

# BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

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## BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

*Reach beyond the page*

12 - 16 September 2007

[www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au](http://www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au)

### Biographies of International Guests

#### KEVIN J ANDERSON (USA)

*The Saga of the Seven Suns*

*Dune* series (co-authored with Brian Herbert, after Frank Herbert)

*Crystal Door Titles - Island Realm; Ocean Realm* (co-authored with Rebecca Moesta)

**Genre:** Sci-fi Fantasy

**Release date:** *The Saga of the Seven Suns*: 2007-2008; *Crystal Door Titles*: Aug/Sept. 2007.

**Selected previous titles:** *Star Wars* spin off series, *Dune* series (with Brian Herbert), *X files* series.

**Quote:** 'A space opera to rival the best the field has ever seen.' **SF Chronicle**

**Book:** *The Saga of the Seven Suns* is a multi-volume chronicle of a legendary war that spans half the Galaxy and nearly shatters the cosmos. This series follows the family intrigues, the loves and tragedies, pomp and pageantry among several competing races in an expanding stellar empire.

**Author:** Born in 1962, Anderson is a prolific science fiction author with over 20 million books in print in 29 languages worldwide. He is continuing Frank Herbert's monumental *Dune* series with Frank's son, Brian Herbert; the US deal for this was the largest contract in SF publishing history. For a book signing during the promotional tour for his comedy/adventure novel *All Pedrito!* he broke the Guinness World Record for 'Largest Single-Author Signing,' passing the previous records set by Gen. Colin Powell and Howard Stern. Anderson's research has taken him to the top of Mount Whitney and the bottom of the Grand Canyon, inside a Minuteman III missile and behind the scenes at FBI Headquarters. He lives with his author wife Rebecca Moesta (also attending BWF 07) in Colorado.

**Related links:** [www.myspace.com/kevinjanderson](http://www.myspace.com/kevinjanderson) / [www.wordfire.com](http://www.wordfire.com)

#### ABDEL BARI ATWAN (Palestine/UK)

*The Secret History of al-Qa'ida*

**Genre:** Non-Fiction

**Quote:** 'An excellent, very personal book.' **Washington Post**

**Book:** Over the last ten years, Abdel Bari Atwan has amassed a wealth of information about al-Qa'ida. In 1996 Atwan interviewed Osama bin Laden. He had to travel through the mountains, dressed in Afghan clothing. He later called the experience his "most frightening trip". His impression of bin Laden was that he is "a phenomenon, extreme". In this book, he reveals how al-Qaida's radical departure from the classic terrorist/guerrilla blueprint has made them enemy number one. Far from committing acts of violence randomly and indiscriminately, al-Qa'ida attacks target according to a decisive design underwritten by unwavering patience. He also argues that events in Iraq and Saudi Arabia are watershed moments in the group's evolution that are making it more dangerous by the day.

**Author:** Editor-in-Chief of London-based Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*. Born in 1950 in a Palestinian refugee camp, he has lived in Britain for thirty years and is a familiar face on Dateline London, BBC World and CNN World.

**SHAUGHNESSY BISHOP-STALL (Canada)**

*Down to This: A Year of Living with the Homeless*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** January 2007

**Quote:** '...a terrific book, evocative of the writing of Hunter S Thompson.' **Maclean's**

**Book:** In November 2001, 27 year old Shaughnessy packed his life in a bag – complete with tent, notebooks, pen and a broken heart – and set out to spend a year in Tent City, the largest homeless settlement in Toronto, Canada. Thieves, ex-cons, prostitutes and drug addicts provide the backbone of this book. Written in a diary format, this poetic social commentary is very much written from the “inside.”

**Author:** *Down to This* is Bishop-Stalls' first book and the film rights have been optioned. An itinerant of life's fringes, he has picked olives in Spain, painted villas in Italy hopped freight trains in Arizona, taught English in Mexico and built a shack from scrap lumber on the edge of Lake Ontario, an experience that became the basis for *Down To This*. He can also be seen on the CBC's satire *The Newsroom* as Jason, a segment producer.

**HEIKE BRANDT & ELIZABETH HONEY (Germany & Australia)**

*To the Boy in Berlin*

**Genre:** Children's and Educational

**Release date:** April 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Wie ein Vogel im Kfig* - Brandt (2003); *The Ballad of Cauldron Bay* - Honey (2004).

**Quote:** 'This ground-breaking story...is the most exciting and thought-provoking junior novel we've published in a long time.' **Allen and Unwin**

**Book:** Popular Australian *Stella Street* series author, Elizabeth Honey, is back with well-loved hero Henni in *To the Boy in Berlin* - a funny, suspenseful novel about two email buddies, Henni in Melbourne and Leo from Berlin. Bursting with character and ideas, this is a quirky detective story about righting the wrongs of the past and fighting injustice in the present. This is a touching story of friendship, football and the power of the Internet.

