

**2010 KATHLEEN MITCHELL AWARD WINNER  
AUTHOR AND NOVEL BACKGROUNDER**

**Nam Le, *The Boat*, Penguin Group (Australia)**

**Synopsis:**

In 1979, Nam Le's family left Vietnam for Australia, an experience that inspires the first and last stories in *The Boat*. In between, however, Le's imagination lays claim to the world.

*The Boat* takes us from a tourist in Tehran to a teenage hit man in Colombia; from an aging New York artist to a boy coming of age in a small Victorian fishing town; from the city of Hiroshima just before the bomb is dropped to the haunting waste of the South China Sea in the wake of another war.

Each story uncovers a raw human truth. Each story is absorbing and fully realised as a novel. Together, they make up a collection of astonishing diversity and achievement.

**Author Biography:**

Nam Le was born in Vietnam and grew up in Melbourne. Nam Le's first book, *The Boat*, received the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award, the Melbourne Prize (Best Writing Award), the Dylan Thomas Prize, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the PEN/Malamud Award, among other honours. It was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book and Editor's Choice, the best debut of 2008 by the *Australian Book Review* and *New York Magazine*, and a book of the year by *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Herald Sun*, *The Monthly*, and numerous sources around the world. *The Boat* has been translated into thirteen languages and its stories widely anthologised. Le is the fiction editor of the *Harvard Review*.

<http://www.namleonline.com>

