

ReadingsMonthly

FREE | NOVEMBER 2019

Announcing the 2019 winner of The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction

page 6

**New releases from
Christos Tsiolkas,
Elizabeth Strout, Helen
Garner, Ben Lerner,
Lindy West, Paul Lynch,
Lee Child, and more**

BOOKS
MUSIC
FILM
EVENTS



**CHRISTOS
TSIOLKAS**
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**ELIZABETH
STROUT**
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**HELEN
GARNER**
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PERKINS**
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**NICK CAVE
AND THE BAD
SEEDS**
page 22



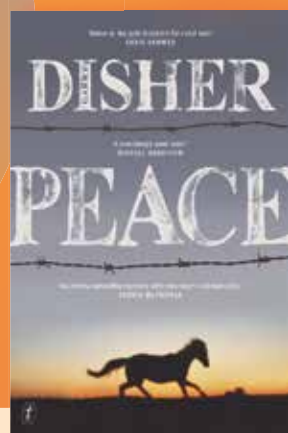
**MY BRILLIANT
FRIEND**
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Readings

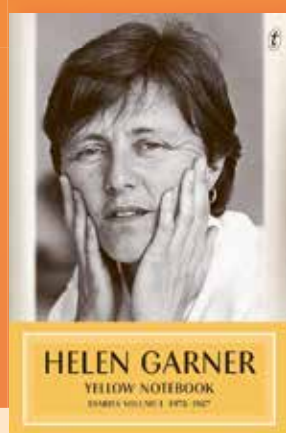
CARLTON 309 LYGON ST 9347 6633 **KIDS** 315 LYGON ST 9341 7730 **DONCASTER** WESTFIELD DONCASTER, 619 DONCASTER RD 9810 0891
HAWTHORN 701 GLENFERRIE RD 9819 1917 **MALVERN** 185 GLENFERRIE RD 9509 1952 **ST KILDA** 112 ACLAND ST 9525 3852 **STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA** 285-321 RUSSELL ST 8664 7540 | SEE SHOP OPENING HOURS, BROWSE AND BUY ONLINE AT READINGS.COM.AU

Summer Reading

Highlights from
Text Publishing



A scorching new crime novel from the master of rural noir. Constable Paul Hirschhausen runs a one-cop station in a small, dusty South Australian town. It's been quiet this Christmas. Until a strange, vicious incident sends a ripple of violence through the community. **'Gold standard.'** **Chris Hammer**



Helen Garner has kept a diary for almost all her life. Now she's sharing it with her readers. *Yellow Notebook* invites readers into Garner's private world where she shares her observations, frustrations and joys, spanning about a decade from the late 1970s just after the publication of *Monkey Grip*.



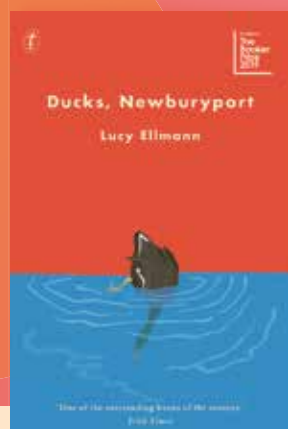
When award-winning Australian writer Peter Temple died in 2018, there was an unfinished Jack Irish novel in his desk drawer. The manuscript reveals a writer at the peak of his powers. This expansive collection of stories, essays and brilliant book reviews pays tribute to the master.



A definitive collection of essays, speeches and musings from one of the world's greatest thinkers. Bringing together nearly thirty years of writing on paleontology, mammalogy, history, environmental science and climate change, *Life: Selected Writings* offers insight into the wondrous complexities of our natural world.



A treasure trove of anecdotes and little-known facts about the history of buying second-hand. In this elegant hardback Robyn Annear brings her light touch and signature wit to the origins of the op shop as well as eBay, up-cycling and how new became normal. **'Enchanting.'** **Age**

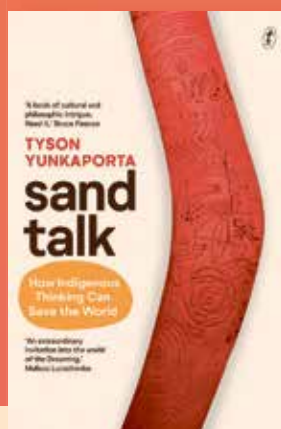


Shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize and the Goldsmiths Prize, *Ducks, Newburyport* is an unprecedented literary phenomenon—a novel of one sentence over 1,000 pages, in which an Ohio mother navigates the tension and disquiet of contemporary America. **'Success? Failure? Triumph.'** **Guardian**



5 million Rosie novels sold worldwide!

Don and Rosie are back with one last project. And this time it requires a father-son heart-to-heart. Join Don, Rosie, their son, Hudson, and a wonderful cast of characters in the brilliant finale to the bestselling Australian trilogy with a difference. **'Accomplished novel, mission accomplished.'** **Age**



What happens when we view the world from an Indigenous perspective? *Sand Talk* is about everything from echidnas to evolution, cosmology to cooking, from sex and science and spirits to Schrödinger's cat. Tyson Yunkaporta challenges us to think differently—and save the world. **'Read it.'** **Bruce Pascoe**



The must-read YA novel that has everyone smitten. From the winner of the 2018 Text Prize comes this tender and joyful story that does teenage awkwardness, first love and true friendship with rare insight and heart. **'Utterly charming.'** **Becky Albertalli**



A reinvigoration of the ethereal and enigmatic novel that has been haunting the Australian imagination for half a century, including a specially commissioned introduction by Miles Franklin shortlisted author Romy Ash. **'Deliciously horrific.'** **Observer**

Book club notes available online

textpublishing.com.au



November News

Summer Reading Guide & Readings' Best of 2019

As in previous years, in lieu of publishing a December–January edition of the *Readings Monthly*, we're putting together a guide to the best books, music and DVDs of 2019, as voted by Readings staff. This eight-page guide will be available in all Readings shops throughout December and January, and will be mailed to all *Readings Monthly* subscribers in the first week of December along with the *Summer Reading Guide*. We hope you enjoy our recommendations!

12 Books of Christmas

Once again, we'll be running our annual 12 Books of Christmas promotion, offering a special deal every day for 12 days. The 12 Books of Christmas special offers will run from Monday 18 November until Friday 29 November. To receive information about each day's offer, sign up to our e-news at readings.com.au/sign-up

Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo win the Booker Prize 2019

Girl, Woman, Other, by Bernardine Evaristo and *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood have been announced as joint winners of the

Booker Prize. Peter Florence, chair of the 2019 judging panel, says: 'This ten month process has been a wild adventure. In the room today we talked for five hours about books we love. Two novels we cannot compromise on. They are both phenomenal books that will delight readers and will resonate for ages to come.' For more information visit thebookerprizes.com/fiction

Readings Kids' Book Subscription

Our Kids' Book Subscription is the perfect gift for the littlest people in your life – a book in the post every month to share. There are two options to choose from: a six month subscription (\$185) and a ten month subscription (\$300). Each book will be selected monthly (February – November) by our expert children's booksellers, and then posted out by us. We recommend this subscription for children aged 0-4 years old. The subscription is available for purchase exclusively in the Readings online shop. For more information about the Readings Kids' Book Subscription, please see: readings.com.au/the-kids-book-subscription

Opening hours over the festive period

Over the festive period, our shops will be running extended hours. Each shop's hours will be different, so please visit readings.com.au/our-shops or keep an eye on our social media for information about changed hours. As always, the Readings online shop is open twenty-four hours, seven days a week. To guarantee delivery in time for Christmas, be sure to get your orders in by Friday 13 December.

Alice Robinson wins The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction 2019

We're delighted to announce that Alice Robinson is this year's winner of The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction. Our guest judge for the 2019 prize (and winner of the 2018 prize) Jennifer Down describes *The Glad Shout*, as 'a harrowing but beautiful examination of motherhood, survival, and love'. Robinson will receive prize money of \$3,000. *The Glad Shout* is available from all Readings shops and online for a special price of \$24.99 (was \$29.99). For more information, see page 6.

State Library Victoria grand reopening

State Library Victoria will open the doors to its transformed library on 5 December. Nearly five years in the making, the Vision 2020 redevelopment responds to the changing needs of the Library's growing community, and will open up previously sealed-off spaces within the library. Readings State Library underwent renovation in 2018 as part of Vision 2020. Come along to check out the brand new space, and pay a visit to Readings State Library while you're there.



READINGS MONTHLY

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\$7 flat rate for anywhere in Australia for orders under \$150. Free delivery on orders \$150 and over.

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FRONT COVER

The November Readings Monthly cover features the cover photograph from Archie Roach's new memoir *Tell Me Why* (cover design by Christa Moffitt/Christabella Designs, photography by Adrian Cook Photography). See page 15 for information about the book and page 22 for information about the companion album, also called *Tell Me Why*.

CARTOON

Oslo Davis
oslodavis.com

PRICES AND AVAILABILITY

Please note that all prices and release dates in Readings Monthly are correct at time of publication, however prices and release dates may change without notice. Special price offers apply only for the month in which they are featured in Readings Monthly.

Readings donates 10% of its profits each year to the Readings Foundation: readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation

Readings Kids' Book Subscription

Share the lifelong joy of reading with those closest to you, even from afar.

Purchase online at readings.com.au/the-readings-kids-book-subscription

November Events

Event times and locations are subject to change.
For the most up-to-date information on events, please check readings.com.au/events
Please note, for our free, in-store events, your booking may not always guarantee a seat.

Thursday 7 November, 6.30pm–7.30pm

ARCHIE ROACH IN CONVERSATION WITH JILL GALLAGHER

We are delighted to have the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner, Jill Gallagher AO joining Archie Roach to discuss his moving memoir, *Tell Me Why*. Roach's story is an extraordinary odyssey through love and heartbreak, family and community, survival and renewal, and the healing power of music. Roach voices the joy, pain and hope he found on his path through song to become the legendary singer–songwriter and storyteller that he is today – beloved by fans worldwide.

The Athenaeum Theatre
188 Collins Street, Melbourne

Tickets are \$50 per person, and include a copy of Tell Me Why. Bookings are essential at readings.com.au/events

Saturday 9 November, 11am–11.45am

MAKING ART WITH BECI ORPIN

Renowned Australian illustrator, Beci Orpin's *Take Heart, Take Action* is a reminder for everyone to make a positive impact on the world. Join us for a reading and art session with the author.

Readings Kids
315 Lygon Street, Carlton

This event is suitable for all ages, but in particular for 5–10 year olds. Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Saturday 9 November, 2pm–2.45pm

NAUGHTIEST PIXIE STORY TIME WITH AILSA WILD

Join Ailsa Wild as she celebrates her new book *The Naughtiest Pixie and the Bad Pixie-Trick* with a special story time launch. With environmental overtones and a generous sprinkle of magic, it is a delightful romp through a hidden world for readers aged 6+.

Readings Kids
315 Lygon Street, Carlton

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 14 November, 12.30pm–1.30pm

MARY MOODY ON THE ACCIDENTAL TOUR GUIDE

Come along to hear the inimitable Mary Moody discuss her latest book, *The Accidental Tour Guide*, which sees Moody carving out a new life for herself following the loss of her husband of forty-two years to cancer.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 14 November, 6.30pm–7.30pm

TONY JONES IN CONVERSATION WITH SALLY WARHAFT

Tony Jones, one of Australia's most admired journalists, blurs the lines between fiction and worldwide political reality in his second page-turning thriller, *In Darkness Visible*. Come along to hear Jones talk about his new book. Jones will be joined in conversation by Sally Warhaft.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 14 November, 6.30pm

MARIA LEWIS IN CONVERSATION WITH ADELE WALSH

In her new book, internationally bestselling author Maria Lewis reinvents ghosts, werewolves and witches with a contemporary, feminist twist. *The Wailing Woman* centres on Sadie Burke who has been forced to be a good girl her entire life. Yet when a figure from her childhood unexpectedly arrives on the scene, Sadie finds it harder than ever to toe the line.

Readings Kids
315 Lygon Street, Carlton

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Saturday 16 November, 11am–11.45am

GREGORY MACKAY & BERNARD CALEO ON CARTOON ADVENTURES

In three exciting cartoon stories, Anders, Bernie and Eden, who are best friends, discover an unknown comet, explore an extinct volcano and find their way through a castle maze. Join brilliant cartoonist Gregory Mackay and Readings' own Bernard Caleo for a read through and some very useful steps on creating your very own comic.

Readings Kids
315 Lygon Street, Carlton

This event is suitable for children aged 5–10.

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Saturday 16 November, 4pm

SCOTT WESTERFELD IN CONVERSATION WITH JAY KRISTOFF

Scott Westerfeld is the author of the number one *New York Times* bestselling *Uglies* series, as well as the *Leviathan* and *Zeroes* trilogies. We are completely thrilled to have him joining us to discuss *Shatter City*, the latest heart-stopping instalment in his *Impostors* series, with Jay Kristoff.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Monday 18 November, 6.30pm

WILL KOSTAKIS IN CONVERSATION WITH AMIE KAUFMAN

Will Kostakis is back with a new series that will shake your world. All sixteen-year-old

Connor wants is his ex-best friend back in his life. But when a mysterious trespasser invites Connor to join her on a search for ancient gods, it's a distraction too good to refuse. Join Kostakis and much-loved author and YA sci-fi superstar Amie Kaufman as they discuss *Monuments*.

Readings Kids
315 Lygon Street, Carlton

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 21 November, 6pm

JAY KRISTOFF & AMIE KAUFMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH P.M. FREESTONE

We are beside ourselves to have some of the best YA and sci-fi writers in Australia talking about their new book series, *Aurora Rising*. The year is 2380, and the graduating cadets of Aurora Academy are being assigned their first missions. Kristoff and Kaufman will be in conversation with P.M. Freestone, the author of *Shadowscents*.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Friday 22 November, 6.30pm–7.30pm

VIRGINIA TRIOLI IN CONVERSATION

Journalist and author Virginia Trioli has updated her groundbreaking book, *Generation F: Sex, Power, and the Young Feminist* (first published in 1996), for the post-#MeToo era. Come along to hear Trioli discuss this updated version of her book – which is, dismayingly, as relevant as ever.

Church of All Nations
180 Palmerston Street, Carlton

Tickets are \$30 per person and include a copy of Generation F.

Please book at readings.com.au/events

Monday 25 November, 6.30pm

HEATHER MORRIS ON CILKA'S JOURNEY

Join author Heather Morris as she discusses her new book, *Cilka's Journey*, the sequel to *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. It's a testament to the triumph of the human spirit in adversity. It will make you weep, but it will also leave you with the remarkable story of one woman's fierce determination to survive, against all odds.

Readings St Kilda
112 Acland Street, St Kilda

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Monday 25 November, 6.30pm

MARGARET SIMONS IN CONVERSATION

We are thrilled to have journalist and academic Margaret Simons talking about her book, *Penny Wong: Passion and Principle*. This is an extraordinary and well-considered portrait of one of contemporary Australia's most accomplished and well-respected politicians.

Readings State Library Victoria
285-321 Russell Street, Melbourne

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Tuesday 26 November, 6.30pm

SUE PIETERS-HAWKE IN CONVERSATION WITH BARRIE CASSIDY

Join us for a night of completely wonderful nostalgia as Bob Hawke's daughter, Sue Pieters-Hawke, joins forces with journalist Barrie Cassidy to reminisce about her father's life. *Remembering Bob* is book that celebrates Bob Hawke's contributions to Australia and the way we live now.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 28 November, 6.30pm

INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION AWARDS NIGHT

The Melbourne Poets Union will announce the winners of their International Poetry Competition, with the judge's report delivered by Maria Takolander. Join us for readings from the winners, a raffle, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Readings St Kilda
112 Acland Street, St Kilda

Free, no booking required.

Thursday 28 November, 6.30pm–7.30pm

PETER HARTCHER ON CHINA AND AUSTRALIA

Join us for a discussion on the latest *Quarterly Essay*, written by Peter Hartcher. *China's Power and Australia's Future* is an urgent, authoritative essay that blends reporting and analysis in a trademark Hartcher style, covering the local scene as well as the larger geopolitical picture.

Readings Hawthorn
701 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Thursday 28 November, 6.30pm–7.30pm

HELEN GARNER IN CONVERSATION WITH MARK RUBBO

To end our amazing year of programming we are delighted to share a drink with Helen Garner in our Carlton shop as she chats with Readings' managing director Mark Rubbo about why keeping a diary is not just a personal habit.

Readings Carlton
309 Lygon Street, Carlton

Free, but please book at readings.com.au/events

Saturday 7 December, 1pm–3pm

THE BOOK DOCTOR

Feeling sick because you don't know what to read next? Feeling ill to your very insides because you don't know what your ten-year-old, seventeen-year-old, or two-and-a-half-year-old wants to read? Never fear, the doctor is in the house, book prescription pad at the ready.

Readings Doncaster
Westfield Doncaster,
619 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

Free, no booking required.

Book Launches

The Never-Ending Brief Encounter by Brian McFarlane

The *Never-Ending Brief Encounter* is a book for all those who have ever been absorbed by the film *Brief Encounter*. Join Brian McFarlane as he launches his new take on the classic film.

Wednesday 6 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

The Ruined Land by Clare Rhoden

Join us for the launch of *The Ruined Land*, the third instalment in Clare Rhoden's sci-fi series, *Chronicles of the Pale*. It pivots on hope and love in the darkest of times.

Wednesday 6 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

The Orange Grove by Kate Murdoch

Celebrate the launch of the second novel by author and artist Kate Murdoch. *The Orange Grove* is about the passions and intrigues of court mistresses in eighteenth-century France.

Thursday 7 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

Shadowmancy by Jason Franks

Jason Fischer and Jason Franks are the founders of new collaborative publishing venture Argonautica Press. They are launching with Jason Franks' *Shadowmancy*, a dark novel about a school for mystical arts.

Thursday 7 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

Digital Monuments by Simone Brott

Digital Monuments: The Dreams and Abuses of Iconic Architecture explores architecture of the new millennium and its hijacking of the public imagination.

Thursday 7 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

Gwennie's Girl by Brenda Fitzpatrick

Join Brenda Fitzpatrick for the launch of her debut novel, *Gwennie's Girl*, which is inspired by her experiences as a writer and teacher in refugee camps and conflict zones.

Friday 8 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

A Day at A Time – In Rhyme by Jane Clifton

Join us as Denise Scott launches entertainer Jane Clifton's delightful collection of her daily poems from the last year or so, *A Day at A Time – In Rhyme*.

Tuesday 12 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

Peace by Garry Disher

Celebrate the launch of Garry Disher's latest novel, *Peace*, a rural crime thriller from an author described by the Australian Crime Writers Association as a giant not only of crime fiction but also of Australian letters.

Wednesday 13 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

Heide by π.O.

The third volume in π.O.'s epic trilogy, *Heide* is a long poem about the people who made modern art happen in Australia. Celebrate this work from one of Melbourne's iconic poets.

Thursday 14 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

Kim Salmon and the Formula for Grunge by Douglas Galbraith

Join us as we celebrate *Kim Salmon and the Formula for Grunge: Nine Parts Water, One Part Sand* by Douglas Galbraith, a tribute to the mastery of musician Kim Salmon.

Thursday 14 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

Neon Daze by Amy Brown

Eddie Paterson will launch poet and academic Amy Brown's new book, *Neon Daze*, a verse journal about the first four months of motherhood.

Thursday 14 November, 6.30pm
Readings SLV | Free, no booking required.

Six Percent by Dave Jacka

Join us for the launch of *Six Percent* by Dave Jacka, the moving story of his journey from immobility (following a motorbike accident) to learning to fly.

Friday 15 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

Funny Bones by Kate Temple, Jol Temple and Oliver Phommavanh (eds)

Join us for the launch of *Funny Bones*, a hilarious short-story anthology for kids. Contributors include Hannah Gadsby, Andy Griffiths, Danny Katz, and more. All royalties go to international charity War Child Australia.

Sunday 17 November, 10.30am
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

A Little Bit of Love by Sanaa Ashktorab

At only eighteen years old, Sanaa Ashktorab has produced her own book of poetry. Join her as she launches this book, which aims to transport you to a world where humanity only knows how to love.

Monday 18 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

Facing Patriarchy by Bob Pease

Join us as we launch *Facing Patriarchy* by Bob Pease. This new book rethinks men's violence against women, bringing together interactionist, structural, and intersectional and transnational feminist theory.

Monday 18 November, 6.30pm
Readings Carlton | Free, no booking required.

Reboot by Jodie Fox

Join us for the launch of *Reboot: Probably More Than You Ever Wanted to Know about Starting a Global Business*. Here, Fox shares lessons learned for those who are seeking to make their own mark as entrepreneurs.

Monday 18 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

My Van Gogh by Chandani Lokuge

My Van Gogh explores the hidden lines of conflict and expectations. Join us as we celebrate the release of this new work from an internationally acclaimed novelist and scholar.

Tuesday 19 November, 6.30pm
Readings Hawthorn | Free, no booking required.

Future Kind by Elisabeth Johnson (ed.)

