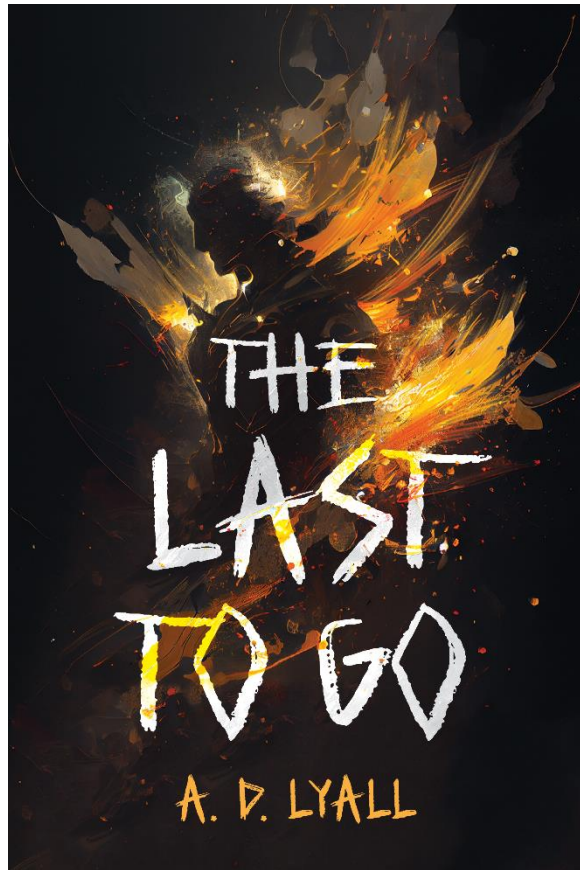


# THE LAST TO GO

## A. D. LYALL



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE LAST OF HUMANITY IN A DYING WORLD...?

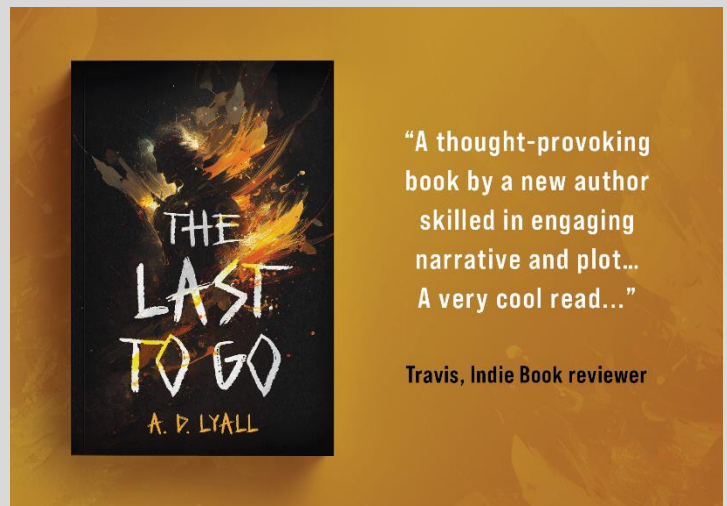
Most of the Earth's population is gone. Many of those who survive have been turned into predatorial scarecrows that stand silent in the fields by day, while bringing death in the dark of night.

Despite the global devastation, Icarus and Charlton maintain a semblance of normal life on their sugarcane farm, bonding with other survivors in their community.

Icarus longs to return to the south and find his sense of belonging, in opposition to Charlton's desire to remain on the farm, creating tension between them.

With the unexpected arrival of a charming and manipulative ex-soldier named Adam, conflicts arise while dark secrets brew beneath the surface of false hopes.

As the crows encroach upon the farmhouse, Icarus and Charlton navigate their relationship and survival in an unprecedented situation, learning what it means to be human in a dying world...



|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| ISBN             | 9781922993656               |
| Publication Date | 25 AUGUST 2023              |
| Genre            | Dystopic, Adventure, Horror |
| Format           | Paperback                   |
| Audience         | General                     |
| Author Location  | Melbourne, VIC              |

**Price available on our website**

[www.shawlinepublishing.com.au](http://www.shawlinepublishing.com.au)



Publisher contact: Bradley Shaw  
Email: [orders@shawlinepublishing.com.au](mailto:orders@shawlinepublishing.com.au)

For further great titles by new Australian authors, please visit our website.

For exclusive Trade pricing and deals, please contact us to set up an account.

For international buyers, please visit our website for a link to follow.

# THE LAST TO GO

## A. D. LYALL

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A.D. Lyall writes speculative fiction. He loves fantasy for the complex worlds it contains, science fiction for glimpses into possible futures, and horror – especially dystopian horror – for how it can reveal the human condition within terrible circumstances. *The Last to Go* is his debut novella and belongs in the latter of these categories.

A graduate of RMIT University's Professional Writing and Editing course, A.D. Lyall has worked as a copy and manuscript editor, and has significant experience as an executive within the not-for-profit sector. He has been published in a number of speculative fiction magazines, including *Aurealis*, and lives in Yarraville, Melbourne.

### WHAT DREW YOU TO WRITING *THE LAST TO GO*?

I started writing *The Last to Go* for lovers of the zombie apocalypse (which includes me – I'm already set up to survive when it comes). I've always had a thing for horror stories set in cornfields, and having been in the Mossman Valley around the time I started writing the book, I liked the idea of using sugarcane fields instead, setting my story in the Australian tropics. I find scarecrows oddly disturbing, and I enjoyed playing with the zombie genre and making my creatures somewhat different to how they're usually portrayed – this gave birth to the 'crows.

My stories are usually about relationships and how they grow or falter and sometimes collapse, so it quickly changed from an action-oriented tale to one in which the horror sits in the background. And I wanted the horror to be closer to home, not just something that comes from "monsters".

I also wanted to explore an urban (or rural, as the story turned out) version of the Icarus myth, and to subvert it. Hence Rus came about, and Charlie developed to give him balance. I was equally keen to explore the concept of *otherness*, especially being in a place from which you can't escape, but also being other within mainstream society (not sure if there's a difference).

Adam was originally destined for a different fate, but he was always a strange representation of Daedalus – not in the Freudian sense – just in terms of what he signifies; the one who gives wings to Icarus. As Adam developed, I enjoyed his inherent danger, and the conflict he causes by just being him. Adam was the opposite of Charlie, he was alpha to Charlton's omega, at numerous levels; Adam was dominant in personality, he was an apex predator, the start of the end, while Charlie represented completion, self-actualisation and (spoiler alert) the last man alive, but not in a literal sense. Rus was the nexus between the two, the character most at risk of *burning*, but the one who could shine brightest in the right conditions.



|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| ISBN             | 9781922993656               |
| Publication Date | 25 AUGUST 2023              |
| Genre            | Dystopic, Adventure, Horror |
| Format           | Paperback                   |
| Audience         | General                     |
| Author Location  | Melbourne, VIC              |

Price available on our website

[www.shawlinepublishing.com.au](http://www.shawlinepublishing.com.au)

### Order Form

Please send this form to  
[orders@shawlinepublishing.com.au](mailto:orders@shawlinepublishing.com.au)

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_

copies of *The Last to Go*  
(9781922993656).

Trade discounts applicable.

Accounts Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted to set up a trade account with  
Shawline Publishing? YES / NO