**Authors:** Elizabeth Honey has collaborated with her German translator, Heike Brandt. Honey (*Stella Street* series) is a hugely popular, award-winning author of poetry, picture books and junior novels. Her playful humour, originality and energy strike a chord with kids everywhere. Heike Brandt is a bookseller, writer, translator and critic. She founded and ran a specialist children's bookstore in Berlin, which operated as a collective. She is the author of three books for young people and has translated over 70 books from English to German, including books by Australian authors such as John Marsden.

**BABA BRINKMAN (Canada)**

*The Rap Canterbury Tales*

**Genre:** Performance Poetry

**Release date:** October 2006

**Quote:** 'Hip-hop sparks into new life as Lit-hop.' **Harvard University**

**Book:** Rapper and MC Baba Brinkman brings his popular performance piece *The Rap Canterbury Tales* to the printed page, resurrecting the brilliant 15<sup>th</sup> stories of Chaucer into a radical new fusion. His raps are presented alongside Chaucer's bawdy original Middle English tales of gaseous Millers and promiscuous Wives. With tongue-in-cheek illustrations from his brother/stage manager Erik – this is *da bomb*.

**Author:** Baba Brinkman is a Canadian hip-hop artist and medieval scholar. He began his rap career at 19, free-styling and writing songs in his hometown of Vancouver, Canada. With *The Rap Canterbury Tales* he has toured at the Edinburgh Festival with sold out shows which garnered a rare five star review from *The Scotsman*, one of only nine theatre shows to receive this honour out of hundreds at the Fringe. He comes to Brisbane fresh from the UK where he was sponsored by Cambridge University to tour schools across England, performing for over sixteen hundred students in over thirty schools. With his UK connections, Baba recently recorded his third independent full-length LP, "Lit-Hop", featuring Josh Martinez, Moka Only, and ten original songs co-produced with UK hip-hop artists. Baba has also performed at the Adelaide Festival in 2006 and is currently performing at Edinburgh 2007.

**Related links:**[www.myspace.com/bababrinkman](http://www.myspace.com/bababrinkman); [www.babasword.com/](http://www.babasword.com/)

**MICHAEL COLLINS (Ireland/USA)**

*The Secret Life of E. Robert Pendleton*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** April 2006

**Selected previous titles:** *The Resurrectionists, Lost Souls, Emerald Underground, The Keeper of the Truth*

**Quote:** 'His writing blends the commonplace and the uncanny in a manner reminiscent of the films of David Lynch.' **The Sunday Times (UK)**

**Book:** Murder and literary ambition set in Bannockburn College, an American university campus, is the dark subject of *The Secret Life of E. Robert Pendleton*. Described as absurd genre trash, the story concerns a mystery/thriller about a once promising young literary talent, now a middle-aged college creative writing instructor who has botched his suicide. Written in the style of Edgar Allan Poe, this is spellbinding.

**Author:** Born in Limerick, Ireland in 1964, Collins is a distant relation of the Irish Nationalist, Michael Collins, and prides himself his political and social legacy. He is an extreme athlete having run marathons across the Sahara, Arctic, Antarctica, India/Nepal border. This acclaimed author of seven books, including novels and short stories which have been translated into 17 languages. Collins holds an MA in Creative Writing from The University of Notre Dame (1991) and a doctorate in Creative Writing from The University of Illinois (1997). While working for Microsoft Corporation, Collins penned his award-winning novel, *The Keepers of Truth*.

**Award nominations:** Shortlisted for the Man Booker 2000 (*The Keepers of Truth*)

**GUY DELISLE (France/Canada)**

*Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea; Shenzhen: A travelogue from China*

**Genre:** Graphic Novel

**Release date:** September 2005; October 2006.

**Selected previous titles:** *Inspecteur Moroni: Premiers pas, Inspecteur Moroni: Avec ou Sans sucre.*

**Books:** Described as a comic reporter/cartoonist, Guy Delisle's *Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea* and *Shenzhen: A travelogue from China* are graphic documentary-style novels.

*Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea*

Famously referred to as an "Axis-of-Evil" country, North Korea remains one of the most secretive and mysterious nations in the world today. Armed with a smuggled radio and a copy of 1984 Delisle could only explore Pyongyang and its countryside while chaperoned by his translator and a guide. His astute and bittersweet musings on life in the austere and grim regime form the basis of *Pyongyang* - an informative, personal, and accessible look at an enigmatic country.

*Shenzhen: A travelogue from China*

With a dry wit and a clean line, Delisle makes the most of his time spent in Asia overseeing outsourced production for a French animation company. By translating his fish-out-of-water experiences into accessible graphic novels, Delisle is quick to find the humour and point out the differences between Western and Eastern cultures.

**Author:** Guy Delisle is a wry 39-year-old French Canadian cartoonist who has worked at French animation studios around the Pacific Rim on the grim frontiers of free trade. Put up for months at a time in 'cold and soulless' hotel rooms, Delisle suffered the usual maladies of the long-term boarder: cultural and linguistic alienation, boredom, and cravings for Western food and real coffee. He depicts these experiences into the heart of isolation in [these] brilliant graphic novels. Now, living in the South of France with his Médecins Sans Frontières wife and son - Delisle has spent ten years working in animation.