Join us for the launch of this wonderful collection of essays, which presents a mix of practical guidance and cultural critique covering topics such as climate action, empathy, innovation, and education.

Wednesday 20 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

Roots by Craig Horne

Roots: How Melbourne became the Live Music Capital of the World explains how Melbourne is able to support over 400 live music venues. Join us as we celebrate the release of this exciting new book.

Thursday 21 Nov ember, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

Darkness for Light by Emma Viskic

Join us as we celebrate the third instalment of the critically acclaimed Caleb Zelic series, *Darkness for Light*. After a lifetime of bad decisions troubled PI Zelic is finally making good ones. But he can't escape his past.

Tuesday 26 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

A Climate of the Heart by Ian Mills

Join us as artist, author and inventor Ian Mills launches his new book – an inspirational missile on human greed and identity.

Wednesday 27 November, 6.30pm
Readings St Kilda | Free, no booking required.

Paris or Die: A Memoir by Jayne Tuttle

Jayne Tuttle's writing lifts you off the page and into a Paris far beyond the postcards. Join the author as she launches *Paris or Die: A Memoir*.

Thursday 28 November, 6.30pm
Readings SLV | Free, no booking required.

Mark's Say



A little over a year ago our shop at State Library Victoria moved into the refurbished Baldwin Spencer room on Russell

Street. When I was a child that room was the entrance to the Museum and, if I remember rightly, housed the stuffed hide of legendary racehorse Phar Lap. In its new colours, Baldwin Spencer certainly doesn't have any skeletons in its closet and is now, surely, one of Melbourne's grandest public spaces. The refurbishment was the first stage in an \$88 million redevelopment of public spaces within the library which was undertaken with a combination of a State Government grant and philanthropic contributions. The final stages of the redevelopment elsewhere in the library are nearing completion and the doors will be flung open on 5 December.

The Swanston Street entrance has been remodelled as have many other familiar spaces, along with spaces that have been hidden from the public. A major aspect of the redevelopment has been the restoration of Queens Hall, which has been closed to the public since 2003. When it was originally built, it featured massive glass skylights that were gradually covered up over time, and it has now been totally restored to its original, albeit improved, glory. A new children's quarter, endowed by Gandel Philanthropy, is sure to become a centrepiece; designed to emulate a soaring tree house (Andy Griffiths had some input there!) it will have separate spaces for different age groups. Another section that has been hidden for many years is the Victoria Gallery, which from 1892 until 1968 was the home of the National Gallery of Victoria. With the support of the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation, the space has been restored to create a new gallery to highlight the library's existing collection and to house visiting exhibitions. The inaugural exhibition, *Velvet, Iron and Ashes*, opened on 24 October.

The design for the project was a collaboration between Australian firm Architectus and Danish firm Schmidt Hammer Lassen and they've managed to create light, airy, useful spaces while retaining the Victorian drama and heritage. In all the redevelopment will provide forty per cent more public space and seventy per cent more seating. I find this project so inspiring and affirming; with its completion the State Library precinct will have completed its transformation – which began in 2010 with the opening of the Wheeler Centre – into a wonderful, accessible public space home to books, ideas and inspiration.

In other recent updates, an timely new edition of journalist and broadcaster Virginia Trioli's 1996 book *Generation F*, which was originally written as a response to Helen Garner's *The First Stone*, is being brought out in November by publisher Ben Ball at Simon & Schuster. It includes a new introduction and afterword written in light of the #MeToo movement. Trioli will be talking about her book and why it was time to bring it back at a Readings event at the Church of All Nations on Friday 22 November. You can book to join us at readings.com.au/events

Dear Reader



Did I think this time last year that I'd be encouraging everyone to read a book based on the life of St Paul and a bunch

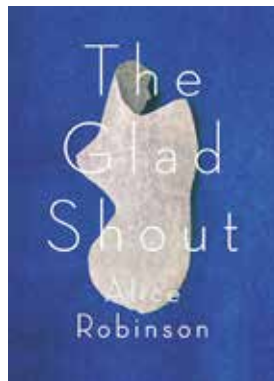
of other folks from biblical times? Certainly not, but here I am and it is so. The mighty *Damascus* is the book in question by the one and only Christos Tsiolkas. It's our Fiction Book of the Month that everyone who cares about literature will be talking about very soon, rounding out a fantastic year for fiction (gulp, that's right – it's our last *Readings Monthly* for 2019!). Also with us before the year is through is the book that won Readings Prize shortlistee Angela Meyer the Mslexia Novella Prize in the UK earlier in this year, *Joan Smokes*, as well as new work from Carmel Bird and Melissa Ashley, and playwright Leah Purcell's debut novel, *The Drover's Wife*, based on her award-winning play of the same name.

There are some huge international fiction releases to get your heads around, including: a beloved author's further tales of her beloved character (Elizabeth Strout's *Olive, Again*); Ben Lerner's new novel, bound to be one of the books of the year (*The Topeka School*); a brilliant short novel from one of my favourite authors, Paul Lynch (*Beyond the Sea*); a sequel to please the many fans of André Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name (Find Me)*; a new modern fairytale from Erin Morgenstern (*The Starless Sea*), and; a debut from Kathy O'Shaughnessy which is a must-read for all who find themselves described by its title (*In Love With George Eliot*), as well as anyone else interested in the writing life.

Our editor just loved Leslie Jamison's new collection of essays, *Make It Scream, Make It Burn*, calling it 'wonderfully unusual', 'compelling', and 'brilliant', so it's our Nonfiction Book of the Month. You might have missed *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* by Shoshana Zuboff, and will no doubt regret this oversight when you see it listed as one of the most important releases of 2019: it's now in paperback. The metaphorical tsunami of music books continues (seriously, I can't think of a year quite like this one) with books by or about Prince, Janis Joplin, Flea, David Bowie, Kim Salmon, the Melbourne music scene, Glastonbury ... and the highly anticipated memoir of Archie Roach. Blanche D'Alpuget's biography of Bob Hawke has been updated and is republished for December. We also recommend the new books from Jung Chang, Lindy West, and Julian Barnes, the first instalment of Helen Garner's diaries spanning the years 1978–1987, and Clare Bowditch's revealing memoir, *Your Own Kind of Girl*. A lovely illustrated hardback of Elena Ferrante's newspaper columns, *Incidental Interventions*, is a must for fans. I plan to make time to read the new essay collections from Lydia Davis, James Wood, and Hanif Kureishi.

And finally, dear reader, we'll be in touch again before the year is out, with our annual wrap up of our staff's picks for the best books of 2019 and our famous *Summer Reading Guide*. Don't forget to make sure your subscription details are up-to-date: we'll be announcing details of our annual shopping day soon, exclusive to our newsletter and e-news subscribers.

The Glad Shout
 Alice Robinson
 Affirm Press. HB.
 Was \$32.99
 \$ **\$24.99**



The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction 2019 Winner

We are delighted to announce that the winner of this year's Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction is Alice Robinson, for her novel, *The Glad Shout*. On hearing the news, Alice said,

'I am absolutely elated to have been selected as the winner of the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction in 2019, a huge honour considering the incredible calibre of the books and writers on the shortlist. I wrote The Glad Shout while deep in the trenches of early parenthood, when the writing was both a saving grace and an added complexity; to have the book appreciated, given all of that, feels extra meaningful. To have it recognised and supported by Readings, beloved local bookshop since childhood, is even more meaningful again.'

Now in its sixth year, the prize was imagined as a way of drawing attention to and supporting the work of Australia's emerging literary writers. Over the years, it has grown in esteem, and is now an anticipated date in the annual prize calendar. As Jennifer Down, our 2018 winner and this year's guest judge, puts it, 'In a relatively crowded literary ecosystem, the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction is vital for early-career authors, allowing their work to reach a greater audience'.

Unlike many prizes, there is no submission process for publishers to undertake: the judging panel, made up of four Readings booksellers, simply considers all the first and second novels and collections of short stories that are released by commercial publishers in the eligible period, using a set of criteria determined at the beginning of the process. It's a year-long commitment for the panel, which culminates in a meeting to decide on the shortlist of six books, followed by a second meeting to decide the winner. The prize is also unique in its consideration of both first and second works, acknowledging the length of the 'early career' status in the creative field.

The books on this year's shortlist were diverse in their themes, styles, and moods. From a sassy satire of gender politics (*Inappropriation*), to an elegy for the Black Saturday disaster told in short story form (*A Constant Hum*), to a work exploring what it means for humans to live with nature in an age of extinction (*The Flight of Birds*), to a genre-bending time-slip novel (*A Superior*

Spectre), to a collection of short stories written with the precision of a master of the form (*This Taste for Silence*), to the winner itself, *The Glad Shout*, an exhilarating novel that raises urgent questions about how we will experience the near future of our climate crisis, the shortlist provides a unique snapshot into new writing in Australia.

Read this group of books, and you will learn that our emerging writers care about our past, our present, and our future; they are committed to the practice of writing itself, and what it can bring to the debates of our age; they value the critical importance of research; they are engaged in honing the technical proficiencies of their craft, and; they always push the boundaries of our expectations.

What would you do,
 under immense pressure,
 to ensure the survival of
 your family?

And now to the *The Glad Shout*, our unforgettable winner for 2019. In the very near and very imaginable future, a cataclysmic storm has sent floodwaters through Melbourne, and we meet Isobel, Shaun, and their toddler Matilda, as they seek refuge in a stadium where help and security are promised. Quickly, matters deteriorate, and their safety becomes compromised. In alternating chapters, we learn about the Isobel of the past, and the circumstances that have led her to the present.

While the story is on face value a work of climate emergency fiction that unfolds as a pacy disaster thriller, at its core is a story of a mother and her daughter, and the limitless love that defines that relationship. What would you do, under immense pressure, to ensure the survival of your family? Would you run, or would you hope help will come? What becomes of the relationship that produced your child, and does it matter anymore? These are not hypothetical questions for many refugees around the world right now.

Jennifer Down had this to say of the novel:

'The Glad Shout is a harrowing but beautiful examination of motherhood, survival, and love.'

Robinson's writing is finely attuned to the psychology of its characters, for whom she shows great tenderness. The effects of the climate emergency in the proximate future are rendered terrifyingly real in this cinematic and beautifully paced novel'.

There is just so much to admire in the writing of this novel. Its sense of character, time, and place is faultless. Robinson has a wonderful feel for the Australian vernacular in her dialogue: these are people we know, or might be already. Her narrative development of the situation's growing urgency is incredibly well handled, and tension builds to an almost unbearable crescendo in the final pages. Alongside this, a second storyline set in the past is just as compelling. In both time periods, the characters get on with the business of everyday life, serving as a powerful reminder of our own inaction: the acceptance of incremental change that leads to the book's crisis mirrors our current moment, in which we continue to create and maintain our pathway to climate catastrophe at the same time as we begin to acknowledge it as such.

This book is an historical marker for our future. It will make you think and worry, much like it did our Managing Director and fellow judge of the shortlist, Mark Rubbo, who was so moved by Alice's book that, '[he] thought Readings should help pressure the government to take a more proactive stand on tackling climate change', and supported our staff with paid leave to attend the recent Climate Strike on September 20. There can be no greater endorsement of the power of Alice's writing, and the vital qualities of this work of literary fiction.

Congratulations, Alice! Your book broke our hearts, just as it made them sing. We simply cannot wait to read what you have in store for us next.

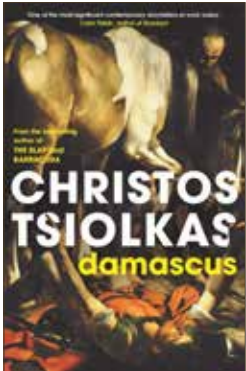
Alice Robinson receives \$3,000 in prize money. This year's judging panel was Alison Huber (head book buyer and chair of judges), Amanda Rayner (senior staff member, Readings Carlton), Chris Gordon (Readings' programming & events manager) and Sharon Peterson (manager, Readings St Kilda). They were joined at the shortlist stage by our managing director, Mark Rubbo, and 2018's winner, Jennifer Down.

Alison Huber is the head book buyer for Readings and the chair of the 2019 Readings Prize judging panel

New Fiction

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Australian Fiction



Damascus
Christos Tsiolkas
A&U. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 28 October

One of the things that always excites me about Tsiolkas’s work is the way that he is able to take readers deep into experience; in his writing, the strong sense of his characters being bodies in space is always at front of mind. These are bodies that feel, that experience violence, desire, sex, pain, and are subjected to the rule of power and ideology. These are bodies that are born, live desperately, and then die. To read *Damascus* is to feel every moment in sometimes uncomfortably vivid detail: smelling the stench of abject poverty, feeling the terror of anticipation as your time in the arena draws near, drinking the blood of a ritual sacrifice, suffering the agony of grief and torture and separation. The blood and gore that makes life in these times is a metaphor for our own: yes, it’s that intense, and it’s absolutely marvellous.

This is not a religious book, even though its events are fictionalised around some of the people who are known from the New Testament and other religious texts. What Tsiolkas does here is bring to light questions that are as vital in the contemporary moment as they ever were in the ancient world, around the dynamics of political rule and the structures of social hierarchies, belief and purpose, compassion and generosity and love, and about what it is that might offer hope in dark times. We need Christos and his words so much right now.

Alison Huber is the head book buyer for Readings

Australian Fiction

The Bee and the Orange Tree

Melissa Ashley
Affirm Press. HB. Was \$35
\$ \$29.99
Available 29 October



I have been having a good run of ‘books with strong endings’ lately. Alice Robinson’s *The Glad Shout*’s nailbiting conclusion; the protagonist’s Shakespearean revelation in Fernanda Torres’s *Glory and its Litany of Horrors*, and, most recently, the final chapters of *The Bee and the Orange Tree* by Melissa Ashley. This novel by the author of *The Birdman’s Wife*, however, was an unusual read. My expectations of the novel as far as the focus of the book weren’t fully met; yet as a historical fiction experience, I was more than satisfied.

If you are after escapism, this is the book for you. I loved spending time in late seventeenth century Paris. The food! The clothes! The salon gatherings! In addition to all this sumptuousness, there are three diverse central female characters: the Baroness Marie Catherine D’Aulnoy, an actual historical figure and the inventor of the fairytale; her daughter Angelina, who is adjusting to life outside the convent;

and, finally, Nicola Tiquet, who is a close friend of Marie Catherine and is being held prisoner by her husband only to later be accused of plotting his death.

What was puzzling to me was that the fairytale link was referred to throughout the novel but it was never fully explained how you ‘invent’ a fairytale or what its conventions were. I wanted to know more about Marie Catherine’s contribution to the genre and although I was engrossed in the plot, it was not what I had anticipated. That said, as I mentioned earlier, there is an exciting section at the end where fairytale images start to seep into the narrative. This leads to a powerful ending that reminds us that despite the harshness of reality for some, it is possible for others to experience a ‘happily ever after’ ending. Amanda Rayner is from Readings Carlton

Joan Smokes

Angela Meyer
Contraband. PB. \$12.99
Available 5 December



She used to be someone else, but now she’s arrived in Vegas, where she can start again. It won’t do to let the past leak in. It’s the Sixties. She’s going to become ... Joan. Things to do. New people to meet. A clean sheet. She’s certainly not thinking about Jack, or ... No. Not anymore. Her new life starts right here, right now.

Boy Swallows Universe (Limited Gift Edition)

Trent Dalton
Fourth Estate. HB. \$39.99
Available 4 November



A hardback limited gift edition of the bestselling novel. Brisbane, 1983: a lost father, a mute brother, a mum in jail, a heroin dealer for a stepfather and a notorious crim for a babysitter. It’s not as if Eli’s life isn’t complicated enough already. But things are about to get a whole lot more serious. Eli’s about to fall in love.

The Best Kind of Beautiful

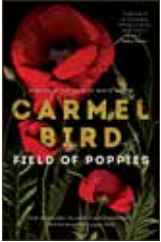
Frances Whiting
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 29 October



Florence Saint Claire is a loner. Albert Flowers is a social butterfly. As good friends, they think they know each other. But, somewhere between who they are, and who people think they are, lies *The Best Kind of Beautiful*. Award-winning journalist and author Frances Whiting brings warmth and empathy to this witty, gentle novel about bringing out the best in each other.

Field of Poppies

Carmel Bird
Transit Lounge. PB. \$29.99
Available 1 November



Escaping city life, Marsali Swift and her husband William move to Listowel, a glorious historic mansion in the seemingly tranquil small town of Muckleton. Yet one night Listowel is robbed, and a neighbour is murdered. The violent history of their adopted goldfields town is revealed, and plans for a new goldmine emerge. Atmospheric and beguiling, this novel of mysteries also speaks of something much larger.

Hide

S.J. Morgan
MidnightSun. PB. \$32.99
Available 1 November



It’s 1983 in Thatcher’s Britain. Alec Johnston has left his comfortable family home in Cardiff and taken a flat with bikers Minto, Stobes and Black. There he meets Sindy, Minto’s strange and vulnerable young girlfriend, and earns a target on his back. Alec’s dark, unsettling journey from Wales to the Australian outback is one from which he fears he may never return.

In Darkness Visible

Tony Jones
A&U. PB. \$32.99
Available 5 November

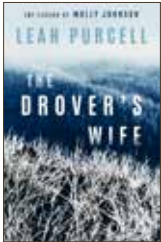


It’s 2005. Marin Katich, living in Croatia under an alias, is charged with war crimes and locked up in The Hague. Anna Rosen, a journalist in Sydney, receives photos of a man she believed was dead and is launched into the murky worlds of secret agencies and would-be

warlords. Tony Jones blurs the lines between fiction and reality again in this gripping thriller.

The Drover’s Wife

Leah Purcell
Hamish Hamilton. PB. \$32.99
Available 3 December



Leah Purcell’s acclaimed play *The Drover’s Wife* won awards too numerous to list. She has now expanded her play into a novel in which Henry Lawson’s original short story is re-imagined to portray the drover’s heroic wife as a righteous avenger – of herself, her children and her people – in a savage male world. *The Drover’s Wife* is brilliant, harrowing and entirely of our times.

International Fiction

The Topeka School

Ben Lerner
Granta. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



I’ll start out by saying that *The Topeka School* is one of my favourite novels of the year. I was already a fan, having loved his previous two novels, *Leaving the Atocha Station* and *10:04*. Like these two works, *The Topeka School* features Adam Gordon, and can also be viewed as a work of auto-fiction. It is impossible to say what is ‘real’ in this novel, but it is safe to say that much of it is based on Lerner’s youth: Gordon is growing up in Topeka, his parents are both psychoanalysts working and conducting research at The Foundation, a kind of ‘Mayo clinic for the mind’. Interestingly, Lerner’s mother is the writer Harriet Lerner, who is most famous for her book *The Dance of Anger*. The narrative flicks between Adam, his parents Jonathon and Jane, and there are brief italicised passages that follow Darren – one of the ‘lost boys’ treated at the Foundation.

As the narrative rotates between these protagonists, we go back and forward in time, the events of the past illuminated by a known future. This can be dislocating for the reader at first, but it all clicks satisfying into place as the narrative unfolds. Lerner layers the narrative with themes – anger, psychoanalysis, meaning and use of language – using repetition of imagery as events unfold and ripple across the character’s lives.

Set in the late 1990s, this book’s primary focus is on anger, specifically the anger felt by Gordon and his classmates: young white males, the sons of doctors and lawyers, who in theory should have nothing to be angry about. The town of Topeka is also famous for the Phelps family, the Westboro Baptist Church, which has its own brand of toxic hate and serves as a dark and ever-present shadow in the novel. And this is what’s outstanding about this novel, how Lerner is able to focus in on this small town, a small collection of characters, and in a relatively slight novel illuminate the broader American malaise in an utterly original way.

Joe Rubbo is the manager of Readings Carlton

Find Me

André Aciman

Faber. PB. \$29.99

Available 5 November



R If, like me, the final lines of *Call Me by Your Name* – André Aciman’s swoony summer tale of first love on the Italian Riviera in the 1980s – left you weeping and yearning for more of Elio

and Oliver’s story, you should run, not walk, to get your hands on its sequel, *Find Me*.

Find Me picks up ten years after Elio and Oliver’s first meeting, but Aciman’s focus, initially, is on Elio’s father, Samuel. He’s on a Rome-bound train to meet his son, now a pianist of growing reputation. From the confines of his carriage, Samuel falls in love with his travelling companion, Miranda. In the book’s second section, Aciman moves us forward another five years, to Elio, now living in Paris and falling in love with an older man, Michel. But he can’t forget his first, and most potent love, Oliver. Five years forward again and we see Oliver, now forty-four, in New York City with his wife where he has been teaching, about to return to his life in New Hampshire. He’s still attracted to women and men; still restless with longing for the one that got away – Elio.

While *Find Me* might be disappointing for readers who just want to launch straight into a reunion between Elio and Oliver, Aciman takes his time to untangle the ways in which these beloved characters have been marked by lost love. Few writers are able to configure the vicissitudes of desire with as much drama, intensity, and insight as Aciman can. All of his most compelling themes remain – time, memory, fate, music, and the nature of love – and his language is sensual and unsentimental. First love doesn’t die – as *Find Me* suggests, it barely disappears. That Italian summer has haunted Elio and Oliver, shadowing them around the world. I think this erotic and gentle novel will stay with you and do the same.

