

ANOTHER



Edited by Winnie Dunn

AUSTRALIA

'Irresistibly pulls a cord to unstitch myths about this country that need to unravel.' **BEN LAW**

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and on which this book was produced, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded. Always was always will be. Aboriginal land.

We embrace the principle of ‘First Nations First’: re-centring Australian history with Indigenous histories. We recognise that Australia’s migration history began, and continues, on stolen land that has not been ceded; and that it is untenable to talk about race in Australia without situating it in the histories of dispossession and colonisation of Australia’s First Peoples.

PRAISE FOR *AFTER AUSTRALIA*

‘*After Australia* offers a glimpse of a national literature that is sharp, lyrical, exciting and uncompromising.’

Maxine Beneba Clarke, *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*

‘When creatives abandon their designated cultural silos to work together on a project, something magical and transformative happens to the Australian literary voice ... [*After Australia*’s] breadth and experimentalism mean there should be a pristine copy for the bookshelf and another dog-eared one for your handbag. Each story demands a revisit.’ *The Big Issue*

‘There is much in this book to fascinate, inspire and provoke.’

Kill Your Darlings

‘How the past and present affect or compromise the future is explored here in provocative and sometimes surprising ways.’

The Saturday Paper

‘This book challenges and enthralls in equal measure. It is dynamite!’ Christos Tsiolkas



Published by Affirm Press in 2022

Boon Wurrung Country

28 Thistlethwaite Street,

South Melbourne, VIC 3205

affirmpress.com.au

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Copyright © this collection Sweatshop Literacy Movement and Affirm Press, 2022

Individual stories copyright © retained by individual copyright holders

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher.

Image of Edward Thomas Te Whiu, page 107: New Zealand Police Files

Image of Mt Eden Prison, page 120: Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection

Gr8ful by Shankari Chandran is an edited extract from *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, published with permission from Ultimo Press



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

Title: Another Australia / Winnie Dunn, editor.

ISBN: 9781922711687 (paperback)

Cover design by Josh Durham, Design by Committee

Typeset in 11.5pt/19.5pt Minion Pro by J&M Typesetting

Proudly printed in Australia by McPherson's Printing Group



ANOTHER AUSTRALIA

Edited by Winnie Dunn



Diversity Arts
Australia



Affirm
press



sweatshop.

Tu'u pē lā mo e pou pou

Ensure you are prepared for any eventuality

— Tongan Proverb

CONTENTS

<i>Nardi Simpson</i>	
Yilaalu	1
<i>Osman Faruqi</i>	
A Tale of Two Colonies	9
<i>Amani Haydar</i>	
Bad Transplant	29
<i>Shirley Le</i>	
Coi Bói	47
<i>Sara M Saleh</i>	
Communities of Concern	73
<i>Omar Musa</i>	
song of the frog	95
<i>Anne-Marie Te Whiu</i>	
Paper Thin	103
<i>Nardi Simpson</i>	
Bigan	123

L-FRESH The LION

I Am ... 131

Declan Fry

Nothing Remembered and Everything That Was 161

Shankari Chandran

Gr8ful 187

Mohammed Massoud Morsi

A Mountain Without a Peak 203

Sisonke Msimang

The Innocence Project 225

Nardi Simpson

Warran 253

Lena Nahlous

Afterword 261

Acknowledgements 267

YILAAALU

Prologue

Nardi Simpson



wuuna ngay birralii
wuuna nguungu birralii
wuuna nguungu birralii
wuuna milan-ngu birralii
ganungu wuuna birralii

wuu-na

with Tracey Cameron

dhuyu gaymalaanha dhaymaaya
burrulnha
giirr nhama dhuyugu wambalaanha wirringaa, mari bawaga
nguungunda yanaawaanha ganunga murrilaga yarralga,
yurruli
Nguu ganunga dhirranbalaanha, garriya ganunga.
wanggamalanhia ganunga giinbali ghundiga, dhiyaangu
yanawaanha-bula ngaya, ngadaa-bala mubal dhuyugu. waal
gaburranda. waal ngaya wamba!
dhiirralgu ngaya yanawaanha