**Related links:** [www.drawnandquarterly.com/imagesPreview/a424acad074b5c.pdf](http://www.drawnandquarterly.com/imagesPreview/a424acad074b5c.pdf)  
[www.drawnandquarterly.com/imagesPreview/a4436af6cd9f46.pdf](http://www.drawnandquarterly.com/imagesPreview/a4436af6cd9f46.pdf)

**ZORAN DRVENKAR (Germany/Croatia)**

*Tell Me What You See*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** October 2005

**Selected previous titles:** *The Short Ones, No One Is As Strong As Us,*

**Book:** Drvenkar's first book to be translated into English, *Tell Me What You See* begins in a graveyard in Berlin on Christmas night with the chance discovery of a mysterious subterranean crypt and a purple veined plant by sixteen year old best friends Alissa and Evelyn. After swallowing part of the plant attached to a young corpse, Alissa develops the powers to heal and hypnotise, leading her to both unexpected discoveries and unavoidable tragedy. Only with the help of Evelyn can Alissa salvage her sanity and learn the truth about her mysterious new gifts.

**Author:** Zoran Drvenkar is known as the 'young wild one' of German youth literature. In 2005, he received the German Young People's Literature Prize for his book *Die Kurzhosengang* or *The Short Ones*. Zoran Drvenkar was born in Croatia in 1967, and moved with his parents in 1970 to Berlin, where he lives today. Since 1989 he has worked as a freelance author and has written novels, poems, plays, film scripts and short stories.

**PAUL DURCAN (Ireland)**

*The Art of Life*

**Genre:** Poetry

**Release date:** November 2004

**Selected previous titles:** *The Berlin Wall Café, Cries of an Irish Caveman*

**Book:** Famous for his self-deprecating wit and wry analysis of the condition of the Irish male in society, celebrated poet Paul Durcan continues to amuse with his recent delightful collection of poems published at the time of his sixtieth birthday. In *The Art of Life*, Durcan takes us around Ireland in his 'filthy, two-door, bottle-green Opel Astra'. Along the way he reflects upon parental pride, the aches and pains of old age, the trim bottoms of snooker players and the wisdom of ex-wives. Is there an art of living or is life a work of art?

**Poet:** Durcan has acquired a reputation for being something of a performance artist as well; bringing a wild vibrant energy to his readings that raises them to the level of a dramatic event. Durcan has long been celebrated for a lyrical, freewheeling style that rejoices in the ordinary pleasure of daily life while still fiercely addressing his country's most pressing political concerns.

Born in Dublin in 1944, Durcan may be best known in this country as a former vocalist for the rock group "Van Morrison," (1990 *Enlightenment* Album) but back in his native Ireland he has been cultivating a large and devoted following for his poetry for more than thirty years. He is the author of seventeen critically acclaimed volumes of poetry.

**Awards/Titles:** Writer in Residence, Trinity College, Dublin, The Whitbread Prize, Patrick Kavanagh Award.

**ANTHONY ELLIOTT (UK/Australia) (co-author Charles Lemert)**

*The New Individualism: The Emotional Cost of Globalisation*

**Genre:** Non-fiction

**Release date:** October 2005

**Selected previous titles:** *Social Theory Since Freud: Traversing Social Imaginaries, Subject to Ourselves: Social Theory, Psychoanalysis and Postmodernity, and Concepts of the Self.*

**Book:** Corporate networking, compulsive consumerism, plastic surgery, therapeutic tribulations, instant identity makeovers and reality TV: - welcome to life in our increasingly individualised world. In this dazzling read, we meet characters like Larry, a high-tech executive emotionally wrecked by success and Ruth, a married woman in her late fifties, typing real-time erotica in cyberspace. Co-authors Anthony Elliott and Charles Lemert powerfully explore the culture of the 'new individualism' generated by global capitalism, and develop a major new perspective on people's emotional experiences of globalisation.

**Authors:** Anthony Elliott is Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK and Chair-elect of Sociology at Flinders University, Adelaide. He was formerly Director of the Centre for Critical Theory at the University of the West of England, Bristol and also an Australian Research Council Fellow at Monash University. He lives in Adelaide. Charles Lemert is Andrus Professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University, Connecticut, USA, and a leading figure in American Sociology. His recent books include: *Muhammad Ali: Trickster Celebrity in the Culture of Irony* (Polity: 2003).

**BRIAN FALKNER (UK)**

*Henry and the Flea; The Real Thing; Super Freak*

**Genre:** Young adult /8-14 year old boys

**Books:** *Henry and the Flea* - Twelve-year-old Daniel wants to play professional rugby league (for the NZ Warriors!). Of course he is far too young, but Daniel has a secret, and to everyone's amazement ends up on the team. A funny and intriguing read about whether you want to be a superhero or a super villain.

