Great Western Highway
A Love Story
Anthony Macris

“Great Western Highway offers a striking record of what life is like when the barriers between public and private space are everywhere giving way.” – JM Coetzee

In our hyperbolic, media-driven world, can we find ways of being, and maybe even being together?

Thirty-something Nick is walking down Parramatta Road’s six lanes of thundering traffic to see his former girlfriend Penny for the first time since they agreed to be ‘just friends’. By the novel’s end, he is racing back up that same road so he doesn’t lose her.

Nick and Penny’s awkward romance is played out against the backdrop of high capitalism and the rise of the digital age.

Through Nick we revisit the Gulf War watched on a rented TV in a London flat; we meet the girl who broke his heart; and veteran political journalist Kerry O’Brien interviews Margaret Thatcher in a pastiche of Molly Bloom’s soliloquy.

Amongst casualised employment, media saturation and a constant push for market innovation, what happens to the fundamental human need for belonging? What happens to relationships between people when they are asked to build their lives on quicksand?

• An engaging story about two people trying to find each other through the noise of capitalism.
• Addresses highly relevant concerns of modern relationships and urban societies.
• Entertaining ‘riffs’ on classic literature, particularly James Joyce (who first inspired Macris to write).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Anthony Macris is an Australian writer, literary critic and Associate Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Technology, Sydney. His recent memoir, When Horse Became Saw: A journey through autism (Penguin, 2011) was shortlisted for the Prime Minister’s Literary Award in 2012. His first novel, Capital, Volume One, won him a listing as Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist, and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize.