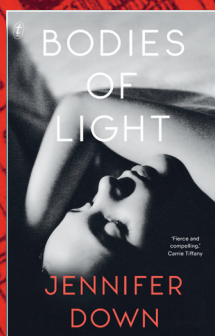


Readings Monthly

FREE | OCTOBER 2021

New books from
Michelle de Kretser
Jonathan Franzen
Charlotte Wood
Elizabeth Strout
Anthony Doerr
Lauren Groff
Bernardine Evaristo

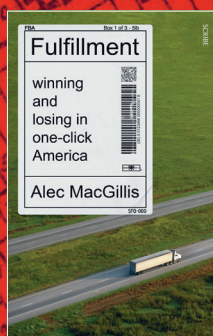
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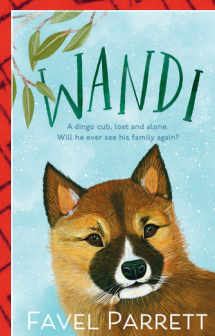
JENNIFER
DOWN
page 5



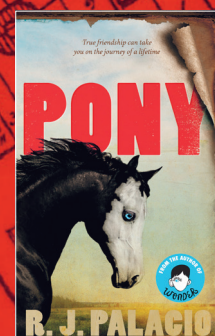
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HAWTHORN 701 GLENFERRIE RD 9819 1917 MALVERN 185 GLENFERRIE RD 9509 1952 ST KILDA 112 ACLAND ST 9525 3852 STATE LIBRARY
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Dave Grohl

THE STORYTELLER

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NEVER ERASE. ALWAYS RECORD.

Available from
October 5



News

Christmas 2021

We know it's only October, but as with last year, shopping for Christmas might look a bit different this year, and we want you to be prepared! We recommend organising your festive purchases earlier than usual to avoid supply issues. To help, we'll be printing our annual *Summer Reading Guide* and a November *Readings Monthly*, both full of gift ideas and recommendations. Sign up to our e-news and receive even more great ideas and special offers directly in your inbox. To subscribe, visit: readings.com.au/sign-up

Readings is coming to Emporium

A new Readings is coming to Emporium Melbourne! The new shop, designed by Kerstin Thompson Architects, will overlook Little Bourke Street and is scheduled to open in late 2021. It has been a tumultuous 18 months for bricks-and-mortar retail, but we see this as reaffirming our commitment to books, the city of Melbourne and the publishing industry. Readings managing director Mark Rubbo says, 'We are proud to be a Melbourne company and believe in our city and its resilience. We hope by investing in the city, and in turn local authors and

publishers, we will strengthen our literary community, our business and provide more opportunities for employment.'

Circle by Maggie Shipstead. The winner will be announced 3 November. For more information, visit: thebookerprizes.com

Booker Prize 2021 shortlist

The shortlist for the 2021 Booker Prize has been announced! The shortlisted titles are: *A Passage North* by Anuk Arudpragasam, *The Promise* by Damon Galgut, *No One Is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood, *The Fortune Men* by Nadifa Mohamed, *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers and *Great*

Women's Prize for Fiction 2021 winner

Susanna Clarke has won the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction for *Piranesi*, a highly original and haunting novel exploring solitude and memory. As the winner, Clarke receives prize money of £30,000. *Piranesi* is now available in a smaller paperback edition. Turn to page 9 for more details.



READINGS MONTHLY

Free, independent monthly newspaper published by Readings Books, Music & Film

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EDITOR

Jackie Tang
jackie.tang@readings.com.au

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Judi Mitchell & Lucie Dess

PROOFREADER

Joanna Di Mattia

KIDS & YA CURATOR

Angela Crocombe

MUSIC & DVD CURATOR

Dave Clarke

CLASSICAL MUSIC CURATOR

Phil Richards

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

Chris Gordon

ADVERTISING

Lucie Dess
lucie.dess@readings.com.au

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Cat Matteson

CARTOON

Oslo Davis

FRONT COVER

The October Readings Monthly cover features artwork from Old Vintage Melbourne, courtesy of the publisher Scribe (turn to page 16 for more details).

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.

COVID-19

While all title release dates were correct at the time of going to press, due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis the unexpected may happen along the supply chain. Please bear with us as we bring you books in these rapidly changing circumstances.

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

Sales & Promotions

Melbourne City Reads

Melbourne City Reads (MCR) is an initiative that aims to showcase local authors and draw customers into inner-city bookshops significantly affected by Covid-19. Emily Bitto's *Wild Abandon* is the MCR book for October and is available online and via call-and-collect at the special price of \$25 (was \$32.99). Turn to page 5 for our review.

10 Years of Stella

This month, to celebrate 10 years of the Stella Prize, we are offering 20% off all past Stella winners: *The Bass Rock* by Evie Wyld, *See What You Made Me Do* by Jess Hill, *The Erratics* by Vicki Laveau-Harvie, *Tracker* by Alexis Wright, *The Museum of Modern Love* by Heather Rose, *The Natural Way of Things* by Charlotte Wood, *The Strays* by Emily Bitto, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* by Clare Wright and *Mateship with Birds* by Carrie Tiffany. This offer is available online and via call-and-collect, while stocks last, until 31 October. Not valid with any other offer.

Exclusive special price on *Crossroads* hardback

We have a special price offer on the exclusive hardback edition of *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen. Buy the hardback for \$32.99 (was \$39.99). The paperback edition is also available for \$32.99. This offer is available online and via call-and-collect, while stocks last. Not valid with any other offer.

Win an Ottolenghi prize pack

Buy a copy of *Ottolenghi Test Kitchen* from Readings and go into the draw to win one of three Flavour Ottolenghi Collections from The Essential Ingredient, featuring 18 condiments used in Ottolenghi's recipes (retails at \$124). To enter, call-and-collect customers should email competitions@readings.com.au with a photo of your receipt, while online orders will be entered automatically. This offer ends 31 October. One entry per transaction. Winners will be notified by email.

Win an Old Vintage Melbourne print

Purchase a copy of *Old Vintage Melbourne* from Readings and go into the draw to win one of three A2 prints from the book. To enter, call-and-collect customers should email competitions@readings.com.au with a photo of your receipt, while online orders will be entered automatically. This offer ends 14 November. One entry per transaction. Winners will be notified by email.

Melbourne writers, Melbourne bookshops

Tune into Afternoons with Jacinta Parsons on ABC Radio Melbourne, the second Wednesday of each month to hear interviews with our monthly authors.

Mark's Say

with Mark Rubbo



Twenty years ago, there were well over 15 bookshops in Melbourne's CBD. They included iconic names such as The Technical Bookshop, McGill's, Angus and Robertson, Collins, Reader's Feast and The Little Bookroom. Of those bookshops only a few remain, such as The Paperback, Dymocks Melbourne and The Hill of Content. The ones that disappeared were likely victims to a combination of rising rents and falling sales, as online

shopping began to erode their business.

Despite this, I'd always thought that Melbourne warranted another bookshop in the CBD, especially after receiving its UNESCO City of Literature status in 2008. Over the years I'd looked at potential sites. We even got close with one at Federation Square. Usually, it was the wrong location or, more frequently, unaffordable. We did open a shop in the wonderful State Library but that mainly services visitors to the library. Early this year we started looking around again; the impact of the pandemic was an additional impetus. Melbourne's extended lockdown drove home to me the importance of bricks-and-mortar bookshops in providing new books much-needed exposure; during the lockdowns, many of these books saw sales languish. Books by established authors fared relatively well, but others suffered

terribly. It seems obvious to me that our authors and publishers need more bookshops to give those releases the opportunity to be discovered. How many times have you stepped into a bookshop intent on buying a particular title, and come out with another couple that leapt into your hands? Online shopping doesn't give that same sense of discovery.

Another reason is that there were quite a few people in our team for whom bookselling had become their chosen career. They are people with amazing skills and passion for this job, and I wanted to give them a bigger canvas to work with, and to give others new opportunities. Lastly, before the pandemic, our sales had started to flatten and even decline. To be able to do all the things that we do – our Readings Prizes, our wonderful monthly magazine, our charitable work and support of local authors and publishers – we needed to grow our sales and our profits.

The pandemic has gutted central business districts around the world, as workers shifted away from their offices and into their homes, and many retailers sadly closed their doors for good. That left a vacuum to be filled by businesses who are betting on the CBD returning to some of its former vibrancy. When Andrew Stevens from Emporium Melbourne approached us earlier this year it was the right time for us and the right time for him. He had a lovely 300sqm space overlooking Little Bourke Street that was begging to be transformed into a wonderful bookshop. When my colleagues and I visited, we all fell in love with the place, and decided that we could create something special. We approached Kerstin Thompson Architects to see if they would be interested in working on the project and to our delight, they were excited too. So, hopefully before Christmas Readings Emporium will open its doors. Please come and visit.

Dear Reader

with Alison Huber



October's releases are a highlight in any reader's year, signalling to booksellers the beginning of our annual journey towards the gift-exchange season, but I think this year's offerings are particularly special, and include many of my favourite books of 2021 (or any year). One of them is Jennifer Down's incredible second novel, and our October Fiction Book of the Month. We've been following Down's career keenly. Her ambitious debut, *Our*

Magic Hour (2016), revealed her writerly talents, which she honed further in her masterful short story collection, *Pulse Points* (2017), the book that won her the 2018 Readings Prize. Now she takes her skill to new heights with the stunning *Bodies of Light*. This book is quite a journey: a deeply affecting – at times upsetting – and ultimately hugely satisfying character study that explores trauma and grief, and the question of how a person is to live. It's a major achievement, and is exactly my kind of Great Australian Novel.

I wish we could have unlimited Books of the Month though (dear editor, is that a possibility?), because we also have the wildly talented, Stella Prize-winning Emily Bitto's new book, *Wild Abandon*, out this month. It's our October pick for the Melbourne City Reads endeavour, and our reviewer calls it 'exquisitely written'. Then there's Diana Reid's fantastic debut, *Love and Virtue*, a campus novel that arrives right on time to explore the politics of consent, class privilege and who has the right to tell a story; plus a brilliant debut collection of short stories from artist and writer, S.J. Norman, winner of the inaugural *Kill Your Darlings* Manuscript Award; and, of course, the multi-award-winning Michelle de Kretser's new novel, *Scary Monsters*, told in a double narrative which will have you (literally) turning things upside down. Our crime aficionado recommends Anna Downes' *The Shadow House* as Book of the Month, which sounds like a stressful and gripping read (i.e., the perfect crime novel) while our poetry reviewer highlights *Human Looking* by acclaimed poet Andy Jackson.

October's international fiction releases involve almost all the authors whose books you've been waiting for, including: Elizabeth Strout's *Oh William!*, in which the author returns to the

character of Lucy Barton; Richard Powers' Booker Prize-shortlisted *Bewilderment*; Lauren Groff's follow-up to the beloved *Fates and Furies*, *Matrix*; Amor Towles' new book – if all the people who read *A Gentleman in Moscow* are ready to read *The Lincoln Highway*, we'll need to open a new warehouse as well as a new shop; Claire Vaye Watkins' 'miraculous, vulnerable work of autofiction', *I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness*; the long-awaited new novel from Ruth Ozeki, *The Book of Form and Emptiness*; plus books from Roddy Doyle, Anthony Doerr, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Claire Messud, the final book from John le Carré, and – how could I leave it so long to mention – *Crossroads*, the hugely entertaining book from the master of human drama, Jonathan Franzen. This extraordinarily crafted book shows why so many people love Franzen so much. It has been a highlight of my 2021 lockdown to share notes with colleagues reading advance copies: Where are you up to? Did you get to the bit where...? Oh wait till you get to the bit when...! We have this book in a lovely hardback at paperback price, so don't miss it.

Our Nonfiction Book of the Month is *Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-click America* by Alec MacGillis. I was obsessed with this book about the broad impact of Amazon on American life, and was known to read passages aloud at home, aghast. It's a really excellent piece of investigative journalism that tells a big-picture story through the lens of individual experience, and is, in my estimation, an essential book for this moment: you can read my full review on page 11.

We also recommend to you the new memoirs from Ed Ayres and Paul Kennedy, a collection of essays from Delia Falconer, a book about the creative life from Charlotte Wood, and the wonderfully eclectic reflection from Warren Ellis, *Nina Simone's Gum*. There's so much else to discover too, including manifestos from Michaela Coel and Bernardine Evaristo, memoirs from David Sedaris, Billy Connolly, Bette Howland, Dave Grohl, Stanley Tucci, and a literary biography of the late Gillian Mears, plus a collaborative book from Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen. Speaking of people everyone loves, Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales share their joint musings in *Well, Hello*. And did someone ask about cookbooks? The Ottolenghi Test Kitchen, Neil Perry, Stephanie Alexander, Nigel Slater, Rick Stein ... they all have books arriving in October.

And finally, dear reader, if you need to engage in a bit of virtual travel around your adored locked-down hometown, look no further than the celebration of 175 years of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, *Wonder*, or the pure nostalgic delight that is *Old Vintage Melbourne*.

On Events

with Chris Gordon



I know I'm not alone in riding the great rollercoaster of emotions over the last few weeks. It has been exhausting and there have been times when I yearned for an entire day in bed with a box of chocolates and a very good novel. I have felt myself drawn to authors whose writing resonates a pragmatic understanding of how we all live. I've become tired of reactive declarations and grand sweeping statements. I'm searching now for authors who

can give me quiet reassurances that our collective narrative includes the experiences of us all. I don't want to hear from the loudest anymore. I want to read considered stories.

With perfect timing, I was delighted to read that Hannah Kent has turned towards writing about hope and love. I am thrilled to have her take part in our online program of events (on Wed 27 October), where she will no doubt talk about why this moment is the perfect time for a love story. Kent's new book, *Devotion*, is one to savour. The novel centres on Hanne Nussbaum, a woman who would rather run wild than conform to the limitations society places on her gender, until she meets Thea. As always, Kent's writing will transport you far from your own bedroom into bewitching forests with dappled light.

Speaking of love stories, Clementine Ford is a person who has loved deeply and with curiosity. She is fascinated by love and the multiple ways it makes its home in our hearts and believes that the way we continue to surrender ourselves to love is an act of great faith and bravery. Her new book is a tender and lyrical memoir which explores love in its many forms, through Ford's own experiences. *How We Love* is heartfelt, funny, and most importantly, given our present landscape, compassionate. Join us on our Zoom platform (on Wed 3 November) as we chat with Ford about the importance of friendship and why love provides hope.

I am also delighted to welcome the wonderful Michelle de Kretser, twice-winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award, to our program to discuss her new novel, *Scary Monsters* (Thurs 28 October). Told over two separate stories narrated by two migrant characters, each explores with great depth and empathy the migrant experience in the Western world and the narrowness of a society that fears the other and the 'scary monsters' of racism, ageism and misogyny.

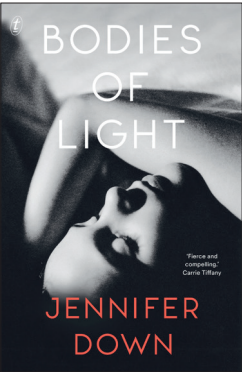
These women's books provide us with respite from our present carnival of grand statements; they provide us with an alternative view of the world, a way to understand pain and hope, and how love and humility can lessen the load of disappointment. These stories, these kind words can help us leave our bed covers and turn towards something that binds us all together. I do hope you will join us to rejoice in other possibilities. Bring your chocolate box and settle in.

To view the full Readings events program, visit: readings.com.au/events

Fiction

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Australian Fiction



Bodies of Light
Jennifer Down
Text. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available now

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events

R After being named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young Australian Novelist two years running, it should come as no surprise that Jennifer Down has delivered another gem. But *Bodies of Light* is streets ahead of her earlier work, bringing the sophistication and craft of her short stories together with her keen insight into the ways we all yearn for connection, and the things that keep us apart.

This novel is so rich with the details, both visceral and true, of Josie's life that it will be deeply felt by everyone who reads it.

Maggie (later Josie, then Holly) is raised in foster care by families who are sometimes safe, often not. Her young life is punctuated by abuse, trauma and abandonment, with brief periods of connection offering some respite. This deep loneliness follows her in (and out of) all of her relationships, even in adulthood, as Maggie learns that to keep herself safe means keeping secrets. After enduring trauma that is so much – too much at times – for one person, Maggie runs away from her life, stepping wholly into a new identity in a new country, and burying her painful past. But her trauma and abandonment follow her – the ways in which she has been failed over and over by institutions and individuals make her distrusting and closed off, prompting those she holds close to accuse her of being robotic and emotionless, and ultimately preventing her from finding peace.

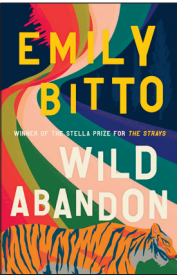
Reminiscent of Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life*, *Bodies of Light* is a harrowing, heartbreaking read where a lifetime of trauma manifests into such deep, inescapable adult grief. Down is clearly (and justifiably) critical of the people and organisations that fail in their care to others. But despite the bleak subject matter, Josie's voice, dry and sardonic, compels the reader, refusing their pity. Heartbreaking as it may be, this novel is so rich with the details, both visceral and true, of Josie's life that it will be deeply felt by everyone who reads it.

Bec Kavanagh is from Readings Kids

Australian Fiction

Wild Abandon
Emily Bitto
A&U. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$25
Available now

Melbourne City Reads October book of the month



R It is a tale as old as travel fiction itself: young, immature man-child is heartbroken and unwilling to examine his deeply troubling feelings or reflect on his contribution to the heartbreaking situation. Instead, he flees in a fit of impulsiveness, under the misguided delusion that in running away, a divine hand will guide him to where he is meant to be. In this place, he will rediscover himself anew.

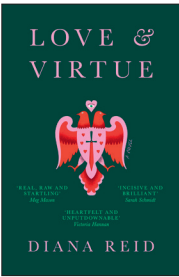
Wild Abandon – the much-anticipated new novel from Stella Prize-winner Emily Bitto – shines a crisp and excoriating light on the great American road-trip novel. Will, our protagonist, invariably sets out in search of self, and in choosing to say yes to everything on this voyage of self-discovery, grants himself permission to succumb to the blissful escape of hedonism – food, alcohol, sex and drugs. Predictably, this creates more problems from which to flee. Almost broke, with 90

days left on his visa and nowhere to stay, Will finds himself in Littleproud, Ohio. Enter Wayne Gage, Vietnam veteran, amateur shaman and collector of exotic animals. Think: lions and tigers and bears, oh my!

Their shared inability to examine or admit to a lack of emotional maturity bonds this unlikely pair, and if I thought the first half of this exquisitely written novel was a wild ride, boy was I in for an even greater surprise in the second. Bitto has again produced an exceptional novel. *Wild Abandon* is an unflinching exploration of toxic masculinity, mental health, the aftermath of war and heartbreak, and the astonishing human arrogance of attempted dominion over the lives of majestic, wild animals. It is – to use Bitto's own words – a novel that lays bare for inspection 'the sure and terrible ruin of all things at the hand of man'.

Tye Cattanach is from Readings Carlton

Love and Virtue
Diana Reid
Ultimo. PB. \$32.99
Available now



R Diana Reid's *Love and Virtue* is an outstanding debut novel that balances multiple issues, including female friendship, intellectual curiosity, class and gender privilege, with a coming-of-age story.

Michaela, an 18-year-old from a

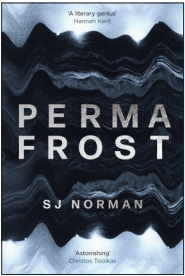
single-parent family in Canberra, receives a scholarship to live in a residential college at university. On arrival, she discovers that the other students are from wealthy Sydney families, wanting the 'out of home' experience. Reminiscent of the narrators in both *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld and *How the Light Gets In* by M.J. Hyland, she becomes keenly aware of this class divide. Michaela has a sharp eye, but her vision is limited by her own insecurities. This characteristic is essential to the narrative – everything Michaela sees and feels is magnified. She is awestruck by another student, Eve, who is slightly older, confident and prepared to push boundaries. Eve also knows about a disturbing event that occurred during Orientation Week, something that is revealed in the prologue, that Michaela can't recall.

Eve and Michaela have one class together on campus – a philosophy class taught by the charismatic Professor Paul Rosen. This class introduces Michaela to a world of intellectual and critical questioning. Discussions with Eve, the professor and other friends ensue, in scenes similar to Sally Rooney's novels where the characters discuss the failures of capitalism. The novel begins and ends with Michaela reflecting on her and Eve's long-ago friendship. Somewhere along the way, Eve has cruelly betrayed Michaela, even as she rises to become a prominent public figure.

Reid's novel is timely. She explores consent, and the prevalence and under-reporting of assaults on university campuses. The 'love' aspect of the title refers to Michaela's personal life. There is her love and awe for Eve; the ambiguous friendships she has with students at the all-boy residential college and her growing crush on Professor Rosen. *Love and Virtue* is a social, emotional and intellectual masterpiece. Choose it for your book club (make sure you have plenty of time and wine) and expect to see it on many award shortlists.

Annie Condon is from Readings Hawthorn

Permafrost
S.J. Norman
UQP. PB. \$29.99
Available now



R The seven short-stories in S.J. Norman's *Permafrost* present us with word-etchings of varied settings – apartments, hotel rooms and front yards – against which the emotional action shudders uneasily into frame. Some of these brittle, little first-person fictions unspool in locations that were once easily reached on a pre-Covid planet: Japan, Germany, Poland, England. There's no doubt, however, that Norman's narrators hail from Australia, and the remaining stories take place back here, in a Canberra hotel or a bookshop in Sydney. Though each one of the tales is self-contained, each narrating voice feels less like a separate character and more like a point on a continuum pulsing with feline wariness, sardonic humour, and pre-damaged vulnerability.