warrangal nha. giirr nhama gaay, bigan, burrulmaatha
gundidhi nha nganunda yanawaanha
yanawaanha gaya, mubal dhuyugu ngadaa buudhaaga.
Yaama, ngali guwaalaylanha, ngarriya ngali
milan.
guwiinbaa.
gaba.
ngarrilanha nguungunda waaraalgiirr gaya
wamba, bayangurr
dhural nganundi biyuurralanha
bundaagilantha gaya, bina, mil muwilantha gugirriidhalibaa,
yirrgayn
ngarraldanha ngay dhiirral, winangaylanha
giirr dhirralnha gayliyaay. mulabiyaay nha. buudhaagiirr.
burrulaa gaya dhiirrali-nginda
ngarugilantha ngali. giirr nhama gali wiibiyaay. gaylamala
ngay yili. gindamaylanha gaya
waal gaya ngarraldanha buuyan-nha Burruguuga gaay
garay guwaaldanha garriya guwaaldanha, baluwaa gigilaya,
dhiirralgu winangay,
wiringaa-nha dhuyu-giirr-
dhabiyaan,
warranggal,
bawaga nha ganunga wambalaaya

waal-bala ngaya winangay
dhurraamildanha ngaya gudhuwaylanha yanay wuwilanha
ngaya yaluu
girrigirri ngaya, dhina madhanbaa-baraay miyay ngaya
dhiirral ngay gaba. baluwaal nha nganunda gagil
guwaaldanha
dhiirralu nganunda wuurraaya gaay
gaay nha mulabiyaay
giirr nganunda dhiirralu wuurraaya gaba gaay
gaba winangaylanha
wanagilanha ngali, dhiirralanha-nha ngaya
buwabiila ngaya gaylamanhi yili, manduwi nha yiy,
yananhi-bula, ngadaa-bala mubal dhuyugu gundhigu
dhiirrali ngay nganunda wuurraaya. giirr gaba ngaya
ngarralanha dhiirralga
yilaa ngaya winangali. dhurrali nha ngaya gayaanga.

Give

A snake wriggles across the ground. Large enough to carry men and women on its back. On him they travel across the escarpment, over sandstone, through towering forests. He sheds them and they land. They roll from his scales into the places they wish to be. I walk too, under the belly of the snake. Not on top. I'm not silly! I am going to meet my teacher.

She is powerful. Her thoughts, words, actions are boss. She walks from her house to meet me. I walk from mine, under the snake's belly to our meeting place. We say greetings and we sit down. Close. Connected. The way things should always be.

When I am with her I am like a pup at her feet. Silly and young. Sounds tumble from me, I bump into things, my ears and eyes are closed, blurring and unformed. My teacher watches and listens. She is gentle. She is kind. Patient too – Old ways. I have so much to learn.

We drink. The liquid is hot. In my rush to consume I burn my lips. I laugh. I don't realise the burn is creation's warning. It is saying, stop talking, be slow, listen to your teacher, the

woman like the great snake – quiet, powerful, who carries others on her back. I don't listen. I wait for the pain to fade and gulp again. Loud, heavy-footed girl that I am. I crash and kick when I should creep and glide.

My dearest teacher. Never has she said a hard word to me. Only beautiful ones. My teacher gives me language. Her words are soft. She shows me good ways with words. And the right ways to hear them. I learn this only when we have parted. After I have burned my lips and bitten her shoes and walked under the snake back to my home.

My teacher gives me things to know but also ways to be. I feel good when I see my teacher. One day I will know how to listen. Then I will do her proud.

** illustration by baawaa ngay (my younger sister), Lucy Simpson*

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO REWRITE THE NATION ...

THE TEAM

Editorial Advisor: Michael Mohammed Ahmad

Cover Artist: Josh Durham, Design by Committee

Design and Typesetting: Mike Kuszla

Publication Publicist: Laura McNicol Smith

Publishing Director, Affirm Press: Martin Hughes

Senior Editor, Affirm Press: Ruby Ashby-Orr

Executive Director, Diversity Arts Australia: Lena Nahlous

Associate Producer, Diversity Arts Australia: Glaiza Perez

THE EDITOR

Winnie Dunn is the General Manager of Sweatshop Literacy Movement and the editor of several critically acclaimed anthologies, including *Sweatshop Women*. She is a writer of Tongan descent from Mount Druitt and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Western Sydney University. Her work has been published in *The Guardian*, *HuffPost*, *Griffith Review*, *Meanjin* and *SBS Voices*. Winnie is currently completing her debut novel, *Dirt Poor Islanders*, which will be published by Hachette in 2023.