*The Real Thing* - When the three people in the entire world who know the secret formula for Coca-Cola are kidnapped, the giant American corporation is in deep trouble. But the kidnappers didn't count on the extraordinary abilities of a boy from Auckland.

*Super Freak* - No matter how hard Jacob tries to be good, he just keeps getting into trouble. So when he discovers his amazing super power, he decides to use it to become a super criminal. But that doesn't go according to plan either.

**Author:** Brian Falkner was born and raised in Auckland. Professionally, he has worked as a radio journalist, radio copywriter, computer consultant and as a graphic designer. Falkner has been described as an author who really taps into the way children think and their perspective on the world. He's sharp, varied and a nuanced writer.

**Related Links:** [www.brianfalkner.co.nz](http://www.brianfalkner.co.nz)

**PATRICK GALE (UK)**

*Notes from an Exhibition*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** July 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Rough Music*

**Quote:** *'This is a book full of insight, intelligence and quiet humour familiar from his previous masterpiece.'* **Image Magazine**

**Book:** Patrick Gale's latest novel is about Rachel Kelly, a character he has called "my most frightening mother to date". She's a genius, a loving wife to a Quaker husband, a faithful friend but she's also tormented by bi-polar disorder and driven by an artistic compulsion. *Notes from an Exhibition* takes its title from the information cards displayed beside works of art in a gallery or museum. Each chapter in this moving novel begins with a different example, all of them referring to Kelly's art or possessions.

**Author:** Patrick Gale was born on the Isle of Wight in 1962. He spent his infancy at Wandsworth Prison, which his father governed. He now lives on a farm near Land's End, Cornwall in England. As well as writing and reviewing fiction, he has published a deeply personal version of Armistead Maupin's biography, (the two authors are good friends and appearing together in a session at this year's Festival), a short history of the Dorchester Hotel and chapters on Mozart's piano and mechanical music for H.C. Robbin Landon's *The Mozart Compendium*. His most recent novels are *Rough Music* and *Tree Surgery for Beginners*.

**Related Links:** [www.galewarning.org](http://www.galewarning.org)

**DAMON GALGUT (South Africa)**

*The Good Doctor; The Quarry*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** November 2003; February 2005.

**Selected previous titles:** *Sinless Season, The Beautiful Screaming of Pigs*

**Quote:** '...a sustained meditation upon the unreliability of new dawns'. **The Guardian (UK)**

**Book:** Set in post-Apartheid South Africa, *The Good Doctor* explores the uneasy friendship between two very different men in a rural hospital. Narrator, Frank Eloff, is a bureaucratic doctor in a hospital nobody uses. When a new room-mate arrives, an enthusiastic young doctor called Laurence Waters; his idealism creates problems for all. The scalpel-sharp precision of Galgut's writing ensures that readers are drawn in.

**Author:** Damon Galgut is a playwright and novelist living in Cape Town. His family, of European stock, had strong ties to the South African judiciary. He was born in Pretoria in 1963 and studied drama at the University of Cape Town, writing his first novel, *A Sinless Season* (1984), when he was seventeen. Diagnosed with cancer when he was six, he spent many months in bed being read to by relatives, and now regards that time as crucial to his development as a writer. He is a keen traveller and wrote much of *The Good Doctor* in a hotel in Goa. He describes himself as "obsessed" with yoga, and owns neither a car nor a television. He has been a resident of Cape Town since the early 1990s.

**Awards:** 2003 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Africa Region, Best Book), 2003 Man Booker Prize for Fiction (Shortlisted)

**DAVID GIBBINS (Canada/UK)**

*Crusader Gold; Atlantis*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** December 2006; September 2006.

**Selected previous titles:**

**Quote:** 'What do you get if you cross Indiana Jones with Dan Brown?'

**Book:** The elusive Crusader Gold: the greatest prize missing from the final bloody conflict of the Crusades. For many it is the Jewish menorah, the huge golden candlestick looted by the Romans that was jubilantly carried off to Constantinople. Nobody knows where it is now and Jack Howard is the only man who can find out. But the clock is ticking against him.

**Author:** David Gibbins is a bestselling novelist, archaeologist, and a world authority on ancient shipwrecks and sunken cities. He was born in Saskatoon, Canada in 1962, to English parents, and grew up in Canada, New Zealand and England. He has worked in underwater archaeology all his professional life. After taking a PhD from Cambridge University he taught archaeology in Britain and abroad. *Atlantis* and *Crusader Gold* have sold almost a million copies since 2005 and are being published in more than 30 languages.

**Related Links:** [www.davidgibbins.com](http://www.davidgibbins.com)

## VICTORIA GLENDINNING

*Leonard Woolf: A Life*

**Genre:** Biography

**Release Date:** 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Trollope and Vita: The Life of Vita Sackville-West, Elizabeth Bowen, Edith Sitwell, Rebecca West, and Jonathan Swift.*

**Quote:** 'Victoria Glendinning has given us the measure - noble, engaged and quietly passionate - of the man.' **N.Y. Times**

**Book:** Award-winning biographer Victoria Glendinning draws on her deep knowledge of the twentieth century literary scene, and on her meticulous research into previously untapped sources, to write the first full biography of the extraordinary man who was the "dark star" at the centre of the Bloomsbury set. This is the definitive portrait of the Woolf marriage. A man of extremes, Leonard Woolf was ferocious and tender, violent and self-restrained, opinionated and non-judgmental, always an outsider of sorts within the exceptionally intimate, fractious, and sometimes vicious society of brilliant but troubled friends and lovers. This biography is long overdue for the full appreciation Glendinning offers in this important book.

**Author:** Biographer, critic, broadcaster and novelist Victoria Glendinning was born in Sheffield, England in 1937. She was educated at Oxford, where she read Modern Languages, and worked as a teacher and psychiatric social worker before becoming an editorial assistant for the *Times Literary Supplement* in 1974. Glendinning is Vice-President of English PEN and was awarded a CBE in 1998. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and holds honorary doctorates from the universities of Southampton, Ulster, Dublin and York. She is also a regular contributor of articles and reviews to various newspapers and magazines. She was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1989 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She lives in Somerset, England.

**Awards/Titles:** Whitbread Biography Award.

## ARIËLLA KORNMEHL (Netherlands)

*The Butterfly Month*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release Date:** August 2007

**Quote:** 'Reading this book is like listening to a calm piano piece ... It is a beautiful and worthy second novel' **Marcel Moring**

**Book:** *The Butterfly Month* is an edgy, haunting novel that derives immense power from its disarmingly gentle tone. Betrayed by her parents, her lover, and her own body, Joni, a young doctor, leaves her home in the Netherlands for a rural hospital in post-apartheid South Africa. There she lives a life of self-imposed exile, dominated and deadened by the daily stream of medical emergencies confronting her, the inadequacies of the system she works in, and the loneliness of her empty domestic existence. Apart from a few brief erotic encounters, she is able to keep the world at a distance.

**Author:** Born in Amsterdam in 1975, Ariëlla Kornmehl studied philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. On completion of her studies she spent two years living in Johannesburg, South Africa. *The Butterfly Month* is her second novel. She lives in Amsterdam with her husband and two daughters.

**Related Links:** [www.kornmehl.nl/](http://www.kornmehl.nl/)



**JOHN AJVIDE LINDQVIST (Sweden)**

*Let the Right One In: A Vampire Love Story (Hanteringen av odöda)*

**Genre:** Horror Fiction

**Release Date:** 2007

**Previous selected titles:** *Let the Right One In, Hanteringen av odöda.*

**Quote:** "I haven't read such a bold, free-wheeling romp in years, I loved every word of it." **Sonya Hartnett**

**Book:** Oskar lives with his mum in a Stockholm high-rise. He likes eating sweets and collecting stories of violent murder from the newspaper, and he has a slight incontinence problem. The kids at school call him Piggy and beat him up. Luckily, the new girl next door shows promise. Eli smells a bit and never seems to feel the cold and sometimes her hair has a lot of grey in it. So there's a good chance she's an even bigger misfit than Oskar. Described as Sweden's answer to Stephen King – "A smart, sprawling romp that's all about love and courage and loyalty. The monsters are angelic, the streets are more shadowy than the forest and the innocent little children are not to be trusted." Sonya Hartnett.

**Author:** Lindqvist was born in 1968 in Blackeberg, outside Stockholm. Before becoming a published writer, Lindqvist worked for twelve years as a magician and stand-up comedian. As a teenager, Lindqvist used to perform street magic for the tourists walking on Västerlånggatan in Stockholm. Besides fiction he has also written the manuscript for Sveriges Television's drama series *Kommissionen*, a large part of the material to the television series *Reuter & Skoog*, as well as the manuscript for the upcoming filming of his novel *Let the Right One In*. *Hanteringen av odöda* is also due to be filmed at some point in the future - the production company *Tre Vänner* has bought the rights and are planning to make a television series and motion picture.

**BRIGID LOWRY (NZ)**

*Coffee, Love, Everything*

**Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

**Release Date:** September 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Follow the Blue, Guitar Highway Rose and Lots of Love from Georgia*

**Book:** This is for the girl with the dodgy sense of humour; for the girl who likes sad songs and blue marbles, the one whose dog got run over by a car, and the one whose cat just had kittens. It's also for the girl who'd rather have a ferret. It's for the girl who doesn't feel beautiful, and the one who gets everything she wants because she's so beautiful; for the girl who is always sad, and the one who woke up and found she was happy.

**Author:** Born in 1953, Brigid Lowry teaches creative writing and also writes poetry and fiction for adults. She is in favour of op shops, travel, nectarines, coloured pencils and rivers. friendship, family, love, work, dreams, clothes, longing, losing and being happy; award-winning author Lowry writes about the lives of teenage girls and women.