In the story 'Whitehart', we travel out of London and into the woods, where we meet a man with fine white fur and a missing middle finger. In 'Hinterhaus',

we're huddled in the Berlin cold but Tobias, the goth at the bakery across the street, keeps us fed. In 'Unspeakable', we arrive at the haunted site of Auschwitz-Birkenau after dark but Wojciech the guide agrees to show us around, even though he is menaced by the ghosts that choke that place.

Norman's strongest and longest story is the last one, 'Playback', in which an experimental musician returns from Europe to the New South Wales coastal town of their youth in the expectation that they'll soon be joined by their partner, who'll bring the rest of their music gear. Things don't go to plan, however, and the musician spends the story knocking about the town, bumping into memories recent and ancient, and pursued by their own ghosts as well as the ones which belong to the place itself. 'Playback' is a summing-up and a reflection of the spirit running through all the stories in this bitter, beguiling collection: even though this atomised world is falling apart, if you can pay attention and listen well enough, you will be rewarded with discoveries.

Bernard Caleo is from Readings Carlton

Scary Monsters
Michelle de Kretser
A&U. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 19 October

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events



R Michelle de Kretser has written an unusual book. Told in two narratives, the title is inspired by the David Bowie song, 'Scary Monsters': 'Scary monsters, super creeps

/ Keep me running, running scared'. It is an apt link between the Thin White Duke's lyrics and the themes within this uncommon and affecting novel. Lauded as an exploration of racism, misogyny and ageism, to my mind it also delves into the consequences of materialism.

Australians are never satisfied with what they've got. They – we – always want more, says Chanel, the wife of Lyle. Lyle works for a government department in future Australia. An Asian migrant, he fears repatriation and tries enormously to embrace 'Australian values'. Islam has been banned in the country, and one pandemic has already occurred. This half of the novel reminded me of the HBO series *Years and Years*. It's all familiar, feasible and suggests terrifying consequences.

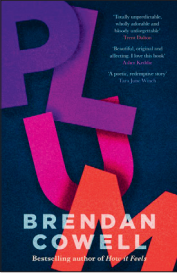
The other half of the novel, one that can be reached by turning the book literally upside-down centres on Lili. Situated in the 1980s in France, Lili is an Australian migrant striving to become her own heroine. One cannot help but reflect that de Kretser herself had a similar trajectory to this character. As you may know, de Kretser was born in Sri Lanka but moved to Australia when she was 14. She was educated in both Melbourne and Paris.

Lili and Lyle's stories share common themes. Their lives are disorientated by their own migrant experience, and it allows them to recognise racism and discord within other people. I felt quite obliterated by this novel. It caused me to consider all the creeps of the world; those scary monsters that lurk, unseen but with

an insidious reach. De Kretser’s writing is beautiful – there is an ease to her laconic humour and storytelling, but she is coming for you. Make no mistake. This novel is about telling the truth, and from that, there is no escape.

Chris Gordon is the programming and events manager at Readings

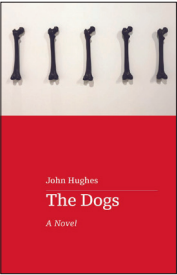
Plum
Brendan Cowell
Fourth Estate. PB. \$32.99
Available now



When ex-NRL star Peter ‘The Plum’ Lum suffers an epileptic fit, he’s diagnosed with a brain disorder that’s the result of the thousand-odd head knocks he took during his playing career.

Plum has to change his lifestyle – fast. A big-hearted and joyous novel of men and their inarticulate pain with a few spectral visits from Bukowski and Plath along the way.

The Dogs
John Hughes
Upswell. PB. \$27.99
Available now

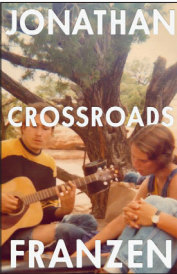


Michael Shamanov is running away from life’s responsibilities. His marriage: over; his son: estranged; his mother – banished to a nursing home two years earlier. But an encounter with his

mother’s nurse leads Michael to discover that the greatest story he’s never heard may lie with his dying mother. Miles Franklin finalist John Hughes’ new novel is a haunting gem of family secrets and hard choices.

International Fiction

Crossroads
Jonathan Franzen
Fourth Estate. HB. Was \$39.99
\$32.99
Available 5 October



R Jonathan Franzen’s latest novel, *Crossroads*, abandons the overt political messaging of *Freedom* and the narrative globetrotting of *Purity*, returning instead to the neurotic

dramas of the Midwestern family unit. Franzen’s strength has always been in creating characters whose capacity for self-deception and pity slowly leaches into the lives of those around them, with the narrative building around these intertwining arcs. As with his breakout novel *The Corrections*, *Crossroads* sees Franzen playing to these strengths.

Crossroads begins in suburban Chicago in 1971, with each member of the Hildebrandt family dealing with a private crisis. Russ, the patriarch, interprets the world through the cloying altruism of his work as an associate pastor, a perspective through which he can rationalise just about anything, including intense romantic desire for

one of his parishioners. Marion, his wife, has a complicated relationship with Catholicism; when her faith fails to explain the traumas of her past, she shamefully turns to a psychologist for succour. Their eldest, Clem, rips up his Vietnam draft exemption to spite his pacifist father. Perry, their brilliant but duplicitous middle child, is busted for dealing pot, after which he also turns to faith, in a church youth group that has all the local teens abuzz. But in his quest for goodness, Perry can’t shake the question: ‘How do I know if I’m really being good or if I’m just pursuing sinful advantage?’

In one way or another, this is the question that animates the internal lives of each the Hildebrandts. With the free-loving hedonism of the late 1960s slowly encroaching on the suburbs – confusing matters of faith further – it’s a moral conundrum that remains unsolved. The first in a planned trilogy that will continue up to the present day, *Crossroads* is Franzen’s most straightforward and earnest novel since *The Corrections*, and it ranks just behind that career highlight in my estimation.

Michael Skinner is from Readings St Kilda

I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness
Claire Vaye Watkins
Riverrun. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 October



R ‘I’ve tried to tell this story a bunch of times. This will be my last try...’ So begins Claire Vaye Watkins’ crackling original novel *I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness*. Its narrator is a woman

called Claire Vaye Watkins. She’s jumping on a flight to Reno, leaving behind her husband and baby. Heavy with postpartum depression and now deep in the Mojave Desert where she grew up, she wrestles with the ghosts of her past. The result is an extraordinary hybrid of autobiography and fiction; a surreal tale of love, sex, death and domesticity at once devastating and darkly funny.

Vaye Watkins blazed onto the writing scene with her multi-award-winning short-story collection *Battleborn*, which she followed up with the brutal and beautiful novel *Gold Fame Citrus*. These books burn with the grit and tenderness of the American desert: apocalyptic cocktails of faith, psychedelics and adventure bred from their distinctly harsh environment. *I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness* is similarly an off-the-grid desert adventure, but one that borrows more from the author’s life than her previous works. Its narrator, Claire, shares the author’s name, age and profession. She also shares the same tumultuous family history – her father Paul was a key member of the Manson cult, her mother Martha an opiate-addict. Both died young, leaving behind larger-than-life legacies and sharp memories that their daughter Claire must reckon with.

Within that reckoning, this book was born – a miraculous, vulnerable work of autofiction charged with wit and candour. *I Love You but I’ve Chosen Darkness* is an ambitious account of one woman’s fraught relationship with motherhood, monogamy, and the family

ties that feel impossible to shake. This remarkable novel is a breath of fresh air; it’s a feverish trip, a rollercoaster ride and a history lesson all at once, and utterly unlike anything else.

Stella Charls is from Readings Carlton

Matrix
Lauren Groff
William Heinemann. PB. \$32.99
Available now



R Scour the formal historical record and you won’t find much about the woman known as Marie de France beyond information that she lived in the 12th century and wrote a

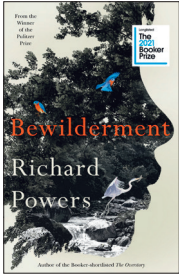
series of *Breton lais*, or short romantic rhymes. But in her latest novel, Lauren Groff generously imagines a complete, alternative life thrashing inside those silences. *Matrix* is a bold feminist tale of what Marie’s life might have looked, smelled and felt like.

It’s 1158, and Marie, the 17-year-old illegitimate daughter of Henry II, is banished from the court of Eleanor of Aquitaine to head an abbey on the fringes of England. Marie is decreed unfit for marriage – ‘three heads too tall’ and too ugly for royal life. To complicate matters further, she’s in love with the queen. Arriving at the abbey, Marie finds infertile lands and nuns sick and starving. She despairs. But resourceful, ambitious Marie is in the right place: her warrior-like strength of heart and body allows her to wrestle the defenceless abbey back from the brink. Across 50 years it prospers with Marie, its *matrix* – Latin for mother – binding it all together. Within the convent walls, Groff focuses on the women’s working lives. Beyond prayer and song, we see nuns weaving, baking, writing, farming and eventually engineering and building a world totally their own – ‘an island of women’ and a refuge from the chaos brewing outside. Presenting the abbey as a source of female power, creativity and desire, Groff avoids imposing modern paradigms onto this unenlightened era. Marie’s legacy, her prideful push for power, is depicted as flawed and more interesting for it.

I loved Groff’s 2015 novel *Fates and Furies*, but *Matrix* is a very different creature, and in my opinion, a superior one – a dazzling, primeval story of love, sex, power, community and care. *Matrix* glows with the fierce fire of sisterhood, like the one Marie’s ‘daughters’ see burning inside her. It’s one of the best novels of the year. Amen.

Joanna Di Mattia is from Readings Carlton

Bewilderment
Richard Powers
William Heinemann. PB. \$32.99
Available now



R Theo Byrne, a rising star in the field of astrobiology, has lost his wife, leaving him the sole parent to nine-year-old Robin. Robin is both a fascinating and a troubled boy. His love

and appreciation of art and nature are boundless but he struggles to fit into normal life, reacting violently to his fellow students and inconsolably to the existential threat of the climate crisis.

With Robin unable to cope at his primary school, Theo is brought in and offered an ultimatum by the school: get Robin clinical (and pharmaceutical) help or get him a new school.

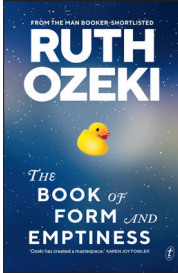
An opportunity to change his son’s life without pharmaceutical interventions presents itself when a former colleague of Theo’s wife suggests a new experimental neuro-feedback treatment for Robin that will allow him to boost his emotional control using the recorded patterns of his deceased mother’s brain.

Richard Powers has published 13 novels and has received or been shortlisted for nearly every literary prize in the English-speaking world, including the Pulitzer, the National Book Award and the Booker Prize. *Bewilderment* is the latest in this long line of esteemed works, and it has already generated buzz for its inclusion on this year’s Booker Prize shortlist.

Bewilderment shares many concerns with Powers’ last novel, *The Overstory*. Unsurprisingly, global warming and the desecration of our natural spaces are still on his mind. But where *The Overstory* was sweeping and grand, *Bewilderment* is personal and intimate – the cast of characters and the geographical range of the novel is much reduced in size, but this reduction in scope has the effect of making Powers’ work more heartbreaking and more urgent than ever. This novel is a love letter to the precious and fragile nature of family, fatherhood and the natural world.

Tristen Brudy is from Readings Carlton

The Book of Form and Emptiness
Ruth Ozeki
Text. PB. \$32.99
Available now



R Benny Oh has lost his father in a terrible accident. Shortly afterwards, something peculiar happens to the grief-stricken teenage boy: he starts to hear

objects speaking. Snow globes, scissors, windowpanes, baseball bats and teapots all keep up a constant hum of conversation, vying for his attention. Pretty soon, these objects start imploring him to take action, sometimes even in destructive ways. Meanwhile, his mother Annabelle is struggling to cope without her husband and with the increasing pressure of taking care of Benny. She begins hoarding, looking for comfort and solace in objects, the very same objects that are causing so much distress to her son.

Looking for sanctuary from the barrage of voices, Benny skips school and finds refuge in the public library, where the objects speak in whispers. At the library, Benny meets a homeless poet, a strange and enchanting young performance artist, and a very special book – the book that is narrating his life. At home, his mother also encounters a life-changing book, written by a Marie Kondo-esque, Japanese monk that will force her to confront her own grief.

The Book of Form and Emptiness is a strange and compelling novel about loss, creativity, difference, and the power of the written word. Ozeki masterfully moves from whimsy to beauty to darkness and back again. I often did not

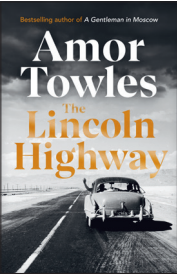
know whether to laugh or to cry (and, admittedly, did both).

My one criticism would be that the book ties itself up a bit too neatly at the end. This, however, does not take away from the sheer pleasure of reading this novel. It is the kind of book you get lost in for days or, considering its length at 550 pages, even weeks. Ozeki's latest is a challenging, rewarding and unexpected work that is bound to crop up on many 'best of' lists at the end of the year.

Tristen Brudy is from Readings Carlton

The Lincoln Highway

Amor Towles
Hutchinson. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 5 October



R It's 1954 and Emmett has just returned home from a stint in a juvenile prison. The bank is foreclosing on the family's Nebraskan farm after his father's death, and Emmett plans to pack up his little brother Billy and head east, believing they can start a new life in Texas. He is determined not to follow in the footsteps of their hapless father, and he knows he can never make another mistake like the one that sent him away.

Eight-year-old Billy has a different plan. He thinks following their mother to California via the Lincoln Highway in his brother's blue Studebaker is the path they must follow. Billy has a book – one he's read 24 times now – full of 'Heroes, Adventurers and Other Intrepid Travellers', and he knows you can't let anything stop you from getting to where you are destined to be.

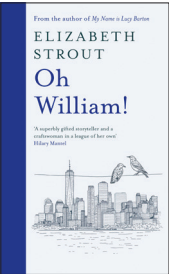
The arrival of two of Emmett's fellow inmates soon lays waste to their best laid plans. Instead of travelling east, the three young men and Billy head west. At first, Emmett thinks he can just drop off their companions along the way. But the charming Duchess is pure trouble, and even mild-mannered addict Wooley has his own particular destination in mind. One epic adventure is about to begin.

Five years after the publication of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, Amor Towles returns with a vastly different novel. Nostalgic and authentic in the tradition of John Steinbeck, the deeply moving journey that is *The Lincoln Highway* is unforgettable. Despite being so young, each character carries their own burdens and tries to hide their scars, endearing themselves to the reader from the very beginning. Steinbeck himself said a book is 'one of the very few authentic magics our species has created'; if so, Towles is an absolute magician.

Kate McIntosh is the manager of Readings Doncaster

Oh William!

Elizabeth Strout
Viking. HB. \$29.99
Available 19 October



R For me, a new Elizabeth Strout novel is always cause for excitement – she is, after all, one of my favourite authors. Strout has written several novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning

Olive Kitteridge, and *Oh William!* is her third novel to feature the extraordinary, indomitable character of Lucy Barton, following *My Name Is Lucy Barton* in 2016 and *Anything Is Possible* in 2017. Reading it felt so much like catching up with a dear friend over a long lunch – a much-needed and sorely missed feeling in this past year of restrictions.

This time we meet Lucy in later life. She is recently widowed, with a successful writing career behind her. She also has an ex-husband, William, who is the father of her two adult daughters. Having a strong bond and being on good terms with each other, William confides in Lucy that he is having 'night terrors', which seem to revolve around his late mother. After doing some research into his ancestry, William convinces Lucy to travel from New York to Maine with him to confront the secrets of his past. As the story unfolds, Lucy reflects on her own history, and in a conversational, back-and-forth, wandering manner, gradually divulges the events that have shaped her life. She muses over her relationships with her parents, her siblings, her two husbands, her children and her mother-in-law, concluding that we can never truly know anyone.

As usual, Strout has delivered another powerful story in *Oh William!* – one that forces the reader to consider the mysteries that have shaped their own lives and relationships. There isn't a particular plot, and you don't have to have read the previous Lucy Barton novels to enjoy it. However, be warned, it will leave you wanting to read more about Lucy, and you'll find yourself racing back to your local Readings shop to track down those earlier two books!

Sharon Peterson is the manager of Readings St Kilda

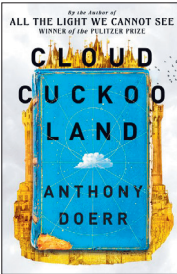
Silverview
John le Carré
Viking. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available 19 October



Months after leaving his high-flying job to open a seaside bookshop, Julian Lawndsley's careful routine is disrupted by a visitor who seems rather too interested in his modest new enterprise. When a spy chief in London discovers a dangerous leak, his investigations lead him to Julian's quiet town by the sea. This last complete novel by the master of espionage is an elegant descent into the soul of the modern intelligence service.

Cloud Cuckoo Land

Anthony Doerr
Fourth Estate. PB. Was \$32.99
\$ \$29.99
Available now



The highly anticipated new novel from Anthony Doerr follows a group of characters across time, bound together by a single ancient text: 13-year-old Anna and cursed Omeir during the Fall of Constantinople; teenage Seymour and octogenarian Zeno caught in a present-day attack; and Konstance, decades from now, who turns to stories to guide her

Into the Rip

DAMIEN CAVE

How the Australian way of risk made my family stronger, happier ... and less American

“A big-hearted account of a wild and wonderful ride into a new culture and a new way to live.”

ANNA FUNDER

SIGNS AND WONDERS

Delia Falconer

“Brave, beautiful and breathtaking in its elegance and intelligence”

JAMES BRADLEY

Dispatches from a time of beauty and loss

SCRIBNER AUSTRALIA

Well Hello

Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales

From the hit podcast *Chat 10 Looks 3* comes a smart, hilarious and heartfelt book about friendship, the vagaries of life and culture, and everything in between.

Silverview

John le Carré

The much-anticipated publication of John le Carré's last complete novel. The greatest chronicler of our age asks what you owe to your country when you no longer recognise it.

The Lincoln Highway

Amor Towles

Two brothers venture across 1950s America to New York in the absorbing new novel by the author of the bestselling *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

Bewilderment

Richard Powers

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, a magnificent new novel by Richard Powers, his first novel since the Booker Prize-shortlisted, Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Overstory*.

Read more at penguin.com.au



community. An interconnected tapestry that soars with hope and resilience.

Life Without Children: Stories

Roddy Doyle

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$29.99

Available 19 October



A moving portrait of our pandemic lives, told in ten heart-rending short stories. Love and marriage. Children and family. Death and grief. Life touches everyone the same. But living under lockdown, it changes us alone. Written over the last year, Roddy Doyle wields his signature warmth and wit to paint a collective portrait of our strange times.

Pure Gold

John Patrick McHugh

Fourth Estate. HB. \$32.99

Available now



'Love. You had to scrap for love.' In this debut short-story collection set on an imagined island off the west coast of Ireland, John Patrick McHugh takes us deep into a community. Whether falling in love or turning on one another, the residents here are united by a quest for connection in the treacherous waters of small-town boredom.

Reprive

James Han Mattson

Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99

Available 5 October



When four friends take on a full-contact escape room, the objective seems simple. Hold your nerve through six terrifying challenges and win a huge cash prize. But the real horror is unfolding outside of the game. And by the end of

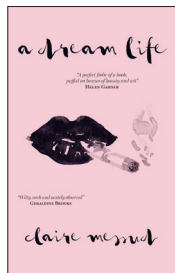
the night, one of the contestants will be dead. A startlingly soulful exploration of complicity and masquerade.

A Dream Life

Claire Messud

Tablo Publishing. HB. \$22.99

Available 1 October



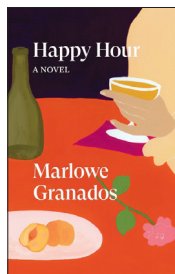
Moving from New York to Sydney in the 1970s feels like moving to the end of the earth. For Alice Armstrong, life in this strange city by the glittering harbour forces her to confront the lies and self-deception at the heart of her family. A sharp, biting tale written with Claire Messud's characteristic delicacy of touch, humour and emotional insight.

Happy Hour

Marlowe Granados

Verso. PB. \$22.99

Available now



At 21 years old, Isa Eply has already decided the purpose of life is the pursuit of pleasure. She arrives in New York for a summer of adventure with her best friend. They have little money, but that's hardly going to stop them from having a good time. With the barbed charm of Nancy Mitford, this debut captures a sticky summer of friendship and hedonism.

L.A. Weather

María Amparo Escandón

Flatiron Books. PB. \$32.99

Available 12 October



Fun, fast-paced and quick-witted, *L.A. Weather* follows Oscar and Keila Alvarez, an affluent Mexican American couple who announce their impending divorce after nearly 40 years of

marriage, forcing their three grown daughters – Claudia, a television chef with a hard-hearted attitude; Olivia, a successful architect who suffers from gentrification guilt; and Patricia, a social media wiz who has trouble connecting with her lovers – to take a hard look at their own disjointed relationships.

The Morning Star

Karl Ove Knausgaard & Martin Aitken (trans.)