Joanna Di Mattia is from Readings Carlton

Body Tourists

Jane Rogers

Sceptre. PB. \$29.99

Available 12 November



R Mortality, fear of aging and the desire to be young again have always been popular topics for fiction (just think *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde). In *Body Tourists* by Jane Rogers,

which is set roughly twenty-five years in the future, talented yet obsessed scientist Luke Butler wants to give people a chance to not only feel but be young again. Funded by his Aunt Gundun, Butler trials the idea of bringing back the cryogenically frozen people (most, although not all, of whom died from old age) and digitally transferring their memory into a paid, young ‘host’. This enables the deceased to ‘tour’ a younger body for a couple of weeks on a supervised island. When the host wakes up afterwards, they have no memory of what has happened. Some tours are harmless; an ex-athlete may simply want to swim or run as they did in their physical prime. Other tourists are confounded by the feeling of being young again and some have no intention of returning their host body at all.

This is high concept fiction and took just a day to read, as I love this type of

book. High concept works can suffer from inconsistencies and an overloading of ideas – and this does happen a little throughout this novel. However, by keeping the focus on three case studies and continually challenging us with ethical questions (relating to the abuse of the poor, automation and the withholding of information, among other topics), the author easily sustained my interest. I was most drawn to the idea that the reader experiences many viewpoints: the benefactor, the scientist, the tourists, the hosts, and also the friends and family of the tourists who find the return of their loved one both a blessing and a curse. I would recommend this to anyone who has enjoyed books such as *The Growing Season* by Helen Sedgwick and *The Heart Goes Last* by Margaret Atwood.

Amanda Rayner is from Readings Carlton

In Love with George Eliot

Kathy O’Shaughnessy

Scribe. PB. \$32.99

Available 5 November



R I have been stuck at page thirty-nine of *Middlemarch* for going on four years now. So when the chance to read about being in love with George Eliot arose, I grabbed it in the hope of finding the

spark of understanding that would lead me more fully into her world. I have succeeded beyond all my expectations, or, more correctly, Kathy O’Shaughnessy has exceeded all my expectations. *In Love with George Eliot* is a feverishly intense and beautifully rendered first novel, especially in its detail and sensitivity, that brings to life the woman and the legend.

In Love with George Eliot begins before the time of George Eliot with the arrival of Marian Evans, a woman of remarkable and ‘unfeminine’ intellect, in London, where she has been asked to help edit a literary journal, The Westminster Review. From the start her intelligence is penetrating and her anxiety palpable. Even early on, as she observes the ladies and feels the curiosity of one John Chapman, and as she internally dissects her impressions of each person in the room and yet basks in their attention, the scene is set for her intellectual success and social failure.

As soon as we meet Marian, we lose her; we pull back to the present, to the diaries of John Chapman, which bring us closer to the world of George Eliot. In this present, Kate, an Eliot scholar, is with Anne, another Eliot scholar working on a new book on George Eliot. This meta narrative – of a novel about George Eliot including an author who is writing a novel about George Eliot – is an elegant method to position the study of George Eliot, the woman and the genius, at the centre of all of these narratives. It’s soon clear that to be in love with George Eliot is to be consumed by her. And thanks to Kathy O’Shaughnessy, I too am now consumed by Eliot. Back to page thirty-nine I go!

Marie Matteson is from Readings Carlton

Olive, Again

Elizabeth Strout

Viking. HB. \$29.99

Available 5 November



R In *Olive, Again*, Elizabeth Strout returns to the familiar territory of Olive Kitteridge, the titular character of her 2008 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and arguably the

author’s most memorable creation. Set once again in the fictional coastal town of Crosby, Maine, this new novel-in-stories sees the retired teacher and widow traversing the challenges of old age – still stubborn, still cantankerous, still prone to fits of perhaps unwilling compassion, and in short, still completely, wonderfully Olive.

If you’ve ever read Strout’s fiction before you already know you are in safe hands here. Strout writes stories that will crack you open; her prose exquisite, her characterisation exceptional. Olive is exactly the kind of richly nuanced character you always hope to meet in books. Loss and ageing have rendered her more vulnerable and self-reflective in this second outing, and it’s a testament to Strout’s masterful control over her material that these alterations never ring false. The depiction of old age isn’t hidden or tempered by sentimentality, and while it can sometimes be bleakly funny, it is never a joke either. Rather, it is explored with the same honesty and generosity that marks so much of Strout’s work.

If you are a Strout completist, *Olive, Again* also offers the added pleasure of reacquainting yourself with a couple of characters from her other works – Jim Burgess of *The Burgess Boys* and Isabelle of *Amy and Isabelle* – and Shirley Falls, the nearby and similarly fictional town where those other novels are set, is visited by Olive. These meta-crossovers further attest to the sense that the universe of Strout’s fiction is a real place, even if it only exists in her readers’ collective imagination. It is a lonely world in many ways but the glimmers of hope at its edges can be breathtaking in their beauty.

Bronte Coates is the digital content coordinator

Beyond the Sea

Paul Lynch

Oneworld. PB. \$29.99

Available 5 November



R Bolivar, an experienced, albeit aging, fisherman of meagre means and scant ambition in an unnamed South American seaside location, sets off with the inexperienced, teenaged Hector against conventional wisdom – in the face of inclement weather in a small skiff – with hopes of a profitable catch. The weather turns foul, and the pair soon finds themselves adrift in the Pacific with negligible provisions and no means of communication.

As the days and weeks pass, bereft of supplies, enduring savage storms, and hope of rescue diminishing daily, physical and mental decay sets in. Foreseeing no other outcome but demise, Hector enters a state of terminal self-reflection, and in doing so holds up an unwelcome, unflinching and unforgiving mirror to Bolivar, who is thus forced to examine his own very human failings. A reckoning of the soul is inevitable, but there can be no absolution without contrition, and no genuine contrition without acknowledgement of wrongdoing. The respective faiths of the two are tested by this agonising and seemingly interminable experience.

With *Beyond the Sea*, Paul Lynch delivers a post-twentieth century existential parable which highlights the fragility and resilience of the human spirit through a crisis of existence as precarious as it is meaningless. The ocean

has ever been a powerful metaphor and literary device, but in the present age the travails of desperate souls upon the seas in search of refuge bears more meaning than in any post-war fiction. With echoes of Camus, McCarthy, Hemingway, and Coleridge, Lynch illustrates the reciprocally indifferent relationship between humanity and its environment, while subtly highlighting the same indifference between humans. The author of *Grace* (my favourite novel of 2017) presents a harrowing, yet redemptive tale of spiritual purgation delivered with poetic and deeply evocative prose.

Roland Bissshop is from Readings Carlton

The Starless Sea

Erin Morgenstern

Harvill Secker. PB. Was \$32.99

\$ \$29.99

Available 5 November



R Erin Morgenstern’s award-winning debut novel *The Night Circus* is one of those wonderful books that swallows you whole, rendering the world of a magical carnival in such

vivid prose that you can almost taste the caramel corn. Eight years after its publication, Morgenstern has finally returned to our shelves with the release of a new novel far more ambitious in scope, but every bit as absorbing as its predecessor.

The Starless Sea begins with several snippets of story: a pirate waiting for death, an acolyte who trades her voice for a secret, and the son of a fortune teller who finds a mysterious door ... and doesn’t pass through it. The last is Zachary Rawlins, a shy university student who is astonished to find one of his memories – one that he’s never shared with anyone – written within the pages of a book. Determined to uncover the truth behind the uncanny coincidence, Zachary finds himself on a journey that takes him to a vast subterranean library that’s such a jealously guarded secret that it is falling into oblivion. Along the way, he meets the enigmatic Mirabel and the captivating Dorian, both members of a shadowy organisation tasked with protecting the world of the Starless Sea.

At nearly five hundred pages, *The Starless Sea* is a dense read that weaves Zachary’s story with an array of seemingly disparate fairytales, fables, memories, and journal entries. As the book continues it becomes clear that the texts are linked, and gradually a single powerful narrative emerges.

An ode to reading, to stories, to books, to memory, to secrets, missed opportunities, second chances, fate, love, and hope, *The Starless Sea* is a beautiful tale that rewards patient readers with a magical world from which they’ll emerge, blinking, into the light.

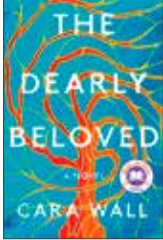
Lian Hingee is the digital marketing manager (currently on maternity leave)

The Dearly Beloved

Cara Wall

S&S. PB. \$32.99

Available mid-November



Charles and Lily meet James and Nan in Greenwich Village in 1963, when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times.

Their personal differences, however, threaten to tear them apart. *The Dearly Beloved* follows the two couples as they forge paths through their improbable, evolving relationships and struggle with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy.

The End of the Ocean

Maja Lunde
Scribner. PB. \$32.99
Available 1 November

In 2019, seventy-year-old Signe sets out across an ocean in a tiny yacht. In 2041, David flees with his young daughter, Lou, from war-torn, drought-stricken southern Europe. Desperately seeking the rest of their family, David and Lou find Signe’s abandoned boat in a parched French garden. Their journeys weave together in this captivating story from the bestselling author of *The History of Bees*.

The Girl Who Reads on the Métro

Christine Féret-Fleury & Ros Schwartz (trans.)
Mantle. HB. \$24.99
Available 29 October

When Juliette takes the Métro to her loathed office job each morning, her only escape is in books and imaginings about what her fellow commuters’ reading choices reveal. Alighting from the train a few stops early one day, she meets Soliman – the mysterious owner of the most enchanting bookshop Juliette has ever seen – and her life is never the same again.

Grandmothers

Salley Vickers
Viking. PB. Was \$32.99
\$29.99
Available 19 November

Blanche can’t seem to stop stealing things from the local pharmacy. Minna just wants a quiet life in her shepherd’s hut, though the local children have other ideas. Nan’s favourite occupation is researching funerals, and Cherry is adjusting to life in a care home. *Grandmothers* is a funny and heartwarming novel about very different grandmothers whose lives and grandchildren become unexpectedly entangled.

The Girl with the Leica

Helena Janeczek & Ann Goldstein (trans.)
Europa Editions. PB. \$29.99
Available 1 November

Gerda Taro was a German-Jewish war photographer, anti-fascist activist, artist and innovator whose alias – together with her partner, Hungarian Endre Friedmann – was Robert Capa: widely considered the twentieth century’s greatest war and political photographer. Taro was killed, aged twenty-six, on the battlefield while documenting the Spanish Civil War. This is a must-read for fans of historical fiction about extraordinary women.

Daughter of the Tigris
Muhsin Al-Ramli & Luke Leafgren (trans.)
MacLehose. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 November

In the follow-up to *The President’s Gardens*, it’s the sixth day of Ramadan in the bloodiest year of a bloody war and Qisma leaves for Baghdad with her husband-to-be, Tariq, to find the body of her murdered father. For Tariq, it’s more than a marriage of convenience. For Qisma, the only way to survive may be to take a slice of Iraq for herself.

The River Capture

Mary Costello
Text. PB. \$29.99
Available now

Thirty-four-year-old Luke O’Brien has left the city to live a quiet, bookish life on the River Sullane in County Waterford. Alone in his big house, he longs for a return to his family’s heyday and turns to books – especially *Ulysses* – for solace and sublimation. One morning a young woman arrives at his door and enters his life, with profound consequences.

The Age of Anxiety

Pete Townshend
Coronet. PB. \$32.99
Available 5 November

The Age of Anxiety is a rock novel that captures the quirks of the music business and displays Pete Townshend’s sly sense of humour and sharp ear for dialogue. First conceived as an opera, hallucinations and soundscapes haunt this novel, which on one level is an extended meditation on the dark art of creativity.

Nudibranch

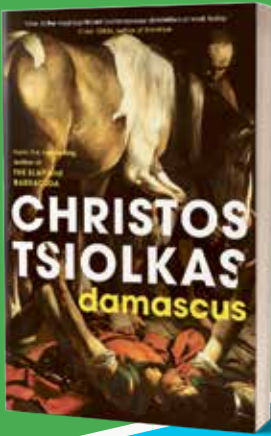
Irenosen Okojie
Dialogue. HB. \$35
Available 12 November

In one of the *Guardian*’s ‘must-read’ books of 2019, offbeat characters are caught up in extraordinary situations. A mysterious woman of the sea in search of love arrives on an island inhabited by eunuchs. Dimension-hopping monks navigating a season of silence face a bloody reckoning in the ruins of an abbey. This is a dark and lyrical collection of short stories.

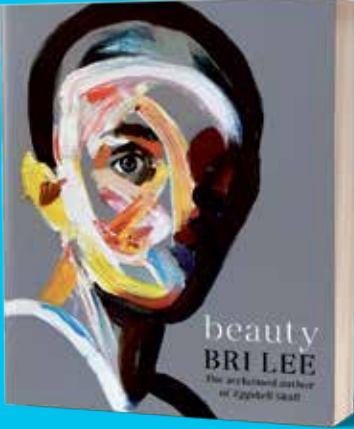
It Would Be Night in Caracas

Karina Sainz Borgo & Elizabeth Bryer (trans.)
HarperVia. PB. \$32.99
Available now

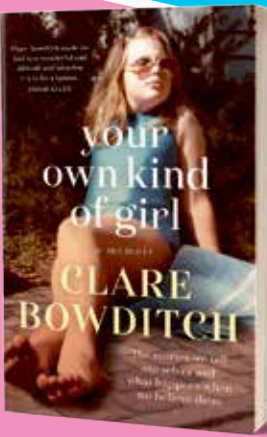
Adelaida had a stable childhood in a prosperous Venezuela. But now, every day she lines up for bread that sells out before her turn. Every night she tapes her windows to shut out the tear gas. When looters masquerading as revolutionaries take over her apartment, Adelaida must make a series of gruesome choices in order to survive in a country disintegrating into anarchy.



A masterpiece of imagination and transformation from the author of *Barracuda* and *The Slap*.



A powerful meditation on beauty and body image from the author of *Eggshell Skull*.



A heartbreaking, wise and at times playful memoir from actress, singer and storyteller Clare Bowditch that will inspire anyone who’s ever done battle with their inner critic.



Who was the real George Eliot? This glorious debut novel tells the compelling story of one of England’s greatest novelists as you’ve never read it before.



The story of the scientists who unravelled the mysteries of our seas, glaciers, and atmosphere – and made the planet whole.

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CRIMINAL GENIUS RUNS IN THE FAMILY... THE **FIRST BOOK** IN THE **BLOCKBUSTING NEW SERIES** FROM **GLOBAL BESTSELLER EOIN COLFER**

FROM THE **BESTSELLING AUTHOR** OF **THE TEMPLARS** COMES **CRUSADERS**, AN EPIC HISTORY OF THE **WARS FOR THE HOLY LANDS**



 HarperCollinsPublishers

GRIPPING NEW READS



After betraying a bikie gang, 17-year-old Lee Southern flees to the city with nothing left to lose. Working as a rogue tow truck driver, he's captured by right-wing extremists who want to use him for a cold-blooded crime.

'A battered and bruised kick-ass new hero for the times.'
Alan Carter

'White-knuckle suspense'
Books+Publishing

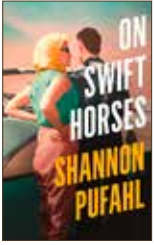
'A terrific novel' **Garry Disher**

Ava has just landed a job as a reporter up north. She's hooked on fishing, awed by country and falling for Noah, a local Indigenous leader. But can she keep her head and her principles if she throws in her lot with a mining company?



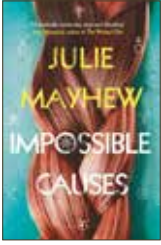
'A powerful exploration of the tensions tearing a remote Kimberley town apart ... This book has enormous heart and high stakes that lead to a thrilling finale.' **Holden Sheppard**

On Swift Horses
Shannon Pufahl
Fourth Estate. PB. \$29.99
Available 18 November




Muriel, a waitress in a San Diego diner, eavesdrops on ex-jockeys and trainers. She secretly begins to bet – and win. Julius, her new husband's brother, is a thief, Korean War veteran, and gifted gambler. In Julius's job patrolling Las Vegas casino tables for cheats, he meets Henry, a blackjack artist. *On Swift Horses* charts the journeys of Muriel and Julius on their quests for freedom and love.

Impossible Causes
Julie Mayhew
Raven. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



In Julie Mayhew's compelling thriller *Impossible Causes*, a man is found dead on remote and deeply religious Lark Island. The community is torn apart as the tension between the island's history of paganism and religious fervour builds, rumours spread, and a fog descends, sealing off the island from the mainland. Then four teenage girls find themselves accused of witchcraft – and murder.

Starve Acre
Andrew Michael Hurley
John Murray. HB. \$29.99
Available 29 October



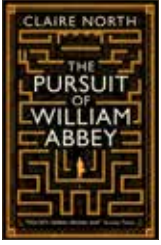
Richard and Juliette Willoughby's son, Ewan, has died suddenly at the age of five. *Starve Acre*, their house by the moors, is now haunted. Juliette seeks the help of seemingly benevolent occultists to find Ewan. Richard digs in the field opposite the house in search of a legendary oak tree. This is a devastating new novel about grief from the award-winning author of *The Loney*.

The German House
Annette Hess & Elisabeth Lauffer (trans.)
HarperVia. PB. \$32.99
Available 18 November



For twenty-four-year-old Eva Bruhns, World War II is a foggy childhood memory. Eager for her wealthy suitor to propose, Eva dreams of starting a new life away from her family. But Eva's plans and past are turned upside down when a fiery investigator, David Miller, hires her as a translator for a war crimes trial, the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials.

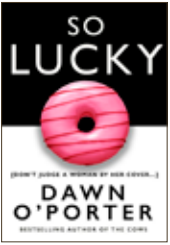
The Pursuit of William Abbey
Claire North
Orbit. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 November



South Africa, 1884. William Abbey, a young and naïve English doctor, witnesses the lynching of a local boy by white colonists. He's guilt-struck, but does not intervene. As the child dies, his mother curses William. The shadow of the dead boy follows him

across the world. It never rests. If it catches him, the person he loves most in the world will die.


So Lucky
Dawn O'Porter
HarperCollins. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Beth shows that women really can have it all. Ruby lives life by her own rules. And then there's Lauren, living the dream. Yet are their lives as perfect as they look? Beth hasn't had sex in a year. Ruby feels like she's failing. Lauren's happiness is fake news. And it just takes one shocking event to make the truth come tumbling out.

Poetry

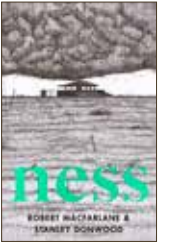
Love is Strong as Death: Poems Chosen by Paul Kelly
Paul Kelly (ed.)
Hamish Hamilton. HB. \$39.99
Available 19 November



Paul Kelly's songs are steeped in poetry. In *Love is Strong as Death*, he gathers more than three hundred of the poems he loves – poems that have inspired and challenged him, a number of which he has set to music. This wide-ranging anthology speaks to two of literature's great themes that have also proven powerful in his music: love and death.

Graphic Novel

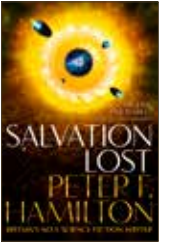
Ness
Robert Macfarlane & Stanley Donwood
Hamish Hamilton. HB. \$29.99
Available 19 November



Somewhere on a salt and shingle island, inside The Green Chapel, The Armourer is leading a black mass. He plans to detonate a thermonuclear missile. But five more-than-human entities are moving steadily towards a point where they will converge and become Ness. Ness is the land awakened. Ness speaks only in birds. And Ness has come to take this island back.

Science Fiction

Salvation Lost (Salvation Sequence, Book 2)
Peter F. Hamilton
Pan Mac. PB. \$32.99
Available 29 October



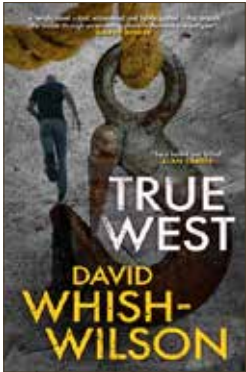
It's the twenty-third century and humanity is enjoying a comparative utopia. Yet life on Earth is about to change, forever. Feriton Kane's investigative team has discovered the worst threat ever to face humankind – and there's almost no time to fight back. The supposedly benign Olyx plan to harvest humanity. In the second book of the *Salvation Sequence*, disaster looms and animosities must be set aside.

Dead Write

with Fiona Hardy

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Crime



True West
David Whish-Wilson
Fremantle. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November

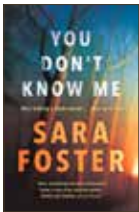
Movement – aka the APM, aka a violent white nationalist party with its sights set on parliament – it makes for almost unbearably tense reading. But Whish-Wilson does action like the fists are leaping out of the page and breaking your nose and pulling you right back in. This is compelling, thrilling, and still feels like it could be played out today in the white nationalist fringes of Australian politics. Hook yourself up to this one.

