

Miles Franklin Literary Award 2007  
Longlist

***The Unknown Terrorist***  
**Richard Flanagan**  
Picador

Gina Davies, aka The Doll, is a 26-year-old pole dancer at the Chairman's Lounge in Sydney's Kings Cross. She's a flawed woman, racist, obsessed with money, who finds her life suddenly being destroyed by the things she has up until that moment most firmly believed in.

The evening of the Mardi Gras, 2007. Three unexploded bombs have been found that day at Homebush Stadium, so the country is on high-alert. When wandering through the Mardi Gras' crowds the Doll runs into a good-looking, young dark man. They end up at his place.

When she wakes, it's Sunday morning and he has gone. She is getting a coffee in a café opposite the apartment block she spent the night in when she sees armed police surround the building she has just left.

Later in the day while shopping in the city she sees a story on a big video screen in which the news is of a suspected terrorist entering the same building she had spent the night in. That night, on television news, the story has altered a little. In an exclusive, the network has security camera footage of the terrorist entering the building the night before with an accomplice, a woman she recognises as herself.

And so a case is brought against her by the media, and the hunt for her begins. From a 26-year-old pole dancer in the Chairman's Lounge, she quickly becomes the most wanted woman in Australia as every truth of her life is turned into a lie...

**About Richard Flanagan**

Richard Flanagan was born in Tasmania in 1961. Regarded internationally as one of Australia's pre-eminent novelists, his multi-award winning novels *Death of a River Guide*, *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* and *Gould's Book of Fish* have been published to popular success and critical acclaim in twenty-five countries. He lives in Hobart.