Harvill Secker. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Arne and Tove are staying in their summer house in southern Norway; their friend Egil lives nearby. Kathrine, a priest, is flying home from a Bible seminar. Journalist Jostein is married to psychiatric nurse Turid. Above in the sky, a new star blazes, bringing with it a mysterious sense of foreboding. On the earth below, strange things start to happen as nine lives come together. Karl Ove Knausgaard's astonishing new novel is about life in all its mundanity and drama, the strangeness that permeates our world, and the darkness in us all.

Metamorphosis: Selected Stories

Penelope Lively

Fig Tree. HB. \$45

Available 19 October



The definitive selection of the short stories from one of our greatest living writers, curated by the author herself. This collection includes new and never-before published gems. In intimate stories of growing up and growing old, chance encounters and life-long relationships, Penelope Lively explores the ways that individuals can become tangled in history, and how small acts ripple through the generations.

The Book of Mother

Violaine Huisman & Leslie Camhi (trans.)

Virago. PB. \$32.99

Available 12 October



A prize-winning phenomenon when it came out in France, Violaine Huisman's debut novel is about a daughter's indelible love for her magnetic, mercurial mother. In the tradition of

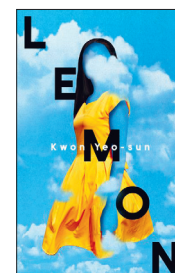
Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle*, *The Book of Mother* is an exquisitely wrought story of a mother's ferocious heights and devastating lows, and a daughter's chaotic coming of age.

Lemon

Kwon Yeo-sun & Janet Hong (trans.)

Head of Zeus. PB. \$24.99

Available now



In 2002, Seoul teenager Kim Hae-on was murdered. The case went cold, but as the years pass, the grief and lack of justice take a cruel toll of her younger sister, Da-on, who sets out to uncover the truth of what happened. This English translation of an award-winning Korean author's literary crime novel probes questions of gender, class and privilege.

Long Division

Kiese Laymon

Scribner. PB. \$27.99

Available now



When 14-year-old Citoyen 'City' Coldson discovers a strange, authorless book titled *Long Division*, he's not expecting one of the main characters to share his name. This fictional version of City lives in 1985, and is jumping around

Melbourne's favourite independent cinema!



NITRAM Coming Soon (MA15+)

The talk of Cannes, earning rave reviews and Caleb Landry Jones the best actor award, *NITRAM* depicts one of the darker chapters of modern Australia's history. Justin Kurzel (*Snowtown*) masterfully portrays a lonely man's slow descent into a nightmare that culminates in the most nihilistic and heinous of acts. Featuring outstanding performances from Judy Davis, Anthony LaPaglia, and Essie Davis.

★★★★ - "a hypnotically disquieting movie" - The Guardian
★★★★★ - The Telegraph



LAMB Coming Soon (MA15+)

A childless couple in rural Iceland (Noomi Rapace and Hilmir Snær Guðnason) make an alarming discovery one day in their sheep barn. They soon face the consequences of defying the will of nature, in this dark and atmospheric fable, the striking debut feature from director Valdimar Jóhannsson. The terrifyingly tense *LAMB* builds on the primal fears of loss and parenting to make it a masterful and eerily unnatural folktale.

"A tale in which nature plus nurture yields a nightmare" - The Hollywood Reporter



PALAZZO DI COZZO Coming Soon (PG)

Director Madeleine Martiniello captures a delightful portrait of Melbourne's iconic baroque homewares mogul, Franco Cozzo, that offers insights into furniture, family and the migrant experience. A pioneer of low-fi television advertising, Franco's tri-lingual catchphrase sparked a cult-of-personality as kitsch as his baroque bedheads. Overflowing with charm and heart, this snapshot of local history is *megalo, megalo, megalo!*

"Cozzo's legacy goes beyond the man himself—it's also about those who revere him." - Kill Your Darlings

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C I N E M A
NOVA

380 Lygon Street Carlton
cinamanova.com.au

in time, travelling from ‘real’ City’s current-day Mississippi in 2013 to the past in 1964. Blending fiction and reality, this funny and astute debut explores celebrity, authorship, violence and coming of age in the post-Katrina American South.

New format

Piranesi
Susanna Clarke
Bloomsbury. PB. \$19.99
Available now

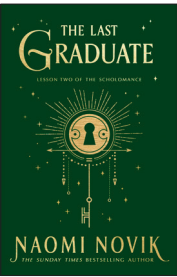


Winner of the 2021 Women’s Prize for fiction. A man named Piranesi lives mostly alone in the House. In his notebooks, day after day, he makes a clear and careful record of what he sees.

Messages begin to appear, scratched out in chalk on the pavements. There is someone new in the House. But who are they and what do they want? A truly original work of the imagination, *Piranesi* is an exquisite puzzle and an exploration of solitude and memory.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

The Last Graduate
Naomi Novik
Del Rey. PB. \$32.99
Available now



It’s graduation year for El and her allies at the pitiless Scholomance, the dark academy of magic where terrifying monsters lurk in every corner trying to kill you, all aid comes at a price, and there are only two ways out: you graduate or you die. The thrilling sequel to *A Deadly Education*, *The Last Graduate* is a magical, heart-pounding adventure that will leave you cursing the wait for the final instalment.

Australian Poetry

Human Looking
Andy Jackson
Giramondo. PB. \$24
Available now



R Andy Jackson has written several acclaimed poetry collections, and returns this year with *Human Looking*. Readers may be familiar with Jackson’s work

through his contribution to the anthology *Growing Up Disabled in Australia*. When I think of poets writing about disability in Australia, I think of Andy Jackson.

The collection opens with several personal poems about Jackson’s medical history – largely unnamed – exploring the concept of ‘opening’ and beginning

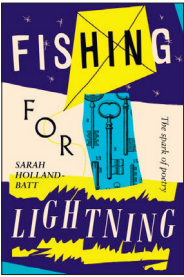
a story through a surgical lens. Jackson also uses documents from his own life as a poetic device to explore what disability means to him and how he has been othered.

In the latter part of *Human Looking*, Jackson engages with historical texts and photographs about disability, sometimes questioning the past with anger. I found this section particularly thought-provoking and was captivated by poems where the speaker of the poem is not the poet, where Jackson uses poetry to take on other voices and dialogues about disability, the idea of personal tragedy and family heartbreak, and the othering of disabled people. In taking on the voice of Frankenstein’s monster, Jackson declares ‘I, this wonderful catastrophe’ – and this collection certainly argues that he is, as are all disabled people.

Throughout the collection, there is an interesting connection between the body and form that explores presentation and disfigurement. Two lines in particular stood out to me in this respect: ‘no human form is frightening in itself’, and ‘I’m not the god of poetry, / but of sculpture and volcanoes’. It is fitting then that Jackson uses many different poetic forms throughout – this is a particular strength of the collection. Many of these poems reward deeper re-reading and further consideration of the historical implications and artworks referenced – there is a generous notes section at the back of the book that will aid the reader in this. *Human Looking* is a strong and intriguing work.

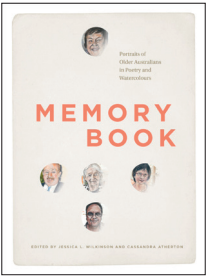
Clare Millar is from Readings online

Fishing for Lightning:
The Spark of Poetry
Sarah Holland-Batt
UQP. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Fishing for Lightning collects acclaimed poet and critic Sarah Holland-Batt’s celebrated columns on poetry, from the villanelle and verse novel to the remix and the sonnet. In 50 illuminating and lively short essays on 50 poets, Holland-Batt offers a masterclass in how to read and love poetry, opening up the music of language, form, and technique in her casual, conversational and deeply intelligent style.

Memory Book:
Portraits of Older Australians
in Poetry and Watercolours
Cassandra Atherton &
Jessica L. Wilkinson (eds.)
Hunter. PB. \$24.95
Available now



A celebration of everyday senior Australians and their fascinating life stories. Based on one-on-one interviews with 45 participants, the 15 poets involved in this project have created lasting records of the experiences, memories and reflections of members of our older generations. The contributors include Ali Alizadeh, Eileen Chong and Ali Cobby Eckermann, among many others, and each poem is paired with a watercolour portrait of the subject by Sierra McManus.

‘Wild Abandon made me fall in love with fiction again ... this is a great novel.’

CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS

An inspiring work about creativity and resilience from the multi-award-winning author of *The Weekend*.

An unputdownable standalone thriller from the bestselling author of *Scrublands*.

‘A locked-room mystery in the Never Never. *Larrimah* has all the hallmarks of an Australian classic.’

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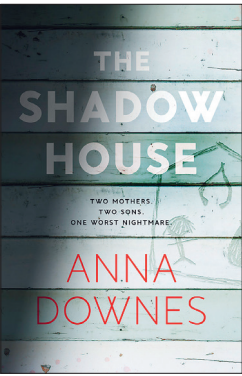
Read more at penguin.com.au

Dead Write

with Fiona Hardy

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Crime



The Shadow House

Anna Downes
Affirm Press. PB.
Was \$32.99

\$29.99

Available now

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events

as she is to unravel the truth behind what’s happening. This is the kind of thriller that will have you locking your doors and panicking about every little sound outside. And really, if that’s not what we want from our crime books, I don’t know what is.

R When Alex drives up to her new house with her teenage son Ollie and new baby Cara in tow, she feels a surge of relief – and panic. She’s running away from Sydney, from what she’s left behind, and the eco-village of Pine Ridge is the perfect place to start anew: a caring community, a serene environment, people looking out for each other. Best of all, nobody knows where she is. So really, the dead bird in a box laid out for her arrival is not the welcome gift she was expecting.

The kind of thriller that will have you locking your doors and panicking about every little sound outside.

As Alex manages her new life, negotiating her brittle temper with a wailing baby and screen-addicted teenager, she can’t shake the feeling that something’s wrong, that she’s not welcome. Then there’s that neighbourhood story. The one about a witch. A witch who takes children. A witch who heralds her plan by leaving something dead for you. Years ago, a teenage boy went missing at the farmhouse that now sits abandoned in the valley – his disappearance beginning in eerily similar circumstances. The question of whether Alex has found her place to settle – or if she ever will – has never been so urgent.

Anna Downes grips readers right from the beginning in this truly unsettling domestic horror tale. Her words are as haunting as the pine forests and rundown houses, and she hypnotises you with the beauty of the surrounds – a lush dam, a wide-open sky and caring neighbours. Alex is no perfect mother (I mean, nobody truly is) but you will be as desperate

The Stoning

Peter Papathanasiou
Transit Lounge. PB. \$29.99

Available now



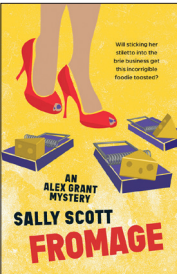
When Detective Sergeant George Manolis rolls into the outback town of Cobb in his beloved car, he’s already unhappy that his one day off has been taken from him. Now, he’s had to drive all the way from the city for a

thankless task: find out who killed schoolteacher Molly Abbott, found bound to a tree and stoned to death. Local suspicion falls on the detainees in the new immigration detention centre, a place that’s already divided the town. Cobb is grim and miserable, at odds with Manolis’ childhood memories of growing up there, and now he’s trying to figure out who would be capable of such a horrific crime. With minimal help from the local police, the heat bearing down and danger biting at his heels, Manolis must look past the town’s racism and anger to the truth – no matter how far back it might take him. An excellent, gritty rural procedural for those desperate for cranky small towners and a dusty, visceral atmosphere.

Fromage

Sally Scott
Fremantle Press. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Freelance journalist Alex Grant is basking on the beaches of the Dalmatian Coast, revelling in good food and better company (i.e. her own) when she unexpectedly and unhappily bumps into

her old school friend Marie and Marie’s tiresome brother Brian. Alex is mostly annoyed at the intrusion, until her journalism senses start tingling at their reason for being there: the funeral of their grandfather’s Croatian caretakers, who died in a murder-suicide that the police have wrapped up in suspiciously record time. Turns out, they’re also heirs to a massively successful creamery back in Western Australia, and Alex – who isn’t put off her food even when death is involved – thinks some investigation upon her return would be particularly good for her tastebuds. Once she’s down in Margaret River though, it’s clear that the danger is still very much present, and that things are about to go very pear-shaped (with extra paté on the side). A rollicking, delicious and chaotically disastrous mystery.

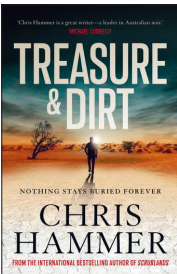
Treasure and Dirt

Chris Hammer
A&U. PB. Was \$32.99

\$29.99

Available now

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events



Down a mine in Northern NSW lies the body of Jonas McGee, opal miner, crucified. Discovered by ratters – mining thieves – and called in anonymously, the case is handed to homicide detective Ivan

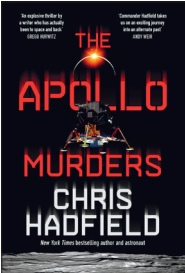
Lucic, eager to be working on his own without his boss, Morris Montifore, who’s stayed in Sydney. With any luck, Ivan will be adding this to his successful cases, but luck isn’t popular in crime fiction, and everything’s a hell of a lot more complicated than he expects – not least

because Morris is being held back due to internal investigations, and Ivan may be next. From the poverty-stricken inhabitants of Finnigans Gap, to the wealthy magnates flying in for the mines, to the decades’ worth of ‘accidents’ that have befallen the townsfolk, there’s enough drama and intensity to fill five hundred thrilling pages of another gleefully brick-sized Chris Hammer book.

The Apollo Murders

Chris Hadfield
Quercus. PB. \$32.99

Available 12 October



Once, a few years ago, I went out onto my front lawn and looked up into the starry dark, tracing the path of a bright light as it traversed the sky. In that light – the International Space Station – was astronaut

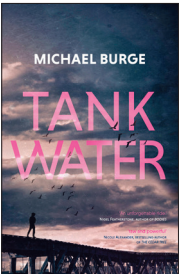
Chris Hadfield, who I was following fervently on Twitter. Now, he’s released a crime book, and my favourite subjects of outer space and crime have finally joined up. Based loosely on the Apollo 18 mission, Hadfield’s crime debut follows once astronaut hopeful Kaz Zemekis, whose dreams were shattered when a bird strike left him without one eye. Kaz has flown into Houston as a conduit between the CIA and NASA, and harbours some ultra-classified information on what Apollo 18’s mission is about to become. Filled with scientific knowledge only someone with firsthand experience would have, this is a Cold War action-thriller that will challenge all you thought you knew about our journeys into space – and make you speculate on what we were never told.

Tank Water

Michael Burge

MidnightSun. PB. \$29.99

Available now



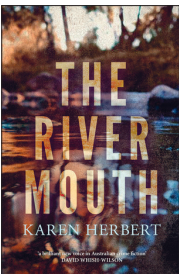
Years after journalist James Brandt left the country town of Kippen for good, he’s drawn back there, flying in to be with his family after the death of his cousin, Tony, found tangled in the reeds under the railway bridge. With the family farm now bequeathed to James – a city boy trying to figure out how to disclose his long-term boyfriend to a family unwilling to listen – there are complications everywhere, such as James’ growing realisation that Tony may not have thrown himself from the bridge like everybody says. Tony’s death isn’t the first time the Brandts have been racked with grief, and as the family’s history peels away, James wonders if the events of 20 years ago, when everyone was last together for Tony’s wedding, had more of an impact than anyone realises. An impressive, intricate outback mystery.

The River Mouth

Karen Herbert

Fremantle Press. PB. \$32.99

Available now



In a small coastal town in WA’s Pilbara region, 15-year-old Darren is found shot dead, his body left by the river. Ten years later, his mother Sandra – still with no answers about who killed her son – is told that her

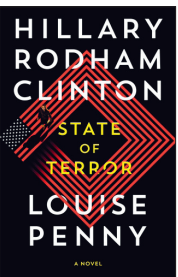
best friend, Barbara, has been found dead by her car. And that Darren’s case is being reopened, because Barbara’s DNA matches what was found underneath his fingernails all those years ago. As the story moves back and forth between Sandra today – sure that her best friend isn’t capable of what everybody says – and Darren’s final days a decade ago, a town’s unearthed secrets lay waste to the community in a way not everybody will survive.

State of Terror

Hillary Rodham Clinton & Louise Penny

Pan Mac. PB. \$32.99

Available 12 October



If you want your political thrillers to be just about as high-ranking as you can get, try this on for size: former US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has now ventured into crime fiction. In collaboration with venerated author Louise Penny – she of the Quebecois Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series – Clinton spins a web around a Secretary of State, working for her political rival, trying to help put America back on top after years of the country’s decline in influence. When a spate of terrorist attacks puts everything in jeopardy, it’s up to the Secretary to get it under control. When somebody with this level of insider knowledge has a story to tell, you pull up the chair, say, ‘yes, ma’am’, and you listen.

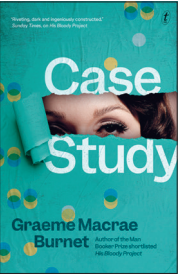
Case Study

Graeme Macrae Burnet

Text. PB. \$32.99

Available 19 October

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events



Graeme Macrae Burnet – shortlisted in 2016 for the Booker Prize for *His Bloody Project* – returns with a highly imaginative take on crime fiction in *Case Study*. When Veronica, a seemingly successful young woman, throws herself off a bridge, her sister thinks it’s due to one Dr Collins Braithwaite, Veronica’s psychotherapist. To prove it, she reinvents herself as ‘Rebecca’, and becomes one of Braithwaite’s clients. Set in London in the 1960s and presented as a series of notebooks handed to the author himself, with pages of Braithwaite’s own book interspersed throughout, this entirely original identity crisis of a story will destabilise the reader, just as it does to its characters.



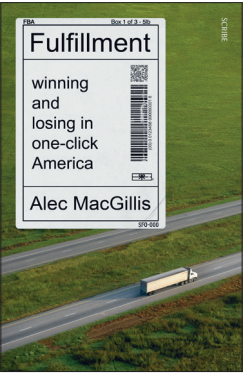
Also out this month

April in Spain by John Banville (Faber, PB, \$29.99); *The Judges List* by John Grisham (H&S, PB, \$32.99, available 19 October); *Riccardino* by Andrea Camilleri (Mantle, PB, \$32.99, available 12 October); *The Jealousy Man* by Jo Nesbo (Harvill Secker, PB, Was \$32.99, **\$29.99**); *The Unheard* by Nicci French (S&S, PB, \$32.99).

Nonfiction

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Cultural Studies



Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-click America
Alec MacGillis
Scribe. PB. Was \$35
\$29.99
Available now

On the face of it, Amazon has made consumption very easy for a lot of people in America and elsewhere in the world: order goods online at discounted prices, and the items will arrive at your door before you could have even made it to the shops. But the true cost of this convenience is extensive. As has been well documented – most recently in this outstanding book by award-winning journalist Alec MacGillis – this trillion-dollar company is fundamentally changing industries, compromising the vibrancy of high streets, shifting urban landscapes and cities’ fortunes, rerouting global transport logistics and commodity production, impacting the opportunities and conditions of work for many people, and driving inequality. Amazon previously traded on its early identity as a ‘disruptor’, but it is now a dominating force that continuously concentrates its power over the passage of goods and information in unprecedented ways, its ideology turbocharged by the pandemic where stay-at-home and lockdown orders have driven yet more shoppers into its online embrace. Using the stories of individuals whose lives have intersected with Amazon in different ways, MacGillis tells a chilling but utterly gripping dystopian tale of the impact of Amazon on American life and many of its cities, where it seems almost nothing is left untouched by the company.

There is so much uncovered by this investigation that beggars belief and had me audibly exclaiming ‘what?!’ while reading, most notably the descriptions of the company’s interactions with city, state, and federal governments, all of which seem to be falling over themselves to accommodate this breathtakingly wealthy company’s ambitions with tax concessions and other financial incentives. MacGillis also tells an important story about the decline of heavy industry and manufacturing in parts of the country – workplaces that had been the basis of community pride, identity and belonging. This steady erosion of work opportunities alongside increasing demand for labour in warehousing and distribution at Amazon’s fulfilment and data centres, means that, for a significant cohort of workers, a job at Amazon is now the only option in town, and that work is often lower paid, precarious and seasonal. The social and cultural impact of this transition is profound, and is essentially invisible during an online shopping session.

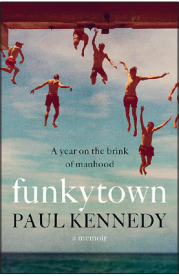
This book is absolutely essential reading for anyone with even a passing interest in the politics of work, the dynamics of corporate power, and late capitalism. It is also a crucial cautionary tale for us in Australia, where the true extent of an Amazon-dominated future has not yet been realised.

Alison Huber is the head book buyer at Readings

Biography

Funkytown
Paul Kennedy
Affirm Press. PB. \$32.99
Available now

For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events



The title of Paul Kennedy’s memoir, ‘Funkytown’, is the name that Kennedy’s sister gives to Frankston, the large suburb next to their home in Seaford in bayside Melbourne. The ABC journalist grew up in the area, and this book explores his family and upbringing in the 1990s with great skill, sensitivity and humour.

Kennedy’s early years were focused on becoming a successful footy player. He struggles in school thanks to a combination of white-line fever on the sports field and his general attitude towards education, rules and girls, though one of his primary school English teachers gives him the book *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* as she sees something in an essay that he hands in. Kennedy’s descriptions of playing footy in these earlier years are lyrical and almost dreamlike, contrasting the grace of the

sport with the earthy and brutal outbursts of the supporters and other players.

