



After Australia

EDITED BY MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD

Climate catastrophe, police brutality, white genocide, totalitarian rule and the erasure of black history

Twelve of Australia's most daring Indigenous writers and writers of colour offer a glimpse of Australia as we head toward the year 2050

'This is a book that not only do we need right now, it is one that we WANT ... this book speaks to and from our futures. It challenges and enthrals in equal measure.'

CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS

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In *After Australia*, timely themes provide the backdrop for stories of love, courage and hope in this unflinching new anthology.

Edited by founder of Sweatshop Literacy Movement and author of *The Lebs*, Dr Michael Mohammed Ahmad, *After Australia* features writing from emerging talents alongside established voices as they write about Australia's future –that place where the past and present provide context, but do not dictate the path forward.

In 'White Flu', award-winning Arab-Australian poet Omar Sakr writes about a world during a sweeping pandemic (eradicating white people) and the insidious issues of race that ensue – a spookily timed piece in light of COVID 19. Writer and performer Michelle Law evocatively captures the harsh living conditions caused by global warming and the choices we make for future generations in 'Bu Liao Qing', while in 'Displaced' writer and editor Zoya Patel explores the painful immigrant experience and the realities of alienation in a new world.

Other contributors include Ambelin Kwaymullina, Claire G. Coleman, Future D. Fidel, Karen Wyld, Khalid Warsame, Kaya Ortiz, Roanna Gonsalves and Sarah Ross. Hannah Donnelly, a Wiradjuri woman, provides a context for the collection with a prologue, interlude and epilogue, and Lena Nahlous offers a thoughtful reflection on why these stories are important and how they can influence cultural and political change. Together these pieces challenge readers to confront the world we are handing down to our children and inspire us to strive for a better tomorrow.

Within the context of recent bushfires, the spread of the Coronavirus and the rise of far-right extremist hate groups, *After Australia* provides an urgent call to action and encourages us to ask important questions about who we are as a nation, how we got here, and where we are headed.

After Australia, edited by Michael Mohammed Ahmad, is published on 9 June by Affirm Press in partnership with Diversity Arts Australia and Sweatshop Literacy Movement. ***After Australia*** is situated within the Stories from the Future project led by Diversity Arts Australia with core funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and support from key state partners.

About the editor

Michael Mohammed Ahmad is the founding director of Sweatshop Literacy Movement Inc. His debut novel, *The Tribe* (Giramondo, 2014), received the 2015 *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Australian Novelist Award. His follow-up novel, *The Lebs* (Hachette, 2018) won the 2019 Multicultural NSW Award at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and was a finalist for the 2019 Miles Franklin Literary Award. Mohammed received his Doctorate of Creative Arts from Western Sydney University in 2017.

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