The Great Divide
L.J.M. Owen
Echo. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



The disappearance of a young boy on a frosty Tasmanian morning seems like it could end badly, and it does – not for the boy, but for the body he discovers in a vineyard. Detective Jake Hunter is new in the small town of Dunton and barely acquainted with even his colleagues when he is confronted with a murder that clearly has its long roots in the town. The dead woman was the former headmistress of a home for ‘bad girls’, girls who have now grown up into women with damaged pasts – or girls who aren’t anywhere to be found at all. Australian rural crime may be shifting to the south, especially considering Terror Australis, the Huon Valley’s crime-based literary festival from 31 October to 5 November, is spearheaded by L.J.M. Owen herself.

You Don’t Know Me
Sara Foster
S&S. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 1 November



Twelve years ago, Lizzie Burdett went missing after a fight with her boyfriend, Tom Carruso – and was never found. Now, with the inquest into her death looming, Tom’s brother Noah staves off the community backlash by heading to Thailand. There, he meets Alice Pryce, who for a moment reminds him of the long-lost Lizzie, before becoming someone that he wants to know, in this wrong place at the wrong time. For Alice, whose own family history is complex and weighed with tragedy, every time feels like the wrong time. This is a brilliant, taut, and compelling thriller full of love and violence, where everyone’s secrets

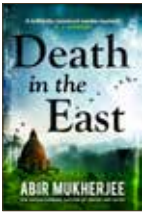
R If you want to get truly knocked about by a book, *True West* is what you want in front of you. Set in Western Australia in 1988, this is the visceral tale of Lee Southern, a young man driving south, away from a bad life he’s literally set aflame, feeling hopeful that he’s going towards something better. With a freshly set-up tow rig and, frankly, minimal expertise in the field, he’s hoping to sit on Perth’s freeways and help stranded cars, get a little cash together, see if he can make good now that his father is dead and he has to use his brutally won survivalist skills all on his own.

Not even twenty-four hours after he arrives, he seems to get on the wrong side of the wrong people and soon he’s fighting for his life, his truck, and his future. The dirty past of everybody he knows has followed him hundreds of kilometres and there’s no end to the bad people around that want a part of him: those that want revenge for Lee’s dramatic exit up north, those that think somebody with Lee’s skills might be useful for their ‘patriotic’ plans for WA, and everyone driving the murky line in-between.

Whish-Wilson’s Western Australia is alive, its heart beating, its outback a swirl of dust and history, roads like scars, the scent of its plants as strong as the ocean’s salty brine. Lee is a hell of a character: young, determined, practical, tough and with a heart underneath all that calloused skin. When he’s manipulated into being part of the Australian Patriotic

are about to be shaken loose and all the reader can do is catch them before they fall.

Death in the East
Abir Mukherjee
Harvill Secker. PB \$32.99
Available 19 November



Calcutta police detective Captain Sam Wyndham is still on the train platform – he has not even made it into the ashram towards which he’s travelled many painful hours in order to kick his opium habit – when he sees the kind of familiar face that makes an addiction feel like a better life plan than confrontation. On the platform is the man who was wrapped up in Wyndham’s life seventeen years before in 1905, in London, where he was a young constable determined to figure out who assaulted his old girlfriend, and found nothing but pain for his troubles. Wyndham had thought the man dead – and hoped so, as the man had come horribly close to killing him – but now, here he is, at the same place Wyndham has travelled to save his own career. Which means it’s time to call on his colleague Sergeant Banerjee to come and help out. Set during fraught times, Mukherjee’s energetic tale blooms with British pomp and Indian wit, and very good literary times.

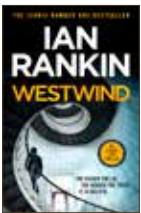
Dead Man Switch
Tara Moss
HarperCollins. PB. \$32.99
Available now



Twenty years into a stellar literary career that has lately taken her down a non-fiction route, Tara Moss has returned – and with a new character to chase after. Private Inquiry Agent Billie Walker has taken over her late father’s business. While business is not particularly booming, there is a steady enough stream of

unfaithful husbands and the like to keep her afloat in this strange post-war time. The women capable of holding all kinds of jobs have been replaced by returned servicemen, and everybody is trying to find their places again after years of trauma and heartbreak. None so much as the mother of a missing young man who hesitantly employs the services of Billie, and her capable secretary, to track down her son. Moss has the chops for hardboiled detective stories set in Sydney’s seedy past: full of gangsters, killers, the worst kind of people and some of the best. True to its era down to the very fabric around Billie’s shoulders, this is a smart-mouthed shot straight to the chest.

Westwind
Ian Rankin
Orion. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 12 November



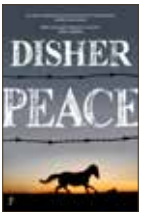
Originally published in 1990 but out of print for years – do feel free to search online for some epic ‘90s book-cover action – this espionage thriller is one of Ian Rankin’s earliest works, and features a new introduction by the author. In *Westwind*, the world is splitting apart, with the US closing ranks and Britain attempting to keep the peace with both Europe and America, when a space shuttle crashes into American soil. The crash kills everyone on board except a single Englishman, who does not find friends on this part of Earth. After contact is lost with Europe’s most advanced satellite, an English ground technician realises that something is not right – especially when a colleague fails to return after voicing his own suspicions. Going all the way up the investigative chain, with the help of the astronaut and a journalist from his past, this is a suspenseful, formerly lost, delight.

Blue Moon: Jack Reacher 24
Lee Child
Bantam Press. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 29 October



Ah, Jack Reacher. Need I say more? [Editor’s note: yes.] Our ex-military hero is adrift yet again in the great big country known as the USA. Riding a Greyhound bus, he sees an older man with a pocketful of money and another passenger with his eye on the prize. When Reacher steps in at the old man’s stop to put a decisive halt to the inevitable mugging, he discovers that the money is destined for a loan shark after some high-interest payments for a high-needs loan. Deciding to assist, because that’s what he does, he ends up in the middle of a turf war – because of course he does – and makes more-than-friends with a gun-savvy bartender – because why wouldn’t he? A touch more bloodthirsty than some of the other Reachers but, as always, as satisfying to get your teeth into as a delicious, oversized steak dinner in an entertainingly wild pub.

Peace
Garry Disher
Text. PB. Was \$29.99
\$ \$25.99
Available 5 November



Semi-newcomer Constable Paul Hirschhausen – ‘Hirsch’ to his slowly increasing number of friends – is looking down the barrel at Christmas in his rural posting of Tiverton, and

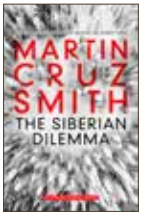
everything’s mostly calm. School’s finishing. Crimes are minor. An unnoticed car theft that ends quickly. A usual suspect drives into the side of the pub. Everybody’s highest expectations of Hirsch involve him dressing up as Santa Claus and judging everyone’s Christmas lights. But nothing is ever truly calm in this part of South Australia, and when there’s a fire linked to copper theft and a sticky trail of blood that leads to a sickening discovery, Hirsch begins to think that Christmas might not be so cheerful – and that not everyone will be alive to greet the season. *Peace* is marvellous, and Garry Disher, as always, is in award-winning form, creating a town so vivid and hot you could swelter just reading it – and you’d look askance at everybody you pass on the street.

Darkness for Light
Emma Viskic
Echo. PB. \$29.99
Available 3 December



Now, I know we’re all pumped for the new Caleb Zelic, but this book isn’t available until December, so it’s another few weeks before you can run out and grab a copy. When you do, you’ll find that Caleb has had enough of the bad times that almost ruined his life and definitely ruined a lot of other people’s. He has some fresh rules, summarised by his new motto: ‘Make Good Decisions’. Meeting a potential client at a children’s farm doesn’t seem like too bad a decision until Caleb meets a dead body instead of a customer – and from there, things just get worse. The past hasn’t left him alone after all, and Frankie – ‘the ex-partner who betrayed him and also saved his life’ – is suddenly somebody he needs to find, and find now, if he’s going to avoid some bitter truths coming to light and possibly sending him to prison for an extended visit. With his home life going tentatively well, he’s got too much to lose to get involved, but when Frankie’s niece is kidnapped, what choice does he really have? Emma Viskic has written another powerful, absorbing thriller: sharp as a knife, full of character and out to fray readers’ nerves in the very best kind of way.

The Siberian Dilemma
Martin Cruz Smith
S&S. PB. \$32.99
Available 1 November



R Bears, snow and bad guys are in abundance in this latest offering by Martin Cruz Smith. Since rocketing onto the literary scene investigating mutilated corpses in Gorky Park, Arkady Renko now faces the best Putin has to offer: missing journalists, police corruption, and brutish oligarchs whose shady dealings extend to beauty pageants. Renko, with all-rounder sidekick Bolot (seriously, there is nothing this guy can’t do), return to the icy wilderness of Siberia to track down Renko’s erstwhile lover, where they encounter all manner of obstacles to the truth. Julia Jackson is from Readings Carlton

Also out this month
John Sandford’s twelfth Virgil Flowers book, *Bloody Genius* (S&S, PB, \$32.99); David Baldacci’s *A Minute to Midnight* (Pan Mac, PB, \$29.99); James Sallis’s *Sarah Jane* (No Exit, PB, \$19.99); Janet Evanovich is back with another excellently named title with *Twisted Twenty-Six* (Headline Review, PB, \$29.99); the excellent Alan Furst’s *Under Occupation* (W&N, PB, \$32.99) ... and more!

New Nonfiction

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Cultural Studies



Make It Scream, Make It Burn

Leslie Jamison
Granta. PB. \$32.99
Available mid-November

R Leslie Jamison’s first essay collection, *The Empathy Exams*, made Readings’ Best of Nonfiction list in 2014. It is a book we still recommend and to which many of us still return. Jamison’s new essay collection, *Make It Scream, Make It Burn*, is destined for a similar fate.

Ordered within three sections – ‘Longing’, ‘Looking’, and ‘Dwelling’ – the essays roam through topics that, on the surface, appear disparate. Jamison explicates on everything from the so-called loneliest whale in the world (and its surprising number of devotees) to a reckoning with her own past and present self in a moment of intense transformation. She moves from one to the other via examinations of art, of children who believe they are reincarnated, recovery from addiction, becoming a stepmother, and so much more. About her own genocide tourism, she is bracing: ‘But walking among bones was something else ... It felt disrespectful to walk over the dead but also honest. We are always doing it anyway’.

These essays are all driven by a deep, restless curiosity about the breadth of the human experience and the ways in which it is captured and explored. Many of Jamison’s observations about the work of other artists are equally applicable to her own. As she writes of the photographer Annie Appel, the works that fascinate all of these artists are testament ‘to the human desire to witness other people’. Jamison and her subjects also share a reverence for art and the meaning it offers us, even as they all question their own

veracity and motives with every breath.

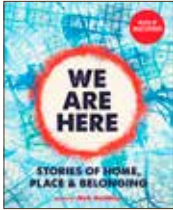
Beyond the wonderfully unusual content, this collection is also notable for its brilliant writing. Jamison’s words are poised and original; her excruciatingly articulate yet always compassionate observations are compelling, regardless of topic.

Elke Power is the editor of *Readings Monthly*

Anthologies

We Are Here

Meg Mundell (ed.)
Affirm Press. PB. \$35
Available 12 November



Too often the homeless are dismissed or blamed and rarely get to speak for themselves. Edited by former *Big Issue* deputy editor Meg Mundell, *We Are Here* is a vibrant and moving collection of true stories showcasing the creative talents of Australians who have known homelessness. All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to charities that work with people experiencing homelessness.

Australian Studies

Yellow Notebook: Diaries Volume I, 1978–1987

Helen Garner
Text. HB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



R When Helen Garner’s debut novel *Monkey Grip* was published in 1977, a couple of larrikins made some beer money by publishing a pamphlet, ‘Who’s Who in *Monkey Grip*’ and there might be a temptation for someone to do the same for *Yellow Notebook*. Spanning almost ten years, this is a book of fragments from Helen’s life. It’s a special privilege to be let in on what was going on in her mind, her life.

In *Yellow Notebook*, we hear the development of the voice that Garner’s many admirers relish; the forthright

bursts, a mixture of certainty, wisdom, and occasionally massive doubt. At a reading, she glances up and sees a young woman transfixed, ‘I felt I could not read well, enough, had not written well enough, to justify her undefended openness.’ We get glimpses of the roller coaster of her emotional life and watch her beloved daughter grow up, ‘I love her more than anyone else in the world’. There’s a yearning for spontaneity, the wish to meet a man to whom she can say, ‘Do you want to drive to Darwin with me?’ and he’d say ‘Yes’ and they would just go. When a man at a party tells her she should write about the proletariat, Helen snaps back, ‘What bullshit. Why?’

The entries, too, are peppered with the process of writing; the struggles as she veers from being ‘a middle-level craftswoman’ to a feeling of triumph, ‘As I approach the end of the novel I can feel it pulling itself into shape ...’ When I first started reading this collection I was unsure about reading disjointed fragments, but as I followed the arc of Helen’s thoughts, I enjoyed it more and more. I hope you do too.

Mark Rubbo is the managing director of Readings

Against All Odds

Craig Challen & Richard Harris with Ellis Henican
Viking. PB. Was \$34.99

\$ \$29.99

Available 5 November



In June 2018 the world watched and held its breath as the Wild Boar soccer team were trapped deep in a cave in Thailand. Marooned beyond flooded cave passages after unexpected rains, they were finally rescued, one-by-one, against almost impossible odds. Here is the story of the two Australian men, chosen for

their expertise, who became international heroes as part of the cave-diving team.

1956

Nick Richardson
Scribe. PB. \$35

Available 5 November



The world came to Australia’s doorstep in 1956 with matters including the Suez crisis, British nuclear tests at Maralinga, the arrival of television in Australia and the Summer Olympics in Melbourne. Nick Richardson reveals Australia at a critical moment in time and recreates the broader events surrounding the Olympics, the dramas of the Games themselves as well as the people who were touched by this transformation.

Fighting for Hakeem

Craig Foster
Hachette. PB. \$34.99
Available 29 October



In November 2018, refugee and soccer player Hakeem al-Araibi was arrested in Thailand. The Bahraini government wanted to extradite him to face a ten-year jail sentence, but former Soccerroo Craig Foster and the local soccer community fought tirelessly to bring him home to Australia. Despite their different backgrounds, religions and generations, Foster and Hakeem al-Araibi are united forever through their love of the world game and their fight for freedom.

George Seddon

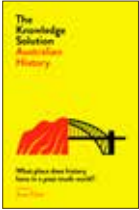
Andrea Gaynor (ed.)
La Trobe University Press. PB. \$32.99
Available now



George Seddon was renowned for championing a ‘sense of place’. A connoisseur of landscapes he radically rethought our relationship with the environment from water to mining, suburbs to wilderness. He also broke new ground in urban planning, landscape architecture and environmental conservation. The highlights of Seddon’s wide-ranging and always illuminating work are selected here by Andrea Gaynor.

The Knowledge Solution

Anna Clark (ed.)
MUP. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



What can we learn from recurring events across the recent history of Australia, of colonisation, nationalism, racism, fighting on foreign shores, land booms, industrial campaigns and culture wars? Arguments about the discipline of Australian history, the defining moments and what impact they’ll have on our future, are distilled in these extracts and essays from acclaimed historians and writers.

Life: Selected Writings

Tim Flannery
Text. HB. \$39.99
Available 5 November

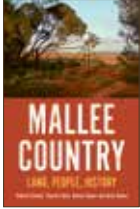


Tim Flannery is one of the world’s great thinkers, environmental scientists and writers. This definitive collection of his work brings together thirty years of essays, speeches and

occasional writing on palaeontology, mammology, environmental science and history, including the science of climate change and the challenges and opportunities we face in addressing this issue, so critical for all of us.

Mallee Country

Richard Broome, Charles Fahey, Andrea Gaynor & Katie Holmes
Monash University Publishing. PB. \$39.95
Available 1 November



Mallee Country tells the powerful history of Mallee lands and people across southern Australia from Deep Time to the present. Carefully shaped and managed by Aboriginal people for over 50,000 years, Mallee country was dramatically transformed by European colonial occupation. This is the story of the dreams, sweat and sorrows of people who face an uncertain future of depopulation and climate change with creativity and hope.

Biography

Your Own Kind of Girl

Clare Bowditch
A&U. PB. \$29.99
Available 28 October



R Melbourne is a town of connections. I’m sure many of us have heard of Clare Bowditch, perhaps we have heard her on the radio, seen her on television, or follow her on Instagram. Perhaps you have sung with her, seen her perform, seen her down the street, or just seen her laughing at a bar surrounded by friends and family. She’s that type of woman. Vivacious. Talented. Generous. And, as this deeply personal story tells us, anxious. Some of this disquiet is due to trauma, some due to compulsion and, surely, some due to the agony of being alive.

Many readers will tell you how brave Bowditch is for sharing her life story. They will tell you how inspirational it is to read about a woman who has suffered and shone. Honestly though, Bowditch’s story has more to it than that. There is a fragility to this story. Behind it is real pain that has caused grief to the author and to her family and friends.

This is the book you buy because you admire any woman who is genuine. This is the book you buy for a friend that needs to know all small steps matter. This is the read you seek when you need an easy, empathetic insight into another person’s life. This is the book that will give you a sweet, friendly little nudge on your way.

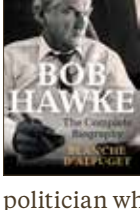
Christine Gordon is the events and programming manager for Readings

Bob Hawke

Blanche d’Alpuget
S&S. HB. Was \$59.99

\$ \$49.99

Available 1 December




Bob Hawke began life as a good Christian boy from a teetotal family, became a Rhodes Scholar, a champion of workers, a folk hero recognised throughout the country, a dynamic politician who was elected four times as Australia’s Prime Minister – and transformed his country. A man of

towering passions and commitment to causes, and an unshakeable love of humanity, this definitive commemorative biography marks Hawke’s extraordinary life and legacy.


Maurice Blackburn

David Day
Scribe. HB. \$49.99
Available 19 November

 A socialist and internationalist all his life, Maurice Blackburn was a tireless campaigner for transforming Australia so that it served the interests of all its citizens. Part love story, part gripping political thriller, this poignant biography exposes a time when influence-peddling was rife, when political possibilities seemed limitless, and when a man of principle could still make a big difference to the course of Australian politics.


The Shelf Life of Zora Cross

Cathy Perkins
Monash University Publishing. PB. \$29.95
Available 1 November

 Australian poet and journalist Zora Cross caused a sensation in 1917 with her book *Songs of Love and Life*. She was hailed as a genius, and many expected her to endure as a household name. While Cross’s fame didn’t last, she kept writing, producing an impressive body of work. *The Shelf Life of Zora Cross* reveals the life of a neglected writer and intriguing person.

Wild Game

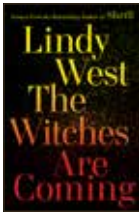
Adrienne Brodeur
C&W. PB. \$29.99
Available now

 When Adrienne Brodeur’s mother began an affair with her husband’s closest friend, Adrienne’s life would be changed in profound ways. *Wild Game* is a daughter’s tale of living in the thrall of her magnetic, complicated mother, and the chilling consequences of her complicity. And, ultimately, it’s a story of resilience, a reminder that we need not be the parents our parents were to us.

Cultural Studies

The Witches Are Coming

Lindy West
A&U. PB. \$29.99
Available 5 November

 **R** Lindy West’s is the voice we need in 2019 – she’s snarky, sensible, accessible, inclusive and aware, and above all, hilarious. In *The Witches are Coming*, West takes her reader on a journey through pop culture, visiting Adam Sandler movies (are they actually good?), internet-famous cats (are their owners monsters?), the GOOP wellness convention (will Gwyneth Paltrow’s next step be selling her own literal shit?) and much more. But this is also a very political book – West is constantly asking how one might make change in the world to improve it for marginalised people and future generations.

I think the energy of this book can be summarised pretty neatly with the following quote: ‘Whatever your sphere is, however big or small, you get to make choices within it, and if you care about healing the wounds of the world I hope you become a real demon bitch about diversity and never let anyone sleep.’ Amazing. West’s writing is equally delightful whether she’s putting out a call to arms like she does in this quote, discussing the finer points of internet culture, or comparing what politically right-wing men consider to be a witch hunt to what a witch hunt actually was (spoiler alert: being reprimanded on Twitter is quite different to being burnt at the stake).

This book is firmly situated within the author’s own cultural context, so if you eschew U.S. politics and culture, this might not be the best choice for you. But anyone who calls the internet home will fit right in within these pages. These essays will make you laugh, but they’ll also harness your rage, make you think about how things might be changed or improved, consider why we ridicule what we do, and what impact that has. Lindy West is a force to be reckoned with, and she’ll make you cackle like the witch you surely are.

Ellen Cregan is the marketing and events coordinator

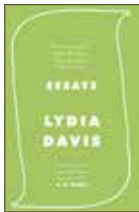
Generation F

Virginia Trioli
Scribner. PB. \$24.99
Available 15 November

 When Virginia Trioli first wrote *Generation F* in 1996, she described the real state of sexual harassment: how most women just copped it, but some felt able to confront it. As women around the world now speak up about how sexual harassment has destroyed their work, families and lives, Trioli revisits that cultural moment in a new chapter comparing the state of affairs then with the situation women in Australia face today.

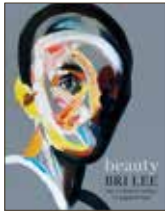
Essays

Lydia Davis
Hamish Hamilton. HB. \$45
Available 19 November

 Lydia Davis’s writing is a masterclass in control; every word is placed deliberately. Here she presents a dazzling collection of literary essays. Ranging across her many creative influences, including Thomas Pynchon, Lucia Berlin and Joan Mitchell, she returns again and again to her own writing process, joyfully interrogating the limits of literature and the ways in which we can challenge and reinvent it.

Beauty

Bri Lee
A&U. PB. \$19.99
Available 5 November

 In *Beauty* Bri Lee explores our obsession with thinness and asks how an intrinsically unattainable standard of physical ‘perfection’ has become so crucial to so many. What happens if you try to reach that impossible goal? Lee did try, and *Beauty* is what she learned from that battle. It’s a gripping and intelligent rejection of an ideal that diminishes us all.



Discover a new favourite



Love is Strong as Death
Paul Kelly

A collection of more than 300 of Paul Kelly’s favourite poems, combining the ancient and the modern, the famous and the little known, to speak to two great themes throughout his music: love and death – plus everything in between.



Olive, Again
Elizabeth Strout

Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout continues the life story of her prickly, yet beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions of readers.

'Poetry is deep play. It's comfort. It's challenge. Just like a friend.'
PAUL KELLY



Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister
Jung Chang

A major new biography from the internationally bestselling author of *Wild Swans*: a gripping story of sisterhood, revolution and betrayal, and three women who helped shape the course of modern Chinese history.

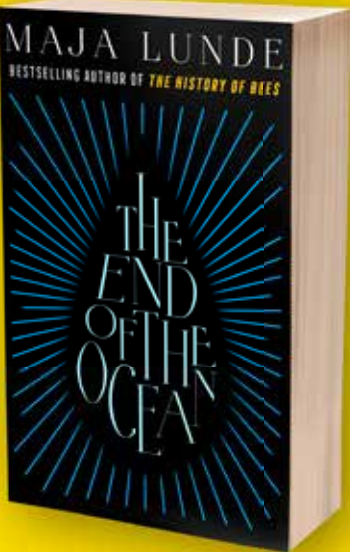
Please Gamble Irresponsibly
Titus O'Reilly

Australians lose more money gambling than any other country. But how did we get here? In his inimitable, hilarious style, sports historian Titus O'Reilly charts the rise, fall and rise of sports gambling in Australia.

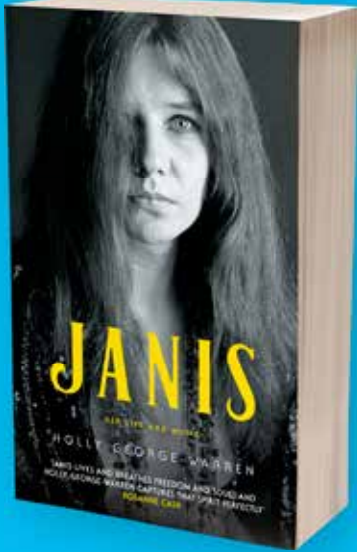
Read more at penguin.com.au

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE #1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

THE HISTORY OF BEES




THE HISTORY OF BEES



JANIS

An intimate biography of the '60s counter-cultural icon



Incidental Inventions

Elena Ferrante, Ann Goldstein (trans.) & Andrea Ucini (illus.)
Europa Editions. HB. \$29.99
Available 19 November



For a full year Elena Ferrante penned short pieces for *The Guardian*, the subjects of which were suggested by editors, turning the writing process into a kind of prolonged interlocution. Gathered here in a beautiful gift edition and accompanied by a new, original introduction by the author and Andrea Ucini’s intelligent, witty, and beautiful illustrations, this is a must for all Ferrante fans.

The Saturday Portraits

Maxine Beneba Clarke
Hachette. PB. \$34.99
Available 12 November



In 2014, editor Erik Jensen contacted Maxine Beneba Clarke, convincing her to write creative portraits for *The Saturday Paper*. The next four years were a journalistic baptism of fire. She spent exactly nine minutes with Hugh Jackman; wrote a love letter to Prince; shared the stage with writer Roxane Gay; and exchanged emails with President Obama. These are *The Saturday Portraits*.

Don’t Be Evil

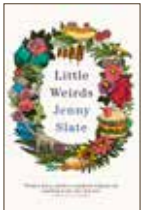
Rana Foroohar
Allen Lane. PB. \$35
Available 19 November



Today Google and Facebook receive 90% of the world’s news ad-spending. Amazon takes half of all ecommerce in the US. Google and Apple operating systems run on all but 1% of cell phones globally. In *Don’t Be Evil*, global business columnist Rana Foroohar (*Financial Times*) documents how Big Tech lost its soul – and became the new Wall Street.

Little Weirds

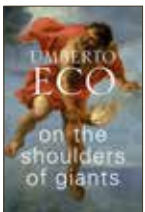
Jenny Slate
Fleet. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 November



To see the world through Jenny Slate’s eyes is to see it as though for the first time, shimmering with strangeness and possibility. In her dazzling, impossible-to-categorise debut, Jenny channels the pain and beauty of life in writing so fresh, so new and so alive, we catch her vision like a fever and bring it back out into the bright day with us.

On the Shoulders of Giants

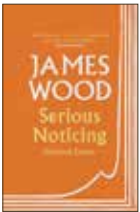
Umberto Eco
Harvill Secker. HB. Was \$65
\$59.99
Available 5 November



In this collection of essays we find Umberto Eco’s perennial areas of interest explored in a lively and engaging style, accompanied by beautiful reproductions of the art he discusses. Eco was one of the most influential, and entertaining, intellectuals of the last century, and these essays explore civilization, ideas of beauty, and the emblematic heroes of the great narrative, amongst other fascinating topics.

Serious Noticing

James Wood
Vintage. PB. \$24.99
Available 5 November



James Wood is one of the leading critics of the age, and here, for the first time, are his selected essays. From the career-defining ‘Hysterical Realism’ to his more personal reflections on family, religion and sensibility, *Serious Noticing* offers a comprehensive overview of his writing over the last twenty years, showing how to bring the eye of critical reading to life as a whole.

What Happened?

Hanif Kureishi
Faber. HB. \$39.99
Available 5 November

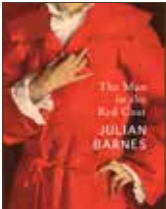


Comic, dark and insightful, *What Happened?* is Hanif Kureishi’s new collection of essays and fiction. From social media to the ancient classics, from appraisals of David Bowie to Georges Simenon to Keith Jarrett, this is the latest literary event in a unique body of work that displays Kureishi’s characteristic boundless curiosity and wit, and any new book in his oeuvre is a justification for celebration.

History

The Man in the Red Coat

Julian Barnes
Jonathan Cape. HB. Was \$39.99
\$34.99
Available 5 November



With this ‘narrative nonfiction’, Julian Barnes leads us through the literary and arty world of Paris of the 1880s and 1890s, the Belle Époque of glittering salons and vicious gossip and social sniping as shown in Marcel Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past*. This Paris is lousy with decadent artists, desperate journalists and sickly aristocrats, and Barnes wants to take us on a tour of this magnificent menagerie, ostensibly – as he argues in his afterword – as an argument against Brexit. The rest of England, he hopes, will be reminded of what they stand to lose.

The focal character of the book is Samuel Pozzi, a lens of reason through which Barnes observes all the crimes passionnels, bed-hoppings, shootings, bottom-of-the-gutter journalism (you thought you had it bad) and mental illnesses that he has uncovered in his research into the period. Although Pozzi is (only) a famed surgeon and gynaecologist (i.e., not an aristocrat), he mixes socially in the literary and arts worlds of Paris: John Singer Sargent paints him in the portrait that gives the book its name, and Pozzi is both doctor and lover to Sarah Bernhardt.

The book begins with an 1885 shopping trip to London on which Pozzi and his thoroughly decadent pal Count Montesquieu (a source for Proust’s Baron Charlus) are shown the sights by Henry James. But, actually, we spend the lion’s share of the book on the boulevards and in the salons and, because of Pozzi’s profession, the hospital wards of Paris. On the shoulder of Pozzi, Barnes delivers an account which both humanises and glorifies the epoch in all its glitter, wit and nastiness. Our grip on the characters is enhanced by painted and photographic

portraits, the latter falling from chocolate bars sold by the Willy Wonka of the Belle Époque, Félix Potin.

Bernard Caleo is a member of the Readings events team

Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister: Three Women at the Heart of Twentieth-Century China

Jung Chang
Jonathan Cape. PB. Was \$35
\$29.99
Available now



British–Chinese writer Jung Chang (*Wild Swans*, *Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China*) is well-known for writing intimate biographies set against some of the world’s most turbulent events. She continues this trajectory with *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister*, a group biography of the famous Soong sisters, that also operates as a political history of China from the fall of the Qing dynasty to the beginning of the twenty-first century. The Soong sisters are glibly described in the popular saying, ‘In China, there were three sisters. One loved money, one loved power, one loved her country’, but in Chang’s hands it becomes clear that they were far more complex than that pat summary.

Ei-ling, the oldest, was a financial and political power broker, a close adviser to General Chang-Kai-Shek and wife of business mogul H.H. Kung. Middle sister Ching-ling married the founding father of the Chinese republic, Sun Yat-sen, and later became Mao’s vice-chair. May-ling – the youngest – was Madame Chiang Kai-shek, first lady of pre-Communist Nationalist China. The sisters were educated in the West, they were glamorous, cultured, and Christian; all three were nestled into the highest strata of power as various leaders, parties and forces competed for control of post-imperial China. As could be predicted, the chapters covering the Second Sino–Japanese War and World War II are some of the most vivid, but throughout the Soong women face great loss and suffering, danger (at times, literally being shot at) and exile. Despite the fact that they often occupied opposing sides in cut-throat ideological battles, they still maintained the strongest of blood ties.

It seems self-evident that Chang has made a life project of elevating the lives of Chinese women in our collective memories. It’s a conundrum of *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister* that it’s quite impossible to talk about the Soong sisters without constant reference to their husbands, but Chang never wavers in her focus on the close interior lives of the Soong women, and the influence and charisma they wielded.

Leanne Hall is the online children’s book specialist

A House in the Mountains

Caroline Moorehead
C&W. PB. \$35
Available 19 November

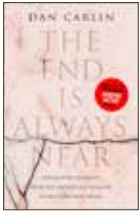


Between 1943 and 1945, as the Allies battled their way north, thousands of men and women throughout occupied Italy rose up and fought to liberate their country from German invaders. The bloody civil war that ensued across the country brought out the best

and worst in Italian society. This book tells the story of what resolve, tenacity and, courage can achieve in trying times.

The End is Always Near

Dan Carlin
HarperCollins. PB. \$34.99
Available now



Will our world ever become a ruin for future archaeologists to dig up and explore? In his first book, the creator of the award-winning podcast *Hardcore History* looks to some of humanity’s most apocalyptic moments to understand the challenges of our future. This thrillingly expansive and entertaining book will make you look at the past – and future – in a completely different way.

Nothing New

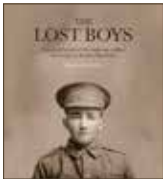
Robyn Annear
Text. HB. \$29.99
Available 5 November



‘Given the way we live now,’ writes Robyn Annear, ‘it would be easy to suppose that newness has always been venerated.’ But as this wonderfully entertaining short history makes clear, modern consumerism is an aberration. *Nothing New* is itself an emporium: a treasure store of anecdotes and little-known facts that will intrigue and enlighten the devoted bargain-hunter and the dilettante browser alike.

The Lost Boys

Paul Byrnes
Affirm Press. HB. \$45
Available 29 October



In the First World War, thousands of boys across Australia and New Zealand lied about their age, forged a parent’s signature and left to fight on the other side of the world. Though some were as young as thirteen, they soon found they could die as well as any man. Like Peter Pan’s Lost Boys, they have remained forever young.

The Sisters of Auschwitz

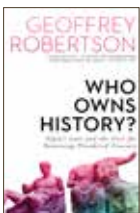
Roxane van Iperen
Seven Dials. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 November



During the Second World War two Jewish sisters – Janny and Lien Brilleslijper – ran one of the largest hideaways in The Netherlands: The High Nest. But eventually, the nest was exposed and the Brilleslijper family put on one of the last transports to Auschwitz. Roxane Van Iperen’s novelistic eye combined with her rigorous research result in this hugely compelling portrayal of courage, treason and human resilience.

Who Owns History?

Geoffrey Robertson
Knopf Australia. HB. Was \$39.99
\$34.99
Available 5 November



Geoffrey Robertson focuses his razor-sharp mind on one of the greatest contemporary issues in the worlds of art and culture: the return of cultural property taken from its country of creation. *Who Owns History?*

not only delves into the crucial debate over the ‘Elgin’ Marbles, but examines how the past can be experienced by everyone, as well as by the people of the country of origin.

Humour

Dishonesty is the Second-Best Policy

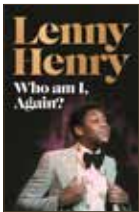
David Mitchell
Guardian Books. PB. \$32.99
Available 5 November



As facts are downgraded to opinions, as customers are preyed upon by algorithm-wielding websites, voters by targeted lies, cinema-goers by superheroes and children by measles, David Mitchell negotiates a path between the commercialisation of Christmas and the true spirit of Halloween. Incisive, hilarious and disappointingly truthful, no other writer is better placed to take on the dumbfounding times we live in.

Who Am I, Again?

Lenny Henry
Faber. PB. \$32.99
Available 5 November

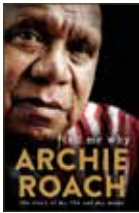


A child of the Jamaican diaspora, Lenny Henry was one of seven children in a boisterous, complicated family. Here, with honesty, tenderness and a glorious sense of humour, he conducts a jam session of memories. Henry grew up to set out on a glittering career – but at every stage wondering: Am I good enough? Is this what they want? Who am I, again? This book answers those questions.

Music

Tell Me Why

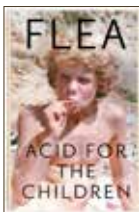
Archie Roach
S&S. HB. Was \$49.99
\$ \$39.99
Available 1 November



No one has lived as many lives as Archie Roach – stolen child, seeker, teenage alcoholic, lover, father, musical and lyrical genius, and leader – but it took him almost a lifetime to find out who he really was. Roach’s story is an extraordinary odyssey through love and heartbreak, family and community, survival and renewal – and the healing power of music. See page 22 for information about the companion album, also called *Tell Me Why*.

Acid for the Children

Flea
Headline. PB. \$32.99
Available 5 November



Flea, the iconic bassist and co-founder of the immortal Red Hot Chili Peppers, finally tells his story. Complete with all the dizzying highs and the gutter lows you’d expect from an L.A. street rat turned world-famous rock star, this book spans from his early fascinations with music to performing for enormous audiences worldwide. *Acid for the Children* is pure, unadulterated Flea, with nothing left unsaid.

The Beautiful Ones

Prince
Century. HB. Was \$49.99
\$ \$44.99
Available 29 October



Prince was one of the most accomplished and acclaimed musicians in pop history, a visionary with an imagination deep enough to create whole worlds. *The Beautiful Ones* is the story of how Prince became Prince – a first-person account of a kid absorbing the world around him and then creating a persona, an artistic vision, and a life, before the hits and fame that would come to define him.

Glastonbury 50

Michael Eavis & Emily Eavis
Trapeze. HB. \$75
Available 29 October



Glastonbury 50 is the authorised, behind-the-scenes, inside story of the music festival that began as a Somerset ‘Pop, Folk & Blues’ festival, and has grown to become a true global phenomenon. In their own words, creators Michael and Emily Eavis reveal the stories behind the headlines, and celebrate five momentous decades in the life of the world’s most famous outdoor music and arts festival.

Janis: Her Life and Music

Holly George-Warren
S&S. PB. \$32.99
Available 1 November



Janis Joplin was one of the most iconic artists of her generation. But how did a middle-class girl from Texas become a ‘60s countercultural icon? Holly George-Warren captures in intimate detail is way Joplin teetered between the powerful woman you hear in her songs, and the little girl who just wanted to feel emotionally safe. The pain of that dichotomy fuelled her music – and ultimately killed her.

Roots: How Melbourne Became the Live Music Capital of the World

Craig Horne
Melbourne Books. PB. \$34.99
Available 5 November



What is it about Melbourne that, according to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, it’s able to support around 465 live music venues as compared to 453 in New York, 385 in Tokyo and 245 in London despite its population being a fraction of those major world cities? *Roots* is the history of live music in Melbourne, and of those musicians who played what they wanted, without a damn.

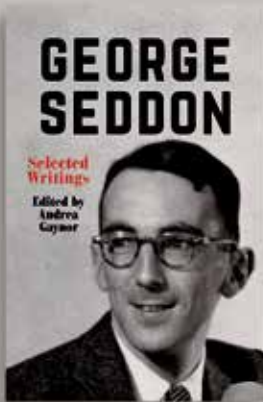
Why Bowie Matters

Will Brooker
HarperCollins. HB. \$24.99
Available 18 November

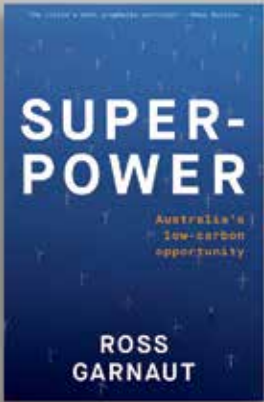


When David Bowie died on January 10 2016, it seemed the whole world was united in mourning. To many, Bowie was so much more than a pop idol. But why? In *Why Bowie Matters*, Professor Will Brooker answers that question

CLEVER BOOKS
from LA TROBE



The collected writings of one of Australia’s most revered environmental scholars, and its most distinguished landscape essayist.



A blueprint for harnessing Australia’s renewable energy potential to become a global economic superpower.

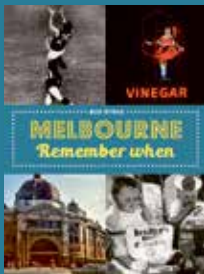


From Schubert to Springsteen, Archie Roach to Amy Winehouse, this is an illuminating history of the song for every kind of music lover.

(Available December)



BLACKINCBOOKS.COM



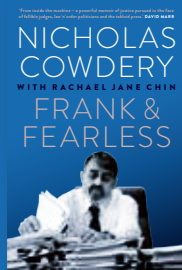
BOB BYRNE
MELBOURNE
Remember when

‘Each photograph in this wonderful collection powerfully evokes half-remembered truths, half-faded yearnings, at the same time tempting us with a honeysweet nostalgia.’
— Steve Vizard

The Memory Pool

Therese Spruhan

‘A joyful, moving, nostalgic and original take at what it means to be Australian. Dive in!’
— Robert Drewe



NICHOLAS COWDERY
WITH RACHAEL JANE CHIN
FRANK & FEARLESS

‘From inside the machine — a powerful memoir of justice pursued in the face of fallible judges, law ‘n’ order politicians and the tabloid press.’
— David Marr

COOKING WITH THE
OLDEST FOODS ON EARTH
JOHN NEWTON


‘This book is full of the information about Australian foods that your country refused to teach you. Here’s your chance to fully appreciate your homeland.’
— Bruce Pascoe



AN IMPRINT OF UNSW PRESS

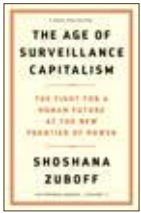
persuasively, as both a fan and an academic. He shows us that while David Robert Jones is gone, David Bowie will live on forever.

Kim Salmon and the Formula for Grunge: Nine Parts Waters, One Part Sand
Douglas Galbraith
Melbourne Books. PB. \$39.99
Available 5 November


 This book follows Australian musician Kim Salmon (of bands The Scientists, Surrealists and Beasts of Bourbon) from childhood in Perth through his many bands, albums, triumphs and disappointments and examines the characters of the music business he collaborates with along the way. It's a tribute to the life-long pursuit of artistic mastery, and celebration of the growing international recognition, well overdue for this unique Australian artist.

Politics


The Age of Surveillance Capitalism
Shoshana Zuboff
Profile. PB. \$24.99
Available now

 We are living in a new phase in economic history. Private companies and governments track your every move with the goal of predicting and controlling your behaviour. You are not the customer: you are the raw material. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* explores this new capitalism's impact, and exposes the struggles that will decide both the next chapter of capitalism and the meaning of information civilization.

Antisocial: How Online Extremists Broke America
Andrew Marantz
Picador. PB. \$32.99
Available 29 October


 In this timely new book, Andrew Marantz tells the story of how optimistic entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley set out to create a free and democratic internet, and how the cynical propagandists of the alt-right exploited that freedom to propel the extreme into the mainstream. *Antisocial* traces how the unthinkable becomes thinkable, and then how it becomes reality.