During high school, a girl is found murdered after disappearing from a local train station. It seems like an isolated incident – shocking but with no indication of the fear to come. One Friday night, before a big game, Kennedy is shamed by the brother of the local footy superstar Robert Harvey for being drunk at a disco at 3am. As disappointment adds to underachievement, he becomes known as a pisshead and spends his weekends drinking himself to oblivion at the 21st-century dance club in Funkytown.

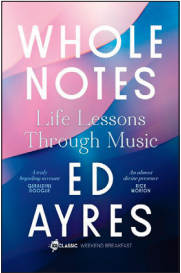
Despite this, Kennedy is chosen from the Southern Stingrays Under 19s team to play in the St Kilda reserves, but is smashed in his debut. He wants to give up but encouragement from the other players gradually help him feel a sense of belonging. At the same time, he finally reads the book his teacher gave him and is transformed by the wonder of the written word. He also reads the great Pat Conroy which prompts him to question what sort of man he wants to become. Then, more women are found murdered, and the sense of menace and tragedy around Frankston increases. Kennedy does not name the killer or sensationalise the horror of his acts, but its presence is an integral part of the fear felt throughout the bayside suburbs

during this time.

Funkytown is a sensitive and literate book which describes a lot of suburban childhoods while also delving deep into the heart of a man trying to find his place in the world. The heartrending epilogue is a fitting end to a memorable memoir.

Pierre Sutcliffe is from Readings St Kilda

Whole Notes: Life Lessons Through Music
Ed Ayres
ABC Books. PB. Was \$34.99
\$29.99
Available now



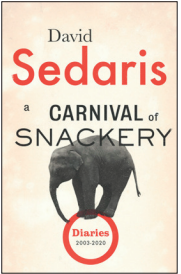
Writer, musician, teacher and broadcaster Ed Ayres had the idea for his fourth book, *Whole Notes: Life Lessons Through Music*, long before the pandemic. Yet you’d be hard-pressed to find a book more fitting for these uncertain times than this one. With his collection of essayistic reflections on the beauty of music and what the process of learning it can teach us about life, Ayres has gifted his reader with something truly generous and utterly joyful.

Whole Notes is deceptive in its simplicity – this beautiful book is vast in scope but effortless to read. Structured in seven chapters (following the seven musical notes of the major scale), Ayres considers seven gifts that music offers us to make our lives whole: bravery, knowledge, resilience, kindness, wisdom, hope and love. At first glance that may seem a little sentimental, but rest assured, while Ayres does consider music somewhat of a miracle, his writing style is chatty, vulnerable and often laugh-out-loud funny. Ayres is a natural storyteller, and reading *Whole Notes* feels like having a string of fascinating conversations with him, listening to anecdotes about his students (including many adults learning music for the first time later in life), stories about composers, and, most affectingly of all, reflections from Ayres’ own colourful life – including his transition a few years ago.

In *Whole Notes*, Ayres suggests that through learning music we may know ourselves more intimately. As a music teacher, Ayres instructs from a place of love, and the warmth, curiosity and humour he brings to his lessons is present in his writing too – joy jumps straight off the page. Reading this book made me feel as lucky as I imagine those who learn from Ayres, or listen to him play, must feel – and it made me seriously think about picking up an instrument.

Stella Charls is from Readings Carlton

A Carnival of Snackery: Diaries, 2003-2020
David Sedaris
Little, Brown. PB. \$34.99
Available 12 October



Picking up where 2017’s *Theft by Finding* left us, *A Carnival of Snackery* brings David Sedaris’ wickedly funny, sometimes bizarre and often poignant diaries up to 2019. If it’s navel-gazing you’re after, you’ve come to the wrong place; ditto treacly self-examination. There’s no right way to keep a diary, but if there’s an

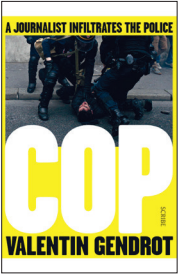
entertaining way, David Sedaris seems to have mastered it.

Built for Ballet
Leanne Benjamin with Sarah Crompton
Melbourne Books. HB. \$49.95
Available 20 October



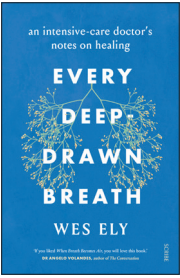
Born and raised in central Queensland, Leanne Benjamin was accepted into the Royal Ballet School in London at the age of 18, catapulting her into a stellar career. This memoir takes you behind the scenes to find a real understanding of the pleasure and the pain, the demands and the intense commitment it requires to become a ballet dancer.

Cop: A Journalist Infiltrates the Police
Valentin Gendrot & Frank Wynne (trans.)
Scribe. PB. \$29.99
Available now



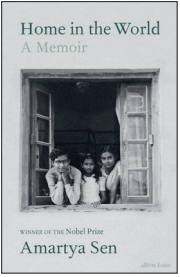
What happens behind the walls of a police station? Undercover journalist Valentin Gendrot infiltrated the police force to find out, training to become an officer and ultimately stationed in one of the tough northern arrondissements of Paris, where relations between the law and locals are strained. Gendrot hides nothing, revealing a culture of racism and violence in which officers act with impunity.

Every Deep-Drawn Breath: An Intensive-care Doctor’s Notes on Healing
Wes Ely
Scribe. PB. \$35
Available now



As Covid-19 survivors are discharged from hospitals, most don’t realise the hardest part may be about to begin; more than half of ICU patients will struggle with long-term physical, mental and emotional effects. World-renowned critical care doctor Wes Ely offers hope in this compassionate and timely work about the devastating and little-known effects of ICU stays and the humane protocols hospitals can put into place.

Home in the World: A Memoir
Amartya Sen
Allen Lane. HB. \$55
Available 8 October




For Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, home has been many places – Dhaka where he grew up, the village of Santiniketan where he was raised by his grandparents and parents, Calcutta where he first studied economics, and Trinity College, Cambridge, to which he came aged 19. With clear-eyed sensitivity, Sen recreates the atmosphere of each of these formative locations in this wide-ranging and brilliant memoir of the first 30 years of his life.

Home Truths: A Memoir

David Williamson
HarperCollins. HB. Was \$49.99

 **\$39.99**

Available now

 For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events




Home Truths explores the life of legendary playwright and screenwriter David Williamson. It reveals the story of the man behind the work: how a childhood defined by parental discord sparked a lifelong fascination with the power of drama; how a mechanical engineering student turned to plays; the joy of connecting with an audience; and the great love story that defined his personal life.

Leaping into Waterfalls: The Enigmatic Gillian Mears

Bernadette Brennan
A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available now

 For details on the event for this book, visit readings.com.au/events

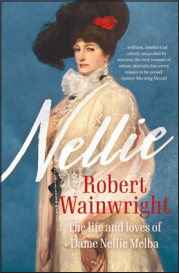


Leaping into Waterfalls explores the rich, tumultuous life of Gillian Mears, one of Australia’s most significant writers of the last 40 years. Mears appeared to many to be a shy woman from Grafton, but her lived and imaginative lives were rich with adventure, risk and often transgressive passion. A comprehensive and meticulous literary biography from the author of *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work*.

Nellie: The Life and Loves of Dame Nellie Melba

Robert Wainwright
A&U. PB. \$32.99


Available now



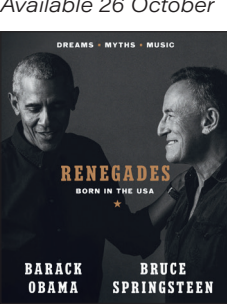
Against all odds, Nellie Melba became the greatest opera singer of her time on stages across Australia, America and Europe. To succeed she had to overcome social expectations, misogyny and tall-poppy syndrome, enduring the violence of a bad marriage. A rich and entertaining account of the tumultuous life and times of Australia’s most famous opera singer.

Renegades: Born in the USA

Barack Obama & Bruce Springsteen
Viking. HB. Was \$75

 **\$59.99**

Available 26 October



Two long-time friends share an intimate and urgent conversation about life, music and their enduring love of America, with all its challenges and contradictions. In this stunning hardback book filled with full-colour photographs and rare

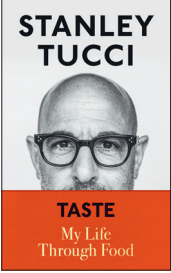
archival material, Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen explore everything from their origin stories and career-defining moments to the growing distance between the American Dream and the American reality.

Taste: My Life Through Food

Stanley Tucci

Fig Tree. HB. \$45

Available 19 October



Acclaimed actor Stanley Tucci has gastronomy in his genes; after all, he grew up in an Italian American family that spent every night around the table. Written with Tucci’s wry wit, *Taste* is his irresistible memoir of a life centred around food, from childhood memories to filming the beloved foodie films *Big Night* and *Julie & Julia*, to falling in love with his wife over dinner.

W-3: A Memoir

Bette Howland

Picador. HB. \$36.99

Available 12 October



W-3 is a small psychiatric ward in a large university hospital, a world of pills and passes dispensed by an all-powerful staff, a world of disheveled, moment-to-moment existence on the edge of permanence. Bette Howland was one of those patients. *W-3* is both an extraordinary portrait of the community of Ward 3 and a record of a defining moment in a writer’s life.

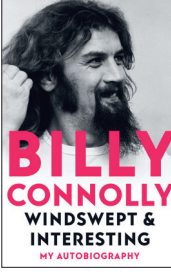
Windswept & Interesting: My Autobiography

Billy Connolly

Two Roads. HB. Was \$49.99

 **\$39.99**

Available 12 October



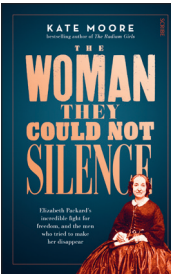
Windswept and Interesting is Billy Connolly’s story in his own words. Joyfully funny, it is stuffed full of hard-earned wisdom from his Glaswegian childhood to his enduring comedic career, as well as countless digressions on fishing, farting and the joys of dancing naked. It is an unforgettable, life-affirming story of a true comedy legend.

The Woman They Could Not Silence

Kate Moore

Scribe. PB. \$35

Available now



When Victorian-era housewife Elizabeth Packard started taking an interest in matters of politics, her deeply threatened husband had her committed. At the asylum, Elizabeth found many other lucid women, and was inspired to start a ceaseless campaign for justice. This is the incredible tale of a woman who challenged the medical science of the day and saved untold others from suffering her fate.

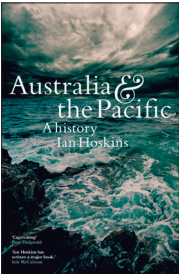
Australian Studies

Australia and the Pacific: A History

Ian Hoskins

NewSouth. PB. \$39.99

Available now



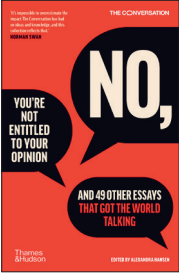
Australia’s deep past and its modern history are intrinsically linked to the Pacific. In this comprehensive overview, Ian Hoskins investigates Australia’s relationship with the Pacific region, from our ties with Papua New Guinea and New Zealand to our complex connections with China, Japan and the United States, from our offshore detention of refugees to our responsibility to increasingly climate-imperilled neighbours.

No, You’re Not Entitled to Your Opinion

The Conversation & Alexander Hansen (ed.)

T&H. PB. \$29.99

Available now



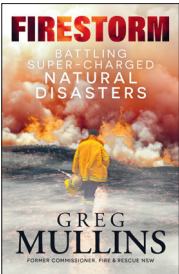
In its early days as an unknown start-up, *The Conversation* published Patrick Stokes’ widely shared essay ‘No, you’re not entitled to your opinion’. The organisation has since published essays on some of the biggest talking points of recent times: from the Trump election and Brexit to the close friendships birds form with people. Contained within this ten-year anniversary collection are the essays that put *The Conversation* on the map.

Firestorm: Battling Super-charged Natural Disasters

Greg Mullins

Viking. PB. \$34.99

Available now



In *Firestorm*, career firefighter and former Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner Greg Mullins combines stories of being on the frontlines of mega bushfires with the hard truths of human-caused climate change and his ongoing fight for meaningful political climate action. *Firestorm* is one man’s urgent call to action for all Australians.

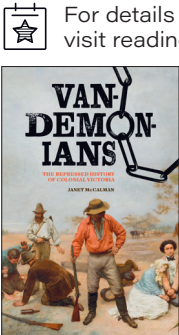
Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria

Janet McCalman

The Miegunyah Press. PB. Was \$39.99

 **\$34.99**

Available now



More than half of all those transported to Van Diemen’s Land as convicts would one day settle or spend time in Victoria. Burdened by their pasts and their shame, their lives as free men and women,

even within their own families, were forever shrouded in secrets and lies. Only now are we discovering their stories. In examining this transported population of men, women and children, award-winning author and historian Janet McCalman unveils the repressed history of colonial Victoria.

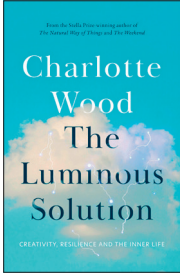
Personal Development


The Luminous Solution: Creativity, Resilience and the Inner Life

Charlotte Wood

A&U. PB. \$32.99

Available now



 In the preface of *The Luminous Solution*, Charlotte Wood muses upon the bookshelf positioned directly behind her writing chair. Wood is unsentimental about keeping the vast majority

of books she reads, preferring to release them into the world and a wider readership. Except these few – the books whose wisdom and advice offer up a kind of companionship and comfort, the books that resonated and now, quite literally, ‘have her back’.

I too have a shelf of books that share my office like old friends I am always reassured to see. *The Luminous Solution* will now join them. This powerful collection of essays reflects on a multitude of subjects: the creative process, art, writing, reading, feminism, ageing, female rage, capitalism and consumerism, the language of marketing and its effect on the book industry and the way we read. It is a fascinating insight into Wood’s own creative process, her deep curiosity and willingness to tackle things that confront and affect her. It is, in her own words, ‘a synthesis of everything I’ve learned about my own creative impulse since I began trying to write fiction more than 30 years ago.’

The Luminous Solution is not a creative how-to guide; it is an invitation to connect to your own curiosity, to see and think differently, to explore and to unearth the unique sense of wonder we all possess, that may have been buried under the weight of grief we are collectively experiencing in this strange moment in history. It is a gift of a book that feels like a decades-long conversation with an old and trusted friend. It is an invitation to live. To ‘take an object. Do something to it. Do something else to it’. What if that object was you?

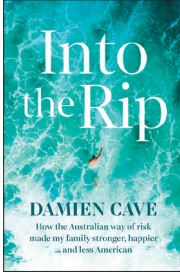
Tye Cattanach is from Readings Carlton

Into the Rip

Damien Cave

Scribner. PB. \$32.99

Available now



When *New York Times* Australian bureau chief Damien Cave brought his family to Sydney, they encountered a life by the ocean that showed them a new approach to risk – that it could be managed together by communities rather than the individual. Inspired, Cave set out to understand risk – how our current attitudes developed and how a different

approach can change the way we face the world’s hazards.

Conversations on Love

Natasha Lunn

Viking. HB. \$35

Available now



After years of feeling that love was always out of reach, journalist Natasha Lunn set out to understand how relationships work. She turned to authors and experts to learn about their experiences,

asking: How do we sustain love? And how do we survive when we lose it? Contributors include Candice Carty-Williams, Lisa Taddeo, Roxane Gay, Esther Perel and more.

Cinema

Ghibliotheque

Michael Leader & Jake

Cunningham

Welbeck. HB. \$39.99

Available now



Based on the Ghibliotheque podcast, this fully illustrated book reviews each Studio Ghibli movie in turn, in the voice of expert and newcomer. Within its pages, you’ll

discover details of production and release, key themes and scenes, as well as a selection of stills and posters from each movie and portraits of the creative team behind each film.

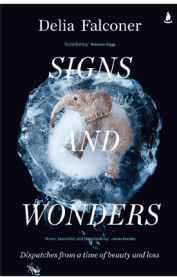
Cultural Studies

Signs and Wonders: Dispatches from a Time of Beauty and Loss

Delia Falconer

Stribner. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Every now and then, I am completely delighted when a book comes along that seems to be an extension – an elegant and well-crafted extension – of my own thoughts. Delia

Falconer’s *Signs and Wonders* has found the words for me; her writing has meandered into my own consciousness. *Signs and Wonders* is a collection of essays full of assertions and observations, each one presented with a kindness and a deliberation that’s – quite frankly – not seen enough.

You are likely already familiar with Delia Falconer’s work. She has authored two novels, many reviews and essays, and also a love letter to her hometown, Sydney, for the *Australian Cities* series. Her works have been shortlisted for major Australian and international prizes across categories of fiction, nonfiction, history and biography. She is, in short, a versatile writer whose creations capture the zeitgeist.

Falconer opens this collection with a study of apprehension – how we carry it and why. This essay, and all the others,

are firmly rooted in the Anthropocene, as in the ‘astonishing concept that we’ve entered a new human-made geological epoch: our footprint will never be erased from our planet’. We have tipped over to the other side.

Falconer does not just cover humanity’s greed and foolishness, or what television shows and films are important and why; she also reflects on how we write now. Her essay, ‘The disappearing paragraph’, names many of my favourite novels (Jenny Offill’s *Weather*, for example) in its examination of our changing use of language. In other essays, she insightfully observes her community’s reactions to the hardship of Covid-19 regulations, while also remaining acutely aware of her own privilege.

Signs and Wonders is a capsule of deep consideration, written by an author who reads widely and manages to capture all our feelings – all our despair and hope – into one brilliant volume.

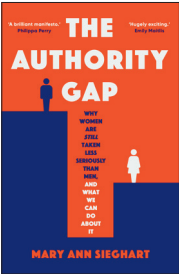
Chris Gordon is the programming and event manager at Readings

The Authority Gap

Mary Ann Sieghart

Doubleday. HB. \$43.99

Available now



Would you believe that female US Supreme Court Justices are interrupted four times more often than male ones? Or that British parents asked to estimate their child’s IQ will, on average, place

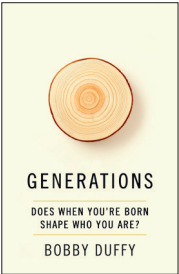
their son’s higher than their daughter’s? Marshalling a wealth of data, Mary Ann Sieghart exposes unconscious bias in this fresh feminist take on how to address systemic sexism in ways that benefit us all.

Generations: How and Why We Change

Bobby Duffy

Atlantic. PB. \$29.99

Available 19 October



Are millennials entitled and lazy? Are baby boomers the most sexually liberal generation? Was generation X the last group to show loyalty to political parties?

Informed by exclusive studies from over 40 countries, polling expert and professor of public policy Bobby Duffy explores how when we’re born determines our attitudes to money, sex, religion, politics and much else.

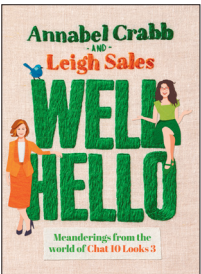
Well Hello: Meanderings from the World of Chat 10 Looks 3

Annabel Crabb & Leigh Sales

Penguin. PB. Was \$39.99

\$ \$29.99

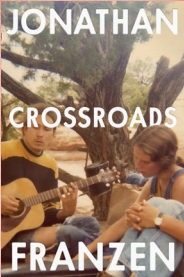
Available now



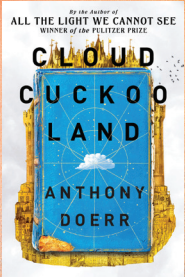
Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales bring their inimitable chemistry and wit to this heartfelt and hilarious book about friendship, culture, life and everything in between. Here, Crabb

and Sales discuss questions of kindness, success and failure, with all the digressions, stories and tips that listeners of their wildly successful podcast, *Chat 10 Looks 3*, have come to love.

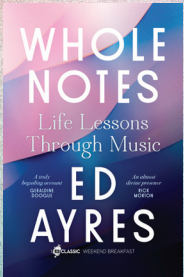
Great Stories Uncovered



‘The Corrections was a masterpiece, but *Crossroads* is [Franzen’s] finest novel yet’
Bookforum



From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *All the Light We Cannot See*.
‘David Mitchell with extra heart’
The Guardian

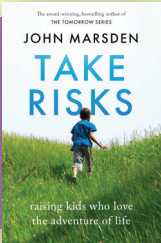


An ode to music and a celebration of humanity’s greatest creation. *Whole Notes* is not a call to arms, but a call to instruments.



‘One of the most exciting writers working in Ireland today’
SALLY ROONEY, author of *Normal People*

Out now from



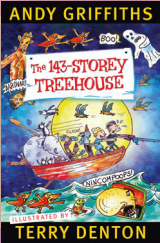
TAKE RISKS JOHN MARSDEN

John Marsden, the award-winning, bestselling author of the *Tomorrow* series, has spent his life educating kids and teenagers. *Take Risks* is the memoir of a revered author and educator, and a forthright discussion on teaching, parenting and society as a whole.

Home STEPHANIE ALEXANDER

More than 200 recipes and an essential addition to every kitchen shelf.

‘Stephanie Alexander is one of the few chefs with the heart of a home cook: every recipe she writes is infused with warmth . . . no kitchen should be without her. . . There really is no one to match her’
Nigella Lawson



The 143-STORY TREEHOUSE ANDY GRIFFITHS & TERRY DENTON

Andy and Terry’s record-breaking treehouse now has 13 new storeys, including a word-o-matic (it knows every word in the whole world!), a complaining room, and a toffee apple orchard guarded by a kind scarecrow. Well, what are you waiting for? Come on up!

self/less AVIVA

Seventeen-year-old Teddy lives in the walled-in city Metropolis. Radical laws condemn all forms of self-expression and creativity, and the lives of the people are carefully constructed and controlled by the City Council: We watch because We care. From Australian musician and global superstar AVIVA, this is a stunning debut thriller.

self/less



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www.panmacmillan.com.au

Manifesto: On Never Giving Up

Bernardine Evaristo
Hamish Hamilton. HB. \$35
Available 19 October



Bernardine Evaristo’s 2019 Booker win – the first by a Black woman – was a historic moment. After three decades as a writer, teacher and activist, she moved from the margins to centre stage. *Manifesto* is Evaristo’s intimate and inspirational, no-holds-barred account of how she did it. A unique book about how to be unstoppable – in your craft, your work, your life.

