

Natasha Lester

I'm Natasha Lester. My third novel, *A Kiss from Mr Fitzgerald*, will be published in April 2016. My other books are *If I Should Lose You* and *What is Left Over, After*. I also love teaching other writers, public speaking, and being a mum to my three kids. All of my days are filled with imagination and making stories. But it wasn't always like this. I was too scared to become a writer twenty years ago when I went to uni. I thought being a writer wasn't really a job. So for ten years I worked in marketing for companies like Harlequin UK, choosing handsome heroes for the covers of books, and for L'Oreal in Australia. It was great fun; I had more lipsticks than anyone could ever need. But it wasn't what I really wanted to do.

I'd always dreamed of writing a book. So, one day, I quit my fabulous job and went back to uni to study Creative Writing. I started small. The first thing I ever submitted for publication was a poem. And it was accepted! It was the best \$100 I'd ever earned.

Of course it wasn't always that easy. I had three babies during the five years of writing my first book and waiting for it to be published. I often wondered what the hell I was doing. I constantly doubted that my book would ever be read by anyone. But I loved writing. So I kept going through all the babies and all the doubt and all the rejections. And finally, someone believed in my first book as much as I did and agreed to publish it.

I still remember the feeling of going into a book store and seeing my book on the shelf for the first time. I was so excited that I took photos!

Since then, I've published a second novel, *If I Should Lose You*, and my third book, *A Kiss from Mr Fitzgerald*, will be published in April 2016. I also teach lots of writing courses because my other passion is helping people achieve their dream of writing a book.

A Kiss From Mr Fitzgerald

If you loved THE PARIS WIFE and Z: A NOVEL OF ZELDA FITZGERALD, you will devour this deliciously evocative love story of a small-town girl with big ambitions in 1920s New York.

It's 1922 in the Manhattan of gin, jazz and prosperity. Women wear makeup and hitched hemlines – and enjoy a new freedom to vote and work. Not so Evelyn Lockhart, forbidden from pursuing her passion: to become one of the first female doctors.

Chasing her dream will mean turning her back on the only life she knows: her competitive sister, Viola; her conservative parents; and the childhood best friend she is expected to marry, Charlie.

And if Evie does fight Columbia University's medical school for acceptance, how will she support herself? So when there's a casting call for the infamous late-night Ziegfeld Follies on Broadway, will Evie find the nerve to audition? And if she does, what will it mean for her fledgling relationship with Upper East Side banker Thomas Whitman, a man Evie thinks she could fall in love with, if only she lived a life less scandalous?

Captivating, romantic and tragic, A KISS FROM MR FITZGERALD follows a young woman ahead of her time amid the fragile hearts and glamour of Jazz Age New York.

John Kinsella

John Kinsella is the author of over twenty books, and is editor of the international literary journal *Salt*. He is a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University. In 2007 he received the Fellowship of Australian Writers Christopher Brennan Award for lifetime achievement in poetry. His previous collection, *Shades of the Sublime & Beautiful*, is also published by Picador.

Drowning in Wheat collects the best of three decades of John Kinsella's astonishing poetry in one volume. Kinsella is universally acknowledged as one of the greatest living Australian poets.

A follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Jam Tree Gully*, *Firebreaks* records life and ecology in Western Australia.

Known for a poetry both experimental, "activist," and lyrical that reinvents the pastoral, John Kinsella considers his and his family's life at Jam Tree Gully, in the Western Australian wheatbelt, and his deeply felt ecological concerns in this new cycle of poems about place, landscape, home, and absence. Part One, "Internal Exile," explores issues of departure and return as well as alienation in Jam Tree Gully. Part Two, "Inside Out," reevaluates how Kinsella and his family deal with ideas of "space" and proximity while also looking out into the wider world. How do we read an ecology as refuge? What lines of communication with the outside world need to be kept open? As Paul Kane observed in *World Literature Today*, "In Kinsella's poetry . . . are lands marked by isolation and mundane violence and by a terrible transcendent beauty."

Tracy Ryan was born and grew up in Western Australia. She has worked at various jobs in libraries, bookselling, editing, community journalism and university teaching. She has a BA in English from Curtin University and a BA (Hons) in French from the University of New England in NSW. She is especially interested in foreign languages and the translation of poetry.

The prolific Tracy Ryan's new novel, *Claustrophobia*, is a smart and fast-paced hurtle through lust, obsession, and stultifying patterns of dependency and self-delusion. Written in a low-key, ironic style, Ryan borrows from tropes of crime fiction, in particular the novels of Patricia Highsmith, as well as the double-crossing figure of the femme fatale, to tell the story of Pen, a seemingly ordinary and slightly bored woman from the Perth hills.

Rashida Murphy

Rashida Murphy has published her short fiction and poetry in various literary journals and anthologies, in Australia, India, U.K and U.S.A. *The Historian's Daughter* was shortlisted in the Dundee International Book Prize in 2015 and is being published by UWA Publishing in 2016. Currently she is an editor at Westerly and Books Editor at Cafe Dissensus. Rashida has a Masters in English Literature and a PhD in Writing from Edith Cowan University. After a short-lived career as a pen seller, Rashida taught ESL and Writing for several years before undertaking her PhD. In 2016 she won the Magdalena Prize for feminist research for her thesis which includes the novel *The Historian's Daughter*. She lives in Perth with her husband and visiting wildlife.

Ron Elliott is a scriptwriter, director and academic. His directorial credits include a feature film, *Justice*, and episodes of ABC programs such as *Dancing Daze*, *Relative Merits* and *Studio 86*. Ron has written for *Home and Away*, *Minty*, *Wild Kat*, *Ship to Shore* and many more children's television series. In 2001 he wrote the AFI nominated telemovie *Southern Cross*. Ron also lectured in Film and Television at Curtin University.

Burn Patterns

To her clients and colleagues, Iris is a therapist in a city psychology practice. But to the police and fire services, she is the Fire Lady – a profiler of arsonists.

After a troubled young man burns down her office, Iris just wants a quiet life. But her peace is shattered when a bomb goes off at a local school. Called in to help, Iris meets James, delusional and dangerous, and Chuck, a lone investigator tracking a serial arsonist he calls Zorro.

As public attacks become more orchestrated and brazen, Iris is soon embroiled in the investigation – as a profiler and as a suspect, and in serious doubt about her own sanity.

Ron Elliott New Norcia Session

Volunteers from the audience will read excerpts from the book prepared like film scenes. Enjoy police interrogations live. Who knows, some readers may be discovered and they can start their film careers in New Norcia 2016.

Ron Elliott talks about his latest novel *Burn Patterns* whilst directing the participants.