

MARGO LANAGAN

AUTHOR

Margo Lanagan was born in 1960 and spent her childhood in the Hunter Valley (NSW), her teens in Melbourne, her twenties travelling, and then settled in Sydney. She has a history degree from the universities of Perth and Sydney. Once she'd tried kitchen, sales and office work, she decided there had to be more to life, and she has been working towards full-time writing, (and sometimes succeeding!), for 15 years or so now. When the money runs low she does contract technical writing.

MARGO ON WRITING

'I write because it's my way of making sense of the world. I've always loved reading, both to escape from real life and to make life more real, and I like doing both in my writing, too, writing straight realistic and fantasy stories.

'Inspiration is pretty much everywhere. I get it from reading both good and bad writing, from watching and listening to people, from landscapes and cityscapes, from wildlife documentaries and building sites and classrooms and music. My problem is not finding ideas but finding time to pin a few of them down to a page.

'I write a lot of stories with babies, children and young people in them, because I'm interested in the way people piece together their world for the first time. As we grow, we try to work out what's happening and why, to interpret other people's intentions. We also have fresher perceptions of atmospheres, weather, physical, social and interpersonal events, because quite often it's the first time we've encountered them.

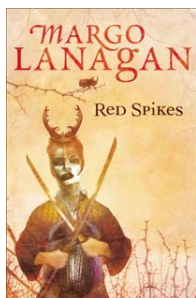


'Red Spikes is my third collection of short stories with fantastical/science fiction/horror aspects to them. With White Time, I was trying on different styles like new hats. Black Juice settled into something closer to "my own voice", and Red Spikes is similar but, I think, a little darker. I'd recommend that people take these collections one story at a time, maybe rationing them out one per day, or one per train trip to work. If you want strange dreams, read them just before you go to sleep at night!

'As for advice to new writers, I would say "Just do it, and keep doing it". The rewards come from sensing that you're getting better at this writing thing, that you can express more and more of your world in your own way, because your powers are always growing greater. Persistence is the main quality you need, to the point of pigheadedness and beyond.'

School visits by Margo (to all Australian states) can be organised through Lateral Learning.

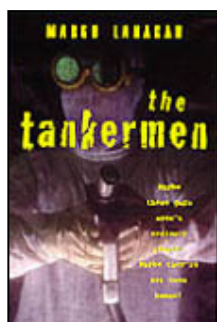
Visit <http://www.laterallearning.com> or email bookings@laterallearning.com.au



RED SPIKES

Ten electrifying short stories from Margo Lanagan. A must for anyone who loves to be surprised, touched, unsettled and dazzled by what a great writer can do in just a few pages.

ISBN: 9781741146578 \$17.95 pb



THE TANKERMEN

A vivid, scary fantasy adventure about sinister bionic Tankermen who take people prisoner and pump poison into Sydney's drains.

Finn thinks he has trouble enough, hanging out alone on the streets of Kings Cross, until he stumbles on sinister Tankermen pumping vile-smelling sludge into the drains. Then his life starts to get seriously weird. Who - or *what* - are these Tankermen? How can they drive into solid rock?

What Finn faces when he follows the Tankermen into their hideout is horrifying beyond his worst fears.

ISBN: 9781864484458 \$11.95 pb



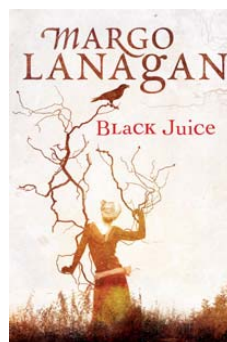
TOUCHING EARTH LIGHTLY

A confronting, intensely moving story about the intricate bonds of friendship, the shock of a brutal death, the slow torment of grief, and the seeds of happiness.

Janey's background is grim, lock-the-door-at-night type grim, but nothing weighs her down for long. She's wild, sexy, reckless, funny and original. Being friends with Janey is a roller-coaster ride - never dull, often risky.

Chloe is the steady one; anchored by her family, she anchors Janey, as much as she can. But just how far does the friendship go? That question is shockingly, brutally answered when Janey's grim world catches up with her.

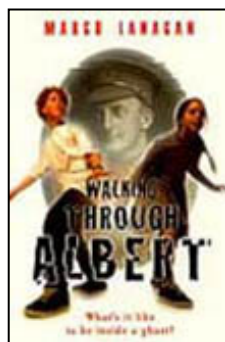
ISBN: 9781864488234 \$16.95



BLACK JUICE

In this companion volume to *White Time*, Margo Lanagan offers another 10 outstanding stories that delight, shock, intrigue, amuse and move the reader to tears with their dazzling imaginative reach, their dark humour, their subtlety, their humanity and depth of feeling.

ISBN: 9781741750911 \$17.95 pb



WALKING THROUGH ALBERT

'Someone else was suddenly there with us, taking up the same chunk of space. Aargh, it was the most horrible feeling, like millions of ants rampaging under my clothes...'

What's going on in the house over the back? Ren and Lee are seriously spooked by all those flashes of past lives and leftover feelings - but Emma has to live there. An overdose of ghosts is bad enough. Add in a punk bride, a witch on L plates and a bunch of grown-ups who just don't believe what they see, and you've got big trouble. A ghost story with a difference - spooky, mysterious but also very funny.

ISBN: 9781864484403 \$11.95 pb



WHITE TIME

Ten fantasy stories to tease and intrigue. White time is mind time, body time, soul time, heart time. White time is other worlds, other dimensions, other states of being. White time is time out of time.

'Enter White Time at your peril - it is impossible to read this compelling collection without being shattered amused, astonished, entranced and ultimately ... altered.' - ISOBELLE CARMODY

ISBN: 9781741750904 \$17.95 pb