Consumed
Aja Barber
Brazen. PB. \$32.99
Available now



Every item we buy remains on this planet in some form. Aja Barber wants change. Split into two halves – ‘learning’ and ‘unlearning’ – *Consumed* explores both the political and psychological affects of consumerism, from the endemic injustices behind the history of our consumer industries, to confronting that sense of lack which drives us to buy.

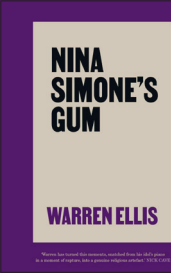
Misfits: A Personal Manifesto
Michaela Coel
Ebury. HB. \$21.99
Available 19 October



Misfits is the much-awaited debut from Michaela Coel, the acclaimed creator of the TV show *I May Destroy You*. With inspiring insight and wit, she tells of her reckoning with trauma and metamorphosis into a champion for herself. The result is a stirring call for inclusivity and radical honesty that invites readers to reflect on their own journeys.

Music

Nina Simone’s Gum
Warren Ellis
Faber Social. HB. Was \$39.99
\$34.99
Available 19 October



R When I was a boy, my mother declared chewing gum to be a filthy habit. I dutifully took up smoking. Dr Nina Simone chose to do both, right up to the end. And why not. She was a god. Tempestuous and magnificent. In 1999, Nick Cave curated the Meltdown festival in London. Simone was the headlining act. Among the witnesses that evening was Warren Ellis, who noticed Simone planting her expired chewie under the Steinway just before the concert began. At the set’s close, the wide-eyed and awe-struck disciple launched himself stage-ward and pocketed the gum. In *Nina Simone’s Gum*, Ellis

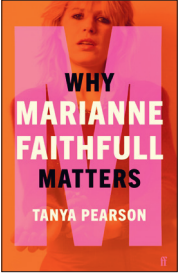
rationalises what might be dismissed as an impulsive act of mindless fanaticism through numerous anecdotes and what are effectively exhibition catalogues from his museum of discarded and forgotten things (Simone’s gum being the penultimate of such things). Over the course of Ellis’ recollections and anecdotes, this hardened glob of minty resin, seasoned with Simone’s spit and venom, and imbued with her irrepressible spirit, acquires talismanic properties for its caretaker, who could henceforth never disassociate its presence from the rising tide of his own creative achievements. Ellis presents charming snapshots of his childhood in Ballarat and a potted travelogue of his bohemian adulthood, all in the interests of illustrating the magnitude of importance that such a tiny, banal, even vulgar thing can have for its beholder, by virtue of its association to a singular moment of spiritual transcendence. In Ellis’ writing, this item is forever both totemic and substantive, worthy of its place on marble plinth, spot lit and garlanded with velvet, shielded by bulletproof glass. Roland Bisshop is from Readings Carlton

The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music
Dave Grohl
S&S. HB. Was \$45
\$34.99
Available 5 October



Few musicians have a discography to rival that of Dave Grohl. Now he’s sharing his experiences in his own words, a collection of memories of a life lived loud. From his early days growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, to hitting the road at the age of 18 with *Scream*, to his time in Nirvana and the Foo Fighters, to all the music that followed, this memoir is an electric jolt of musical joy.

Why Marianne Faithfull Matters
Tanya Pearson
Faber. HB. \$24.99
Available 19 October



A remarkable feminist history and biography that features fragments from the five-decade career of iconic artist Marianne Faithfull. Whether exploring Faithfull’s rise to celebrity, her drug addiction and fall from grace as a spurned ‘muse’, or her reinvention as a sober, soulful chanteuse, author Tanya Pearson has crafted a searing testimony to Faithfull’s influence on the British Invasion and music at large.

Long Players: Writers on the Albums That Shaped Them
Tom Gatti (ed.)
Bloomsbury. HB. \$34.99
Available now

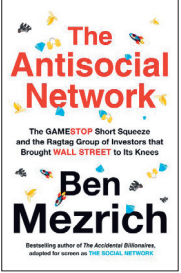


Our favourite albums are our most faithful companions. These records don’t just soundtrack our lives but work their way deep inside us, shaping our outlook and identity. In *Long Players*, 50 authors write about the albums that changed their

lives, from Deborah Levy on Bowie to Olivia Laing on REM, Ben Okri on Miles Davis to David Mitchell on Joni Mitchell.

Business

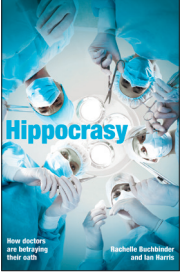
The Antisocial Network
Ben Mezrich
HarperCollins. PB. \$32.99
Available now



A rollicking Wild-West ride that became one of the most astonishing stories of 2021: the David-and-Goliath GameStop short squeeze, where fortunes were won and lost overnight. This account offers a fascinating glimpse at the outsize personalities, dizzying swings and corporate drama during one of the most volatile weeks in financial history, and asks: where does Wall Street go from here?

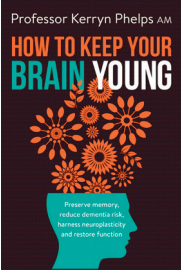
Health

Hippocracy: How Doctors are Betraying Their Oath
Rachelle Buchbinder & Ian Harris
NewSouth. PB. \$32.99
Available now



In *Hippocracy*, rheumatologist and epidemiologist Rachelle Buchbinder and orthopaedic surgeon Ian Harris reveal the state of modern medicine: how doctors are letting their patients down, and how overtreatment and overdiagnosis are rife. A powerful exposé tackling the inherent problem of a medical system based on treating rather than preventing illness.

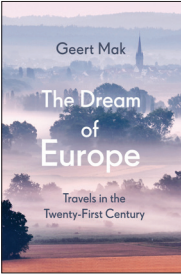
How to Keep Your Brain Young
Professor Kerryn Phelps
Pan Mac. PB. \$34.99
Available now



While ageing physically is inevitable, ageing mentally is not. In her new book, Professor Kerryn Phelps details the fundamentals of a healthy brain, from diet and exercise to gut microbiome and mindfulness techniques, and shows us how to feel sharper, kick out the brain fog and retain mental acuity in later life.

History

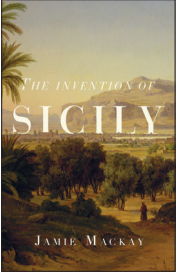
The Dream of Europe
Geert Mak & Liz Walters (trans.)
Harvill Secker. PB. \$35
Available 19 October



Geert Mak charts the seismic events that have shaped Europe over the past 20 years. Mak’s acclaimed *In Europe* defined the continent on the verge of a new millennium. *The Dream of Europe* brings us up to the present day, through the rocky expansion of the EU, the aftermath of 9/11, the 2008 financial crash,

the tragedy of the migrant crisis, the rise of right-wing populism and Brexit.

The Invention of Sicily: A Mediterranean History
Jamie Mackay
Verso. HB. \$39.99
Available now



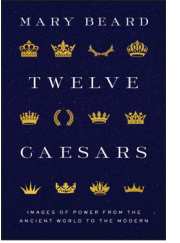
Sicily has always acted as a gateway between Europe and the rest of the world. In this fascinating account of the island’s history, Jamie Mackay leads us through this unique island, from its pivotal position in the development of Greek and Roman mythology, and the beautiful remnants of both the Arab and Norman invasions, through to the rise of the bandits and the Cosa Nostra.

The Ottomans: Khans, Caesars and Caliphs
Marc David Baer
Basic Books. PB. \$34.99
Available 12 October



Long depicted as the antithesis of the Christian-European West, the reality of the Ottoman Empire was that its multiethnic, multilingual, and multireligious domain reached deep into Europe’s heart. This magisterial new history of the 600-year dynasty covers in comprehensive detail the empire’s lengthy and complex rule, from its rise as a frontier principality to the 19th-century nationalism that would precede its collapse.

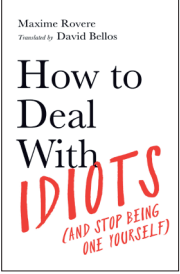
Twelve Caesars: Images of Power from the Ancient World to the Modern
Mary Beard
Princeton University Press. HB. \$49.99
Available now



What does the face of power look like? Who gets commemorated in art and why? And how do we react to statues of figures we deplore? Mary Beard tells the fascinating story of how images of Roman emperors have influenced art and culture for more than 2,000 years. Far from expected, it is a surprising tale of changing identities, fakes, and often ambivalent representations of authority.

Philosophy

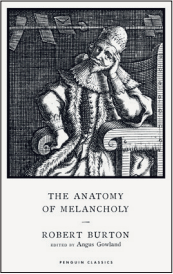
How to Deal with Idiots (And Stop Being One Yourself)
Maxime Rovere & David Bellos (trans.)
Profile. HB. \$24.99
Available 19 October



An international bestseller that offers an alternative to chucking your most irksome idiot out a window. With warmth and wit, philosopher Maxime Rovere examines our relations to others and our own ego, offers tools and strategies to dismantle the most

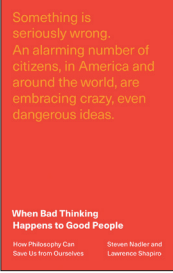
desperate of idiotic situations, and even reveals how to stop being the idiots ourselves (because we’re always someone else’s idiot).

The Anatomy of Melancholy
Robert Burton
Penguin Classics. HB. \$85
Available now



Celebrating the 400th anniversary of Robert Burton’s masterpiece, this is the only fully edited modern edition, now published as a landmark hardback. Burton’s labyrinthine, beguiling, playful work is his attempt to ‘anatomise and cut up’ every aspect of the condition of melancholy. It remains an incomparable examination of the human condition in all its flawed, endless variety.

When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People
Steven Nadler & Lawrence Shapiro
Princeton University Press. PB. \$34.99
Available now



There is an epidemic of bad thinking in the world. Steven Nadler and Lawrence Shapiro argue that the best antidote for this are the insights and practical skills of philosophy. *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People* provides an engaging tour through the basic principles of logic, argument, evidence, and probability that can make all of us more reasonable citizens.

Politics

The Contrarian: Peter Thiel and Silicon Valley’s Pursuit of Power
Max Chafkin
Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Peter Thiel: enigmatic, controversial and hugely influential, he sits at the dynamic intersection of tech, business and politics. Max Chafkin traces the trajectory of Thiel’s life and worldview, from his upbringing as the child of immigrant parents and years at Stanford as a burgeoning conservative thought leader, to his founding of PayPal and relationships with fellow tech titans Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk and Eric Schmidt.

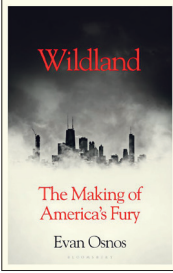
Shutdown: How Covid Shook the World’s Economy
Adam Tooze
Allen Lane. PB. \$35
Available now



When Covid-19 swept across the globe in 2020, the world’s economy was brought to an abrupt halt. For the first time since WWII, the entire global economic system contracted. From the author of *Crashed*, this is a fast-paced and compelling analysis of that shutdown,

where it leaves us now, and where we might be headed next.

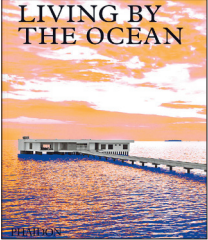
Wildland: The Making of America’s Fury
Evan Osnos
Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Returning to America in 2013 after a decade abroad, Evan Osnos was confronted by a nation with its principles under assault. In search of an explanation, he focused on three places, and for the next six years would follow the lives of the residents as they navigated the varied landscapes of 21st-century America. Through their powerful, often poignant stories, Osnos traces the sources of America’s political dissolution.

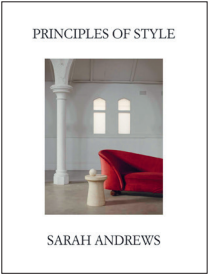
Architecture & Interiors

Living by the Ocean: Contemporary Houses by the Sea
Phaidon Editors
Phaidon. HB. \$59.95
Available now



In glorious colour with dazzling images throughout, this book brings together the finest examples of residential coastal architecture from a huge range of countries worldwide. Each house is explored via exterior and interior photography, and shares a profound connection to the raw and thrilling beauty of the sea and the shoreline around it.

Principles of Style
Sarah Andrews
S&S. HB. \$49.99
Available now

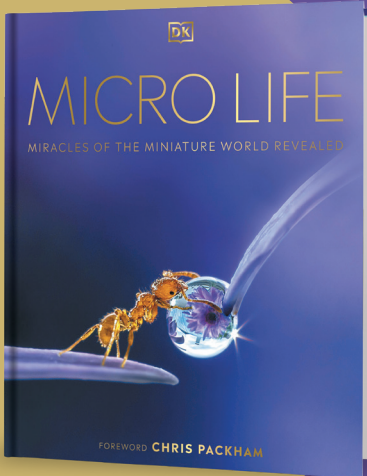


In *Principles of Style*, Sarah Andrews presents her unique take on teaching design, drawing on her extensive industry experience. Full of ideas and tips, Andrews examines some of her key projects and favourite rooms, as well as her ten rules of styling, formulated both through hands-on experience and studies in the science of design.

Never Too Small: Reimagining Small Space Living
Joel Beath, Elizabeth Price & Colin Chee
Smith Street Books. HB. \$60
Available now




What does the future of urban living look like? Joel Beath and Elizabeth Price explore this question drawing inspiration from a diverse collection of apartment designs, all smaller than 50m2. Full of inspiration we can each apply to our own spaces, this is a book that offers hope for a future in which sustainability and style, comfort and affordability can co-exist.



Micro Life
With spectacular macro photography and microscope images, explore a hidden, living world full of intricate structures normally invisible to the naked eye.



Ancient Egypt
A visual guide to 3,000 years of life under the pharaohs from the early kings of Egypt to the reign of Cleopatra and the Roman conquest.



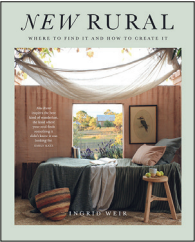
It starts with science.



Visit the CSIRO Publishing website for more quality science books, journals and magazines
publish.csiro.au



New Rural: Where to Find It and How to Create It
Ingrid Weir
Hardie Grant. HB. \$60
Available now



This stunning photo-filled hardback is a guide for those dreaming of moving to the country; inspiration for anyone who craves touches of rural magic and cottagecore in their home – wherever that may be; and a window to the distinctive allure of Australia’s vibrant regional towns, which embody the earthiness and romance of authentic and original rural living.

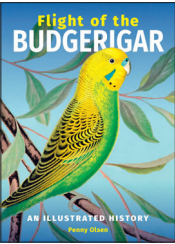
Where They Purr: Inspirational Interiors and the Cats Who Call Them Home
Paul Barbera
T&H. HB. Was \$65
\$ \$55
Available now



Cats can be notoriously aloof, yet they have a special knack for commanding a room. But what can these curious creatures reveal about their owners’ personal style and design sensibilities? *Where They Purr* showcases 28 inspirational houses and their creative interiors, along with the charismatic felines who call these places home.

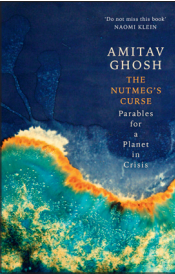
Nature & the Environment

Flight of the Budgerigar: An Illustrated History
Penny Olsen
NLA. PB. Was \$49.99
\$ \$39.99
Available now



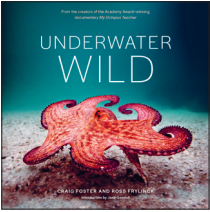
The Budgerigar is arguably Australia’s best-known bird. At the same time, it is so ubiquitous that not everyone knows that it is Australian. Far from the cosy domestic lives of pet budgies today, the native budgerigar has lived millennia of boom-bust cycles in the arid inland of Australia. This is the authoritative history of a remarkable little parrot, illustrated in full colour.

The Nutmeg’s Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis
Amitav Ghosh
John Murray. PB. \$32.99
Available 12 October



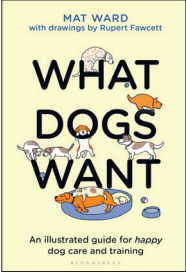
The history of the nutmeg is one of conquest and exploitation – and the origin of our contemporary climate crisis. *The Nutmeg’s Curse* argues that the dynamics of climate change are rooted in a centuries-old geopolitical order constructed by Western colonialism. Under Ghosh’s sharp and panoramic gaze, the story of the nutmeg becomes a parable of how human history has always been entangled with earthly materials.

Underwater Wild: My Octopus Teacher’s Extraordinary World
Craig Foster & Ross Frylinck
Black Inc. HB. \$59.99
Available 19 October



From the creators of the Oscar-winning documentary *My Octopus Teacher*, *Underwater Wild* reveals a new vision of the sea, and a record of the wildness within us all. In the marine science behind the photos of this book, we learn how to track sea hares, cuttlefish and limpets, and we witness strange new behaviours never before documented in marine biology.

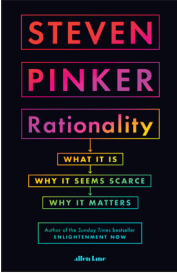
What Dogs Want
Mat Ward & Rupert Fawcett (illus.)
Bloomsbury. HB. \$24.99
Available 19 October



Let’s be honest, our pets may seem pretty straightforward, but as soon as you become an owner there are so many questions. Mat Ward wants to help people become the world’s best owner. Learn how your furry friend’s brain really works and discover amazing modern ways to train them and communicate with them at any age.

Science

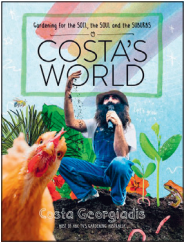
Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters
Steven Pinker
Allen Lane. PB. Was \$35
\$ \$29.99
Available now



A user’s guide to rationality that could not be more timely. Humanity is reaching new heights of scientific understanding – even as fake news and ‘post-truth’ rhetoric reaches fever pitch. In *Rationality*, Steven Pinker explains the key tools for rational thinking, guiding the reader through the basics of logic, critical thinking, probability, correlation and causation – helping us to make rational choices alone and with others.

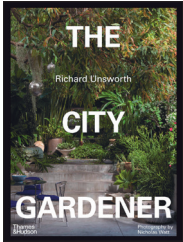
Gardening

Costa’s World: Gardening for the Soil, the Soul and the Suburbs
Costa Georgiadis
ABC Books. PB. Was \$45
\$ \$39.99
Available 13 October



The long-awaited book from the beloved host of ABC TV’s *Gardening Australia*. *Costa’s World* is a generous, joyous, fully illustrated book that brings together all of Costa’s knowledge and exuberate passion for gardening sustainability, the life-changing joy of chooks, big ideas for small spaces, Costa’s favourite plants, the brilliance of bees and pollinators, easy-peasy permaculture and much, much more.

The City Gardener: Contemporary Urban Gardens
Richards Unsworth
T&H. HB. \$49.99
Available now



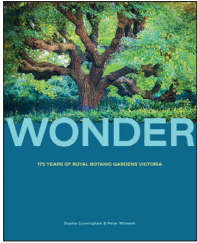
Our urban gardens provide an essential green refuge amid the expanding concrete jungle, and there are many ways to create unique verdant spaces in the inner-city. From a succulent-laden, full-sun rooftop to an entertainer’s semi-tropical courtyard, the 20 private gardens featured here demonstrate how inspired design can utilise the space we have – large or small – to create a plant paradise.

The Garden Book (Updated and Revised Edition)
Phaidon Editors, Toby Musgrave & Tim Richardson
Phaidon. HB. \$79.95
Available 12 October



This beautifully illustrated, revised and refreshed version of Phaidon’s classic, *The Garden Book*, is an A-to-Z who’s who of the world’s finest garden-makers throughout history, spanning all styles and continents. From the first religious gardens to Dan Pearson’s heavenly new Tokachi garden in Japan, this book is an exquisite gift and invaluable reference for gardeners and garden lovers alike.

Wonder: 175 Years of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Sophie Cunningham & Peter Wilmoth
Hardie Grant. HB. \$80
Available now



They sit in the physical and emotional heart of our city, and have done so for 175 years. The Royal Botanic Gardens have been a site for reflection, creative inspiration, romance and even refuge. Anyone who has visited has a story. This lavishly illustrated keepsake gathers a range of these stories from Victorians such as Nick Cave, Boonwurrung Elder Aunty Carolyn Briggs and architect Kerstin Thompson.

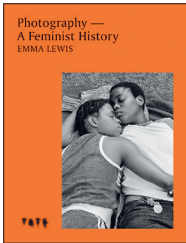
Photography

Old Vintage Melbourne
Chris Macheras
Scribe. HB. Was \$49.99
\$ \$44.99
Available 18 October



Historical photographs are a window to the past – a time capsule allowing us to walk in the footsteps of our predecessors, whether it’s strolling down Bourke Street in 1875, or catching a Collins Street tram in 1910. Adapted from the popular ‘Old Vintage Melbourne’ Instagram account, this nostalgic keepsake collection invites you to immerse yourself in captivating chronicles of our diverse, unique city.