THE WRITERS



SHANKARI CHANDRAN is a Tamil–Australian lawyer who was raised on Ngunnawal Country and now lives and raises her four children on Darug Country. She is the author of three books: *Song of the Sun God* (Perera-Hussein Publishing, 2017), *The Barrier* (Pan Macmillan Australia, 2017) and *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* (Ultimo Press, 2022). Her work was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award (2019), and shortlisted for the Fairway National Literary Award (2018) and the Norma K Hemming Award for Speculative Fiction (2018). She is the recipient of the Blake-Beckett Trust Scholarship (2019), the Create NSW Writers’ Fellowship (2018/2019) and grants from the Australia Council for the Arts (2021) and Create NSW (2022). Shankari is the Deputy Chair of Writing NSW.



OSMAN FARUQI is an award-winning journalist, editor and author. He is regularly published in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Guardian* and *The Monthly*. He holds adjunct roles at the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales. His debut book on race in Australia is due for release in 2022.



DECLAN FRY is a writer, poet and essayist. Born on Wongatha country in Kalgoorlie, he has been awarded a Peter Blazey Fellowship, the Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Award for memoir, and was shortlisted for the Judith Wright Poetry Prize. He currently lives with his partner, their pup Walnut, and a cat, Turnip. @_declanfry.



AMANI HAYDAR is an award-winning writer, visual artist, lawyer and advocate for women's health and safety based in Western Sydney. Amani's debut memoir *The Mother Wound* was awarded the 2022 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction. Amani is a former Archibald Prize finalist and has had both her writing and art featured in several publications including *Racism*, *Arab Australian Other*, *Sweatshop Women Volume Two*, SBS Voices and ABC News Online.



SHIRLEY LE is a Vietnamese–Australian writer from Western Sydney. She is a Creative Producer at Sweatshop Literacy Movement and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University. Her short stories and essays have been published in *Overland*, *The Guardian*, *SBS Voices*, *The Griffith Review*, *Meanjin* and several Sweatshop anthologies. Shirley is currently working on her debut novel as the recipient of a 2019 Affirm Press Mentorship.



L-FRESH THE LION is one of Australia's most important hip-hop artists and was born and raised in South-West Sydney. In the time since his ARIA-nominated album *BECOME* was released (2016), L-FRESH The LION has taken his music to the world. Alongside festival appearances all over Australia, he addressed the United Nations Headquarters in New York in late 2018. He was also selected as an ambassador for YouTube's Creators For Change global initiative, with his resulting video *RACI\$T / OUR WORLD* premiering at the Tribeca TV Festival in New York. Breaking ground and exceeding expectations is a recurring theme of this South-West Sydney artist, having performed alongside hip-hop icons such as Nas, Talib Kweli, Dead Prez, and even the legendary Sir Elton John. L-FRESH The LION continues to take things to the next level.



MOHAMMED MASSOUD MORSI is a writer with a talent for reaching to the heart of existence in a complex world. His work is invariably raw and powerful as he looks to important questions, finding that which is quintessentially human within much broader struggles. His work is enriched by his photographer's eye for detail and a passion for speaking out for those suppressed. Morsi's debut novel, *The Palace of Angels* (Wild Dingo Press, 2019) was shortlisted for the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the 2020 Voss Literary Prize.



SISONKE MSIMANG is the author of *Always Another Country: A memoir of exile and home* and *The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela: A biography of survival*. She is a South African writer whose work is focused on race, gender and democracy. She has written for a range of international publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Newsweek* and *Al Jazeera*. Sisonke is the curator of the literature and ideas program at Perth Festival.