Fascists Among Us: Online Hate and the Christchurch Massacre
Jeff Sparrow
Scribe. PB. \$19.99
Available 19 November

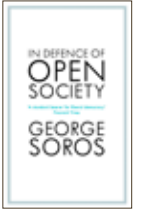
 The massacre of more than fifty worshippers at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, shocked the world. The murders expressed a particular ideology, one that the alleged perpetrator described as 'fascism'. But what does fascism mean today, and what kind of threat does it pose? Here Jeff Sparrow argues that the mosque killer represents a frightening new phenomenon: decentralised right-wing

terrorism that recruits by committing atrocities, feeding on itself and spreading from country to country.

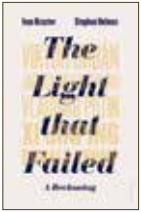
How to be an Anticapitalist in the Twenty-First Century
Erik Olin Wright
Verso. HB. \$29.99
Available 5 November

 In this elegant book, Erik Olin Wright has distilled decades of work into a concise and tightly argued manifesto analysing the varieties of anti-capitalism, assessing different strategic approaches, and laying the foundations for a society dedicated to human flourishing. *How to Be an Anticapitalist* is an urgent and powerful argument for socialism, and an unparalleled guide to help us get there.


In Defence of Open Society
George Soros
John Murray. PB. \$32.99
Available 29 October

 George Soros is among the world's most prominent public figures. He is one of the history's most successful investors and his philanthropy, led by the Open Society Foundations, has donated billions to promote democracy and human rights. In this spirited book, Soros offers a call-to-arms for the ideals of an open society: freedom, democracy, rule of law, human rights, social justice, and social responsibility.

The Light that Failed: A Reckoning
Ivan Krastev & Stephen Holmes
Allen Lane. HB. \$45
Available 5 November

 In the early 1990s, hopes for the eastward spread of liberal democracy were high. And yet the transformation of Eastern European countries gave rise to a bitter repudiation of liberalism itself, not only in the East but also back in the heartland of the West. *The Light that Failed* is a landmark book that sheds light on the extraordinary history of our Age of Imitation.

The Political Writings
Karl Marx
Verso. PB. \$59.99
Available 5 November

 Karl Marx was not only the great theorist of capitalism, he was also a journalist, politician and historian. For the first time ever, this book brings together all of his essential political and historical writings, allowing us to see the depth and range of Marx's mature work from the tumultuous revolutions of 1848 that rocked European society through to the end of his life.

Workers and Capital
Mario Tronti
Verso. PB. \$34.99
Available 5 November

 Over five decades since it was first published, *Workers and Capital* is a key text in the history of the international workers' movement, yet only now appears in English

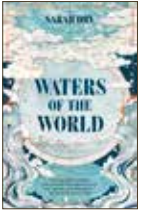
translation for the first time. Far from simply an artefact of the intense political conflicts of the 1960s, Tronti's work offers tools for understanding the powerful shifts in the nature of work and class in recent decades.

Targeted: My Inside Story of Cambridge Analytica and How Trump, Brexit and Facebook Broke Democracy
Brittany Kaiser
HarperCollins. PB. \$32.99
Available 23 October

 In this explosive memoir, a political consultant and technology whistleblower reveals the disturbing truth about the multi-billion-dollar data industry, revealing to the public how companies are getting richer using our personal information and exposing how Cambridge Analytica exploited weaknesses in privacy laws to help elect Donald Trump. *Targeted* is Brittany Kaiser's eyewitness chronicle of the dramatic and disturbing story of Cambridge Analytica.

Science


Waters of the World
Sarah Dry
Scribe. PB. \$35
Available 5 November

 *Waters of the World* is a tour through 150 years of the history of a significant idea: that the Earth has a global climate system made up of interconnected parts, constantly changing. By revealing the complexity of this history, Sarah Dry delivers a better understanding of our planet's climate at a time when we need it the most.


End Times: A Brief Guide to the End of the World – Asteroids, Supervolcanoes, Rogue Robots, and more
Bryan Walsh
Seven Dials. PB. \$32.99
Available now

 Could an asteroid cause human beings to go the way of the dinosaurs? Could a volcanic supereruption thrust the planet into a killer Ice Age? What would happen the day after a nuclear war? Bryan Walsh, a veteran reporter and editor of *Time*, has written a vital work of popular science and investigative journalism that will peel back the layers of complexity around the unthinkable – the end of humankind.


The Crowd and the Cosmos: Adventures in the Zooniverse
Chris Lintott
OUP. HB. \$39.95
Available 7 November

 The world of science has been transformed. Where once astronomers sat at the controls of giant telescopes in remote locations, praying for clear skies, now they have no need to budge from their desks. In this book, Lintott describes the exciting discoveries that people all over the world have made, from galaxies to pulsars, exoplanets to moons, and from penguin behaviour to old ship's logs.

Curious: Life Hacks Through Maths
Lily Serna
Pan Mac. PB. \$29.99
Available 29 October

 With easy-to-understand maths logic, simple psychology and engaging anecdotes from her own life, mathematician Lily Serna shows us that maths can unlock the secrets of the universe. She wants to help all of us – especially the maths phobic – embrace the maths that surrounds us and solve the most common problems of modern living.


The Best Australian Science Writing 2019
Bianca Nogrady (ed.)
NewSouth. PB. \$29.99
Available 1 November

 *The Best Australian Science Writing* showcases the most powerful, insightful and brilliant essays and poetry from Australian writers and scientists. It roams the length and breadth of science, revealing how a ceramic artist is helping to save the handfish, what is so dangerous about the hype around artificial intelligence and whether too much exercise is bad for the heart. It makes us think, feel and hopefully act.


At home

with Chris Gordon

Just Desserts
Charlotte Ree
Plum. HB. \$29.99
Available 29 October

 These are all the things I love about Charlotte Ree's debut book: the way it looks, the way it feels, and the possibility it offers that all these cakes and slices could be mine. Instagram sensation Charlotte Ree is famous for her delicious cooking and luckily for us mere mortals, she is sharing thirty of her most popular and delicious recipes in one outrageously gorgeous little package. I'm particularly taken with her too-easy-to-be-true shortbread caramel slice and the ice-cream sandwiches. This the perfect gift for every baker in your life.

Community: Salad Recipes from Arthur Street Kitchen (New Edition)
Hetty McKinnon
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$39.99
 **\$34.99**
Available 29 October

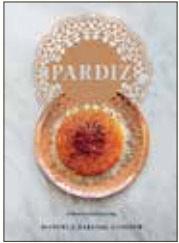
 You bought Hetty McKinnon's book five years ago because you loved sharing those delicious salads with all your friends and family. In this new edition, McKinnon shares new stories and recipes, including roasted sweet potato with lime cashew cream and my favourite, charred cos

lettuce with lemony mushrooms, chickpeas and marinated feta. This edition reminds me of all the reasons to share meals, create memories and to be kind to the world. Did I mention it’s all vegetarian?

Pardiz: A Persian Food Journey

Manuela Darling-Gansser
Hardie Grant. HB. Was \$60

 **\$55**
Available 1 November



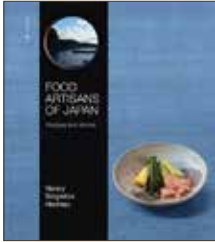
This very personal book is filled with stories, brilliant photos and recipes created by Manuela Darling-Gansser to share the beauty of Iran. *Pardiz* shows how seamlessly

Persian food fits with our modern-day trends of farmers markets, vegetable-centric dishes and the joys of a shared table. Darling-Gansser’s recipes are not complicated or time consuming, and if you’re cookbook traveller, then you’ll bask in the glory of this book as you sip your sweet mint tea.

Food Artisans of Japan: Recipes and Stories

Nancy Singleton Hachisu
Hardie Grant. HB. \$55

Available 1 November



We have seen the pictures on social media. We know that Japanese chefs are artists of the highest order. In this book, Nancy Singleton Hachisu

introduces the food maestros of Japan. Each chef has been chosen because they go beyond courting media exposure or indeed Michelin stars. This is the book you own because you aspire to such artistry or simply because you are rightly in awe of this type of precision cooking. These recipes are not for the faint-hearted, but this is a stunningly beautiful book for lovers of travel, food and art.

Art & Design

with Kara Liddell

Present Tense: Anna Schwartz Gallery and Thirty-Five Years of Contemporary Australian Art

Doug Hall
Black Inc. HB. \$59.99

Available 4 November



This truly beautiful volume contains vignettes, interviews and archival photography accounting for thirty-five years of art and history revolving

around Anna Schwartz Gallery and its eponymous founder. Quite aside from being a stunning cloth-bound volume – and don’t get me started on the paper stock and binding – *Present Tense* reveals a unique insight into Australia’s art scene and its place within the global art world while capturing Schwartz’s steadfast promotion of the contemporary

arts and the inimitable roster of artists represented by her gallery.

Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography

Helen Ennis
Fourth Estate. HB. \$45

Available now



Olive Cotton was arguably one of Australia’s pioneering photographers. Her significant talent was recognised as equal to that of her first husband, Max Dupain. Cotton’s photographic work, which was primarily produced during the ’30s and ’40s, was bold, distinctive and quintessentially Australian. This landmark book is more than just Cotton’s story, it’s a compelling narrative of women and creativity and what it means for a female artist to balance the competing demands of art, work, marriage and family.

Cabin Porn: Inside

Zach Klein
Particular. HB. \$49.99

Available now



This eagerly anticipated follow-up to *Cabin Porn* reveals the awe-inspiring interiors from ten years of the best-loved homes featured on the blog. Initially begun as an

online scrapbook, *Cabin Porn* quickly became an international sensation highlighting these hand-made homes – and now, their interiors – and the breathtaking landscapes they’re built in.

Iconic: Modern Australian Houses 1950–2000

Karen McCartney
Murdoch. HB. Was \$59.99

 **\$55**
Available 5 November



Iconic showcases the very best residential projects previously published in the always popular 50/60/70 and 70/80/90 series. Completely redesigned and

revised, this publication will find both new and familiar audiences with the ever-growing and evolving interest in Australian modernist architecture. It features the work of Harry Seidler, Roy Grounds, Robin Boyd, McGlashen Everist, Bruce Rickard, Durbach Block, Sean Godsell, Stutchbury and Harper, John Wardle, Donovan Hill and more.

Primitive Technology: A Survivalist’s Guide to Building Tools, Shelters & more in the Wild

John Plant
Ebury. PB. \$35

Available 5 November



Building, cooking, hunting, heating – surviving. We live in an age where we are more detached from these necessities than ever. In reading this informative and instructional little book you can reconnect with your most primitive human skills. Including illustrations, photographs and

instructions, you can learn how to harness your surrounding natural resources to become skilled in building fires, making pottery, crafting shelters, weaving baskets and much more. And, these are all skills we might need one day very soon ...

Waiting Under Southern Skies

Colin Abbott
T&G. HB. \$44

Available now




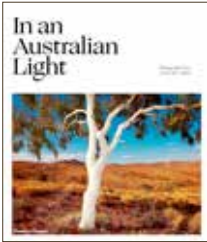
As an avid documenter of everyday life on the street, Colin Abbott’s recent publication *Waiting Under Southern Skies* presents a selection of previously unpublished images

that span more than fifty years. Portraying intimate narratives of people and places from Australia’s most southern states, this incredible book captures a period of immense social change in Australia through stunning imagery.

In an Australian Light: Photographs from Across the Country

Jo Turner
T&H. HB. Was \$59.99

 **\$55**
Available 29 October



Australia is drenched in a light that is different from anywhere else in the world. It’s a light so very distinctive we know it can only be of one place. This

stunning publication roams the country from rugged coastline to arid outback revealing how light shapes our wide, windswept land. From teal oceans to golden sunsets, this beautiful book, with a foreword by Dr Rebecca Allen, highlights the beauty of this vast and diverse land.

Australian Galleries: The Purves Family Business – The First Four Decades 1956–99

Caroline Field
Australian Galleries. HB. \$89.95

Available 31 October



This beautiful publication is a celebration of the significant contribution Australian Galleries has had on the Australian commercial

gallery scene. Founded by Tam and Anne Purves, Australian Galleries championed Australian artists including John Brack, Fred Williams, Arthur Boyd and Sidney Nolan during the emerging post-war art market in Melbourne. Written by Caroline Field, this sumptuous publication is sure to appeal to art lovers.

Also out this month: *Tim Walker: Shoot for the Moon* by Tim Walker (T&H, HB, \$170); *The Story of Gardening: A Cultural History of Famous Gardens from Around the World* by Ambra Edwards with Penelope Hobhouse (Pavilion, HB, \$59.99); *Beautiful Machines: The Era of the Elegant Sports Car* (Die Gestalten Verlag, HB, \$115); and more!



WHEN ALL IS SAID & DONE
NEALE DANIHER
THE MOST INSPIRING AUSTRALIAN BOOK OF 2019.
Neale Daniher sat down to pen a letter to the grandchildren he'll never get to know. And then he kept on writing...



THE BEST KIND OF BEAUTIFUL
FRANCES WHITING
'The Best Kind of Beautiful is the best kind of book: touching, funny, whimsical and mysterious! A special story about a delightful family.'
Liane Moriarty



COMMUNITY
HETTY MCKINNON
'If you were stuck on a desert island and had to choose a salad to survive on, chances are it would come from this book.'
Sydney Morning Herald



JUST DESSERTS
CHARLOTTE REE
'Imagine Florence Broadhurst baking Nana's tastiest favourites on acid and you've pretty much got Charlotte's Ree-markable first book.'
Matt Preston



www.panmacmillan.com.au

November Bargains

As We Grow

Libby Walden & Richard Jones (illus.)

HB. Was \$19.99 **Now \$10**



No one knows what lies ahead or who they'll grow to be, it's all a part of growing up, the journey to be me. In this stunning picture book,

Richard Jones's

enchancing illustrations sensitively depict each stage of life. This is a lovely look at the journey of transformation that we undergo as we grow up.

Bob Dylan: The Essential Interviews

Jonathan Cott (ed.)

HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$16.95**



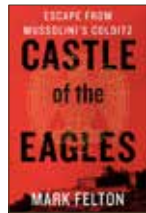
Bob Dylan: The Essential Interviews features over two dozen of the most significant and revealing conversations with the singer, gathered in one definitive collection that

spans his career from street poet to Nobel Laureate. This edition includes three additional pieces from *Rolling Stone* that update the volume to the present day.

Castle of the Eagles: Escape from Mussolini's Colditz

Mark Felton

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$12.95**

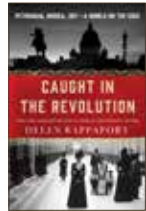


Vincigliata Castle, a menacing medieval fortress set in the beautiful Tuscan hills, was a very special prisoner of war camp on Benito Mussolini's personal order. Within were some of the most senior officers of the Allied army. Their unbelievable escape, told by Mark Felton in *Castle of the Eagles*, is a little-known marvel of World War II.

Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd Russia 1917 – A World on the Edge

Helen Rappaport

HB. Was \$59.99 **Now \$12.95**



From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Romanov Sisters*, *Caught in the Revolution* is a masterful telling of the outbreak of the Russian Revolution through eyewitness accounts left by foreign nationals who saw the drama unfold. Drawing upon a rich trove of previously unpublished material, Rappaport carries us right up to the action – to see, feel and hear the Revolution as it happened.

Elizabeth David's Christmas

Elizabeth David

HB. Was \$35 **Now \$12.95**



Elizabeth David's Christmas brings together over 150 recipes into a beautiful and timeless new edition of the ultimate festive food book to treasure and return to, year after year. Peppered with the much-loved and respected British cookery writer's practical advice and wry

commentary, this book will inspire an elegant and memorable Christmas while taking the strain out of cooking for a crowd.

Elephant Complex: Travels in Sri Lanka

John Gimlette

HB. Was \$45 **Now \$13.95**



No one sees the world quite like John Gimlette. In *Elephant Complex*, he travels to Sri Lanka, a country only now emerging from twenty-six years of civil war. Beginning in the exuberant capital, Colombo, Gimlette ventures out in all directions. Here is a land of beauty and devastation, all brought to vibrant, fascinating life on the page.

Florence Broadhurst: Her Secret and Extraordinary Lives

Helen O'Neill

HB. Was \$65 **Now \$16.95**



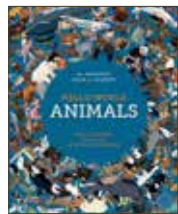
This deluxe edition of Helen O'Neill's award-winning book is a must-have for lovers of design. With stunning full-page prints of Florence Broadhurst's

distinctive fabric and wallpaper designs, together with gorgeous photographs of interiors from around the world using her amazing patterns, this is a beautiful book you will want to treasure.

Hello World: Animals

Nicola Edwards & L'Atelier Cartographik (illus.)

HB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.95**



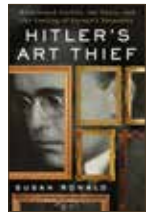
Discover some of the most incredible creatures on Earth in this interactive atlas of world wildlife. Featuring over 180 animals from a variety of habitats, little

readers can lift the flaps to explore the Amazon Rainforest, Madagascar, the Great Barrier Reef and many other wonders of the natural world.

Hitler's Art Thief

Susan Ronald

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$16.95**

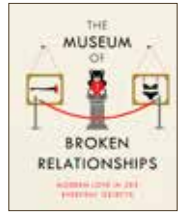


The world was stunned in 2013 when eighty-year-old Cornelius Gurlitt was discovered to have artworks worth \$1.35 billion in his tiny Munich apartment. Gurlitt had been hard-wired into a life of shadows and secrecy by his father Hildebrand Gurlitt, the Third Reich's most prolific art looter. Here, Susan Ronald tells the stranger-than-fiction tale of how Hildebrand Gurlitt duped the Monuments Men and the Nazis alike.

The Museum of Broken Relationships: Modern Love in 203 Everyday Objects

Olinka Vistica & Drazen Grubisic

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$12.95**



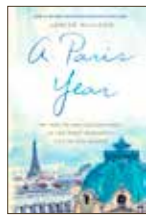
A decade ago, two lovers were struggling through a painful breakup, desperate to heal their heartbreak without destroying the memory of the love they had shared. So they created a museum: a refuge for the everyday objects that had outlasted love. The tiny museum became a worldwide sensation. Collected here are

203 of the pieces that offer an irresistible experience of human connection.

A Paris Year

Janice MacLeod

HB. Was \$35 **Now \$12.95**

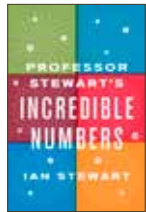


The gorgeously illustrated *A Paris Year* is a guide book for those walking the streets of the City of Light, the armchair travellers, and the dreamers. The book is set over the course of a year and covers food, buildings, historical figures, places of interest and local characters. In short: all the details of Paris that make the city unique and captivating.

Professor Stewart's Incredible Numbers

Ian Stewart

PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$10.95**



In *Professor Stewart's Incredible Numbers*, Ian Stewart offers a delightful introduction to the numbers that surround us, from the common (Pi and 2) to the uncommon but no less consequential (1.059463 and 43,252,003,274,489,856,000). An unfailingly genial guide, Stewart brings his characteristic wit and erudition to bear on these incredible numbers, offering an engaging primer on the principles and power of mathematics.

The Pursuit of Power: Europe, 1815–1914

Richard J. Evans

HB. Was \$70 **Now \$16.95**



The Pursuit of Power draws on a lifetime of thinking about nineteenth-century Europe to create an extraordinarily rich, surprising and entertaining panorama of a continent undergoing drastic change. Richard Evans gives full coverage to the revolutions, empire-building and wars that marked the nineteenth century, but the book is about so much more, whether it is illness, serfdom, religion or philosophy.

The Reading Cure: How Books Restored My Appetite

Laura Freeman

HB. Was \$35 **Now \$14.95**

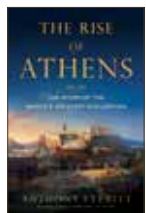


At fourteen, Laura Freeman was diagnosed with anorexia. But even when recovery seemed impossible, the one appetite she never lost was her love of reading. Slowly, book by book, Laura re-discovered how to enjoy food – and life – through literature. *The Reading Cure* is a beautiful, inspiring account of addiction, obsession and recovery and about the way literature can renew hope.

The Rise of Athens: The Story of the World's Greatest Civilisation

Anthony Everitt

HB. Was \$64.99 **Now \$16.95**



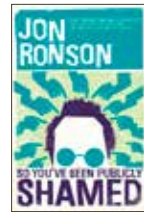
Filled with adventure and astounding reversals of fortune, this book celebrates the city-state that created the world's first democratic experiment, from the democratic revolution that marked its beginning, to the city's political and cultural heyday,

and concluding with its decline. Athens laid the foundations of the house in which we live today, and Anthony Everitt brings its story to life.

So You've Been Publicly Shamed

Jon Ronson

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$12.95**



Justice has been democratised. The silent majority are getting a voice. But what are we doing with our voice? We are mercilessly finding people's faults. So *You've Been Publicly Shamed*

is a deeply honest book about modern life, full of eye-opening truths about the escalating war on human flaws.