**ARMISTEAD MAUPIN (USA)**

*Michael Tolliver Lives*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release Date:** June 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Tales of the City Series, Babycakes, Significant Others, Sure of You,*

**Quote:** `The Tales of the City sequence has been one of the literary menus plairs of the past decade - Maupin with his elegance and charm has found a place among the classics.' **The Observer (UK)**

**Book:** Michael Tolliver, the sweet-spirited Southerner in Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* series, is arguably the best-known gay character in fiction. For almost 30 years millions of devoted readers around the world have revelled in Michael's adventures as he searched for love in San Francisco and discovered his true family among the tenants of 28 Barbary Lane. Now, fifteen years later, Maupin tracks the 52 year old gardener through the course of a single day in the 21st century. *Michael Tolliver Lives* is Maupin first novel since 1998.

**Author:** Maupin was married in February this year and is travelling to Australia with his husband, Christopher Turner. Maupin's most noted work to date is his six-book series *Tales of the City*, which over 90,000 of the novels were sold in Australia. Initially published as a newspaper serial starting in 1974 and picked up in 1976 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the series has been translated into ten languages and there are more than six million copies in print.

**Related links:** [www.armisteadmaupin.com](http://www.armisteadmaupin.com)

**CARMEN MICHAEL (BRAZIL/AUSTRALIA)**

*Searching for Bohemia*

**Genre:** Non fiction

**Release Date:** Festival release

**Book:** *Chasing Bohemia* is the memoir of an Australian woman who, on the brink of her thirties, went to Rio de Janeiro for a week's holiday – and ended up living there. Wary of the allure of glossy brochure promises, and dismissive of the 'un-lonely-planet' travellers she had served for nearly a decade in her career as a travel-industry professional, she starts out as very much part of the jaded jetsetter generation.

**Author:** Carmen Michael is an Australian woman who first arrived in Rio for a week's holiday in 2003 and ended up living there. Since arriving, Michael has written for lonely planet, conducted interviews for the ABC and set up a site for women travellers called [www.womantraveller.com](http://www.womantraveller.com). After completing a bachelor of Economics at the University of Sydney, Michael began a career in the travel industry, established a travel dot.com, contributed to the United Nations Women in Tourism Project and has travelled extensively through South- East Asia, India, Europe, and parts of the Middle East.

## REBECCA MOESTA (USA)

*Crystal Door Titles - Island Realm; Ocean Realm* (co-authored with Kevin J. Anderson)

**Genre:** Sci-Fi/Fantasy

**Selected previous titles:** *Buffy: Little Things* novel, movie novelisation of *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Starcraft* novel (as Gabriel Mesta), *Star Trek* graphic novel - the *Gorn Crisis*, *Star Wars: Young Jedi* series, *Junior Jedi* series, *Star Wars* pop-up books

**Book:** *Crystal Doors* is a new young adult fantasy trilogy which follows the adventures of two modern teenagers who accidentally pass through a "crystal door" to a fantastic island realm very much like Atlantis, where the islanders find themselves at war with a vicious undersea race, the Merlons.

**Author:** Rebecca Moesta wanted to be an author since her early teens, but it wasn't until 1991 that she began writing in earnest. Her most recent solo novel, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Little Things*, debuted in August 2002. With her husband, Kevin J. Anderson, she has written movie novelisation of *The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen*; *Supernova*; *StarCraft* computer game *Starcraft: Shadow Of The Xel'naga* and a *Star Trek* graphic novel - *The Gorn Crisis*. The team are also working on a series of humorous monster comics - TITAN A.E. novels, *Titan A.E.: Cale's Story* And *Titan A.E.: Akima's Story*, two high-tech *Star Wars* Pop-up Books, and a series of fourteen young adult *Star Wars* novels: Moesta has written several science fiction stories, both on her own and with her husband, and co-written three science fiction and fantasy novels under a pseudonym. In addition to her many fiction credits, she has had photographs, computer art, and non-fiction articles published in numerous science fiction magazines. She has also authored three novels in the *Junior Jedi Knights* series: Born 1956, in Heidelberg, West Germany, to American parents, she moved to the United States when she was six. She lives in Colorado with her husband Kevin J. Anderson. They have co-authored *Crystal Doors*.

**Related links:** [www.myspace.com/rebeccamoesta/](http://www.myspace.com/rebeccamoesta/) [www.wordfire.com/](http://www.wordfire.com/)

## MICHAEL MORPUGO (UK)

*Alone on a Wide Wide Sea*

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Release Date:** September 2007

**Selected Previous Titles:** *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*, *Private Peaceful*, *The Butterfly Lion*

**Book:** When orphaned Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia from Liverpool after WWII he loses his sister, his country and everything he knows. The coming years will test him to his limits, as he endures mistreatment, neglect and forced labour in the Australian outback.

**Author:** Michael was the Children's Laureate 2003-2005. He divides his time between his writing and running Farms for City Children, a charity that each year takes up to 3,000 children to a working farm for a week. Michael and his wife Clare were awarded MBEs this year for their work with the charity. Before the first farm opened 22 years ago, Michael was a teacher and his knowledge of children's experiences, plus his experience of Farms, enriches his writing enormously. Michael Morpurgo has won the Whitbread Children's Book Award and the Smarties Book Prize.

