

BURNING DOWN

fiction

by Venero Armanno

ISBN: 978 0 7022 5970 8 | September 2017 | C-Format Paperback | 280pp | \$29.95

Get a seat and a drink and something to eat, because we're going to watch a young prince fight his way to the top, no doubt about it.

A brilliant novel that captures Australia's renewed interest for boxing champions.

Burning Down is the searing and atmospheric new work from award-winning novelist Venero Armanno about family, regret, love and the promise of salvation. It's the mid-1970s and Charlie Smoke is living out his early retirement from the boxing ring. He is working as a bricklayer and trying to avoid attracting the wrong sort of attention.

Charlie lost his wife and daughter during his questionable past in the boxing world and believes his best days are behind him. Then he meets Holly Banks and her teenage son Ricky and he has a chance to do things differently. However, as a friendship develops with Ricky, Charlie is unwittingly pulled back into the criminal underworld he thought he had left behind. To make a better future, Charlie finds he must first settle very old scores ...

Venero Armanno was born in Brisbane to Sicilian parents and has a stellar reputation as a novelist and as a senior lecture in writing at the School of Communication and Arts at The University of Queensland. His books have received both national and international recognition, being published internationally in the USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Israel and South Korea.

In *Burning Down* he writes vividly of the ethnic tensions in the lives of so many Australians whose histories do not begin here. He creates an intense snapshot of an era that is reminiscent of the Australia we have seen in novels by authors such as Jock Serong and Malcom Knox – an Australia full of people and places that readers can't leave behind, even when they want to.

'He knew most of the drunks who sometimes slept in this alley, gathering up the scraps from the bistro that his father liked to have sent around. Papi always told his staff never to leave good leftovers to rot; there were always hungry people. My papi, born into poverty, never forgotten. If I can save this place, when it's mine, no one goes hungry.'

PRAISE FOR *BLACK MOUNTAIN*

'What an amazing and amazingly powerful book. I think the way the narrative and the circumstances of the characters unfolds is profoundly moving and compelling (I could not put it down once I began and have consumed it in the most indulgent gulp). Extraordinary!' **Ashley Hay, author of *The Railwayman's Wife***

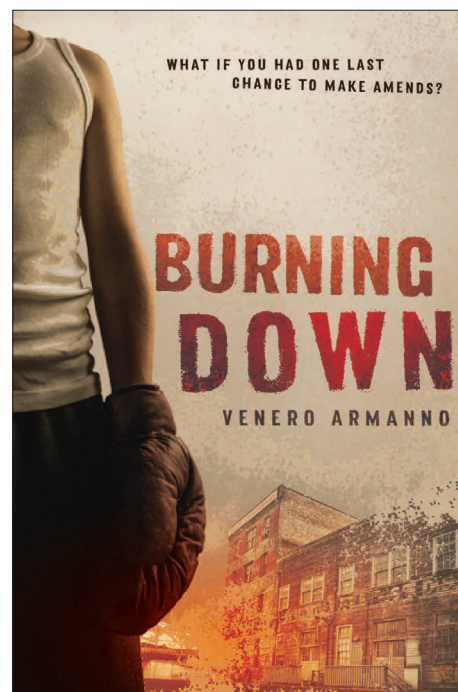
'*Black Mountain* is an eerie and compelling read ... Like the best of fiction, it remains with you long after you have finished.'

Christos Tsiolkas, author of *The Slap*

'This is a remarkable novel. Engrossing and entertaining.' ***Weekend Australian***



VENERO (VENY) ARMANNO has published two collection of short stories and nine novels, three of which have been published internationally. In 2002 his novel *The Volcano* won Best Australian Fiction Book in the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, and the same novel was shortlisted for the *Courier-Mail* Book of the Year Award. His short stories have been anthologised internationally, including publications in Barcelona, Hungary, Canada and Serbia. As well as writing for adults, Veny has three illustrated books for younger readers. After a mild health crisis he turned to a fitness regime incorporating running, gym, a vegan lifestyle and the sort of intense boxing training that informs *Burning Down*.



VENERO ARMANNO IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

To request a review copy or arrange an interview, please contact
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28 AUGUST 2017