

# Readings Monthly

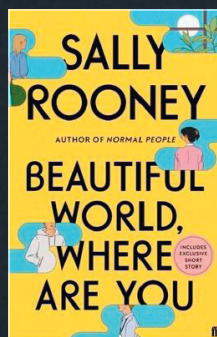
FREE | SEPTEMBER 2021



**New books  
by Sally Rooney,  
Liane Moriarty,  
Colson Whitehead,  
Colm Tóibín, Pat  
Barker and more**

**The Readings  
Prize for New  
Australian Fiction  
2021 shortlist**

BOOKS  
MUSIC  
FILM  
EVENTS



SALLY ROONEY  
page 7



RUTH McIVER  
page 11



GABRIELLE CHAN  
page 12



THOMAS MAYOR  
page 17



GABRIELLE WILLIAMS  
page 20



MIRCA GRAŽINYTĖ-TYLA  
page 23

## Readings

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



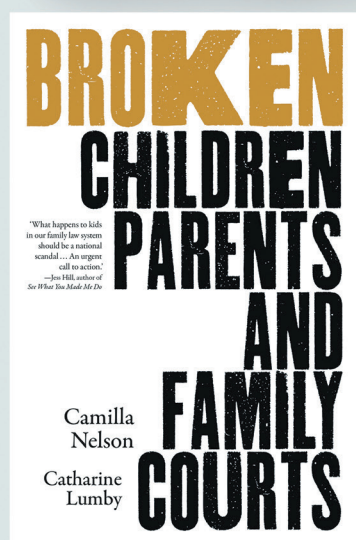
## ESSENTIAL BOOKS *from* LA TROBE UNIVERSITY PRESS



From the bestselling author of *Superpower*, a groundbreaking sequel about Australia's best path out of recession

'Professor Ross Garnaut is more prophet than gloomy economist, a man with the vision of a better future that our politicians have lost as they squabble over votes.'

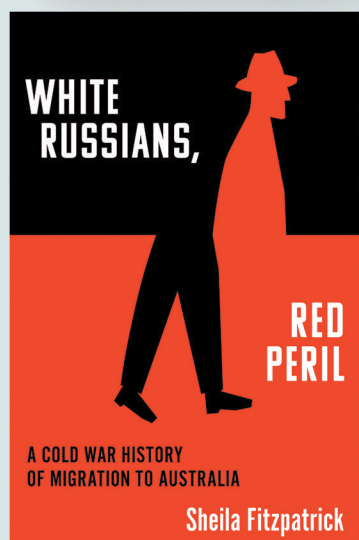
—*Sydney Morning Herald*



A devastating account of how Australia's family courts fail children, families and victims of domestic abuse

'An urgent call to action.'

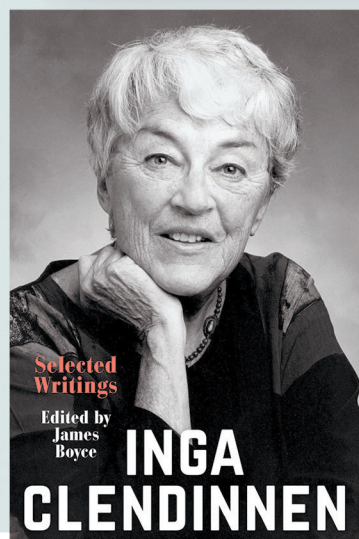
—Jess Hill, author of *See What You Made Me Do*



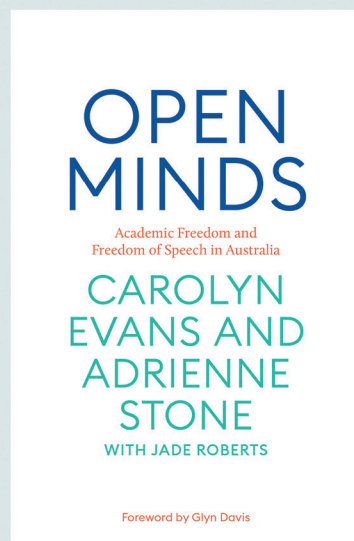
A gripping account of the paths that led postwar Russian migrants to Australia – and what they found when they arrived.

'An engagingly written book, sweeping in scope and erudite in analysis. It will stand alongside Fitzpatrick's previous work as one of her finest accomplishments.'

—*Inside Story*



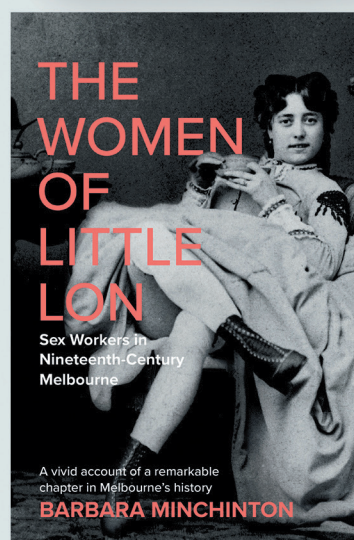
An internationally celebrated historian and highly original thinker, Inga Clendinnen compelled readers to re-examine accepted histories from new angles.



A crisp, timely and definitive look at the complex topic of freedom in Australian universities.

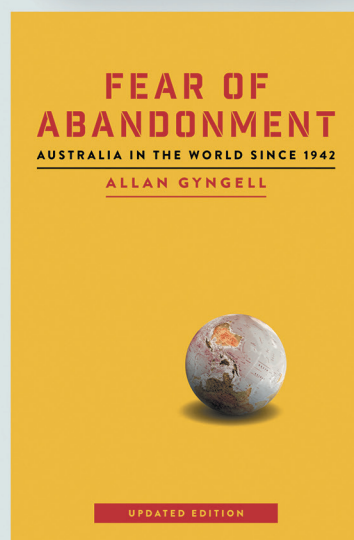
'Bringing clear-eyed analysis to an issue too often hijacked by partisan voices, it resists the hyperbole of the right while acknowledging that academic freedom is legitimately at risk in certain contexts.'

—*Australian Book Review*



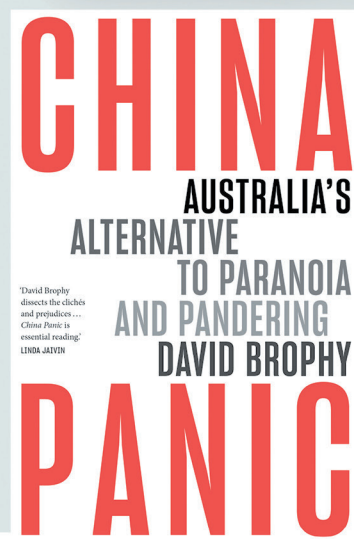
Flash madames?  
Dressed girls? Outcasts?  
Criminal? Morally corrupt?

Dismantle the myth with this vivid account of a remarkable but little-known chapter in Melbourne's history



Everything Australia wants to achieve as a country depends on its capacity to understand the world outside and to respond effectively to it.

Updated edition, covering Brexit, Trump, Xi's ambitions for China, and the geopolitical implications of the COVID-19 pandemic



A better way to think about foreign influence and the nation's future

'Brophy introduces much-needed nuance to the increasingly polarised discourse around Australia's relationship with China ... *China Panic* is essential reading.'

—Linda Jaivin, author of *The Shortest History of China*





News

**The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction 2021 shortlist**  
This year's shortlist for the Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction has been announced! The shortlisted books are: *New Animal* by Ella Baxter, *She Is Haunted* by Paige Clark, *Echolalia* by Briohny Doyle, *Lucky's* by Andrew Pippas, *Song of the Crocodile* by Nardi Simpson and *Born Into This* by Adam Thompson. This year's guest judge is author and 2020 Readings Prize winner Elizabeth Tan. She will join our staff judging panel and Readings managing director Mark Rubbo to select a winner to be announced in October. Read more about the shortlist on page 5.

**Dear Son Indigenous Literacy Foundation donation**  
The new book *Dear Son* shares heartfelt letters by First Nations men about life, masculinity, love, culture and racism. In the month of September, Readings will donate \$3 from every sale of *Dear Son* to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Read an excerpt from the book on page 17.

**Love Your Bookshop Day**  
Love Your Bookshop Day (LYBD) is coming up on Saturday 9 October. An initiative of the Australian Booksellers Association, LYBD celebrates bookshops across the country and highlights what makes local

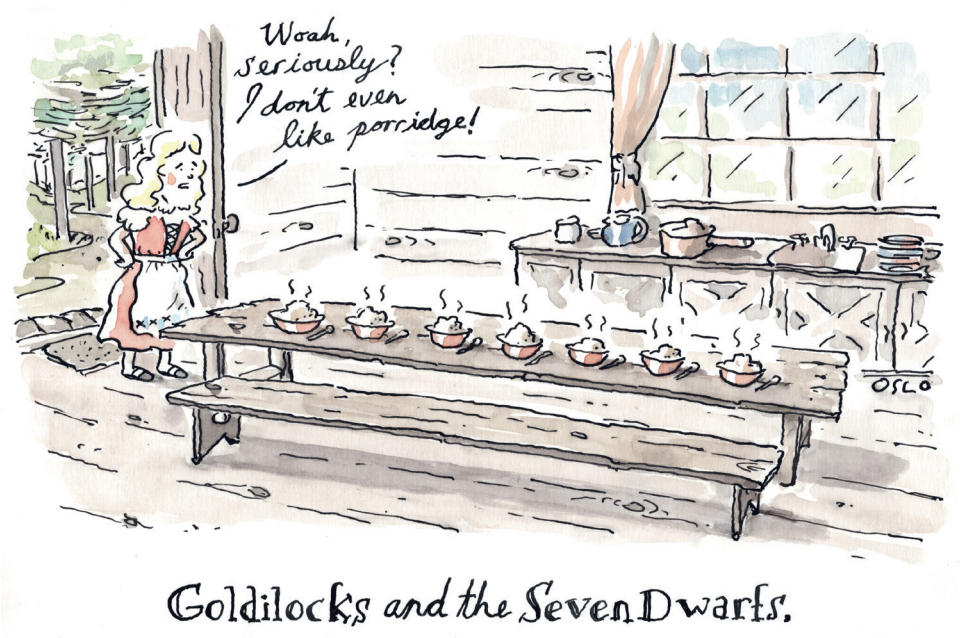
bookshops great. To be notified of our shops' LYBD plans, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or sign up to our enews: [readings.com.au/newsletters-and-e-news](https://readings.com.au/newsletters-and-e-news)

**The Age Book of the Year winner**  
Robbie Arnott has won the Age Book of the Year 2021 for his novel *The Rain Heron*. This year marks the return of the Age Book of the Year award after a nine-year hiatus. As the 2021 winner, Arnott will receive \$10,000 in prize money.

**Marc Martin x Readings puzzle**  
Presented in a keepsake tin and perfect for young jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts, our new

100-piece puzzle features original artwork by Marc Martin from our Kids shop mural. You can find the puzzle online (search for 'Marc Martin X Readings 100 Piece Jigsaw Puzzle' on our website), or phone our shops to purchase.