**RAJ PATEL (UK/USA)**

*Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World's Food System*

**Genre:** Non-fiction

**Release Date:** September 2007

**Selected previous titles:**

**Quote:** "One of the most dazzling books I have read in a very long time. The product of a brilliant mind and a gift to a world hungering for justice." **Naomi Klein**

**Book:** From farm to fork, this is the first book to look at the entire global food chain. Today, in the West, we appear to have the world on our plates, regardless of source or season. But this apparent luxury of choice is only possible because rural communities the world over have had their choices taken away. To understand how our supermarket shopping makes us complicit in denying freedom to the world's poorest, and how we ourselves are poisoned by our choices, we need to think about the way our food comes to us. Having worked with international policy makers, visited local farming collectives in Brazil and Mexico, investigated the all-powerful distribution networks, and gone behind the scenes in the kitchens of Europe's McDonald's restaurants, Raj Patel is uniquely placed to take a long and wide view of food production and tell the story of commercial greed and helpless hunger that lies behind every meal we eat.

**Author:** Activist academic, food-chain freedom fighter Raj Patel has been tear gassed in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia. His academic affiliations include the Centre for African Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, the Institute of Food and Development Policy; the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has just returned from two years working in South Africa, based out of the Centre for Civil Society. Before that, he was a Policy Analyst at the Institute for Food and Development Policy/Food First, where he learned about the importance of land struggles, and got involved with The Land Research Action Network. Patel also has degrees from Oxford University, the London School of Economics, and Cornell University, and has been a visiting scholar at Yale University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has worked at the United Nations, World Bank and World Trade Organisation.

**Related links:** [www.stuffedandstarved.org](http://www.stuffedandstarved.org)

**JENNY PATTRICK (NZ)**

*Heart of Coal*

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Release Date:** Late 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *The Denniston Rose*

**Quote:** 'An unforgettable novel about loss and love, hope and despair, and most of all, the uncompromising spirit of a truly unique woman.' **NZ Woman's Weekly**

**Book:** This sequel to the bestselling *The Denniston Rose* continues to follow the fortunes of the remote New Zealand West Coast coal-mining settlement. At the turn of the century Denniston is still isolated, but all that is about to change. New challenges will confront both Rose and this close-knit society. A story of convention and the lack of it, and of the uncompromising spirit of a unique woman.

**Author:** Between years 2003-2006, Jenny Patrick never left the New Zealand bestseller lists. *The Denniston Rose* has been voted one of the top 100 books in the world by Whitcoulls readers. Jenny Patrick came to writing reasonably late in life, and has had many interesting careers. She has been President of the Craft Council of NZ; chaired the boards of Creative New Zealand, the New Zealand Drama School, and the New Zealand School of Dance; and for four International Festivals in Wellington chaired the Writers and Readers Festival Committee. And, with musician husband Laughton, she has written many much-performed songs for children.

**LOUISE PENNY (Canada)**

*The Cruellest Month*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release Date:** September 2007

**Selected previous titles:** *Dead Cold, Still Life*

**Quote:** ` . . .think Columbo with an accent, or perhaps a modern-day Poirot...This is a fine mystery in the classic Agatha Christie style and it is sure to leave mainstream fans wanting more.' **Booklist**

**Book:** The third novel in Louise Penny's Canadian crime series featuring Chief Inspector Gamache of the Surete du Quebec and set in the picturesque village of Three Pines. The novel takes place at Easter—traditionally a time for death, and for spirits coming back from the dead. Gamache is called to Three Pines when a seance attended by locals goes horrifyingly wrong, and a woman is found on the floor, apparently scared to death.

**Author:** Louise Penny has worked for many years for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, with expertise in hard news and current affairs. She lives in Quebec with her husband and their two golden retrievers.

**Related Links:** [www.louispenny.com](http://www.louispenny.com)

**LOUIS SACHAR (USA)**

*Small Steps, Holes*

**Genre:** Children's fiction

**Release date:** January 2006

**Previous selected titles:** *Sideways Stories From Wayside School, Someday Angelina*

**Quotes:** `Wholly observing' **The Age**

**Book:** A brilliant, fast-paced adventure story with a vibrant cast of characters, about a teenage boy trying to turn his life around. From the author of the international bestseller, *Holes*. upon returning to Austin, Armpit set five goals for himself. Five small steps:1. Graduate High School, 2. Get a job, 3. Save money, 4. Avoid situations that might turn violent. And 5. Lose the name Armpit. A wonderfully funny and deeply satisfying novel.