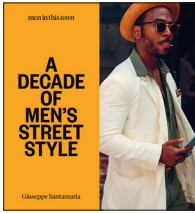
Photography: A Feminist History
Emma Lewis
Ilex Press. HB. \$79.99
Available 12 October



Whether working in the studio or on the front line, women and non-binary photographers have contributed to every aspect of the medium’s short history. Mapping photographic developments against shifting gender rights and roles, *Photography: A Feminist History* spotlights over 140 photographers, with thematic essays and extended profiles that examine the inextricable relationship between feminism and photography.

Fashion

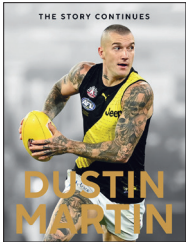
Men In This Town: A Decade of Men’s Street Style
Giuseppe Santamaria
Smith Street Books. HB. \$60
Available 12 October



With photos shot in Sydney, New York, Tokyo, Milan, London, Melbourne, Paris and more, this collection is a truly global retrospective of a decade in men’s street fashion. Filled with striking images and fashion, *Men In This Town* is a record of the men who stick out in a crowd with their particular sense of just who and what they are.

Sport

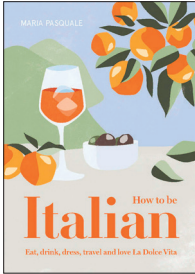
Dustin Martin: The Story Continues
Dustin Martin
Hardie Grant. HB. Was \$49.99
\$ \$39.99
Available 19 October



Dustin Martin: The Story Continues is the new, up-to-date and illustrated companion to Dustin Martin’s football career. Filled with memories of his childhood, his career at the Richmond Football Club, and behind the scenes stories from those he spends his time with, this candid footy book is perfect for the ardent Richmond fan, as well as fans across the code.

Travel Writing

How to Be Italian
Maria Pasquale
Smith Street Books. HB. \$29.99
Available now



How to Be Italian is a celebration of the Italian lifestyle – an education in drinking to savour the moment, travelling indulgently, and cherishing food and culture. From the innovation of Italian fashion, the Golden Age of its cinema to the Roman Empire’s cultural echoes, this is a guide to eating, loving and having fun as only the Italians can.

At home

with Chris Gordon

Take inspiration from the beautiful (and bountiful) array of cookbooks landing on our shelves. As our local parks become our new holiday destinations, whet your appetite with abundant spreads that defy the gloom of the last few months. Take a recipe from here, and another from there to mix flavours and inspirations. For dessert, I'm leaning towards salted tahini and chocolate cookies from Salma Hage's *Middle Eastern Sweets* (Phaidon, HB, \$49.99), matched with the most delicious orange, yogurt and polenta cake straight from the pages of *Baking with Fortitude* by London-based baker Dee Rettali (Bloomsbury, HB, \$39.99). For main course creations, I'll be searching through Donna Hay's *One Pan Perfect* or Harriet Birrell's *Natural Harry* (Hardie Grant, HB, \$34.99) for dishes that can be plonked right in the middle of a colourful and decorated picnic rug. Can you see how beautiful it all looks? The sunshine is warming your back and your picnic is beckoning. I promise cooking and sharing will help you recover from a year that's stopped and started many times over. Here are some of my favourites from this month's cookbook new releases:

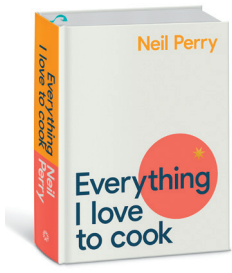
Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: Shelf Love
Yotam Ottolenghi & Noor Murad
Ebury Press. PB. Was \$49.99
\$39.99
Available now



Ever wanted to know how Yotam the Great comes up with his recipes? Ever wondered what happens in a chef's kitchen? Ever considered how recipes are truly created? Well, this book is Ottolenghi, unplugged: a fascinating snapshot of what happens in a test kitchen. I'd purchase this book for the tomato salad recipe alone, but if

you've ever stood in your kitchen blankly staring at a can of chickpeas, wondering how to create a meal everyone will enjoy, then this innovative collection is for you. This book speaks for itself: it's a must have.

Everything I Love to Cook
Neil Perry
Murdoch. HB. Was \$59.99
\$49.99
Available now



Want to know how Neil Perry, the chef that is everywhere, cooks at home? Already considered his masterwork, *Everything I Love to Cook* is a hefty collection of more than 200 recipes from his restaurants, home kitchen and writing columns. We already know his influence on Australia's food culture has been profound, but now Perry is turning to you, the home cook. This book will set you up for making the perfect steak sandwich, mashed potato (add butter – a lot of it) and even very fancy meals. Everything you want to know about Perry's expertise is in this book. Consider it his gift to you.

Home
Stephanie Alexander
Pan Mac. HB. Was \$59.99
\$49.99
Available now



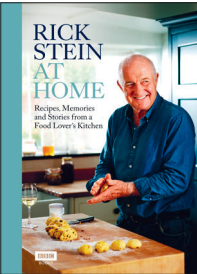
Goodness, I just love Ms Alexander and her generous and considered writing. Included in this beautiful book are personal essays, as well as an enormous number of pragmatic recipes that range from basics to Stephanie Alexander's own at-home favourites: think colourful salads and gently sautéed seasonal

One Pan Perfect
Donna Hay
Fourth Estate. HB. \$49.99
Available 13 October



vegetables. Purchase this book because you've been following her career from the outset, or to gift to a newlywed couple, or simply because you know that every word in it is carefully measured, and the result of following her rules means that your own creation will be as Ms Alexander intended. *Home* is a joy to experience.

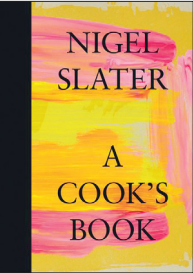
Rick Stein at Home: Recipes, Memories and Stories from a Food Lover's Kitchen
Rick Stein
BBC Books. HB. Was \$55
\$49.99
Available 19 October



Rick Stein has spent his fortunate life travelling the world in search of cooking perfection, inspiring envy and loyalty in millions of food lovers with the results. In *Rick Stein at Home*, he takes us on a very personal journey as he shares his all-time favourite home-cooked meals, including family classics that evoke his childhood memories and newer dishes that have marked more recent personal milestones. You could

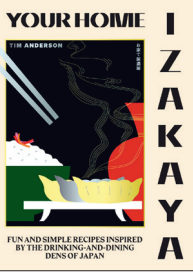
consider this delightful collection as his own journal of cooking. It makes a wonderful read, and his kindness is apparent on every page. This book is for all of us who delight in his television shows and his cheery demeanour. It's a personal cookbook that offers you an inside view of Rick's own life.

A Cook's Book
Nigel Slater
Fourth Estate. HB. Was \$55
\$45
Available 27 October



A Cook's Book is the story of Englishman Nigel Slater's life in the kitchen. From the first jam tart he made with his mum through to what he is cooking now, this is the ultimate 'Nigel Slater' collection, brimming with more than 200 recipes, all with personal anecdotes. He writes about how his cooking has changed, how he discovered the best way to roast a chicken, and the trick to smoky aubergine mash. These are heart-and-soul recipes, the ones you keep coming back for because they provide comfort and kindness. It's a book perfect for curling up on the couch and dreaming what your next meal could be.

Your Home Izakaya
Tim Anderson
Hardie Grant. HB. \$45
Available 13 October



Picture it: a small, beautifully lit bar down a dim side street amid the hustle and bustle of a big city. Imagine the joy of discovering such a quiet place, where you can savour a cold drink and a plate of delicious snacks. That's what this cookbook gives you: the means of creating your own Japanese-inspired bar in your home. With an array of flavours and creative ingredients, Tim Anderson shows that you too can be savvy in the art of matching a cocktail, beer or sake with unfussy food that can be demolished in perfect mouthfuls. The snacks here are simple, elegant and finely balanced – after all, traditional izakaya dens are small and don't come with fancy kitchens. A warning though: this is the type of cookbook that could lead you astray; you may never recover from eating in this fashion.

The Way of the Cocktail: Japanese Traditions, Techniques and Recipes
Julia Momosé with Emma Janzen
Crown. HB. \$44.99
Available 26 October



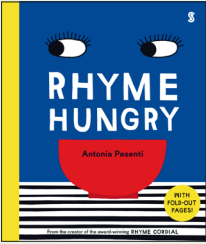
Japanese American bartender Julia Momosé's collection of cocktail recipes is inspirational, but most importantly achievable. Like so many things in Japan, each recipe shows a devotion to tradition, craftsmanship and hospitality. This book is a manual for mastering techniques and delving into the philosophy of each drink. Timeless favourites are included – negroni anyone? – but there are also cocktails that define the flow of life in Japan. And yes, there are non-alcoholic drinks too. It seems a most fitting collection for this year.

Also out this month:
Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide by Cecily Wong & Dylan Thuras (Workman, HB, \$65); *Good Food Every Day* by Gary Mehigan (Lantern, PB, \$39.99, available 19 October); *Istria: Recipes and Stories from the Hidden Heart of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia* by Paola Bacchia (Smith Street Books, HB, Was \$55, **\$45**, available 14 October); *Joshua Weissman: An Unapologetic Cookbook* by Joshua Weissman (Alpha, HB, \$39.99); *The Italian Bakery: Step-by-Step Recipes with the Silver Spoon* (Phaidon, HB, Was \$65, **\$55**); *Under Coconut Skies: Feasts & Stories from the Philippines* by Yasmin Newman (Smith Street Books, HB, Was \$55, **\$45**).



Board Books

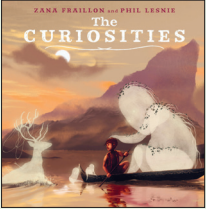
Rhyme Hungry
Antonia Pesenti
Scribble. BB. \$19.99
Available now



From ‘instant poodles’ to ‘cheese ghostie’, *Rhyme Hungry* is the ultimate book of lunchtime wordplay from the author of *Rhyme Cordial*. Flip the flaps to reveal unexpected rhymes and bold, bright illustrations in this book that will delight adults, appeal to design lovers, and get young kids squealing and begging to read it again and again.

Picture Books

The Curiosities
Zana Fraillon & Phil Lesnie (illus.)
Lothian. HB. \$26.99
Available now



R Miro is a boy with Curiosities. They are ghostly, unusually shaped things that surround him – through them Miro can see things differently and notices things others do not. At first the Curiosities are small and quiet, but they grow and become loud and so strange people can’t ignore them. Miro tries to hide from them. He wants quiet and peace, and darkness envelopes him. But soon a thread finds him, and it leads him back to the people who welcome his differences. Miro starts to see that the more threads that grow, the easier it is to guide himself out of the darkness when it comes.

This book was written for a child with Tourette Syndrome in mind, and it is perfect for helping all children understand the unique differences people with Tourette’s experience. However, *The Curiosities* is also written in such a way that it can help young readers understand all manner of differences. It’s an important book, because we can’t ask children to accept and love their differences, without also teaching children to accept and love differences in others. Phil Lesnie’s beautiful illustrations add so much to the story, and I highly recommend this book for all kids ages 4+.

Dani Solomon is the manager of Readings Kids

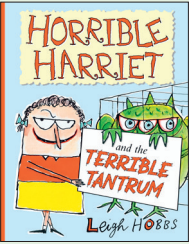
There’s a Ghost in this House
Oliver Jeffers
HarperCollins. HB. \$29.99
Available 5 October



A young girl lives in a haunted house but has never seen a ghost. Are they white with holes for eyes? Are they hard to see? Step inside and turn the transparent pages to help her on an spooky, fun ghost hunt. With lots of friendly ghost surprises and incredible mixed-media illustrations, Oliver

Jeffers’ charming new book will entertain young readers over and over again!

Horrible Harriet and the Terrible Tantrum
Leigh Hobbs
A&U. HB. \$24.99
Available now



What's green, has three eyes, and lives in a cage by Horrible Harriet’s bed? And what happens when it goes missing? From the incredible, riotous imagination of Leigh Hobbs comes the uproarious return of a dear old friend, Horrible Harriet, in what’s bound to be Harriet’s wildest adventure yet.

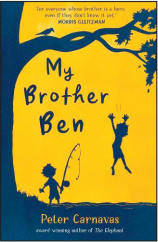
Inside the Suitcase
Clotilde Perrin & Daniel Hahn (trans.)
Gecko Press. HB. \$29.99
Available 6 October



A magical lift-the-flaps adventure that’s part puzzle, part fairytale. Away behind the hills you’ll find a charming little house. Inside, a boy packs his suitcase. Lift the flaps to see what he takes, and travel with him over oceans and mountains. As the boy tries to get home, delve deeper into each page to find clues on what to use from the suitcase!

Junior Grade

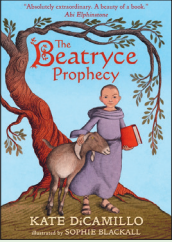
My Brother Ben
Peter Carnavas
UQP. PB. \$14.99
Available now



Luke and his big brother Ben spend the summer on the banks of Cabbage Tree Creek. Quiet Luke and boisterous Ben are so different, but they share the dream of winning a boat to explore the creek. Then Ben starts high school and the boys drift apart. When Luke catches Ben sneaking out at night, he knows his brother’s up to something, but what?

Middle Grade

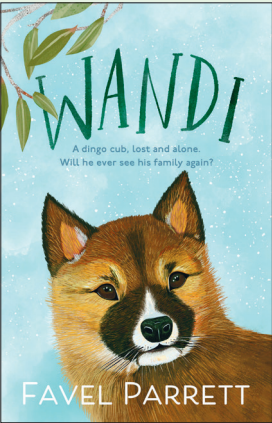
The Beatryce Prophecy
Kate DiCamillo & Sophie Blackall (illus.)
Walker. HB. \$24.99
Available 6 October



R In a medieval land, where monks produce illuminated manuscripts, Brother Edik adds a prophecy to the book of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Edik lives in a violent time of war and treachery, so when he finds a sick young girl in the monastery’s stable guarded by one of their most vicious and contrary goats, he feels compelled to help her but is fearful of her origins. As he nurses her back to health, he realises she is the figure at the centre of the prophecy, one that foretells of a girl who will unseat the king and bring about great change. Her life and the lives of those around her are in dire peril.

So begins this wondrous, thrilling tale of a brave girl, a scared monk, an orphaned boy, a wise old man, and most importantly, a menacing but extraordinary goat. Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo has created a magical story and once again proves she is one of the most original children’s writers of our time. Illustrated by the marvellous Sophie Blackall, this lovely hardback will be a perfect gift for ages 9+.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn



Wandi
Favel Parrett
Lothian. HB. \$19.99
Available now

R This beautiful children’s novel by award-winning adult writer Favel Parrett is an animal rescue story told from the perspective of an alpine dingo. When the young dingo is swept away from its loving dingo family by a wedge-tailed eagle, it begins a terrifying journey to find a safe home again. Meeting kind humans who help, but also encountering evidence of humans who hurt dingoes, Wandi eventually finds a safe haven at a dingo sanctuary. Written in simple but also poetic language, this is a heartwarming story for young animal lovers, although there are a few scary scenes that might upset more sensitive readers.

Loosely based on the true story of a real dingo at the Dingo Sanctuary and Research Centre in regional Victoria, *Wandi* also has a factual section at the end providing more information about dingoes and their importance to our ecology. It will educate many on how we must protect Australia’s native dog and apex predator. *Wandi* is truly a very special book that will be adored by animal lovers aged 7+.

Angela Crocombe is the kids book buyer at Readings

Dragon Skin
Karen Foxlee
A&U. HB. \$19.99
Available now



R In the outback you can see the age of every rock and tree. The ghosts of long-dried rivers reach back through time, and their annual rebirth during the wet seasons produces miracles. It’s a place where what you imagine is as real as the distant horizon. This is fortunate because for Pip, being outside in the dust and rocks is safe. At home on the other hand, her mum’s boyfriend stalks and growls, and Pip has to hide in her room as quiet as a mouse. Outside is also where Pip finds the dragon. It’s tiny and sick, and it needs her. As Pip heals the dragon, she finds herself changing, becoming stronger and braver, sharing her secret with her friends, and encouraging her mum to be the same.

Dragon Skin is a magical story about facing your fears and finding the courage to share. It’s a gorgeous hardback novel from the author of *Lenny’s Book of Everything* and *A Most Magical Girl*, that arrives just in time for the gifting season. For ages 10+.

Dani Solomon is the manager of Readings Kids

Horror Heights:
The Slime (Horror Heights, Book 1)
Bec Hill
Hodder Children’s. PB. \$15.99
Available now



R Connie is known to her classmates as the Queen of Slime because every week she shows off a new slime at school. When Connie’s dad suggests she try making her own slime, Connie starts experimenting. She adds some of her Dad’s stinky sourdough mother (very

topical and relatable) to her slime mix, and overnight things start to happen ...

At first Connie is quite fond of the sentient, foul-smelling and fast-learning slime that she has managed to create. Dubbed Big Yikes, the slime likes to eat ‘tasty hard’s (what it calls pizza crusts) and is actually kind of helpful. It’s not long though before Big Yikes becomes demanding, erratic and very scary, causing chaos at school and rifts among Connie’s friends.

With a big nod to legendary children’s horror series *Goosebumps* and cinema classics such as *The Blob* and *Gremlins*, *Horror Heights: The Slime* is the first hilarious book in a new series by comedian and telly presenter Bec Hill. It’s creepy and gross and very, very fun, which is exactly how horror for kids should be! For readers ages 8+.

Kim Gruschow is from Readings St Kilda

Happily Ever Afterwards: A Tale from a Taller Forest

Shaun Micallef & Paula Bossio (illus.)

Hardie Grant. HB. \$29.99

Available now



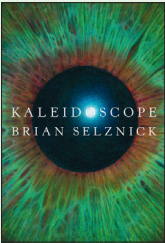
A deliciously silly follow-up to Shaun Micallef’s award-winning *Tales from a Tall Forest*. Queen Mathilde of Tancred is on a Happiness Tour of the realm to spread happiness to all her citizens. When they stumble on the neighbouring kingdom of Hamelin, Queen Mathilde smells a rat. Why is Hamelin so overrun with rodents? And where are all the children? And what is happiness anyway? The answers will surprise you!

Kaleidoscope

Brian Selznick

Scholastic. HB. \$29.99

Available now



A ship. A garden. A library. A key. From the genre-defying author behind *Wonderstruck* and *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, *Kaleidoscope* is a mind-bending story of two people bound to each other through time and space, memory and dreams. A dazzling feat of storytelling

that illuminates how even the wildest tales can help us in the hardest times.

Seven Wherewithal Way (Book 1)

Samantha-Ellen Bound

Affirm Press. PB. \$17.99

Available now



Celeste is having the worst summer ever, stuck with minding her annoying little sister, Esme. But when their eccentric cousin Ferd crash-lands a flying bus in the yard, Ferd leads them back to his home: Seven Wherewithal Way, the gateway to the many Realms unreachable from Earth. Bursting with magic, mystery and otherworldly creatures, this is the exciting first book in an epic portal fantasy series.

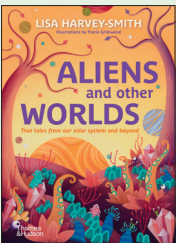
Nonfiction

Aliens and Other Worlds: True Tales from Our Solar System and Beyond

Lisa Harvey-Smith

T&H. HB. \$29.99

Available now



R *Aliens and Other Worlds* is a voyage of discovery, exploring the mystery of life on Earth and beyond. It’s a wonderful guide to scientific inquiry and the importance of creative thinking, the asking of pertinent questions and the challenging answers that often

come with them. It’s an opportunity to speculate about microbial life on the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and ponder unsolved mysteries like the Wow! Signal, a powerful blast of radio energy from the constellation of Sagittarius that confounds astronomers to this day. And it’s an invitation to wonder on whether life might be possible on other Earths in faraway galaxies, and what might it look like?

This book is guaranteed to delight and engage enquiring minds with its succinct chapters, chatty writing style and vivid, playful illustrations. Award-winning astrophysicist and author Lisa Harvey-Smith has a rare talent for making science fun and accessible; she’s the writer of the bestselling children’s book *Under the Stars: Astrophysics for Bedtime* – one of my personal favourites. *Aliens and Other Worlds* is wonderful book to share with the whole family, highly recommended for independent readers ages 8+.

Athina Clarke is from Readings Malvern

A Year in Fleurville: Recipes from Balconies, Rooftops and Gardens

Felicita Sala

Scribble. HB. \$27.99

Available now



R The previous children’s cookbook by author and illustrator Felicita Sala, *Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street*, is extremely popular in my household, inspiring many of our favourite recipes, so I was excited to devour Sala’s follow-up, *A Year in Fleurville*.

This time the focus is on gardening and seasonality of produce. We begin in spring, with recipes for peas, asparagus and basil, move through to summer with cherries and cucumbers, and travel on through the rest of the year until we arrive back at spring again. As with Sala’s previous book, the recipes are detailed in a very simple – but stunning – visual style. My family has already made the Blood Orange and Olive Oil cake (utterly delicious) and the Cod Croquettes (very more-ish). At the back of the book is a brief description of gardening activities and tools, as well as a handy visual seasonal guide of fruit and vegetables.

This is a superb cookbook for kids (and adults) that will have everyone happily eating and cooking, while learning more about seasonal produce, and perhaps even getting in the garden to grow some food. Utterly delectable for budding and seasoned chefs ages 8+.