**Dani Solomon appointed manager at Readings Kids**  
We are thrilled to announce Dani Solomon has been appointed manager at our Kids shop. She will be taking over the role from Angela Crocombe, who has stepped into the new role of children's book buyer and specialist. Dani has been with Readings for almost 14 years and has been the assistant manager at Readings Kids since 2018.



*'A joy to read, with its complex emotional depths, and daring beauty.'* HELEN GARNER

**IN MOONLAND**

**MILES ALLINSON**

*'A story of our hearts, all broken, full, mystifying. Sublime prose.'* TARA JUNE WINCH

## Melbourne City Reads

Miles Allinson's *In Moonland* is our Melbourne City Reads (MCR) book for September. This poignant novel of a fractured family is available in-store at the special price of \$23 (was \$29.99). Allinson will appear on ABC Radio Melbourne with presenter Jacinta Parsons on 8 September to discuss this remarkable book. Turn to page 6 to read our bookseller's review.

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

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**FRONT COVER**  
*The September Readings Monthly cover features artwork from the cover of Miles Allinson's new novel In Moonland, courtesy of the publisher Scribe. (Cover design by Allison Colpoys.) Read a review on page 6.*

**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](https://readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation)*

**MELBOURNE CITY READS**

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



I always get a thrill when one of my colleagues or a friend has a book published, but at the moment, as Victoria enters its fifth week of lockdown with the prospect of it continuing indefinitely, that feeling is bittersweet. Tony Birch is a friend and a habitué of our Carlton shop; he's lived in Carlton for years and several present and former staff were his students when he taught creative writing at the University of Melbourne. He used to say he was

coming to work for us when he retired from academia. So there was great excitement on 1 August when we filled our Carlton shop window with copies of his new collection of short stories, *Dark as Last Night*. We made it our August Fiction Book of the Month and our reviewer Bec Kavanagh wrote: '*Dark as Last Night* is a reminder of the lives that can be shared through the short story, and what a punch they pack when written well. In this stunning, timely collection Birch brings a softness to real and fictional spaces that is sorely needed right now.' Three days after we filled our Carlton window, we closed the door to our shop. We would have expected to sell several hundred copies, but so far, we've only managed half our usual sales for Tony's book. Tony is a writer whose star has been on the rise; with his most recent novel, *The White Girl*, he attracted a new cohort of readers. For writers without Tony's profile, releasing books during the lockdowns has been disastrous, and it's likely they will never regain the lost sales. Years of work and effort lost. Well-meaning people ask me optimistically that we must be doing OK as people are home

reading; we're not, as sales have plummeted by 40% on our pre-COVID-19 figures. It's a similar story in New South Wales; our friends at Gleebooks reporting the same as they near their eighth week of lockdown.

This month, two Readings staff have new books coming out. It was going to be a time of great celebration with big launches in our shops and huge displays, but sadly those launches are now postponed or cancelled, and in-store displays are unlikely as Victoria's case numbers continue to rise. Miles Allinson has worked at our St Kilda shop for many years; his first novel, *Fever of Animals*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript and there is a great buzz around his second novel, *In Moonland*. We've chosen it as the second book in our Melbourne City Reads program, an initiative designed to bring people back into the city bookshops with events and a special price of only \$23 at Dymocks Melbourne, Hill of Content, Mary Martin Bookshop in Southbank, North Melbourne Books and The Paperback. The narrator of *In Moonland* has just become a father, and he begins to think about his own father who suicided when he was young. He reaches out to his father's old friends in an attempt to discover what kind of man he was and why he may have died. It's a powerful and compelling book.

Gabrielle Williams works as a bookseller at our Malvern shop and runs the Readings Prizes and the Readings Foundation; she's also the successful author of four novels for young adults. Her new book, *It's Not You, It's Me*, comes out this month and had its launch cancelled. The book follows 40-year-old Melbourne woman Holly, who inexplicably wakes up in 1980s Los Angeles inside the body of teenager Trinity, while Trinity is trapped in Holly's body. Former Readings marketing manager and YA author Nina Kenwood describes it as an absolute delight. As I said, September is bittersweet – two wonderful colleagues have two marvellous books coming out in our locked-down shops. Please support them and other Australian authors – you can phone and collect from our shops or order online.

# Dear Reader

with Alison Huber



In the best of times, it takes a mighty collective effort to put together the *Readings Monthly*. Each issue is literally months in the preparation, and many of our staff members contribute to the final product. As is true for any kind of work during this time, the pressures of lockdown make this task exponentially more difficult, and so I'd just like to acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved, and single out in particular our tireless editor, Jackie

Tang, and designer, Cat Matteson, for whom nothing is a problem that cannot be solved. I always love your work, and appreciate it more than ever right now. Thanks to you too, dear Reader, for reading our publication. When we can't converse with you in person in store, we are privileged to be able to continue to communicate with you from here.

Our Fiction Book of the Month (and Melbourne City Reads pick for September) is Miles Allinson's brilliant second novel, *In Moonland*. I loved this book. It explores fatherhood in so many interesting ways, and is both expansive and very intimate. It's a wonderful achievement, so please don't miss it. We also review in these pages two exciting Australian debuts by Lucy Neave and Max Easton; Antoni Jach's new novel and perfect armchair travel opportunity, *Travelling Companions*; and the new blockbuster from Liane Moriarty, *Apples Never Fall*. One of our resident graphic novel specialists recommends Miranda Burton's *Underground* very highly, suggesting it as a great place to start if you're curious about the form. Jazz Money's David Unaipon Award-winning poetry collection, *How to Make a Basket*, is hugely admired by our reviewer who calls it 'absolutely stunning'.

