

# Overcoming adversity to win Independent Publisher Awards Gold

*Stormbird Press has risen from the ashes of Kangaroo Island's deadly wildfires to win Gold in the 2020 Independent Publisher Awards for 'Paradise Earth'.*

PARNDANA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA, May 12, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Paradise Earth author Amy Barker and publisher Stormbird Press rise from the ashes of Kangaroo Island's deadly wildfires to win Gold in the Australia/NZ/Pacific Rim Best Regional fiction category in the 2020 Independent Publisher (IPPY) Awards.

The 2020 Independent Publisher Awards bring increased recognition to the deserving but often unsung titles published by the independent book publishing industry, during a time when many publishers have pushed back the release of hundreds of titles in the hope the effects of the coronavirus outbreak will wane.

Stormbird Press, however, forged ahead with the launch of Paradise Earth, which could not have been timelier.

Planned in mid 2019 for release on April 28, 2020, to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Port Arthur massacre, neither author nor publisher could have predicted an unthinkable year where the offices of Stormbird Press, and co-founders Geoff and Margi Prideaux's home and farm, was burned to the ground, or that any swift recovery would be hampered by a global pandemic.

“

*'Amy Barker reminds me of the young Dostoevsky ... a novel of blazing and humbling integrity.'*

*Peter Bishop, former Creative Director of Varuna*

Rebuilding their lives in the months following the fire, the Prideauxs not only experienced deep personal trauma—depression, sleeplessness and night terrors—they have witnessed the collective trauma of an island community in a state of shock, akin to that of the Tasman Peninsula community in the wake of the Port Arthur Massacre. Both events left the Prideauxs

and Barker asking, 'whether our psyches are remade by trauma, or revealed by it?'

Working from a surviving farm shed the Prideauxs managed to meet the book's release target.

Presenting the Port Arthur massacre not only as a national tragedy but also as, perhaps most poignantly, a personal trial for individuals and communities having to learn to survive after an unprecedented and life altering event, Barker delivers insightful life lessons on the complexities



of human nature exploring why some people surrender to fate, others disregard what is dealt them, and some find the strength to survive and see potential for a better world.

While the perpetrator, Martin Bryant looms in Paradise Earth, Barker doesn't dwell on the scale of the atrocity. Instead she creates a host of powerful characters who died or survived, witnessed the shooting, or helped in the aftermath, and explores the complexities of damaged relationships and routines that defined life for generations, a community's struggle to find purpose, and how it became disconnected in ways that outlasted the effects of individual psychological trauma.

Returning constantly to the reactions of those who found themselves under fire, those who attended to the dead and the wounded, and those who sought to change gun laws in the wake of the disaster, Paradise Earth teaches us important lessons about collective trauma—experienced during events including the Port Arthur Massacre, Australia's horrific bushfire season, and the current Coronavirus pandemic.

After such events, novels such as Paradise Earth play a crucial role in building resilience to overcome what one is faced with, enhancing empowerment to fight on regardless, and breeding hope that life continues on and can get better.

\*\*\*

Amy Barker and Margi Prideaux are available for interviews.

A high resolution [author shot](#), [book cover artwork](#), and images of the Stormbird Press office are available on request.

A [press kit](#) is available on the Stormbird Press website.

Media contact should be directed to Margi Prideaux +61 (0)476 109 875 or [production@stormbirdpress.com](mailto:production@stormbirdpress.com)

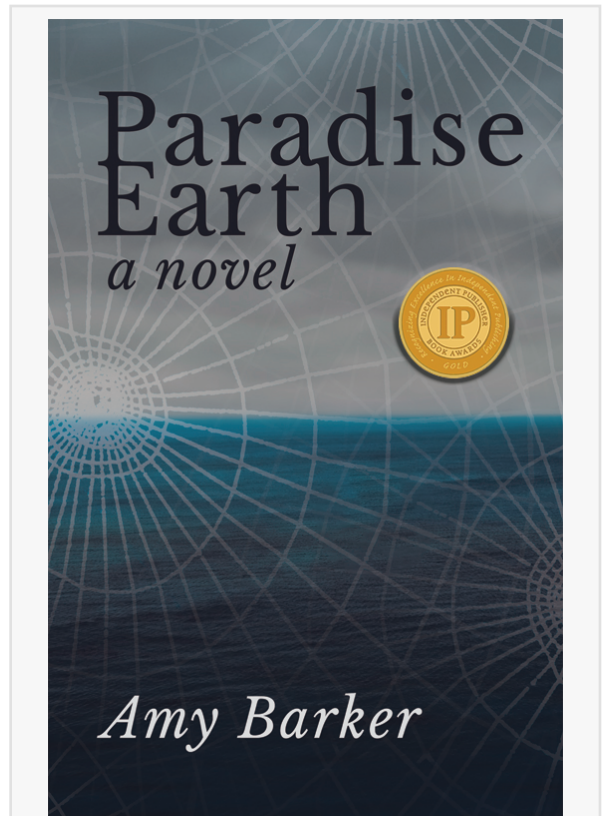
Margi Prideaux  
Stormbird Press  
+61 476 109 875

[email us here](#)

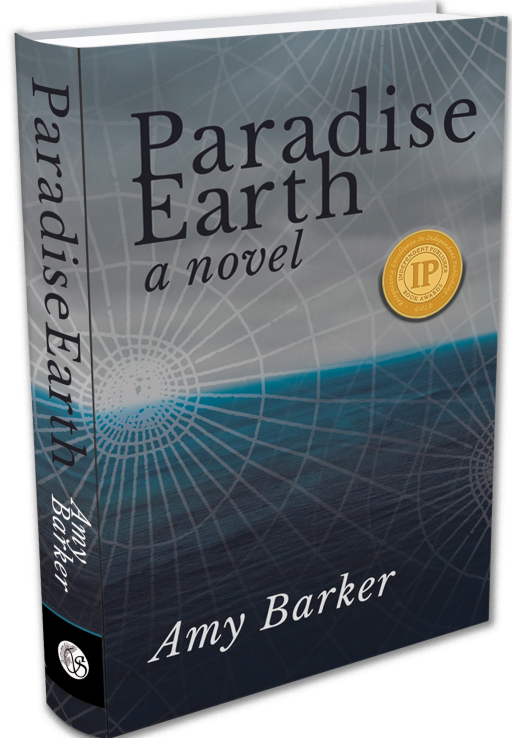
Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



Paradise Earth book cover



Paradise Earth book cover

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact

the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases. © 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.