Angela Crocombe is the kids book buyer at Readings

No Way!: The Wildest Mind-Blowing Facts in the Universe

Dan Marshall

Pantera. HB. \$29.99

Available now



Did you know: Uranus is leaking gas into space? The average yawn goes for six seconds? There are over three trillion trees on earth? Spider’s silk is five times stronger than steel? Learn all about the world’s wildest and weirdest things in this beautifully designed children’s compendium brimming

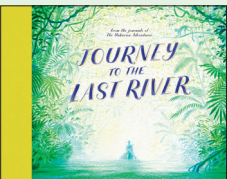
with facts, challenges and questions that will make young readers ages seven and up shout, ‘no way!’

Journey to the Last River

Teddy Keen

Frances Lincoln. HB. \$27.99

Available now



A gripping and lushly illustrated story set in the heart of the Amazon, featuring dramatic encounters with animals, dangerous rapids and extraordinary discoveries. Join

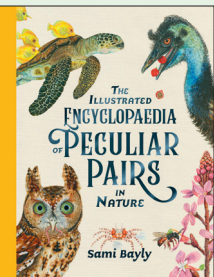
the Unknown Adventurer and his companion Bibi as an old Royal Geographical Society map – with a mysteriously rubbed out river – spurs them on a quest deep into the Amazon. A quest that will change their understanding of nature forever.

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature

Sami Bayly

Lothian. HB. \$32.99

Available now



Come along for another grand tour of the animal kingdom from the bestselling author and illustrator of *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals* and *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals*. In this hardcover keepsake, keen young nature

lovers will discover 60 of the most peculiar pairs in nature and learn how plant and animal species rely on each other for their survival.

Graphic Novel

Click

Kayla Miller

Walker. PB. \$17.99

Available mid-October



Olive ‘clicks’ with everyone in the fifth grade – until the school variety show leaves her stranded without an act to join. Why have all Olive’s friends already formed their own groups? With the show drawing closer, will Olive be able to find her own place in the spotlight? A heartfelt graphic

novel about navigating friendships perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier.

Classic of the Month

Funnybones

Janet and Allan Ahlberg

Picture Puffin. PB. \$14.99

Available now



R There was a dark, dark house and in the dark, dark house lived some skeletons. A big skeleton and a little skeleton head out one night to walk the dog skeleton – and to frighten people. First they go to the park to play. The dog skeleton runs into a tree and ends up a pile of

bones. As the skeletons figure out how to put the dog bones together correctly, they sing the song ‘Dem Bones’ and we are treated to an iconic and hilarious anatomy lesson. Afterwards, the trio head to the zoo to look at the animal skeletons, and then it is finally time to frighten people!

It’s very easy to understand why this Ahlberg classic has become lodged into the brains of so many readers since it was first published in 1980. Designed with comic-style panels, the images are bold and simple yet exquisitely executed. The colours and the use of black are particularly striking, and speech bubbles encourage everyone reading along to join in.

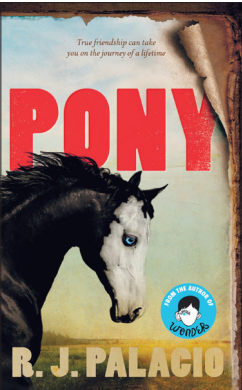
The Ahlbergs are the best to ever do it, and *Funnybones* perfectly encapsulates the joy of a fright and a rowdy excursion with friends. It may be Halloween this month, but *Funnybones* is forever! Perfect to share with readers ages 3+.

Kim Gruschow is from Readings St Kilda

Young Adult

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Young Adult



Pony
R.J. Palacio
Puffin. HB. Was \$26.99
\$22.99
Available now

Dear reader, I was compelled to devour this extraordinary adventure in one sitting and am desperate to read it again; such was its power over me. So, this is not so much a review as a love letter to *Pony*.

Set in 1860, this remarkable story defies categorisation: it's a nail-biting action adventure, a moving coming-of-age story and a tender and poignant tale of eternal love. Not only was I captivated by 12-year-old Silas Martin's unusual demeanour but also by his predicament, having lost his only parent in the dead of night to a dubious band of men and their spurious proposition. Defying his beloved father's orders, Silas and the splendid Pony embark on a perilous journey, their only protector the deeply enigmatic and ethereal Mittenwool who has somehow magically watched over Silas from the moment he was born.

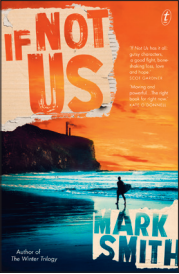
Like the ancient tale of Telemachus, this epic search for an absent father is rich, tantalising and multilayered. Silas' adventures through ominous woods are strange, exciting and sometimes terrifying, yet, like the Pony which propels him onward, the gifted Silas finds extraordinary courage to overcome his fears. And as with all great heroes, his real journey is within, as he ponders his young life and the wisdom and love of his genius father.

Drawing inspiration from the artefacts of an earlier time, beloved author of *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio, weaves an unforgettable and profound tapestry of courage and love. This outstanding, crossover novel has broad appeal, and is highly recommended for any reader of young adult fiction, from 9-year-olds right up to adults. *Pony* is an adventure of a lifetime!

Athina Clarke is from Readings Malvern

An unforgettable and profound tapestry of courage and love.

If Not Us
Mark Smith
Text. PB. \$19.99
Available now



R At its core, Mark Smith's newest novel, *If Not Us* is a coming-of-age story – it's just that now more than ever, an inescapable part of growing up in this modern world is

reckoning with the oncoming climate crisis and deciding to take a stand. For the carefree 17-year-old surfer Hesse, his involvement in the campaign to shut down his town's local coal station is just one facet of his greater journey of maturation that also involves experiencing the trials of first love with a Dutch exchange student and coming to terms with his family trauma. The book is also a blast to read, filled with earnest romance, great drama and some brilliant descriptions of surfing that made me wish I knew how to surf as well. Hesse is a fun and complex character who will be relatable to anyone who's felt stuck in high school, still trying to find out who they really are.

In many ways, Hesse's hometown of Shelbourne is a microcosm of Australia: sunny beaches, a tight-knit community and a gigantic coal-mine-shaped elephant in the room. It's exhilarating to watch Shelbourne's environmental movement gain momentum in the book and to imagine the same sorts of movements succeeding in real life all over this continent. *If Not Us* is a story that recognizes both the power of mass movements, as well as the importance of individual participation. Just like Hesse who comes to find his personal stake in the movement – the power station that is polluting his air and the rising sea levels

that might destroy his coastal town – Mark Smith asks the reader to find their own personal reason to join the fight. If not us, then who will? For ages 14+.

Joe Murray is from Readings Kids

Bad Girls Never Say Die
Jennifer Mathieu

Hodder Children's Books. PB. \$19.99
Available 12 October



R Author of *Moxie*, Jennifer Mathieu, has written a compelling re-imagining of one of the greatest books about teen rebellion of all time: S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. Set in 1964 Houston, it focuses on a

group of 'bad girls' from the poor part of town, and is written in the voice of 15-year-old Evie, the youngest in her gang of tough girls who cut class, shoplift, steal booze from their parents, and wear a lot of makeup. Their sworn enemies are the rich kids from River Oaks – they call them 'tea sippers'.

One night at the drive-in, Evie goes to the bathroom alone and is accosted by a River Oaks boy. He pulls her to the back of the toilet block and begins physically assaulting her. Evie passes out and when she wakes up the boy is dead, killed by a tea-sipper girl. The two run away together, and this begins Evie's friendship with Diane, a girl with a tough life despite her family's wealth.

Written in a style as fast-paced as Hinton's original, and with an authentic early 1960s setting, this is a story about girls daring to be themselves and fighting for love and friendship, despite forces within their families and society telling them otherwise. The gang of young women are so real and authentic that you want to befriend them. I literally could not put down this brilliant, engaging novel. It

will be truly loved by *The Outsiders* and *Moxie* fans alike. Highly recommended for readers ages 13+.

Angela Crocombe is the kids book buyer at Readings

Dark Rise (Book 1)

C.S. Pacat
A&U. PB. \$19.99
Available now



R Someone is trying to kill Will. They already murdered his mother months ago, and now they're hunting him. Disguised as a dock boy in 19th-century London, Will is almost captured, but escapes with the help of an old family servant, who bears a desperate final message from Will's mother: find the Stewards. They will protect him. Suddenly, Will enters a magical world of destined birthrights, chivalric orders, warriors reborn, ancient magic and even more ancient evils. Eons ago, there was a Dark King who almost engulfed the world in terror. Though he was defeated, he is rising again. The chessboard is being set: light and dark, queens and pawns – all will have a part to play, and Will, seemingly the most vital of all.

Thus begins C.S. Pacat's epic new YA fantasy series, which will undoubtedly delight readers of high fantasy classics such as *Lord of the Rings*. Will is one of several characters we follow, including Violet, a merchant's daughter who unexpectedly teams up with Will, and Katherine, a young woman engaged to a nefarious Lord. Then there's James, whose sharp tongue scorches the page. Pacat has stated this is her take on the 'English pastoral fantasy' (yes, the title is a deliberate nod to *The Dark Is Rising*) but for readers who never felt they truly belonged in those stories. The set-up may feel familiar, but it's obvious that Pacat, a master of finding the grey in the black-and-white, is gearing up to really explore the moral complexities facing each of these characters as agents in the coming battle.

Adventure, suspense, betrayal, desire – this book has it all. Make sure to have some tissues on hand while reading, and some fellow readers to text when you finish the book. The final chapter will have you incoherently screaming for the next instalment, and I only pray Pacat won't keep us waiting for too long. For ages 14+.

Jackie Tang is the editor of *Readings Monthly*

Self/Less

Aviva
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$29.99
\$24.99
Available now



R *Self/Less* is the first book in the much-anticipated new series by multidisciplinary local artist AViVA. AViVA has already found international success with more than three billion global streams of her music, which explores themes of control and isolation, expressing the 'outsider experience' through its lyrics and the accompanying graphic art.

This new novel can be described as a literary companion to her music, with many of the same characters from her already popular music videos. The story extends AViVA's dystopian world where

self-expression and creativity are banned. The City Council, who lead this society, are reminiscent of Orwell's 'Ministry of Truth' from 1984. Their slogan is 'We Watch Because We Care', encouraging their citizens to spy on their neighbours and even their own family to avoid the threat of 'infection'. All 'sick' souls are 'sanitised and rehomed' so the community can stay clean.

In this world, we meet Teddy, a 17-year-old girl on the verge of finding out the lifelong plan the City Council has made about her future. But when she discovers the truth about what is really happening to the people who are being 'sanitised', it leads her down an unplanned and chaotic path to a very different civilisation: a group of Clans that are struggling to survive in the sewers beneath the feet of the citizens above. These two societies are destined to collide.

This is a fast-paced read which will make readers stop and think about societal structures and how we live within them. For ages 14+.

Claire Atherfold is the manager of Readings State Library

Once Upon a Broken Heart
Stephanie Garber

H&S. PB. \$22.99
Available now



Evangeline Fox is desperate to stop the love of her life from marrying another, so she strikes a deal with the charismatic but wicked Prince of Hearts. In exchange, he asks for three kisses, to be given

at the time and place of his choosing. But bargaining with an immortal is a dangerous game. The first book in a spellbinding new series by the author of *Caraval*.

Take Me with You When You Go

David Levithan & Jennifer Niven
Penguin. PB. \$17.99
Available now



Ezra Ahern's older sister, Bea, is gone, leaving him alone with their abusive stepfather and neglectful mother. Bea already knew she needed to get far away. But a message in her inbox changes

everything, and she finds herself alone in a new city. As things unravel at home for Ezra, Bea confronts secrets about their past that will forever change the way they think about their family.

The Gilded Cage

Lynette Noni
Penguin. PB. \$24.99
Available now



Kiva Meridan is a survivor. Not only did she survive Zalindov Prison, but also the deadly Trial by Ordeal, but life after the Ordeal is only more complicated and the world outside the city walls is full of secrets and double agents. As rebellion brews, Kiva's allegiances are more important than ever, but she's beginning to question where they truly lie. The second book in bestselling author Lynette Noni's *Prison Healer* series.

Bargains

Adults

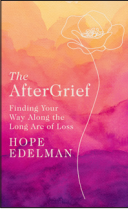
Emma Jane Unsworth
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.99**



Jenny is unloved, unemployable and emotionally unfiltered. Her long-suffering friends seem sick of her and whilst her social media portrays her life as a bed of roses, it is more of a dying succulent. A misadventure of maturity, a satire on our age of self-promotion, a tender look at the impossibility of womanhood, a love story, a riot, *Adults* is a book to be read again and again.

The AfterGrief: Finding Your Way Along the Long Arc of Loss

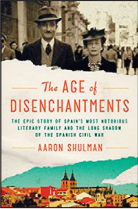
Hope Edelman
PB. Was \$35 **Now \$13.99**



Grief is a path we can all expect to walk one day. But how long does grieving take? When can we expect to feel ‘normal’ again? And should we? Offering advice for processing loss, regaining balance and finding new purpose, *The Aftergrief* will help us to see that while grieving may be a lifelong process, it needn’t be a lifelong struggle.

The Age of Disenchantments

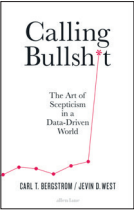
Aaron Shulman
HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$16.99**



With a blend of memoir and cultural history, Aaron Shulman takes us deeply into the circumstances surrounding the Spanish Civil War through the lives of Spain’s most brilliant and troubled literary family, the Paneros. It sheds new light on the romance and intellectual ferment of the era while revealing the profound devastation of the war, the Franco dictatorship, and the country’s transition to democracy.

Calling Bullshit: The Art of Scepticism in a Data-Driven World

Carl T. Bergstrom & Jevin D. West
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$14.99**



Based on their popular, eponymous, course at the University of Washington, professors Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West catalogue bullshit in its many forms, explaining where bullshit arose in our evolutionary past and why it is ubiquitous today. *Calling Bullshit* offers readers the tools to see through the obfuscations, deliberate and careless, that dominate every realm of our lives.

Digital Minimalism: On Living Better with Less Technology

Cal Newport
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$13.99**



Most of us know that we’re addicted to texting, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter but these tools, while providing real value, can also disrupt our ability to focus on meaningful work and live fully in the present. Cal Newport outlines a practical philosophy

and plan for a mindful, intentional use of technology that maximises its benefits while minimising its drain on our attention, focus and time.

Einstein's Shadow

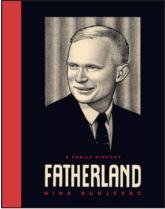
Seth Fletcher
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$16.99**



Einstein’s Shadow follows a team of elite scientists on their historic mission to take the first picture of a black hole, putting Einstein’s theory of relativity to its ultimate test and helping to answer our deepest questions about space, time, the origins of the universe and the nature of reality. Seth Fletcher takes us on an exciting and accessible journey to better understand our galaxy.

Fatherland: A Family History

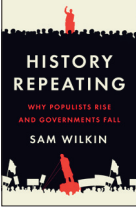
Nina Bunjevac
HB. Was \$41.95 **Now \$16.99**



Through exquisite and haunting black-and-white art, Nina Bunjevac documents the immediate circumstances surrounding her father’s death and provides a sweeping account of the former Yugoslavia under fascism and communism, telling an unforgettable true story of how the scars of history are borne by family and nation alike.

History Repeating: Why Populists Rise and Governments Fall

Sam Wilkin
HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$16.99**



What causes political instability? How can you tell when your country is headed for turbulence? And what does the best social science say we can do about it? A colourful romp through the history of recent revolutionary moments Sam Wilkin answers all these questions and more in pursuit of the holy grail of political science: how to make things better without first making them worse.

Hygge: The Danish Art of Happiness

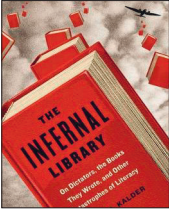
Marie Tourell Soderberg
HB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.99**



Find out what hygge, the Scandinavian lifestyle trend, really means and how you can bring it into every aspect of your life in this authentically Danish guide. Fully illustrated throughout, this beautiful book will reveal how you can be more hygge through delicious recipes, easy tweaks to your home interiors, and by making time for hygge moments in a busy life.

The Infernal Library: On Dictators, the Books They Wrote, and Other Catastrophes of Literacy

Daniel Kalder
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$16.99**

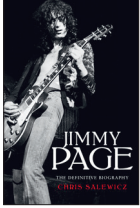


Since the days of the Roman Empire, dictators have written books. But in the 20th-century, despots enjoyed unprecedented print runs to captive audiences. How did the production of literature become central to the running of regimes? And how can books

and literacy cause immense and lasting harm? Daniel Kalder asks and brilliantly answers these questions and more.

Jimmy Page: The Definitive Biography

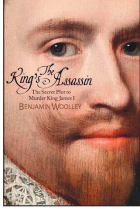
Chris Salewicz
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$14.99**



Founder of one of the most influential and successful rock bands of all time, legendary Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page has nevertheless remained an enigma. In this definitive and comprehensive biography of his life so far, Chris Salewicz draws on his own interviews with Page and those closest around him to unravel the man behind the mystery.

The King's Assassin: The Secret Plot to Murder King James I

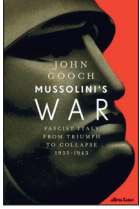
Benjamin Woolley
HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$16.99**



Acclaimed author Benjamin Woolley examines the story of George Villiers – a minor gentry who rose to become the gentleman of the bedchamber to James I. At the king’s side for a decade, Villiers was accused of the king’s untimely death, but the charges came to nothing. Integrating new research, *The King’s Assassin* tells the story of King James’s demise, and of the captivating figure at its centre.

Mussolini's War: Fascist Italy from Triumph to Collapse, 1935–1943

John Gooch
HB. Was \$59.99 **Now \$19.99**



Mussolini’s War is the definitive account of Italy’s disastrous experience of the Second World War. Beginning with the invasion of Abyssinia and ending with Mussolini’s arrest, it shows the centrality of Italy to the war and outlines the brief rise and fall of its military campaign, and of a country with too small an industrial sector, too incompetent a leadership and too many fronts on which to fight.

Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin

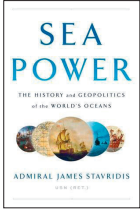
David Ritz
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$13.99**



Aretha Franklin began life as the golden daughter of a progressive Baptist preacher. A gospel prodigy, she moved to New York where she struggled to find her voice. It wasn’t until a producer insisted she return to her gospel-soul roots that fame and fortune finally came with the hit song ‘Respect’. A definitive account of one of the greatest talents in all American culture.

Sea Power: The History and Geopolitics of the World's Oceans

Admiral James Stavridis
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.99**

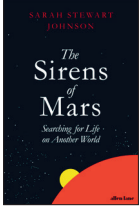


From the time of the Greeks and the Persians clashing in the Mediterranean, sea power has determined world power. *Sea Power* takes us on a tour of the world’s oceans, showing us how the geography of the oceans has shaped the destiny of nations, and how

naval power has in a real sense made the world we live in today, and will shape the world we live in tomorrow.

The Sirens of Mars: Searching for Life on Another World

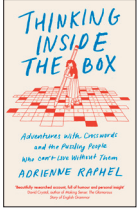
Sarah Stewart Johnson
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$16.99**



Right now, spacecraft are circling Mars on the brink, perhaps, of a discovery that would inspire humankind as much as any in our history. Sarah Stewart Johnson traces the evocative history of our explorations of Mars, interlacing her personal journey as a scientist with tales of other seekers who have scoured the planet for signs of life.

Thinking Inside the Box: Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can't Live Without Them

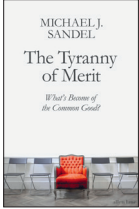
Adrienne Raphel
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$13.99**



The crossword is a feature of the modern world, inspiring daily devotion and obsession from millions. It was invented in 1913, almost by accident and has been an essential ingredient of any newspaper worth its salt since then. Equal parts ingenious and fun, *Thinking Inside the Box* is a delightful, erudite, and immersive exploration of the crossword puzzle and its fascinating history.

The Tyranny of Merit

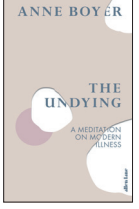
Michael J. Sandel
PB. Was \$35 **Now \$16.99**



We live in an age of winners and losers, where the odds are stacked in favour of the already fortunate. Stalled social mobility and entrenched inequality give lie to the promise that you can make it if you try. Michael J. Sandel argues that to overcome the polarized politics of our time, we must rethink the attitudes toward success and failure that have accompanied globalisation and rising inequality.

The Undying: A Meditation on Modern Illness

Anne Boyer
HB. Was \$35 **Now \$17.99**



A week after her 41st birthday, Anne Boyer was diagnosed with highly aggressive triple-negative breast cancer – the catastrophic condition was both a crisis and an initiation into new ideas about mortality and the gendered politics of illness. Blending memoir with critique *The Undying* is an unmissable exploration of sickness and health, cancer and the cancer industry, in the modern world.

You Do You

Sarah Knight
HB. Was \$35 **Now \$16.99**



Being yourself should be the easiest thing in the world. Yet instead of leaning into who we are, we fight it, listening too closely to what society tells us. From career and finances to relationships, family and more, Sarah Knight rips up the rulebook and helps you shake off those expectations, offering advice, tips and life-changing wisdom on being yourself.

Pop/Rock/Alt Music

In These Silent Days

Brandi Carlile

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now




Recorded alongside longtime collaborators and bandmates Tim and Phil Hanseroth, superstar Brandi Carlile’s 10-song project channels

acceptance, faith, loss and love. Inspired by icons like David Bowie, Freddie Mercury, Elton John and Joni Mitchell, Carlile describes the sound of this record as ‘what drama mixed with joy sounds like. It’s resistance and gratitude, righteous anger and radical forgiveness.’