Unless you've been living under a rock (I mean, I guess we all have been doing that, but still...) you'll have heard that Sally Rooney has a new book out this month called *Beautiful World, Where Are You*. Rooney's cool style has struck a chord with so many readers, and many writers have attempted to emulate it, but here, Rooney reclaims and advances that

style into new territories. There is no 'new Sally Rooney'; or rather, Sally Rooney is the new Sally Rooney, if you get what I mean. We have a lovely special edition hardcover on offer for release, which includes a short story. If Rooney's not your bag, or even if she is, you'll want to catch up on the new releases from Pat Barker, Colm Tóibín, and Colson Whitehead. Simone de Beauvoir's previously unpublished novel, *The Inseparables*, finds its way into print this month, and our reviewer calls its publication 'a genuinely momentous event'. I'll also point out the perfection of a Japanese novel in translation that is about both cats and books, Sotuke Natsukawa's *The Cat Who Saved Books*. Brandon Taylor, Leïla Slimani, Claire-Louise Bennett, Sebastian Faulks, David Grossman, Gayl Jones ... the great new releases don't stop! We also have a terrific selection of crime novels, including our Book of the Month, *I Shot the Devil* by Ruth McIver; books from Sarah Bailey, Catherine Jinks and Paula Hawkins; and the much-anticipated second novel from Richard Osman (author of the 2020 hit *The Thursday Murder Club*), *The Man Who Died Twice*.

Our Nonfiction Book of the Month is Gabrielle Chan's *Why You Should Give a F\*ck About Farming*, an important wake-up call to all of us about Australia's food security. Our reviewer thinks it so important that she asks, 'if you were to read one nonfiction book this year, please make it this one'. We also review nonfiction from the very talented Claire G. Coleman, *Lies, Damned Lies*; memoirs from Heidi Everett and Akwaeke Emezi; and feminist writing from Lucia Osborne-Crowley and Amia Srinivasan. I'd also draw your attention to the new book from Maggie Nelson, *On Freedom*; John Safran's book about Big Tobacco and the vaping industry, *Puff Piece*; Yves Rees' memoir of transition, *All About Yves*; Oliver Burkeman's *Four Thousand Weeks*, which aims to help us rethink our time on earth; the new biography of iconic musician Nico, *You Are Beautiful and You Are Alone*; and the gorgeous pictorial record of one of Victoria's most important natural assets, *The Great Forest*. Turn to page 17 for an extract from *Dear Son*, a collection of letters by First Nations men that share perspectives on masculinity and culture.

And finally, dear Reader, please join me in congratulating the authors shortlisted for 2021's Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction. It's an absolute cracker of a shortlist this year, and we thank the judges who worked so conscientiously and read so closely to assemble such a brilliant group of books. The report by Kate McIntosh, chair of judges, can be found on page 5.

# On Events

with Chris Gordon



Over the last few weeks, I've been fortunate enough to read an early copy of Delia Falconer's collection of essays, *Signs and Wonders*. The book explores how it feels to live as a reader, a writer, a lover of nature and a mother of small children in an era of profound ecological change. It is brilliant and we are lucky to have an online event with Falconer on Monday 4 October. One of the themes of the collection is how the present COVID-19 landscape

combined with the climate crisis means the joy we used to find in little things – bird nests or warmer days – is now circumscribed by these two global disasters; consequently, things like freedom and planning for the future become more convoluted. I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling bereft at times. Hopeless even.

Other people's stories help me. Reading changes my outlook. It is the pre-eminent way of escaping or reconfiguring my thinking – to simply marvel at the written art of words. To that end, I want to invite you to be part of my escape plan. Join me, on Zoom, to meet some magic makers.

This month, I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth session of the Readings/ Australian Red Cross online book club on the laws and impact of war (Wed 29

September). In this session, we are joined by one of Australia's most acclaimed international human rights lawyers, Geoffrey Robertson, to discuss his recent book *Bad People – and How to be Rid of Them*. Geoffrey Robertson has been a UN war crimes judge and has won landmark civil liberty rulings from the highest courts in Britain, Europe and the Commonwealth. He was Australian Humanitarian of the Year in 2014, and in 2018 was awarded an Order of Australia.

I am also thrilled to be welcoming Helen Garner in conversation with Charlotte Wood (Tues 5 October). Wood's new book, *The Luminous Solution*, examines how thinking creatively can help all of us to live richer lives. Drawing on her doctoral studies in creativity, as well as decades of writing, discussion and immersive reading, Wood explores what artists can teach the rest of us about intuition and perseverance, risk, and the wonderful exhilaration of departing from safe territory. I assure you this event will be a tonic for all of us living through this dreadful year.

From our own marvellous Melbourne, Emily Bitto is celebrating the release of *Wild Abandon* (Wed 29 September). This lyrical and devastating new novel from the Stella Prize-winning author of *The Strays* offers us startling and profound visions of the world and our place in it.

Reading and sharing stories is my scheme to be the best I can be under these trying circumstances, because other people fill me with hope. And it's springtime. Please do check our online events calendar ([readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)) so that I can see you soon. So we can share.



# The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction 2021 shortlist

We are delighted to announce the six talented emerging authors shortlisted for this year's Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction. Readings Doncaster manager and chair of judges Kate McIntosh shares the judges' choices.

Each year, a few honoured staff members from Readings are assigned the task of reading and selecting what they consider to be six of the best new novels or short story collections from debut and second-time Australian authors. This year, the four of us – Danielle Mirabella (book buyer at Readings Hawthorn), Jackie Tang (*Readings Monthly* editor), Jess Strong (digital content manager) and I – had the difficult task of whittling nearly 60 titles down to a shortlist.