OMAR MUSA is a Bornean-Australian author, visual artist and poet from Queanbeyan, Australia. He has released four poetry books (including *Killernova*), four hip-hop records. His debut novel *Here Come the Dogs* was long-listed for the International Dublin Literary Award and Miles Franklin Award and he was named one of the Sydney Morning Herald's Young Novelists of the Year in 2015. His one-man play, *Since Ali Died*, won Best Cabaret Show at the Sydney Theatre Awards in 2018. He has had several solo exhibitions of his woodcut prints.



SARA M SALEH is a daughter of migrants from Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon, living and learning on Gadigal land. A long-time human rights campaigner, writer and poet, Sara's essays, poems and short stories have been published in English and Arabic in *The Guardian*, *SBS*, *Australian Book Review*, *Overland*, *Meanjin*, *Australian Poetry Journal*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Sweatshop Women*, *A Blade of Grass*, *Making Mirrors*, *Solid Air* and *Borderless*. Sara is the first Australian poet to win both the *Australian Book Review's* Peter Porter Poetry Prize (2021) and the *Overland* Judith Wright Poetry Prize (2020). #SayMashAllah. Sara co-curated the anthology *Arab, Australian, Other* (Picador, 2019) and is developing her debut novel, *Songs for the Dead and the Living* (Affirm Press, 2023).



NARDI SIMPSON is a Yuwaalaraay storyteller from NSW's north-west freshwater plains. Her debut novel, *Song of the Crocodile*, was the 2018 winner of the black&write! Fellowship, longlisted in 2021 for the Stella Prize, Australian Book Industry Awards – Literary Fiction Book of the Year, and shortlisted for the Victorian Premiers Literary Awards – Indigenous Writing, MUD Literary Prize, New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards – New Writing, and the Indie Book Awards – Debut Fiction. As a member of Indigenous folk music duo Stiff Gins, Nardi has travelled nationally and internationally for the past twenty-two years, performing in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, Vietnam and the Pacific Islands, and is currently in her second year of PhD study through ANU School of Music in Composition. Nardi continues to be heavily involved in the teaching and sharing of culture in both her Sydney and Yuwaalaraay communities.



ANNE-MARIE TE WHIU is a Māori-Australian writer, weaver, producer. She is the co-editor of *Whisper Songs* and *Solid Air: Australia and New Zealand Spoken Word*. Her writing has been published in Australia and Aotearoa. Anne-Marie is a recipient of The Wheeler Centre Next Chapter Fellowship 2021.

Another Australia is published by Affirm Press in partnership with Sweatshop Literacy Movement in association with Diversity Arts Australia



Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council and by the NSW Government through Create NSW



Previously, by Sweatshop and Diversity Arts Australia ...

Climate catastrophe, police brutality, white genocide, totalitarian rule and the erasure of black history provide the backdrop for stories of love, courage and hope. In this unflinching new anthology, twelve of Australia's most daring Indigenous writers and writers of colour provide a glimpse of Australia's past, present and future as we head toward the year 2050.



FEATURING

Claire G. Coleman

Hannah Donnelly

Future D. Fidel

Roanna Gonsalves

Ambelin Kwaymullina

Kaya Ortiz

Michelle Law

Zoya Patel

Sarah Ross

Omar Sakr

Khalid Warsame

Karen Wyld

A suburban psychic's ominous warning. A conversation in Yuwaalaraay. A glimpse of a shameful, hidden history. A love that moves a mountain. In this unwavering follow-up to *After Australia*, twelve more boundary-pushing Indigenous writers and writers of colour show us all that is – and *could* exist – in our versions of Australia.

FEATURING Shankari Chandran, Osman Faruqi, Declan Fry, Amani Haydar, Shirley Le, L-FRESH The LION, Mohammed Massoud Morsi, Sisonke Msimang, Omar Musa, Sara Saleh, Nardi Simpson and Anne-Marie Te Whiu.

'This book holds a spectacular and unflinching energy, moving through and beyond the Australian fantasy, shattering illusions in its wake.'

SARA EL SAYED, author of *Muddy People*



FICTION

ISBN: 978-1-922711-68-7



9 781922 711687

affirmpress.com.au

 **Affirm**press
books that leave an impression