I’ve Been Trying to Tell You

Saint Etienne

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl 29 October

Available now




London trio Saint Etienne return with an album about optimism, youth and the late nineties. *I’ve Been Trying to Tell You* is

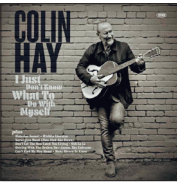
about memory and how it plays tricks on you,’ says band member Bob Stanley. ‘It’s easy to look back at the late nineties and remember it as an endless, carefree rave-up ... But of course, it wasn’t really like that.’

I Just Don’t Know What to Do with Myself

Colin Hay

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl 22 October

Available now



Inspired while at home in quarantine, strumming to a Gerry and the Pacemakers’ song, Colin Hay decided to turn on the tape

machines. The result? A new studio album featuring 10 versions of Hay’s favourite tunes. These lushly arranged versions showcase Hay’s ability to interpret a song and include covers of The Beatles, Del Amitri, Dusty Springfield, Glen Campbell, The Kinks and more.

Hey What Low

\$22.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



The ineffable, familiar harmonies of Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker break through the chaos like a life raft in

Low’s 13th full-length release, *Hey What*. Layers of distorted sound accrete with each new verse – building, breaking, colossal then restrained. Focusing on their craft, Sparkhawk and Parker hold fast their faith to find new ways to express the discord and delight of being alive.

Local Valley

José González

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



Full of his trademark bittersweet pastoralism, José González’s long-awaited fourth album finds him – in the words of the first single

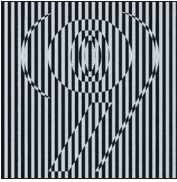
‘Visions’ – ‘Imagining the worlds that could be / Shaping a mosaic of fates / For all sentient beings.’ Sun-dappled and intimate, it is a welcome reminder of González’s understated appeal and his singular ability to communicate discreetly.

9

Pond

\$19.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



At the start of 2020, Perth band Pond embarked on a series of totally off-the-cuff jam sessions from which songs and ideas could be

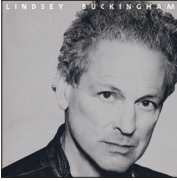
pulled out. That sense of creative abandon and euphoric fun transfers to this dizzying album, with a track list that encompasses pounding techno, elastic hipped robo-funk, tripped out motorik and acres more besides, without even stopping for breathe.

Lindsey Buckingham

Lindsey Buckingham

\$24.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



This eponymous album from former Fleetwood Mac guitarist Lindsey Buckingham is his first solo release in a decade. Written, produced, and

recorded by Buckingham at his home studio in Los Angeles, the new project showcases the legendary guitarist’s instinct for melody, his continual artistic reinvention and his singular fingerpicking guitar style.

Been Doin’ It for a Bit

Ruby Fields

\$19.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



Fresh out of high school when she released her debut 2018 single, Ruby Fields now cements her reputation for raw, honest songwriting with

this long-awaited debut studio album, *Been Doin’ It for a Bit*. Showing remarkable depth and duality, Fields strikes a balance between scrappy nostalgia and hard-earned stoicism.

Love for Sale

Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga

\$22.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



Love For Sale, the new collaborative album from Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, features a mix of jazz ensemble, big band and orchestral

arrangements. This historic album, which has been announced as Bennett’s last studio recording, showcases the Cole Porter songbook of classic popular music with duet and solo selections from both artists.

Cycles

Sam Teskey

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available 8 October



Cycles is the debut solo album from Sam Teskey, lead guitarist and Grammy-nominated engineer from The Teskey Brothers.

Inspired by the great English psychedelic bands of the late 1960s and 1970s, Teskey

was keen to make a record that could be enjoyed as a whole. From sprawling, orchestral balladry to dissonant, ambient soundscapes, it’s a surprising, thrilling and immersive listen.

I’ll Be Your Mirror: A Tribute to the Velvet Underground and Nico

Various artists

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available now



The Velvet Underground and Nico single-handedly set the blueprint for alternative rock; if the Velvets had only made this one

album, they still would be among the most significant bands in rock history. *I’ll Be Your Mirror* is a spellbinding contemporary version with each of the album’s songs performed by one of the band’s noteworthy artistic descendants, all of them produced by Lou Reed’s dear friend Hal Wilner.

Talk Memory

Badbadnotgood

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available 8 October




BADBADNOTGOOD’s *Talk Memory* focuses on collaboration and the magic of improvised live performance. Demonstrating

emotional and poetic progress, the new album is a heartfelt expression of joy for the music and community the band considers itself lucky to inhabit. Of the album, the band said, ‘We hope that the improvised studio performances bring the listener closer to our live experience.’

Let It Be (50th Anniversary Edition)

The Beatles

\$24.99 | Also available in 2CD deluxe edition (\$54.99) & 5CD super deluxe edition (\$199.99) |  Also on vinyl

Available 15 October



Christmas comes early with this anniversary edition of The Beatles’ chart-topping 1970 album. Newly mixed by Giles Martin and

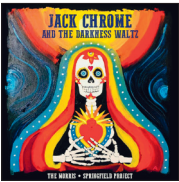
Sam Okell, this is the perfect follow up to the universally acclaimed remixed anniversary editions of *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* (2017), *The Beatles White Album* (2018) and *Abbey Road* (2019). Also available in a 2CD Deluxe Edition, as well as a 5CD Super Deluxe Edition which comes with an additional blu-ray audio and a hardbound book with a foreword by Paul McCartney.

Jack Chrome and the Darkness Waltz

The Morris/Springfield Project

\$21.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available 15 October



Spurred by Rick Springfield and Russell Morris’ fascination with *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), the pair’s first full-album

collaboration follows its narrator, Jack Chrome, as he leads the listener through a compelling song cycle about life and death. ‘Russ is the happy one,’ says Springfield. ‘He brought a lot of the positive songs to the project, whereas mine get pretty dark.’

Folk / World Music

Buena Vista Social Club (25th Anniversary Expanded Edition)

Buena Vista Social Club

\$24.99 2CD |  Also on vinyl

Available now



When *Buena Vista Social Club* was originally released, few expected the album to become a worldwide phenomenon, elevating the artists to

superstar status, inspiring an award-winning film, and popularising Cuba’s rich musical heritage. This special 2CD expanded and remastered edition celebrates the original’s 25th anniversary, with previously unheard tracks, previously unseen photos and new liner notes.

Home in This World: Woody Guthrie's Dust Bowl Ballads

Woody Guthrie Cover Project

\$22.99

Available now




Cited as one of the first concept albums ever, Woody Guthrie’s 1940 *Dust Bowl Ballads* continues to ring true today as America faces a

different kind of depression, as well as a looming climate crisis. Now celebrating its 81st anniversary, the record has been reimagined for a new era by a cross-genre collective of artists, assembled by Randall Poster. The contributors include Lee Ann Womack and John Paul White, Mark Lanegan, Lillie Mae, and Waxahatchee.

Country Music

My Bluegrass Heart

Béla Fleck

\$34.99 2CD |  Also on vinyl 29 October

Available now



Boundary-breaking banjo visionary Béla Fleck’s career has ranged from country to classical, but his roots are in bluegrass, and that’s

what he returns to in his first bluegrass album in 24 years. More than just a homecoming for Fleck, *My Bluegrass Heart* features brand new compositions laid out by an all-star alliance of beloved veterans as well as a new generation of youthful string pioneers who grew up on Fleck’s records.

Jazz/Blues Music

Oaatchapai

Sam Anning

\$19.99 |  Also on vinyl

Available 22 October



Internationally sought-after bassist/improviser Sam Anning follows up his award-winning 2018 release, *Across a Field as Vast as One*, with this

highly anticipated album, *Oaatchapai*. Anning’s new album features an extraordinary ensemble and is intricately constructed, wild in interpretation, firmly rooted in tradition but constantly striving towards future modes of expression.

Classical Music

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

Classical



Hope
Daniel Hope
& Zürcher
Kammerorchester
DG. 4860541. \$21.99

R There is something truly breathtaking in hearing a choir sing in our current moment; hearing all those voices coming together after so long apart almost brings tears to my eyes. In this latest album, Daniel Hope elegantly interweaves the human voice with his violin, creating new timbres in well-known songs. There’s *Misa Criolla* by Ariel Ramírez, rearranged especially for this recording; a stunning arrangement of ‘Danny Boy’; and my favourite on this album, ‘Dream a Little Dream of Me’. In my years of reviewing for Readings, I have waxed lyrical about many of Daniel Hope’s albums. I still completely adore his *Escape to Paradise* album, and only stopped listening to *Spheres* because I had completely saturated myself in it. So, when I was asked to review his latest release, as you can see, I grabbed it with both hands.

It just wrapped me in an aural blanket and relaxed a little part of me that I didn’t even realise was tense.

This new album is somewhat obviously titled *Hope*, though the inspiration for it comes from last year’s lockdown in Britain and not his name as you might think. Daniel Hope was clearly bored hanging around in isolation, and so started his own livestream called ‘Hope@ Home’ on ARTE TV. Trying to encourage people to stay at home, he wanted to present concert-hall-quality performances straight to their TV. As restrictions tentatively lifted, he set off to collaborate with other musicians and continued to make live music accessible around the world through streaming. This album is a taste of just some of those performances.

The thing that truly got to me about this whole album was the gentleness of it. The music didn’t demand anything of me, instead it just wrapped me in an aural blanket and relaxed a little part of me that I didn’t even realise was tense. And if you’re wondering just how you missed his livestreams (as I did) they’re all up on YouTube for you to enjoy from across the other side of the world.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

Mahler: Symphony No. 7
Bayerisches Staatsorchester
& Kirill Petrenko
BSO Recordings. BSOREC0001. Was \$36.99
\$29.99 (limited stock at this price)



R The opening of Mahler’s Symphony No. 7 always sends shivers down my spine. That opening tenor horn solo, when done right, seems to be a herald of grand adventures to come. The adventure in this case feels like a direct line into Mahler’s mind, where we can feel his stream of consciousness as he moves through life. This symphony was written over a tumultuous time of Mahler’s career, starting when everything was on the rise. Then, as the music progresses, we experience all the difficulties life throws at him through the lens of his composition. These difficulties changed him forever, and thanks to the deft touch of the Bavarian Symphony Orchestra and Kirill Petrenko, we can hear the many layers of the man he was becoming.

This is the first offering by the Bavarian State Orchestra on its own label, recorded towards the end of Petrenko’s time with them. It is a particularly layered recording of this symphony – anyone wanting to delve another level into Mahler’s tonal colours, rhythmic motifs and harmonic progressions will relish sinking their teeth into this. The accompanying glossy booklet features copious notes about the orchestra, as well as Mahler’s work and biographical details, and it is well worth a read to get the full experience.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

Homage to Bach: The Solo Violin Sonatas
Brodsky Quartet
& Paul Cassidy
Chandos. CHAN20162. Was \$29.99
\$24.99 (limited stock at this price)



R Some people just like making life difficult for themselves. Paul Cassidy, the violist of the Brodsky Quartet must be one of those

people. He’s taken three solo violin sonatas by Bach and, using just this single line with implied harmonies and articulations, rearranged them for string quartet. I’m not quite sure how to explain the difficulty of Cassidy’s endeavour; to use a metaphor, it’s like being given a single strand of rainbow cotton and being told to weave a masterpiece.

I know many people in the classical music world are obsessed with purity of performance, but since Bach was a big believer in ‘borrowing’ and rearranging both his and other people’s music, I love rediscovering his genius through the lens of a modern arrangement. What really comes to the fore as I listened to this album was how stylish these arrangements were, with Bach’s organ music echoing through all the meatier moments. The depth of sound in the recording gives it the proper church-inspired Bach element. I love that the Brodsky Quartet refuse to observe the status quo and instead are constantly looking for new ways to experience life and music.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

Liszt: Freudvoll und Leidvoll
Jonas Kaufmann & Helmut Deutsch
Sony Classical. 19439892602. \$19.99



After their album *Selige Stunde*, Jonas Kaufmann and Helmut Deutsch used the pandemic lockdown to make a second album of songs devoted to Franz Liszt, a composer for whom both feel a special affinity and whose music has long featured in their shared concert career. Kaufmann describes the process of studying these lesser-known ‘jewels’, such as Goethe’s eponymous *Freudvoll und Leidvoll*, two versions of which are heard here, as a period of intense discovery.

A Piazzolla Trilogy
Karen Gomyo, Stephanie Jones
& Orchestre National
des Pays de la Loire
BIS. BIS2385. Was \$29.99
\$24.99 (limited stock at this price)



From the moment Karen Gomyo first heard Astor Piazzolla on disc, at the age of 14, she was spellbound: ‘I had never heard such a combination of sensuality, fierceness, playfulness, sadness and nostalgia.’ As a violinist, Gomyo found the role of the violin in Piazzolla’s music especially inspiring. For this disc she has chosen to record strings-only versions of three works originally for tango quintet (*Seasons*), guitar and flute (*Histoire*), and solo flute (*Études*).

Korngold: Die tote Stadt (DVD)
Jonas Kaufmann,
Marlis Petersen, Bayerische
Staatsoper, Kirill Petrenko,
& Simon Stone (director)
BSO Recordings. BSOREC1001. Was \$56.99
\$44.99 (limited stock at this price)



Jonas Kaufmann and Marlis Petersen both thrive under the camera’s close scrutiny in Korngold’s early opera about a volatile widower who attempts to refashion a new love interest in his late wife’s image. They are beautifully supported by the Bayerische Staatsoper under Kirill Petrenko’s baton. Petrenko clearly loves this score and his admiration for Korngold’s orchestration is evident.

Camino: Spanish and French Repertoire for Guitar
Sean Shibe
Pentatone. PTC5186870. \$26.99



Sean Shibe brings hypnotic, introspective beauty to a recording which explores connections between France and

Spain via works by de Falla, Mompou, Ravel, Poulenc and Satie. Shibe has deliberately granted Mompou a central role on this album, as his music demonstrates how melancholy, aimlessness and a whole host of other feelings are not things to be avoided or solved, but experiences to be felt deeply: not with sad nostalgia, but with genuine wonder and excitement.

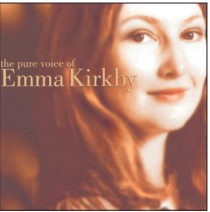
Mozart and Contemporaries
Víkingur Ólafsson
DG. 4860525. \$29.99



On his new recording Icelandic pianist Víkingur Ólafsson presents a sublime, intelligent programme of works by Mozart alongside pieces by Haydn, Galuppi, Cimarosa, and C.P.E. Bach. In the words of Ólafsson: ‘This is the period when Mozart was not just perfecting the Classical tradition but subtly subverting it, his graceful touch as featherlight as always but the shadows darker, the nuances and ambiguities more profound.’

Classical Specials

The Pure Voice of Emma Kirkby
Emma Kirkby, Academy of Ancient Music & Christopher Hogwood
Decca. 4605832. Was \$19.99
\$11.99 (limited stock at this price)



This collection from Dame Emma Kirkby is just a small snapshot of a career that started back in 1971. Renowned for her flawless tone and expression, her recordings have been the gold standard in Renaissance, Baroque and Opera performances. If you don’t have any CDs by Emma Kirkby or you just want a little bit of Emma in your life, then this is a great place to start.

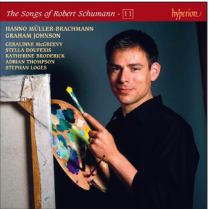
Ralph Vaughan Williams: Serenade to Music
Corydon Singers, English Chamber Orchestra & Matthew Best
Hyperion. CDA30025. Was \$29.99
\$9.99 (limited stock at this price)



‘Matthew Best as conductor is not afraid to bring out the sensuous warmth of this setting of the famous speech from the garden scene in

Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*, and the recording, clean on detail as the orchestral introduction makes plain, gives satisfying weight and richness to match. Best appreciates that this is Vaughan Williams as his most gutsy, not just evocative, and the result is profoundly moving.’ – *Gramophone*

The Songs of Robert Schumann: Volume 11
Hanno Müller-Brachmann & Graham Johnson
Hyperion. CDJ33111. Was \$29.99
\$9.99 (limited stock at this price)



Graham Johnson’s monumental and triumphant complete *Schumann Songs* edition comes to an end with an 11th disc of rarities and

delights. Hanno Müller-Brachmann appears in his debut recording for Hyperion. As well as a devoted lieder singer who has performed with some of the greatest living pianists, Brachmann is also a considerable presence on the world’s opera stages and an acclaimed interpreter of Bach’s Passions. He brings all these qualities to this fascinating disc.

★
READINGS
CRIME BOOK OF
THE MONTH!

OUT
NOW

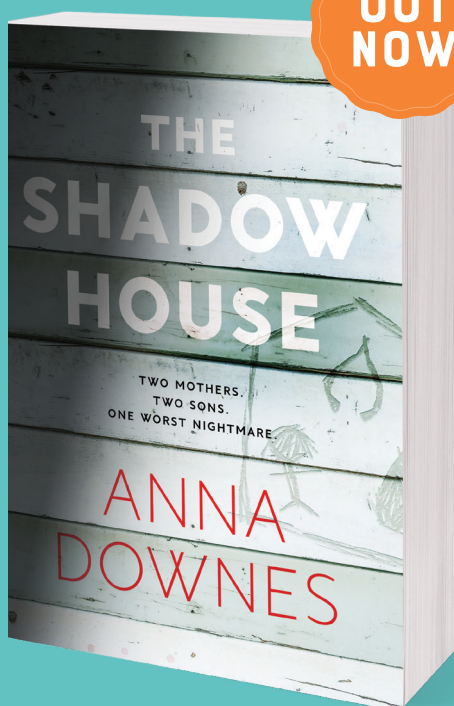
‘The kind of thriller that will have you locking your doors and panicking about every little sound outside.’

Readings

THE SHADOW HOUSE

ANNA DOWNES

Uncover parental anxieties of nightmarish proportions in *The Shadow House*, the masterful psychological thriller by the bestselling author of *The Safe Place*.



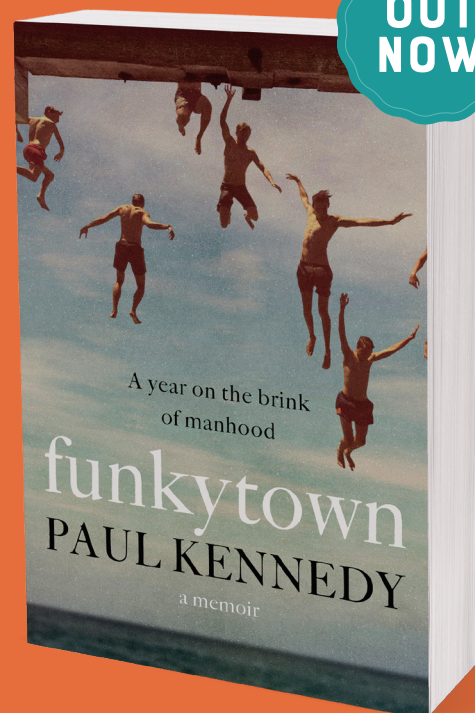
‘A brilliant story of a young boy told by a man who, in the end, found his way.’

Jimmy Barnes

FUNKYTOWN

PAUL KENNEDY

The eloquent memoir by ABC’s Paul Kennedy. Told with poignancy, humour and evoking the brilliant dusty haze of late Australian summer, *Funkytown* is a love letter to adolescence, football, family, and outer suburbia.



OUT
NOW

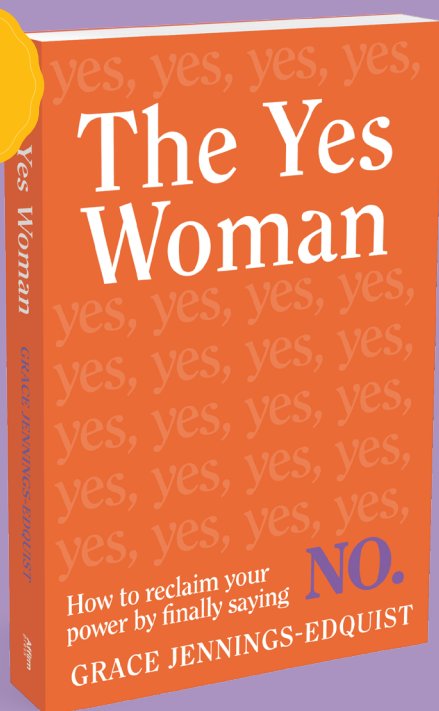
‘From one Yes Woman to another? Read this book.’

Jamila Rizvi

THE YES WOMAN

GRACE JENNINGS-EDQUIST

In a world that teaches girls to become Yes Women, learning to say ‘no’ is a radical feat. *The Yes Woman* is ABC journalist Grace Jennings-Edquist’s practical guide to recognising your own Yes Woman tendencies, measuring their cost on your health, and resisting that need to please. It won’t be easy, but it’ll be worth it.



OUT
NOW

‘Hannah makes my heart smile.’

Costa Georgiadis

THE GOOD LIFE

HANNAH MOLONEY

From growing your own tea, to building a DIY water tank, making yoghurt to co-housing, *The Good Life* is your ultimate guide to improving the wellbeing of yourself and your community. Whether you have a half-acre, a backyard, a tiny balcony or no balcony at all, gain skills, self-reliance and confidence needed to engage meaningfully with your space, your food and your community.