In a world full of uncertainty, it is reassuring to know that writing in this country is just as outstanding as ever. Which, of course, made it exceptionally hard to choose! With lockdown raising its head several times during the judging process, however, it was a great privilege to always have a pile of books waiting to be critiqued, enjoyed and ultimately, judged.

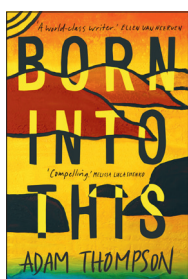
From our top candidates, using a democratic process of debate, compromise and tears, we eventually managed to single out our final six, and we wish to congratulate Ella Baxter, Paige Clark, Briohny Doyle, Andrew Pippas, Nardi Simpson and Adam Thompson on being our shortlisted authors for 2021.

These six books cover many aspects of Australian life, from our past, to our present and even what it might look like in the future. They all do it in their own individual way, and we found ourselves challenged, delighted and intrigued by their unique visions. It was surprising just how broad the scope of the stories were, each of them important in their own way, providing an insight into who we are as a society.

Narrowing the list down to just one winner is going to be an even more herculean task, so we are very fortunate to be joined by our managing director, Mark Rubbo, and by Elizabeth Tan, the winner of last year's prize for her brilliant and highly original collection of short stories, *Smart Ovens for Lonely People*.

The winner will be announced in October and in the November edition of the *Readings Monthly*, which gives you just enough time to read all the books on our shortlist and to decide for yourselves which you would choose as the very best new Australian fiction of the year.

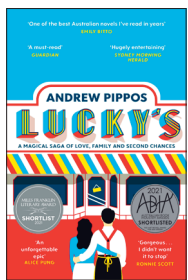
**Born Into This**  
Adam Thompson  
UQP. PB. \$29.99



Engaging and thought-provoking, this collection of short stories is set in Tasmania and filled with unforgettable characters. As an examination of masculinity, a showcase of life as a First Nations person, and a reminder of what we are losing and have lost, both in the natural world and culturally, these tales are a triumph. While the stories might start off feeling self-contained, by the end the message builds into something loud and clear – and it is certainly not one to be missed.



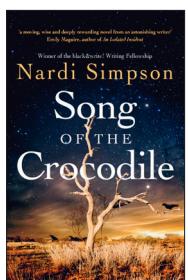
**Lucky's**  
Andrew Pippas  
Picador. PB. \$32.99



When Lucky moves to Australia in a flow of postwar migration, he takes over a Greek-Australian café – one of those iconic features of Australia's mid-century dining landscape. As we get to know Lucky and the community around him, a picture emerges of family, love, survival and identity. Andrew Pippas brings these complex characters to life in a way few first-time authors could and has created a charming, familiar delight of a novel, full of hope, fortune and fate.



**Song of the Crocodile**  
Nardi Simpson  
Hachette. PB. \$32.99



An epic multi-generational story of music, life, unfulfilled possibilities and the connection to family and land, all set in a fictional but all too recognisable regional Australian town. Skilfully written, interweaving systemic racism, fear and violence with determination, endurance and community, this uplifting song of a book is both essential and inspiring.



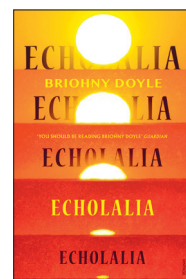
**She Is Haunted**  
Paige Clark  
A&U. PB. \$29.99



With this cohesive collection of 18 tantalisingly interlinked stories, Paige Clark showcases to her readers a unique voice and a spirited way of expressing multiple characters' inner lives and experiences. Covering themes of family relationships, grief, intimacy and connection, this kaleidoscopic yet relatable work of fiction will instantly appeal.



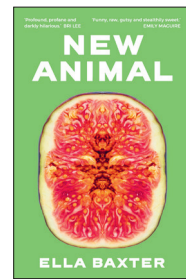
**Echolalia**  
Briohny Doyle  
Vintage. PB. \$32.99



Heartbreaking from the very beginning, this beautiful, nightmarish, fearless story grips you and will not let you go. As the world outside disintegrates, so too does the mind of a young mother, causing her to do the unthinkable. Be warned, at times this story is hard to read, but while it can be disturbing, it is also invigorating, intense and deeply moving.



**New Animal**  
Ella Baxter  
A&U. PB. \$29.99



This confident and gritty debut about a young make-up artist working in a mortuary takes the reader places they will never expect. Witty, emotional and raw, Amelia's story is also laugh-out-loud funny, somewhat surreal (in a good way), and unlike anything else you have ever read.



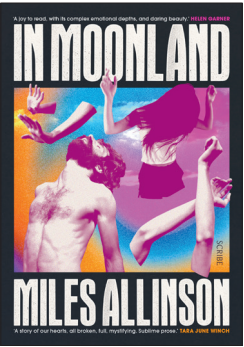
We are pleased to offer the Readings Prize 2021 shortlist pack featuring all six books for the special price of \$149.99 (was \$188.94). To buy online, search 'Readings Prize 2021 Shortlist Pack' on our website.



# Fiction

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

*Australian Fiction*



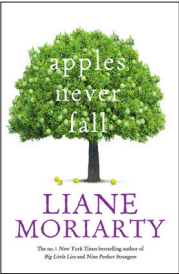
**In Moonland**  
Miles Allinson  
Scribe. PB. Was \$29.99  
**\$23**  
Available now  
Melbourne City Reads September book of the month

*In Moonland* is a striking writing of life, and the lives it leaves behind. It is the work of a novelist more in touch with the potential of the form than I have seen in a long time. For this reason, it achieves something that might be called artistic: it reads as an intervention into our times, not as a symptom of it.

