformed.' Michelle Wright 'The characters stay in the mind, their lives and experiences mirroring many of our own, challenging us to think how we might respond in their place. An insightful, sometimes uncomfortable portrayal of multicultural Australia from an observant and talented writer.' Ranjana Srivastava 'A bittersweet, beautifully crafted collection.' Books+Publishing 'Australia Day is an absorbing panorama of contemporary Australia...These are 14 powerfully perceptive stories, written with love, humour, realism, and a distinct edginess. While the terrain covered might be familiar, Cheng's take on our treasured multiculturalism feels fresh... It's necessary reading, not only because it's a microcosm of who we are, but because each story is a gem, and a joy to behold.' Simon McDonald 'If only the PM might pick up a copy, even by mistake.' Saturday Paper 'A wonderful feat of storytelling...Melanie Cheng is an exciting new writer.' Readings 'A sumptuous collection of fourteen short stories, which are disparate but with modern Australia or Australians at their heart, exploring issues of racism, infidelity, grief, parenthood, children and ageing...they are heartfelt and

Melbourne-based Cheng paints the characters beautifully.' Herald Sun 'A panorama of contemporary multicultural Australia that explores each and everyone's desire to belong.' Book Bonding 'A diverse, captivating collection of short stories.' Better Read Than Dead 'The happy surprise of Cheng's work as a collection lies in her resolute grasp of the absolute normalcy of a culture that not so many years ago was divided and dually suspicious. The census gives us the facts but it takes fiction to make reality three-dimensional.' Sydney Morning Herald 'The author's empathetic eye and easy facility with dialogue make the anthology a strong debut, with the longer stories in particular offering breadth and depth...It feels like Cheng has taken a wide sample from the census to craft this inclusive portrait of contemporary Australia.' Big Issue 'Cheng's work is polished and affecting. Australia Day is that thing we all chase: a complex, engaging and timely read.' Lifted Brow 'Cheng paints a holistic snapshot of Australian life, with the result being a collection of stories that are simultaneously cynical and hopeful...The ambiguity inherent in labelling something "Australian" is also manifest in Cheng's characters, prompting the reader to interrogate their own definition of what it means to be Australian.' Kill Your Darlings 'Melanie Cheng writes prose that gets straight to the heart of the matter and tells it how it is...The more I sit here and reflect on each story in this collection, the stronger and more powerful they become.' Sam Still Reading 'Wonderful.' Christos Tsiolkas, Sydney Morning Herald's Year in Reading 'Melanie Cheng's Australia Day brought this prodigal reader of short fiction back into the fold. And what better return

than through Cheng's creation of illuminated characters of colour—young, old, rich, poor, married, widowed, Muslim, Chinese...Cheng's Australia Day explores the density and difficulty inherent in being culturally and physically different and serves to remind me that when our six families of adopted children from China gather in Queenscliffe on Australia Day each year, raising two flags on the pole instead of one that we, like all of Cheng's characters, are restoring belonging from our individual and collective loss.' Wheeler Centre, 2017 Favourites 'This smart, engaging short story collection offers fresh perspectives on what it means to be Australian today. The stories also explore identity and belonging in a variety of other ways, delving into family, love, class and education. Big themes aside, every story is beautifully written and a total pleasure to read.' Emily Maguire, Australian Women's Weekly 'The stories are unpretentious, diverse, and a lot of the time, disconcertingly real. Cheng's characters are just as well realised; they live on in your head long after you've put her book down.' Lifted Brow, Favourite Books of 2017 'Offering a fresh viewpoint on modern Australia, debut author Cheng is a significant new voice on the literary scene.' PS News '[Cheng's] individual characters suggest the ways in which we might move forward...Australia Day imagines a tomorrow where we can love our communities, our celebrations and our food, without leaving behind critical good taste.' Sydney Review of Books

Just Wait Till You Have Children of Your Own! Fawcett

"She goes a long way with her book to prove that humor is the best -- possibly

the only -- way to keep the world on an even keel." CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
Remember the things Mother used to say? Erma Bombeck remembers them all and now she's using them on her own kids! With clever illustrations by Bil Keane, these really funny, too-true

observations on family and kids and why it shouldn't work but does, is a wonderful antidote to the daily problems and crises that every family faces. With Erma Bombeck in your corner, laughter is the best coach you can have....