Summer on Fat Pig Farm

Matthew Evans

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$12.95**



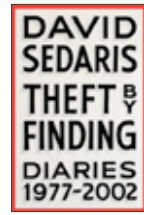
Welcome to *Summer on Fat Pig Farm*, where the garden prospers, the berries ripen and the aroma of fresh herbs lingers in the air. In this book, gourmet farmer

Matthew Evans showcases beautiful seasonal produce with this collection of fresh and simple recipes to help you bring summer into your kitchen.

Theft by Finding: Diaries (1977–2002)

David Sedaris

PB. Was \$35 **Now \$13.95**



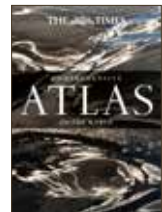
For nearly four decades, David Sedaris has faithfully kept a diary in which he records his thoughts and observations on the odd and funny events he witnesses. In this first volume of his

diaries, he brings us some of his favourite entries. Tender, hilarious, illuminating, and endlessly captivating, *Theft by Finding* offers a rare look into the mind of one of our generation's greatest comic geniuses.

The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World: Fourteenth Edition

Times Atlases

HB. Was \$299.99 **Now \$69.99**



Discover one of the most prestigious and authoritative world atlases, curated by experts in geography and cartography. Containing over 200,000 place names,

it is a benchmark of cartographic excellence, trusted by governments, media and international organisations as well as being a go-to reference source for households across the country. This is the perfect present for anyone looking to explore the world.

What Is It All But Luminous

Art Garfunkel

HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$13.95**

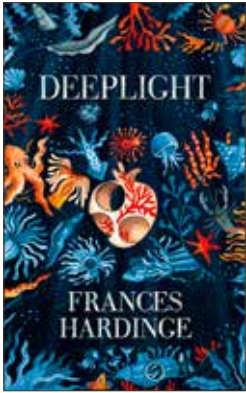


Here Art Garfunkel writes about his life before, during, and after Simon & Garfunkel: about their folk-rock music in the roiling age that embraced and was defined by their sound. This is the story of the making of a musician; the evolution of a man, a portrait of a life-long friendship and collaboration that became one of the most successful singing duos of their time.

Young Adult

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Young Adult



Deeplight
Frances Hardinge
Pan Mac. PB. \$24.99
Available 29 October

R Despite being an orphaned street kid, Hark is lucky – for most of his life, the Gods of the Undersea have been dead and unable to reign with terror upon the islands. He spends his life running scams with his best friend, the dangerous-to-know Jelt, while always, like most islanders, keeping an eye out for any Godware – valuable pieces of the gods’ corpses that wash up from the ocean. When Hark is abandoned by Jelt mid-job, he is caught and, like all criminals, auctioned off to be indentured to the highest bidder. Dr Vyne, a local scientist, sees something in him worth using and Hark avoids the mines, instead stumbling into something much darker and much more dangerous.

Like all of Frances Hardinge’s books, *Deeplight* is set in a unique world. The gods of this world were giant, angry monsters of the deep; they lived in an ocean under the ocean, the Undersea. The description of the waves of the Undersea violently interacting with the regular ocean is as poetic as anything I’ve ever read. Every new thing you learn about the world of *Deeplight* has you nodding ‘of course’. And then, in this complete, deep and intensely interesting world, there is an even more interesting story with fabulous, strong and brave, and sneaky and hateful, protagonists. Each one feels as real as the world they’re set in. *Deeplight* is perfect for all lovers of big, meaty stories and is highly recommended for strong readers aged 12+.

Dani Solomon is from Readings Kids

The Guinevere Deception

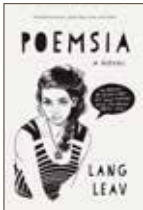
Kiersten White
Bantam Juvenile US. PB. \$19.99
Available 5 November



Princess Guinevere has come to Camelot to wed the charismatic King Arthur. But Guinevere is actually a changeling sent to protect Arthur, and her true identity must remain a secret. Jousts, duplicitous knights, and forbidden romances are nothing compared to the greatest threat of all: a girl with long black hair, riding on horseback through the dark woods toward Arthur.

Poemsia

Lang Leav
Andrews McMeel. PB. \$29.99
Available now



R The second novel by Lang Leav, best known as an Instagram poet, follows the path of a young poet who finds fame when her best friend encourages her to post her words online. The main character, Verity Wolf, lives above a second-hand bookshop run and owned by her grandfather. When she posts a poem from an old book she finds at the bookshop, people mistakenly assume it is hers, which leads to an online backlash. There’s also a cute boy who helps out at the bookshop; his jealous ex, who happens to be both a wealthy orphan and an online poetry reviewer; and a star of the poetry scene, who appears to be endorsing Verity but may also have her own motives. At the heart of the story is the strong friendship between Verity and her best friend, who always supports her, even when Verity becomes briefly enamoured with celebrity. This is a world where online poets are like rock stars and their youth is part of the appeal.

The writing is not as lyrical as one would have hoped from a poet, but the characters are well defined and there is an overall innocence about the main character that doesn’t become tarnished despite online and verbal bullying.

This book will appeal to teens and adults who are intrigued by the world of the Insta-poets and want to read more about them, and those who like romance. Suitable for readers aged 15+.

Angela Crocombe is the manager of Readings Kids

Weapon

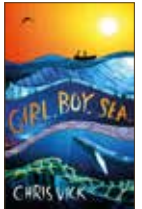
Lynette Noni
Bloomsbury Panthera. PB. \$19.99
Available 5 November



After escaping Lengard and finding sanctuary with the Remnants, Alyssa Scott is desperate to save those she left behind and the rest of the world. But soon, allies become enemies and enemies become allies, leaving Lyss certain about only two things: when it comes to Speakers, nothing is ever as it seems ... and the only person she can trust is herself.

Girl. Boy. Sea.

Chris Vick
Head of Zeus – Zephyr. HB. \$19.99
Available 1 November



R *Girl. Boy. Sea.* is a story about a young boy’s perilous journey of survival, cast adrift on the vast Atlantic Ocean with meagre food and water to live on. The story opens with a small crew of teenage boys and their captain as they set sail in training for a Youth Sail Challenge. But tragedy strikes suddenly when a wild and powerful squall forces all of the crew to abandon ship and take refuge on a life raft. All except one. Fifteen-year-old Bill is left stranded on the sinking yacht. With mere minutes to spare, Bill acts on adrenaline and gathers together some essentials, tosses them into a small wooden tender and casts off alone onto a raging, tempestuous ocean that seems intent on swallowing him whole. Surviving the storm is merely the first challenge, for hunger, thirst and exposure bring torments of their own. As a reader, one may wonder whether magic, delirium brought on by exhaustion and extreme

hardship, or fate is responsible for what happens next, but when Bill finds Aya clinging to a buoy, smelling of near death, his own survival story gets even more complicated. This is a remarkable story about the stoicism of the human spirit and its tenacious capacity to survive, especially when there is someone else to fight for. Ultimately, this is a story about Bill and Aya, their fated meeting, and the remarkable power of storytelling to bridge connections between the most unlikely of companions.

Natalie Platten is from Readings Doncaster

Patron Saints of Nothing

Randy Ribay
Little Tiger Press. PB. \$19.99
Available 1 November



When Jay Reguero hears of his cousin Jun’s death, everything changes. Although years have passed since they were last in contact, the stories about Jun just don’t fit with the boy Jay knew. Hoping to uncover the truth, Jay travels to Jun’s home in the Philippines – but the shocking realities of life there lead to even more questions. Can Jay find the answers he seeks?

Furious Thing

Jenny Downham
David Fickling. PB. \$19.99
Available 1 November



Lexi knows that she’s different: she has anger inside her that she struggles to control. Lexi’s anger is going to lead her into trouble, and to question everything about herself,

and who she really is. A masterful story exploring the ways women are manipulated by men, Jenny Downham’s new novel is a peerless and ultimately uplifting exploration of this heartbreakingly common reality.

The Magnolia Sword: A Ballad of Mulan

Sherry Thomas
A&U. PB. \$19.99
Available 5 November




All her life, Mulan has trained to win the duel that every generation in her family must fight. Then a messenger from the Emperor arrives, demanding that all families send one soldier to fight invaders in the north. Inspired by wuxia martial-arts dramas as well as the centuries-old story of Mulan, *The Magnolia Sword* is a thrilling, romantic and sharp-edged novel.

The Toll (Arc of a Scythe, Book 3)

Neal Shusterman
Walker. PB. \$16.99
Available 5 November



It’s been three years since Rowan and Citra disappeared; since Scythe Goddard came into power; since the Thunderhead closed itself off to everyone but Grayson Tolliver. In this pulse-pounding finale to Neal Shusterman’s internationally bestselling trilogy, constitutions are tested and old friends are brought back from the dead.



101 GREAT SIGHTS AND HOW TO SEE THEM ON ANY BUDGET



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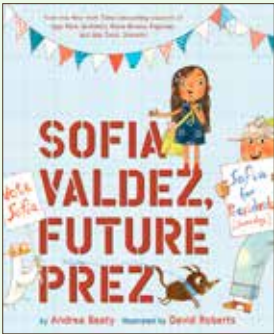
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Kids’ Books

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Picture Book



Sofia Valdez, Future Prez
Andrea Beaty & David Roberts (illus.)
Abrams. HB. \$24.99
Available 5 November

R There could not be a more pertinent time for a book about a young girl with a vision for a better world! From a young age Sofia has been keen to help out and has cared about others. Along with her beloved Abuelo (grandfather), she understands a lot about her neighbourhood. After a nasty mishap at the local tip, her grandfather is injured. Sofia decides to campaign for the fearsome mountain of refuse to be cleared and for a community park to be built. Too much for one girl to achieve, you ask? Initially daunted, Sofia musters her resolve and marches down to City Hall where she eventually rouses the support of the mayor and town officials.

There could not be a more pertinent time for a book about a young girl with a vision for a better world!

This wonderful series of books, which started with *Iggy Peck, Architect*, has highlighted how passion, inspiration and belief will always have positive outcomes if given the opportunity. The author and illustrator have provided an ideal of inclusiveness, tossed out the old notions of stereotypes and shown kids how awesome they can be. A few of the characters from previous books make a cameo appearance at the end of this story, which has a wonderful, celebratory ending. This is sure to be a highlight in the picture book year. For ages 3+.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

Picture Books

A Trip to the Beach
Gwyn Perkins
Affirm Press. HB. \$24.99
Available 29 October



R *A Trip to the Beach* is the last adventure in the award winning *Iggy and Grandad* picture-book series. The first, *A Walk in the Bush*, won the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Picture Book of the Year Award in 2018.

This latest story once more shares Gwyn Perkins’ superb illustrations as we experience the unique beauty of an Australian summer’s day at the beach.

Initially, Iggy isn’t too sure about the beach, especially the waves (they’re big and sneak up on you), but Grandad helps Iggy to discover the wonders of the iconic coastline. We have fun with them as they build a sandcastle, explore the tide line and the wonders found. We delve into the rock pools and meet the creatures, then stop for some classic fish and chips. Grandad follows this by teaching Iggy to kayak, snorkel and surf.

With all the fun, Iggy has completely forgotten his initial fear and finds his confidence. For reader aged 3+.

Claire Atherfold is from Readings State Library Victoria.

Jurassica: A Beginner’s Field Guide
Lance Balchin
Little Hare. HB. \$24.99
Available 1 November



Welcome to future Earth. All wildlife has been replaced by mechanical creatures – developed by humans, but evolving autonomously. Jurassica were created to provide humans with safety against the increasingly deadly Mechanica that are sweeping the globe, but the strength and ferocity of these new hybrid dinosaur species pose an unforeseen risk to the whole of humanity.

Nop
Caroline Magerl
Walker. HB. \$26.99
Available 1 November



Nop is a scruffy kind of bear. He sits on a dusty armchair in Oddmint’s Dumporeum surrounded by the beaders, knitters, patchers and stitchers who are much too busy to talk to him. So he watches the litter tumble until, armed with a new bow tie, he has an idea that will change his life forever.

Junior Fiction

Wild Honey from the Moon
Kenneth Kraegel
Candlewick. HB. \$24.99
Available 1 November



R This gorgeous, full-colour chapter book is an utter delight. It features the unusual character of a Mother Shrew whose son has a cold head, hot feet and will not stop sleeping. She reads a medical book that advises ‘wild honey from the moon’ for his symptoms and so, gathering up her umbrella, she begins a journey to search for his

cure. She is a mother on a mission and will not be stopped, whether the hindrance be owls, bees or other strange creatures of the night.

The ink and watercolour illustrations are exquisite and there is much for the eyes to engage with on the page. The story of the great determination and love of a mother for her child is a particularly comforting one for young readers. This is a beautiful bedtime story for ages 5+ to read or be read to.

Angela Crocombe is the manager of Readings Kids

The Secrets of Magnolia Moon
Edwina Wyatt & Katherine Quinn (illus.)
Walker. HB. \$19.99
Available 1 November

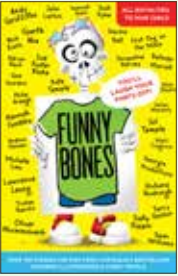


R Magnolia Moon can keep secrets. She makes very interesting comparisons that give a unique perspective on life. She likes to ask questions and is inspired by Greek myths. She’s an irrepressible nine year old. Then she finds out her mother is having a baby, and her best friend is moving away; life is changing at 84 Crocus Cottage.

The Secrets of Magnolia Moon is written in a distinctive style with metaphors that are charmingly quirky and conjure gorgeous images of friendship and loving families. It is such a happy story; it reads beautifully and has sweet, intermittent illustrations that make it the perfect present for kids aged 7+.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

Funny Bones
Kate Temple, Jol Temple and Oliver Phommavanh (eds)
A&U. PB. \$24.99
Available 5 November



If you think you’ve heard every funny story there is then think again. *Funny Bones* is a super-huge collection of rib-tickling stories, cartoons, comics, jokes and much, much more from Australia’s favourite comedians, children’s authors and illustrators, that raises money for War Child Australia.

Ada Lovelace Cracks the Code
Rebel Girls
Rebel Girls. HB. \$18.99
Available 12 November



Complete with full-colour illustrations and coding activities, *Ada Lovelace Cracks the Code* explores the life of coding pioneer Ada Lovelace and the stigmas she faced as a woman in STEM. Join Ada as she pieces together her understanding of mathematics, machines, and coding eventually leading her to write the world’s first programming language.

Middle Fiction

Nevertell
Katharine Orton & Rovina Cai (illus.)
Walker. PB. \$16.99
Available 1 November



R This compelling debut novel is full of surprises; it starts like a historical fiction set during Stalin’s reign of terror but quickly morphs into a breathless life and death struggle with a powerful sorceress and her invisible wolf pack in a saga so steeped in Russian folklore and enchantment it transports the

reader into another realm.

Nevertell begins in a brutal prison camp during the depths of a bitter Siberian winter, where inhuman cruelty turns some people into monsters. Born and acclimatised to this savage world, our protagonist, Lina, has an almost magical ability to grow food. This makes her an invaluable asset to a band of escapees who soon find themselves in a world more confusing and dangerous than the one they’ve left.

For Lina, life becomes a series of perils, each stranger and more treacherous than the last, until she finds the courage to believe in her own extraordinary powers. Her tale is one of hope, courage and survival, a celebration of friendship and the kindness and sacrifice of strangers. It stayed with me long after I’d finished. It surprised and delighted me with its unexpected turns and evocative storytelling and challenged my beliefs about crime, punishment and retribution.

This compelling page-turner, alive with mystery and breath-holding suspense is highly recommended for readers 10+.

Athina Clarke is from Readings Malvern

The Impossible Boy

Ben Brooks

Quercus Children’s. HB. \$19.99

Available 29 October



After inventing a fake and impossible classmate called Sebastian Cole to trick their substitute teacher, Oleg and Emma are surprised to find that Sebastian, his TARDIS-like spaceship, bottomless backpack and crazy stories are actually very real and to be found in their secret space at school the very next day. But before they can enjoy his company for too long, strange crow-masked people start appearing and asking very prickly questions.

The Impossible Boy is exactly the kind of book you want from the man who wrote *Stories for Boys Who Dare to be Different*. It’s also full of great lines that blend seamlessly with the story, lines such as ‘Bossy was exactly what a leader needed to be, it was just a word that seemed designed to stop girls taking charge’ and ‘Feeling bad doesn’t help the other person. Feeling bad just proves you knew you shouldn’t have done it in the first place’.

As well as having all these beautiful, thoughtful lines, *The Impossible Boy* is also a very fun, imaginative and silly book, perfect for all kids aged 7+.

Dani Solomon is from Readings Kids

The Fowl Twins

Eoin Colfer

HarperCollins. PB. \$19.99

Available 5 November



Eleven year old twins Myles and Beckett Fowl are left in the care of house security system, NANNI, for a single night. In that time, they befriend a troll on the run from a nefarious nobleman and an interrogating nun, both of whom need the magical creature for their own gain. Prepare for an epic adventure as the twins and their new friend escape, get shot at, kidnapped, buried and so much more ...

The Year We Fell From Space

Amy Sarig King

Text. PB. \$16.99

Available 5 November



Liberty Johansen is going to change the way we look at the night sky. Most people see the old constellations, the things they’ve been told to see. Liberty is the exception: she sees new patterns, pictures and possibilities. But Liberty feels like her whole world is falling from space. Can she

map a new life for herself and her family before they spin too far out of reach?

Novelty Books

The House of Madame M

Clotilde Perrin & Daniel Hahn (trans.)

Gecko. HB. \$34.99

Available 1 November



As a kid I remember being completely enthralled by Jan Pieńkowski’s *Haunted House*, a creepy, kooky spooky, pop-up book by an exceptional illustrator. *The House of Madame M*, by the French creator Clotilde Perrin is a modern counterpart and will provide for its readers a similarly magical experience. Like Perrin’s previous work, *Villains*, this is a beautifully produced large-format book.

Readers are invited in to explore the home of a very mysterious resident. We take a tour through the different rooms of a strange house that is crammed with scary surprises: there are lots of flaps to lift and tabs to pull with imaginative, humorous details, and bizarre critters lurking behind doors, in cooking pots and even in the toilet bowl. It’s a thrilling treasure trove and will be adored by readers of all ages who delight in exceptional illustration and have a taste for the macabre.

Kim Gruschow is from Readings St Kilda

Nonfiction

Fauna: Australia’s Most Curious Creatures

Tania McCartney

National Library of Australia. HB. \$24.99

Available 1 November



Australia is home to more animal species than any other developed country, with a large percentage of them found nowhere else on earth, and because of the isolated nature of our country many have evolved to be very unusual and curious indeed. Did you know, for example, that the koala has two thumbs for extra grip? Or that the lyrebird has a remarkable ability to perfectly mimic almost any sound – a car alarm, a mobile phone, a dog barking, even a human voice? Perhaps you knew that kangaroos have two stomachs, they regurgitate their food, chew it and then swallow it all over again? We get to discover all of this and more in Tania McCartney’s latest book *Fauna: Australia’s Most Curious Creatures*.

The layout and illustrations in this exquisite nonfiction title once again portray McCartney’s talents for design. The information is presented in segments that the younger reader can delve into, as well as supplying a comprehensive dialogue to keep the more advanced entertained. We learn about habitat, physical characteristics, feeding and breeding, with added details about each animal’s current conservation status from Extinct (EX) to Least Concern (LC), many are scarily listed as Endangered (EN) or Vulnerable (VU).

This book will capture the eye with its gorgeous

illustrations, share some brilliant facts about Australia’s animals, and also teach us awareness so perhaps we can safeguard these curious creatures.

Claire Atherfold is from Readings State Library Victoria

Atlas of Ocean Adventures

Emily Hawkins & Lucy Letherland (illus.)

Wide Eyed Editions. HB. \$35

Available 5 November



Set your spirit of adventure free with this journey to the world’s great oceans, discovering the diversity of life that exists in the deep blue sea. Whether you’re travelling long haul with leatherback turtles across the Pacific, snoozing with sea otters or ice bathing with a walrus, this book celebrates the very prescient topic of the world’s oceans with Lucy Letherland’s animal characters.

The Good, the Bad and the Silly: Stories of Our Past

John Dickson & Bern Emmerichs (illus.)

Berbay. HB. \$29.99

Available 1 November



The Good, the Bad and the Silly is a taste of the intriguing history of Australia to alert young readers of the storytelling treasures to be unearthed in Australia’s settlement history. This is the newest addition to a successful and award-winning series which includes *M is for Mutiny*.

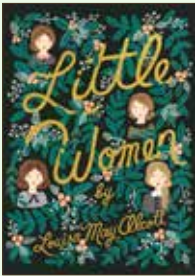
Classic of the Month

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

Puffin. HB. \$26.99

Available now



When Louisa May Alcott released the first section of what we now know as *Little Women* in 1868, she was reportedly surprised by its instant success. Imagine her shock if she were able to learn of the sheer number of online quizzes readers can now take to find out which March sister they are. Beautiful and docile Meg, artistic and vain Amy, gentle and self-sacrificial Beth, or passionate and tomboyish Jo?