Jeremy George is from Readings Malvern

## Australian Fiction

**Apples Never Fall**  
Liane Moriarty  
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$32.99  
**\$27.99**  
Available 14 September



I was relatively late to the party with Liane Moriarty. I’m embarrassed to admit that I was basically bullied into reading her by a workmate who correctly interpreted my rolling eyes as literary snobbery, and insisted that I was badly underestimating one of Australia’s most successful authors. I’m so glad they persisted, because I have since discovered Moriarty’s books are consistently well written, clever, witty, compulsively readable and honestly so much fun. With the pandemic, and the lockdowns, and all the terrible things happening in the world, *Apples Never Fall* could not have come at a better time.

Sixty-nine-year-old Joy Delaney is a retired mother of four, a frustrated would-be grandmother, an aspiring memoir writer – and missing. A week earlier, she sent her children an unintelligible text message and then vanished. While her children try to piece together the mystery of her disappearance (while dealing with their own respective domestic crises), the police have begun narrowing in on Joy’s husband of 50 years. Is it possible their seemingly blissful marriage held some dark secrets?

A Liane Moriarty book is a masterclass

**R** *In Moonland* is a triangle. Beginning in present-day Melbourne, the deterioration of Joe’s young family catalyses an investigation into his own father’s suicide, leading him through the counterculture of the 1970s from the viewpoint of those it used and discarded. Transported to the past, and into the perspective of Joe’s father, we descend into the heady days of the Bhagwan cult, exposing the essential violence of Free Love. Thrown into the future, from the perspective now of Joe’s daughter, we encounter a father trapped in a failed utopia he always knew was no place at all. Things repeat themselves, but *In Moonland* wants to stress that they do so with difference and with real consequences.

This is Miles Allinson’s second novel following his 2015 debut *Fever of Animals*, a metafictional meditation on surrealism and obsession. This new book continues Allinson’s investigation into writing’s at once recuperative and destructive ability to explore what Emil Cioran called, ‘the trouble with being born’. *In Moonland* stages the collision of what you inherit and what you decide to do with it. In other words, it is a novel that plumbs the vicissitudes of what we call family and what we call love.

And it is epic. *In Moonland* is a novel that resists a trend in contemporary fiction – especially autofiction – to filter a local environment through the writer’s own ego and declare it profound. Instead Allinson crafts numerous perspectives into a writerly constellation; in the seams that connect them, he traces a historical progression from the insidious political alienation of the hippie movement to the imminent climate collapse which irrevocably marks our posterity.

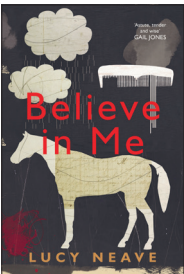
in suspense, and *Apples Never Fall* does not disappoint. Split across multiple points-of-view and timelines, the story remains tightly controlled, building to a crescendo as Joy’s fate is revealed. Via a clever narrative device, readers experience much of the story’s action through the eyes of curious bystanders: overheard conversations, salon gossip and peeks behind twitching curtains. You can’t help but read this entertaining work of domestic noir with voyeuristic glee.

As with all of Moriarty’s books, *Apples Never Fall* offers a perfect balance between light and dark; a nuanced portrayal of people you could swear were based on someone you know; and a story that will keep you turning pages well past your bedtime. If you’re already a fan, you’re in for a treat. If you’re yet to discover Moriarty’s particular brand of subversive suburban suspense, then let me bully you into it.

Lian Hingee is the digital marketing manager at Readings

**Believe in Me**  
Lucy Neave  
UQP. PB. \$32.99  
Available now

**R** When American teenager Sarah is sent away on a mission with the married pastor of her family’s church, Sarah’s mother, Greta, tells her: ‘don’t worry about us. Be as free as a bird, as a fox. You know?’ These parting words seem to act as a curse, as the trip will ensure Sarah is never truly free again. Sarah falls pregnant and is



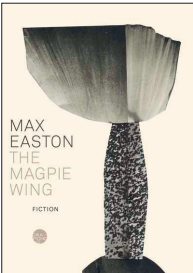
sent away to Sydney, where it is assumed she will have the baby, abandon it to the care of some seemingly benevolent nuns at a home for unwed mothers, and return to her family in Poughkeepsie. Assisted by the sphinx-like midwife, Dora, Sarah instead takes her baby girl to Adelaide.

Years pass and Sarah is an enigma to her adult daughter Bethany (Bet), who longingly seeks clues about her mother in the scrapbooks Sarah has kept all her adult life. Conflicted by her mother’s attempts to show love, and by her deception, Bet struggles to define her own identity, acutely aware of her dissimilitude to her mother.

Can we ever really know our parents? As parents, can we ever really know our children? Lucy Neave’s labyrinthic disquisition of a unique mother–daughter relationship is a deeply affecting, wholly engrossing rumination on the various lenses through which we are viewed, depending on the nature of our relationships. We cannot choose our families; nor can we choose how the traumas inflicted on those responsible for shaping our view of the world can also, in turn, shape who we become. With *Believe in Me*, Neave reminds us there is great healing to be found by carefully listening to the stories of strangers and the people we think we know.