**Author:** Louis Sachar is an immensely popular writer of children's books. He has won numerous awards, including the Newberry Medal and the National Book Award, and his books are published in dozens of languages. He has written several successful plays and the screenplay for the film version of his book *Holes*, in which he makes a brief appearance. While a student at the University of California, Berkeley, he worked at an elementary school as the "Noon Time Supervisor," watching over the children during lunch. He played games with the kids and earned the nickname, "Louis, the Yard Teacher." Sachar's first book for children, *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*, was accepted for publication during his first week of law school. Although Sachar graduated and passed the bar exam, he decided to be a full-time writer for children rather than a lawyer.

**Related Links:** [www.louissachar.com](http://www.louissachar.com)

**BRIAN TALBOT (UK)**

*Alice in Sunderland*

**Genre:** Graphic Novel

**Release Date:** 2006

**Selected previous titles:** *The Tale of One Bad Rat*, *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*

**Quotes:** 'The Father of British Comics.' **Leo Baxendale** (Creator of *The Brash Street Kids*)

**Book:** In *Alice in Sunderland* Bryan Talbot takes the city of Sunderland and the story of Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell (the 'real' Alice) as the spine of his story and around them spins a spectacularly diverse range of different stories. In *Alice in Sunderland* he shows – triumphantly – how local history is national history in microcosm, how one story begets another. The result is a landmark book in the graphic field.

**Author:** Bryan Talbot's science fiction epic *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, begun in 1978, was the first British graphic novel. He followed it with *Heart of Empire* and *The Tale of One Bad Rat*, which has been published in nine countries. All three books have won many awards. Bryan's first published illustrations appeared in the British Tolkien Society Magazine in 1969. In 1972, in collaboration with a fellow student - the cartoonist 'Bonk' - he produced a weekly strip for the college newspaper.

**Related links:** [www.bryan-talbot.com](http://www.bryan-talbot.com)

**CHRIS TURNEY (UK/Australia)**

*Bones, Rocks and Stars*

**Genre:** Science

**Release Date:** 2006

**Selected previous titles:**

**Quotes:** "A fabulous, entertainingly written account of the amazing science behind calendars, Uranium to the Universe, and DNA to dinosaurs." **Professor Tim Flannery**

**Book:** What is the Turin Shroud? When were the Pyramids built? Where are the branches on the human family tree? Why did the dinosaurs die out? How did the Earth take shape? With questions like these, says Chris Turney, time is of the essence. And understanding how we pinpoint the past, he cautions, is crucial to putting the present in perspective and planning for the future.

In ten chapters, each focusing on a well-known dating controversy (from the existence of King Arthur to the last Ice Age) - Turney reveals the leg-work behind the headlines. Drawing on years of professional experience, most recently with the celebrated 'Hobbit' fossil of Indonesia, Turney explains how written records, carbon, pollen, tree rings, constellations, and DNA sequencing can help archaeologists, palaeontologists and geologists to 'tell the time'. We ignore or misunderstand these techniques and their results at our peril, he concludes.

**Author:** Chris Turney is a British Geologist currently based at the University of Wollongong, Australia. He did the radiocarbon dating on the 'Hobbit' fossil of Flores, Indonesia, that hit the headlines worldwide. He has published numerous scientific papers and magazine articles and done many media interviews thanks to his infectious enthusiasm for working out how old things are.

**Related Sites:** [www.christurney.com](http://www.christurney.com)

**GALSAN TSCHINAG (East Germany/Mongolia)**

*The Blue Sky*

**Genre:** Fiction

**Release date:** September 2006

**Quote:** *'The hero may be a simple shepherd boy, but his tale is nothing short of epic. With this novel, a Mongolian shaman had stepped onto the stage of world literature.'* **Der Spiegel (Germany)**

**Book:** In the high Altai Mountains of northern Mongolia, the nomadic Tuvan people's ancient way of life collides with the influence of modernity as seen through the eyes of a young shepherd boy. First his older siblings leave the family yurt to attend a distant boarding school. Then the boy's grandmother dies, and with her the boy's connection to the tribes. But the greatest tragedy strikes when his dog, Arsylang—"all that was left to me"—dies after ingesting poison set out by the boy's father to protect his herd from wolves. "Why is it so?" he cries out in despair to the Heavenly Blue Sky, but he is answered only by the silence of the wind. Rooted in the oral traditions of the Tuvan people and their epics, Galsan Tschinag's novel weaves the timeless story of a boy poised on the cusp of manhood with the tale of a people's vanishing way of life.

**Author:** Galsan Tschinag was born into a family of nomadic Tuvan herders in western Mongolia. As a boy, he was trained as a shaman by his Aunty and received a scholarship to study in East Germany, where he developed a passion for German literature and began writing his own fiction and poetry. He is the author of more than 30 books. In 1995, he negotiated a land claim treaty with the Mongolian government and led the dispersed Tuvans back to their traditional lands. Tschinag now divides his time between Ulaanbataar, the High Altai Mountains and Germany. Galsan Tschinag, whose name in his native Tuvan language is Irgit Shynykbai-oglu Dshurukuwaa, was born in the early forties in Mongolia.

**Related Links:** [www.galsan.info](http://www.galsan.info)