

MEDIA RELEASE

The Last Sky

ALICE NELSON

Winner, *Sydney Morning Herald*
Best Young Australian Novelist, 2009
Shortlisted, Barbara Jefferis Award, 2009
Winner, TAG Hungerford Award, 2006
Shortlisted, *The Australian /*
Vogel Literary Award, 2004

About the book

Maya Wise is alone in Hong Kong. British rule is coming to an end and so is Maya's marriage. She drifts, wandering aimlessly through the crowded city streets.

Captivated by an elderly Chinese man and his caged nightingale, she follows him home. But Ken Tiger is a man with a past. As Maya draws out his tale of lost love in wartime Shanghai, she pieces together other stories, other histories that will help her to imagine a new life for herself.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* described Nelson's language as displaying 'real lyrical beauty'. *The Weekend Australian* said the book was 'partly a haunting and uneasy love story, partly a subtle exploration of cultural and political tensions'.

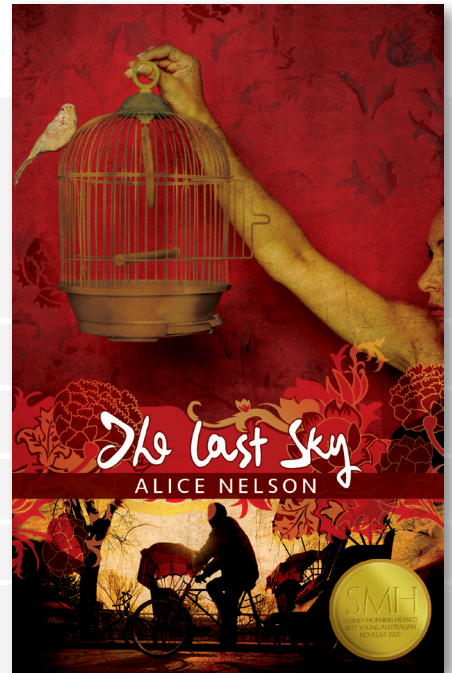
About the author

Alice Nelson is just 28 years old and *The Last Sky* is her first novel. Nelson spent several years living and studying abroad. She has a Masters in Creative Writing from the City University of New York. Her award-winning short fiction has appeared in journals such as *Southerly*, the *Asia Literary Review* and *Westerly*. In 2006 she was awarded the Varuna Flagship Fellowship for the most promising fiction project by an emerging writer. She is currently in France writing her second novel.



Media notes

- Young novelist whose work has been shortlisted for awards alongside Geraldine Brooks, Helen Garner, Joan London, Nam Le, Kevin Rabelais and Toni Jordan.
- New book club edition with discussion notes inside.



NEW EDITION

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