Tye Cattnach is from Readings Carlton

**The Magpie Wing**  
Max Easton  
Giramondo. PB. \$26.95  
Available now



**R** Max Easton is the creator of the brilliant podcast *Barely Human*, which explores the underground music scene and the musicians who fascinate him. (The episodes on Randy Newman, Poly Styrene and R.L. Burnside are well worth checking out.) Music is also at the heart of Easton’s debut novel, *The Magpie Wing*, which focuses on three teenagers living in the western suburbs of Sydney in the late 1990s. Walt and Duncan first meet as kids on a rugby league field, and Duncan soon becomes Walt’s protector on the field and off. As someone who barely acknowledges rugby league as a sport, I wasn’t expecting to enjoy this portion of the book, but Easton’s passion for and knowledge of the subject make it both moving and illuminating to read.

Rounding out the triangle is Walt’s sister Helen. Like most older siblings in literature and life, she leads the way and influences her younger brother. Her musical obsessions, rampant drunkenness and burgeoning sexuality lead her to move out of the family home, starting the siblings’ journey through a series of share houses, squats and sheds in inner-city Sydney. Easton’s characterisation of Helen is deft and deeply explored, brought to life on the page with sympathy. For me, she was the most fully realised and interesting person in the whole novel.

We follow these three characters as they navigate adolescence and their early 20s, moving from the sporting fields of Western Sydney to the clubs, sex, drugs and music scene of their early adulthood. Easton’s deep knowledge of music and all of its life-changing intricacies are woven throughout the book without any hint of pontification or name-dropping. I suspect *The Magpie Wing* will appeal more to the music fan than the sports fan, and while its roots are

tied to Sydney, I think that as Victorians we need to overcome our distaste for the primitive game and allow ourselves the pleasure of reading this extremely interesting first novel.

Pierre Sutcliffe is from Readings St Kilda

**Travelling Companions**  
Antoni Jach  
Transit Lounge. PB. \$32.99  
Available now  
For details on the event for this book, visit [readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)



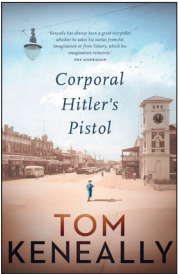
**R** My brother Luke says this thing: ‘It’s not the destination. It isn’t even the journey. It’s the company.’ Antoni Jach’s novel *Travelling Companions*, which presents a particularly untroubled dream-vision of pre-pandemic European travel, bears this out. While it is full of detail about the places visited (Barcelona – Paris – Venice – Pompeii), companionship is its real theme. Our nameless Australian narrator quickly bumps into the international cast of characters who will be travelling alongside and criss-crossing his own train journeys from Barcelona to Pompeii. Throughout the book, they are forever parting and making plans to meet again in various combinations in the next city, or the next, at such and such a landmark on such and such a date at such and such a time. *Travelling Companions* evokes the floating world of travel: chance meetings, easy flirting, happenstance friendships.

The book is set in 1999, a time before 9/11, which complicated international travel, and before COVID-19, which prevented international travel. It conjures a nostalgic world of journeying, in which delayed trains and loneliness are your greatest threats, not terrorism and pandemic.

Viewed from the clenched, chaotic terrain of our locked-down present, the physical and cultural landscape these pleasant companions travel through is a smooth one: charmed and literate, cultivated and calm. When not engaged in conversation with his companions, the narrator has his nose in *The Decameron*, Boccaccio’s 14th-century tale of the group of youths who escape the plague city of Florence and pass their time in the country telling stories to one another. When the narrator looks up from his book, he listens to Nina the Florentine entrance the company with her fables, while Europe slides past the train windows. This book is as diverting and evanescent as that.

Bernard Caleo is from Readings Carlton

**Corporal Hitler’s Pistol**  
Tom Keneally  
Vintage. PB. \$32.99  
Available now



The town of Kempsey is full of secrets. An affluent matron confronted with her husband’s sin. A hero of the First World War taken to a psychiatric ward in Sydney. A murdered farmhand and a gay piano-playing veteran implicated in the crime. *Corporal Hitler’s Pistol* speaks to the lasting effect of ‘the war to end all wars’ on rural communities.



Modern Marriage

Filip Vukašin  
Affirm Press. PB. \$32.99  
Available now



Klara has the perfect life: she runs a successful cosmetic clinic, has a beautiful house, and she and her adoring husband Dante are trying for a baby. Then one day she receives a call. Dante has been found unconscious in a gay sauna and now lies in a coma. What Klara discovers about her husband will shatter everything she thought she knew about love, marriage and family.

The Things We See in the Light

Amal Awad  
Pantera. PB. \$29.99  
Available now



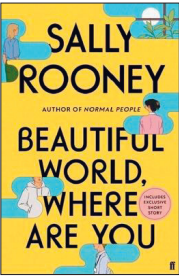
Eight years ago, Sahar pursued her happily ever after when she married Khaled and followed him to Jordan, leaving behind her thriving cake business. Now, haunted by secrets, Sahar has returned home to Sydney. With the help of her childhood friends, she hits the reset button on her life. A delicious novel of new beginnings, reinvention, love and chocolate.

International Fiction

Beautiful World, Where Are You (Limited edition)

Sally Rooney  
Faber. HB. Was \$34.99  
\$29.99  
Available 7 September

Limited edition available while stocks last. Also available in trade paperback (\$29.99).



Calling Sally Rooney's third novel (in only four years) highly anticipated doesn't quite cut it. Thanks to the immense global success of both

*Conversations with Friends* and *Normal People*, which topped bestseller charts and spawned film and TV adaptations, the young Irish writer is kind of a big deal. She's has been called a great millennial novelist; her character-driven studies of class, sex and relationships are witty, cerebral and utterly compelling. And if you're a fan, eagerly looking forward to her latest – well, *Beautiful World, Where Are You* is quite simply as good as you're hoping it will be (dare I say even better).