On publication, the coming-of-age tale was a revolutionary text, and it would go on to indelibly alter the shape of future literature. Its exploration of family life, creative aspirations, marriage, social consciousness, feminism and womanhood, and other such universal themes, continues to resonate with modern readers, and sometimes even cause heated debate. While the March sisters may be recognisable as tropes, they are never depicted as such in the novel itself. Their challenges and concerns as young females are treated seriously, not just through Alcott’s clear-eyed depiction of them but also within the narrative too – usually by their mother, Marmee, who has rightfully earned a cult following of her own.

Little Women still has the power to break new hearts and with Greta Gerwig’s new film adaptation just around the corner, now is the perfect time to discover (or rediscover) the March sisters.

Bronte Coates is the digital content coordinator for Readings

Film & TV

DVD OF THE MONTH

TV series



My Brilliant Friend: Complete Series
Was \$49.95
\$39.95
Available 6 November

R Two young girls stand before the door of the town loan shark, fiercely clasping hands. This image of female solidarity and defiance endures all the way through HBO’s adaptation of the first of Elena Ferrante’s beloved *Neapolitan* novels, *My Brilliant Friend*. These girls and their intense bond form the series’ core – Elena ‘Lenù’ Greco, who will grow up to be a writer, and her brilliant friend, Lila Cerullo, whose life will take a series of bleaker turns. Each girl faces the hypocrisies, indignities, and injustices of class and gender in postwar Naples as we follow them as teenagers and young women across eight engrossing episodes.

When an acclaimed and adored work of fiction is adapted into a film or television series, it’s often greeted with equal parts anticipation and anxiety. I’m happy to report that *My Brilliant Friend* is both faithful to Ferrante’s novel – she is one of four screenwriters – and its own special entity. It starts as the novel does, with a distressed phone call to sixty-year-old Lenù from Lila’s son, with the news that his mother has been missing for two weeks. As she sits down to write the story of their lives, the older Lenù provides an intermittent voiceover, offering some essential insights into her perspective on past events.

Director Saverio Costanzo vividly captures the heated, frequently violent eruptions that define the impoverished neighbourhood where the girls come of age. The cruelty and oppressiveness of this space is palpable. Thankfully, this American co-production is an Italian affair in the acting credits too – the Neapolitan dialect is retained and the performances have a texture and tone that is authentic to this time and place.

I’m always amazed by how radical it feels to see female friendship depicted on screen, especially when it looks like this – shaped by love and compassion, but also deep jealousies and destructive rivalries. There is no sentimentality here. A second season, based on book two, *The Story of a New Name*, is currently in production. It seems I’ve caught Ferrante fever once again. Joanna Di Mattia is from Readings Carlton

TV



Blood
\$34.95
Available 6 November
The death of her mother draws Cat Hogan back to the family she’s spent ten years trying to avoid. Cat’s return awakens sinister demons and her suspicions start to mount against her father over her mother’s death. *Blood* is about family, memory, and the impact the past can have on the present.



The Durrells: Series 4
Was \$34.95
\$29.95
Available 13 November
The future’s looking bright for the eccentric Durrells, as we catch up on their lives on the beautiful island of Corfu. Keeley Hawes continues to shine in the final series of this ‘cockle-warming’ (*The Guardian*) British drama.



Das Boot: Season 1
Was \$39.95
\$34.95
Available 13 November
It is autumn 1942 in occupied France and the *U-612* is bracing for its maiden voyage. ‘The makers of this impeccable series are keen to move it on from Wolfgang Petersen’s classic anti-war film ... *Das Boot* [is] a claustrophobic, clever and utterly thrilling reboot.’ – *The Guardian*



Pagan Peak
\$34.95
Available 6 November
A gruesomely staged body is found, propped up on a mountain pass in the Alps close to the German–Austrian border. The two detectives sent to investigate soon

discover more crime scenes. The hunt leads them deeper into dark valleys, archaic customs, and the paranoid world of the killer.

Film



The White Crow
\$29.95
Available 23 October
The incredible true story of legendary ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev is brought to life by Ralph Fiennes and screenwriter David Hare. From Nureyev’s poverty-stricken childhood to his nail-biting defection to the West at the height of the Cold War, *The White Crow* is gripping and revelatory.

Documentary



Camino Skies
\$29.95
Available 6 November
Camino Skies is the inspirational journey of six pilgrims from New Zealand and Australia who embark on the historic eight-hundred kilometre Spanish pilgrimage. Heartbreaking and inspirational, it is an uplifting story about everyday people doing the extraordinary.



The Planets
Was \$34.95
\$29.95
Available 13 November
This stunning series brings to life the most memorable events in the history of the solar system, by using ground-breaking visual effects to tell the story of all eight planets. Professor Brian Cox reveals how the latest science allows us to unlock their past lives.

Popular Music

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

Pop/Rock/Indie



Ghosteen
Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
\$24.95 | **V** Also on vinyl
Available 8 November

R It’s a fact that has been little remarked upon across his forty-year career, but Nick Cave is a master of reinvention. The Bad Seeds – now on their seventeenth studio album – have charted a rock’n’roll landscape every bit as varied and unexpected as those of other, more celebrated shapeshifters, like Bowie and Dylan. The difference? The Bad Seeds have never released a bad record.

Ghosteen follows 2016’s gauntly hopeful *Skeleton Tree*, the album written largely before, but recorded and released in the wake of, the tragic death of Cave’s teenage son. Death, that great, primal theme, flows through *Ghosteen*, permitting Cave to enact and consider grief from various standpoints in some of the most direct lyrics of his career. The stunning ‘Bright Horses’ at first devastatingly strips the world of exactly the kind of Romantic amplification Cave has always excelled at, only to perform an abrupt about-face to stirringly extol the consolations offered by belief. ‘We’re all so sick and tired of seeing things as they are,’ he sighs. ‘The little white shape dancing at the end of the hall is just a wish that time can’t dissolve at all.’

On *Ghosteen*, the band’s ingeniously resourceful rhythm section has mostly been benched, guitars along with it. Instead, Cave’s rich, tired baritone is cushioned in airy arrangements awash with heavenly choral hooks, strings, piano and wafting curtains of synth haze. In its intricate textures and curative tones, it sounds like The Bad Seeds’ answer to the soundscapey outer limits of Krautrock, Japanese Environmental Music and Alice Coltrane’s synth-driven ashram tapes. The album’s other presiding spirits might be Scott Walker, Bill Fay and the poet Sharon Olds.

‘It’s a long way to find peace of mind,’ Cave keens. Forty years and countless astonishing songs since he joked of contemplating suicide as singer of Rowland S. Howard’s ‘Shivers’ with the Boys Next Door, you realise peace of mind is what he’s been looking for this whole time.

Gerard Elson is from Readings St Kilda

Pop / Rock / Indie



Purple Sky
Lucky Oceans & guests
\$21.95.
Available now
‘Grammy Award-winning multi-instrumentalist Lucky Oceans has brought together some of his favourite Australian singers and musicians to capture the gem-like quality of the songs of Hank Williams ...’ – *Rock Club40*



Magdalene
F.K.A. twigs
\$21.95
Available 8 November
Following heartbreak and surgery, *Magdalene* is the sound of F.K.A. Twigs reconfiguring, emotionally and physically, bringing what she calls, in an interview with the *Independent*, ‘an absolute defiance and strength’ to her work.



Tell Me Why
Archie Roach
\$32.95 | **V** Also on vinyl
Available 1 November
The companion album to Archie Roach’s moving memoir *Tell Me Why* (see page 15) re-imagines eleven songs that have defined his extraordinary career, together with two songs that were penned but never recorded, two songs of early influence, and three brand new recordings.



Cry
Cigarettes After Sex
\$19.95 | **V** Also on vinyl
Available 25 October
The marriage of sound and setting is the

heart and soul of *Cry*. Recorded on the island of Mallorca, frontman and guitarist Greg Gonzalez writes with a filmmaker’s eye, capturing tiny moments with a rich, cinematic detail.



Hello I’m Doing My Best
Ali Barter
\$19.95 | **V** Also on vinyl
Available now
Since winning the Triple J Unearthed competition and releasing her debut album *A Suitable Girl* in 2017, Ali Barter has enjoyed success at home and abroad. Her second album, *Hello I’m Doing My Best*, is a revealing collection of songs that track her most formative relationships.

Jazz / Blues



Blue World
John Coltrane
\$21.95 | **V** Also on vinyl
Available now
‘*Blue World* is the long-lost soundtrack recordings by [John Coltrane’s] powerhouse quartet, made shortly after 1964’s *Crescent* sessions [and it] capture[s] the band at the peak of its cohesion ...’ – *Pitchfork*



Puccini Arias
Joe Chindamo
\$21.95
Available 25 October
Composer–musician Joe Chindamo has taken seven classic Puccini arias and re-imagined them with this evocative recording. With just a hint of the original melodies, Chindamo has created a fresh interpretation led by his subtle piano performance. This is Puccini stripped back to his rawest elements.

Classical Music

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

Classical



Antonio Vivaldi: Juditha Triumphans
Le Concert de Nations & Jordi Savall
Alia Vox. AVSA9935. 2CDs. Was \$59.95
\$49.95

R The plot of Vivaldi’s *Juditha Triumphans* – ‘Judith the Triumphant’ – is gruesome: barbaric Assyrian general Holofernes invades Judea, and in retaliation the virtuous Judith beheads him. It is an unusual plot for an oratorio originally intended to be sung by young women. But, all roles from Judith to Holofernes to the eunuch Vagaus – and even to the chorus of soldiers – were premiered by the women of the Venetian orphanage Ospedale della Pietà, where Vivaldi was violin teacher and music director. Although not uncommon for contemporary performances of the oratorio to employ countertenors for the male characters, Jordi Savall’s recent recording of *Juditha Triumphans* features an all-female cast.

... Jordi Savall’s recent recording of *Juditha Triumphans* features an all-female cast.

Norwegian mezzo soprano Marianne Beate Kielland portrays the title role, alongside a first-rate lineup of singers. While technically a contralto role (and perhaps at times a little low for her voice), Kielland is a superb Judith: her tone is luscious and her presence commanding. Rachel Redmond is a beguiling Vagaus, and she impressively turns on the vocal fireworks in the aria ‘Armatae face’ (‘Armed with torches’).

The overture to Vivaldi’s *Juditha Triumphans* has been lost, and in its place Savall has selected two concertos – presumably composed around the same time – which fit with the musical aesthetics of the oratorio. These concertos, coupled with choir La Capella Reial de Catalunya’s performances of the choruses, are highlights of the recording for their joy and vitality. Particularly captivating is the final chorus ‘Salve invicta Juditha formosa’ (‘Hail Judith the Invincible’). It’s a rare joy to hear adult female voices alone in a choral setting.

Savall’s recordings, whether he features as music director or soloist, are thoroughly researched, packaged beautifully, and always of the highest quality. Under his baton Vivaldi’s music sparkles in yet another triumphant Alia Vox release.

Alexandra Mathew is from Readings Carlton



Mozart: Piano Trios
Daniel Barenboim, Michael Barenboim & Kian Soltani
DG. 4837506. \$24.95

R There is something so assured in this recording of Mozart’s *Piano Trios*. A deft touch at the piano, a sense of style to the violin melodies and a warm rich tone for the cello. This is everything Mozart is

supposed to be. This is gallant classical repertoire at its best, with lightness and every musical detail in its place. Daniel Barenboim teams up with his son, violinist Michael Barenboim, and Iranian cellist Kian Soltani to continue their Mozart journey. In 2018 they recorded all the Mozart *Piano Quartets* and now they bring us this delightful set of complete Trios. Recorded at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, I had to look up the hall online,

having never heard of it. When I realised it had been specifically created for chamber music, I understood why the acoustics of this recording work so well. When listening, you feel like you are sitting in the middle of the three musicians; you can hear every little bow or press of the pedal on the piano. I highly encourage you to look up this 360-degree performance space, preferably whilst listening to this delightful new recording.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings



Richard Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra, Tod und Verklärung, Till Eulenspiegel & Salome’s Dance

Lucerne Festival Orchestra & Riccardo Chailly
Decca. 4833080. \$24.95

R There is silence. We wait ... and wait ... and then, out of this heavy hush, the trumpet speaks those famous notes. Riccardo Chailly brings his understanding of opera drama to these epically dramatic pieces. In milking the quiet moments, Strauss’s true genius comes to the fore.

There is something truly luscious about Strauss’s orchestrations that makes me want to hug someone every time I hear one of his tone poems. They require huge orchestras and yet everyone has an important role to play. You wouldn’t know, listening to this particular recording, that the musicians have had only ten or so days of rehearsals before they performed these massive works.

Claudio Abbado reworked the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in 2000, from their ad hoc beginnings in 1938, to become a hand-picked collection of musicians with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra as the central component. All I can say is that it works. Their philosophy of acting as a chamber music group (which involves much more intensive listening and reacting, as opposed to relying on the conductor), works brilliantly in Strauss’s works. There are many moments in his orchestra pieces that call for this style of performing in order to truly make each moment shine. And they really do shine.

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Classical Specials of the Month



Shaping the Century Vol. 2: 1950–2000
Various
DG. 4830660. 26CDs.
Was \$174.95

\$74.95 (Limited Stock Available)
The latter half of the twentieth century was a period of turbulence – both artistically and culturally. *Shaping the Century Vol. 2: 1950–2000* surveys a musical landscape of what are sometimes disparate compositional styles, and makes the repertoire accessible to everyone with an interest in this rich musical heritage.



J.S. Bach: Violin Concerto, Keyboard Concertos & Flute Sonata (arranged for Mandolin)

Avi Avital & Kammerakademie Potsdam
DG 4790092. Was \$24.95

\$11.95 (Limited Stock at this price)
‘... all three works transfer well to the mandolin, tuned like the violin. The resulting sound is entrancing. Avital stylishly meets the challenge of moulding plectrum-plucked sound into long, shapely phrases and figurations ... Avital’s mandolin is hauntingly beautiful, putting this firmly on the wish-list of any Baroque enthusiast.’ – *BBC Music Magazine*



Avital meets Avital
Avi & Omer Avital
DG 4796523. Was \$24.95

\$11.95 (Limited Stock at this price)
‘From the moody jazz of the opening Zamzama and the frenzied rhythms of Maroc to the soulful intensity of Lonely Girl and Ballad for Eli, the sense of delight in making music together is so palpable that even when someone breaks into a solo, as Omer does in Ana Maghrebi, you get the feeling they can’t wait to take up the collective groove again. Utterly brilliant.’ – *Gramophone*



PAIN AND GLORY (MA15+) Opens November 7

Pedro Almodóvar teams up again with his long-time collaborators Antonio Banderas and Penélope Cruz in *PAIN AND GLORY*, a nostalgic ode to an ageing filmmaker – one who perhaps may echo Almodóvar himself. *PAIN AND GLORY* talks about creation, about the difficulty of separating it from one’s own life and about the passions that give it meaning and hope. Outstanding in its cinematography and lush in its storytelling, Almodóvar is back with a true return to form with *PAIN AND GLORY* – and with one of the finest vessels that have been lent to both Banderas and Cruz.

“Antonio Banderas gives the performance of his career as a fictional stand-in for the Spanish director in a drama that blurs the line between art & life”
The Guardian

★★★★★ Rolling Stone



BY THE GRACE OF GOD (M) November 28, exclusive

WINNER of the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival’s Silver Bear - Grand Jury Prize! French director François Ozon (*Frantz*, *Swimming Pool*, *8 Femmes*) returns with a film equal parts gripping and timely. When Alexandre (Melvil Poupaud) learns by chance that the priest who abused him as a boy is still working with children, he decides to live in silence no longer and take action; but the repercussions and consequences will leave no one unscathed. Also starring Denis Ménochet (*IngLOURIOUS BASTERDS*) and Swann Arlaud (*LES ANARCHISTES*), Ozon’s film is a deeply moving exploration of courage, faith, and speaking truth to power.

“Engrossing, whole-hearted” Variety



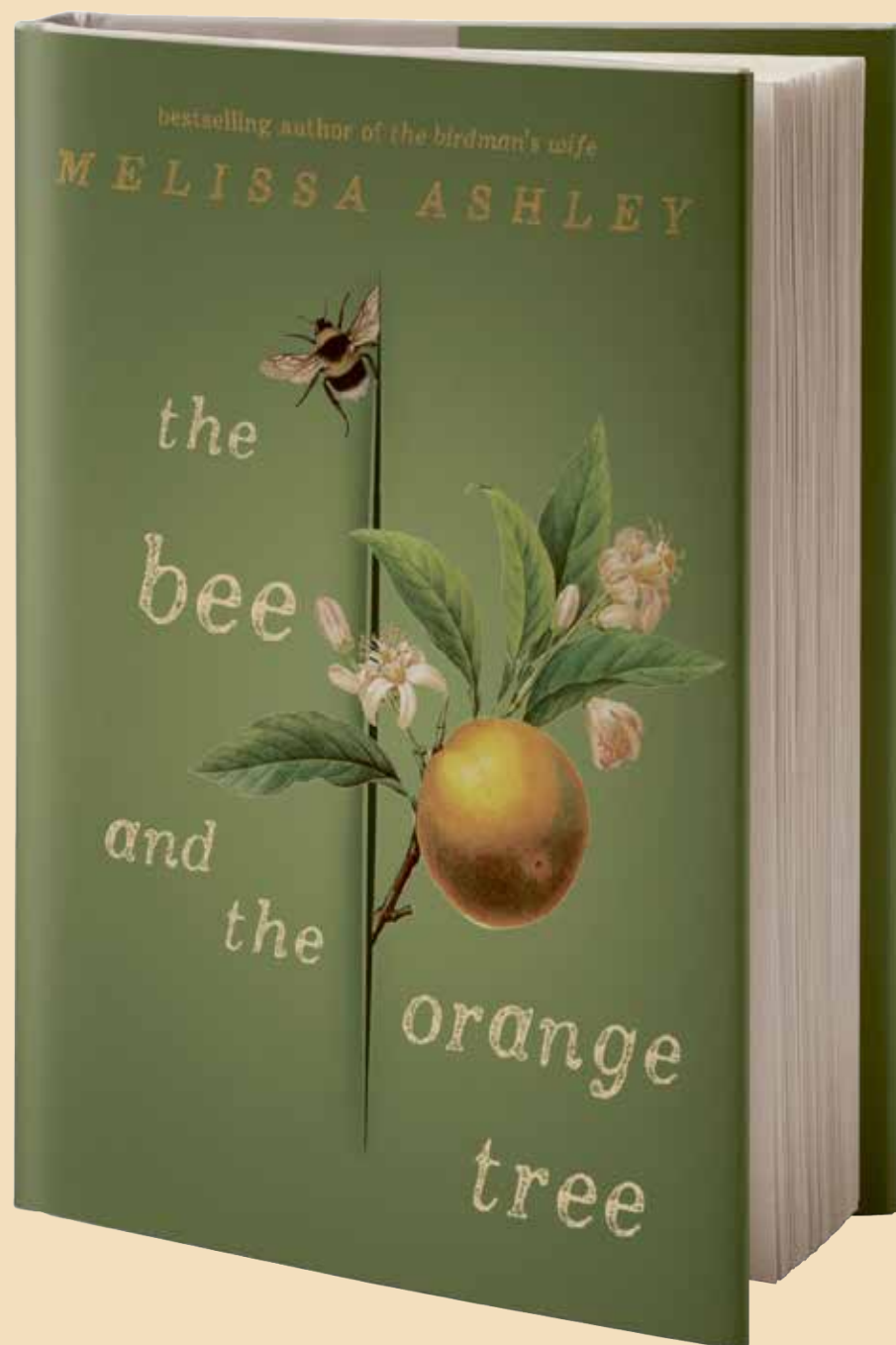
KNIVES OUT (M) November 28

Director Rian Johnson (*Looper*) turns his hand to whodunnit: murder mystery flick *KNIVES OUT* is his latest clever self-penned offering. Assembling quite the cream of the crop of Hollywood’s A-List, the film sees a famous crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) murdered at his home; enter Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig), who’s brought in to figure out what has gone so horribly awry. Who is a suspect, and who’s just a dysfunctional family member? Red herrings, lies and intrigue steer a rollicking black comedy, also starring Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis, Chris Evans and Michael Shannon, that crackles as it unfolds on screen.

“A delicious throwback to the all-star whodunit... a treat from start to finish” Hollywood Reporter

★★★★ The Guardian

The untold story of the woman who invented fairy tales...



In 17th-century Paris, long before the Brothers Grimm, there was Baroness Marie Catherine D'Aulnoy. Through the power of her stories she inspired women to rebel.



Melissa Ashley is the bestselling author of *The Birdman's Wife*, which celebrated the extraordinary life of Elizabeth Gould. Her keenly-awaited second novel restores another remarkable, little-known woman to her rightful place in history, revealing the dissent hidden beneath the whimsical surfaces of Marie Catherine's fairy tales. *The Bee and the Orange Tree* is a beautifully lyrical and deeply absorbing portrait of a time, a place, and the subversive power of the imagination.