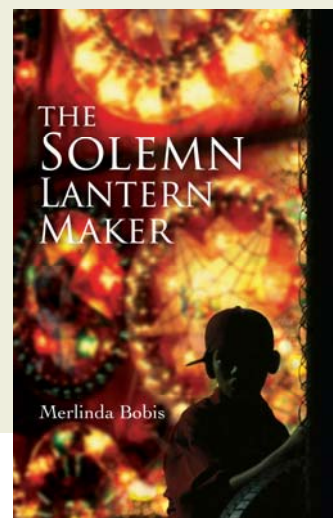


Title	The Solemn Lantern Maker
Author	Merlinda Bobis
ISBN	9781741960785
Imprint	Pier 9
Binding	Paperback with jacket
Extent	208 pages
Dimensions	198 x 128mm
RRP	\$26.95
Release Date	March 2008



Description

Ten-year-old Noland, a mute lantern maker, imagines that he sees an angel falling from the sky to the slums where he lives. But it's only an American tourist who is caught in a drive-by shooting of a political journalist.

At a busy intersection in Manila, the magical and the seedy collide: shimmering lanterns and poverty, Christmas carols and child prostitution, dreams of friendship and the global 'war on terror'. A hut in the slums becomes a cathedral and silence is an exchange of breaths.

This raw and hard-hitting novel captures issues of our times and is delicately spare in its prose, with room for silences. Reading it is like walking into the lantern maker's hut where 'life must be squeezed to pocket-size, breath must be kept spare ... be frugal where life is fragile'.

Sales Points

- Merlinda Bobis is an accomplished, award-winning Australian author and is regularly invited to speak at workshops, conferences and symposiums
- This will be the perfect gift for fans of evocative, contemporary fiction
- The beautiful, engaging cover design and paperback with jacket format will entice readers to pick this book up and take a closer look
- Merlinda will be a guest at the Sydney Writers' Festival in May 2008

Author Profile

Merlinda Bobis has published poetry, drama and fiction, including *Banana Heart Summer* (ISBN 9781740455909, RRP \$29.95, available now) published by Murdoch Books in 2005.

Her literary awards include the Prix Italia for Radio Fiction, the Steele Rudd Award for the Best Collection of Australian Short Stories, the Australian Writers' Guild Award, the Ian Reed Radio Drama Prize and the Philippine National Book Award. Merlinda teaches Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales.