



Department of
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Three Can Keep a Secret: Flash Fiction by Western Australian Writers

Edited by Laura Keenan and Linda Martin

Publisher: Night Parrot Press

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Highlights

- Night Parrot Press releases its third collection of flash fiction from West Australian writers, titled ***Three Can Keep a Secret***.
- 81 WA writers have contributed flash stories, including established writers like Barry Divola, Ros Thomas, Gillian O'Shaughnessy, Rebecca Higgie, Scott-Patrick Mitchell, Donna Mazza, Emily Paull, and Rashida Murphy.
- The collection includes stories from six Indigenous writers, and provides space for new and emerging writers to express themselves.
- *Three Can Keep a Secret* will be officially launched at the nationally prominent Australian Short Story Festival in Fremantle on 29 October.

Perth-based independent publisher Night Parrot Press has released *Three Can Keep a Secret* as its third collection of flash fiction, mixing new and established voices who tell short, sharp, memorable stories in this exciting writing form.

Three Can Keep a Secret includes flash from established writers like Barry Divola (*Driving Stevie Fracasso*, HarperCollins) Ros Thomas (*How To Shame the Devil*, Night Parrot Press), Rashida Murphy (*The Bonesetter's Fee & Other Stories*, Spineless Wonders) and Donna Mazza (*Fauna*, Allen & Unwin).

"81 West Australian writers have contributed brilliant, gripping flash fiction stories to this collection that simmer with shadows, secrets and silences beneath the surface of everyday lives," said Night Parrot Press' co-publisher Laura Keenan.

“We are also excited to include stories from six Indigenous authors, and to provide a storytelling platform for new and emerging writers.”

Flash fiction deliberately restricts word count to distil storytelling to its essential elements - a challenge for even the most seasoned writers. But after successfully publishing flash fiction collections in 2020 and 2021, and recently publishing renowned writer Susan Midalia’s collection of “short short stories” titled *Miniatures*, Night Parrot Press knew flash was gaining a wider audience.

“We are deeply proud of *Three Can Keep a Secret*, whose 100 stories reflect the increasing popularity of flash fiction in Australia and overseas. It’s a writing form of the deepest challenge and the highest storytelling reward,” Keenan said.

The title of the collection is borrowed from a longer quote by Benjamin Franklin: 'Three can keep a secret if two of them are dead'. While there was an open call and no stated theme, contributors tackled subjects with common threads, such as grief and funerals, secrets, and things unsaid.

A prominent contributor to the collection is Fremantle-based flash fiction writer, Gillian O'Shaughnessy, who is also Submissions Editor for Smokelong Quarterly, an internationally renowned online publisher of flash narratives.

O'Shaughnessy said Night Parrot Press’ third collection of flash fiction is a strong signal of this exciting writing form’s expansion within Australian letters.

“These are dazzling, electric stories that burst off the page with urgency and energy and linger long after the reading. These are emerging and established West Australian writers embracing one of the most modern and exciting forms of fiction in the world today,” O'Shaughnessy said.

“Through Night Parrot Press, Laura Keenan and Linda Martin have almost single-handedly pioneered the introduction of flash fiction to our state and with this, their third anthology, they cement their already stellar reputation as the leading publishers and teachers of the genre in Australia.”

Three Can Keep a Secret will be officially launched at the upcoming Australian Short Story Festival at the Fremantle Arts Centre on Saturday the 29th of October.

The collection is available to order online through Night Parrot Press, and in store at WA independent bookstores and select chain stores.

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