On the surface, *Beautiful World, Where Are You* plays right into the Rooney formula. The central friendship explored is between Alice and Eileen; both in their late 20s, thin, White and university educated. Alice is a successful novelist recovering from a nervous breakdown in a small seaside town, where she's started dating Felix. Back home in Dublin, Eileen is working at a literary magazine and questioning her relationship with a childhood friend, Simon. Alice and Eileen write long emails to each other: updates on their lives interwoven with musings on culture, climate change and politics (post-Brexit, pre-Covid).

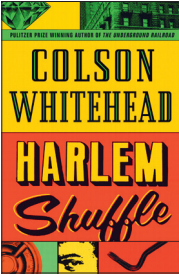
The form and structure of this novel is what sets it apart from Rooney's earlier work. The epistolary emails intimately illustrate how Alice and Eileen are feeling (or how they wish to be perceived by each other, at the very least). However, these emails are offset by alternating chapters written in the third person. Here, by Rooney's deft hand, the reader observes the actions of these four characters from a cool distance. We eavesdrop on their conversations (Rooney's dialogue is as engaging as any great TV script) but are denied any omniscient insights into their internal state. The contrast between chapters feels like switching between coolness and heat, symbolising so much about how humans interact with one another and creating a narrative propulsion that builds to a pitch-perfect conclusion.

Finishing *Beautiful World, Where Are You* left me with an ache – I immediately wanted to start this novel again from the beginning. Rooney fans will not be disappointed, and anyone else curious about this month's most talked-about book is in for a treat.

Stella Charls is from Readings Carlton

Harlem Shuffle

Colson Whitehead  
Fleet. PB. \$32.99  
Available 14 September



Colson Whitehead's new novel, *Harlem Shuffle*, centres on Ray Carney, a furniture store owner who is doing a bad job of flying straight. His father was an infamous crook, and despite Ray's best

efforts to jettison the family legacy, he is also 'smart enough to know you make more money being crooked'. Ray has a young family, and aspirations to get ahead – to one day get a place in Harlem's best district, Striver's Row. He doesn't have to look hard to find trouble; his wayward cousin, Freddie, has a knack for bringing it to his door. It isn't long before Ray goes from selling 'gently used appliances' to being a fence for one of Harlem's biggest gangsters.

Set over five years, the narrative is divided into three episodes that take place in a kinetic New York City during the Kennedy presidency. Ray isn't the only one on the take – beneath that veneer of the city's prosperity is a dark web of corruption and opportunism. While Ray's crime capers provide the narrative architecture, Whitehead's depiction of the Harlem neighbourhood, and its people, is the true jewel of the novel: 'that rustling keening thing of people and concrete.'

Whitehead's last books, *The Nickel Boys* and *The Underground Railroad*, shined a spotlight on some of the United States' darkest episodes. While this might not be *Harlem Shuffle*'s direct focus, these themes of race and power are there, confronting Ray daily. In one scene, Ray is turned away from a Union Square furniture store when he goes to check out the new season line in couches and dining sets from Bella Fontaine. The dividing line between Harlem and lower Manhattan is stark. In the final episode, the Harlem riots of 1964 serve as the backdrop to the narrative, and Whitehead's characters debate whether a riot will better their lot and promote any real change. *Harlem Shuffle* will satisfy crime fiction readers and literary fiction readers alike.

Joe Rubbo is the operations manager at Readings

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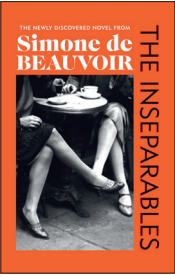


The Inseparables

Simone de Beauvoir & Lauren Elkin (trans.)

Vintage Classics. HB. \$24.99

Available 14 September



**R** In 1954, five years after she published *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir wrote a short novel. Beauvoir believed the unnamed work wasn’t serious enough to publish in her lifetime, leaving it to her adopted daughter and literary executor, Sylvie Le Bon-de Beauvoir, to decide whether it should ever be liberated into print.

Like most of Beauvoir’s writing, *The Inseparables* is drawn from her life. It recounts her intense friendship with Elisabeth ‘Zaza’ Lacoin, from the age of nine when both were students at a private Catholic school, until Zaza’s sudden death at 21. For Beauvoir, this relationship was life-changing, and she returned to it frequently in her nonfiction writing. Fictionalised here, Beauvoir becomes Sylvie, Zaza is Andrée. Passionately narrated by Sylvie, who is fascinated by her new friend to the point of compulsion, we see how the girls’ intimacy builds around conversations and bold ideas – talking is rebellious, a refusal to live in the intellectual purgatory of unexpressed opinions expected of young women at this time. As they grow up, Andrée inspires Sylvie to further rupture the corsetry of bourgeois society but struggles to achieve the same freedom herself.

Like Elena Ferrante’s *My Brilliant Friend*, *The Inseparables* confirms that female friendship is one of the serious subjects of great literature. It’s a compact, elegant and beautifully written novel, but its worth isn’t only aesthetic – it’s also a vital piece in the wider story of one of the most significant intellectual legacies of the 20th century. In Beauvoir’s conception of her dear friend’s life – the oppressive feminine rituals, her loss of self-determination – we see the buds of Beauvoir’s maxim that one is not born but rather becomes a woman, and more importantly, the consequences of this. Zaza’s was a friendship that thoroughly shaped the woman Beauvoir became. In publishing, sometimes hype can cloud judgment. But the release of a new work of fiction by a legitimate feminist icon is genuinely a momentous event.

Joanna Di Mattia is from Reading Carlton

The Magician

Colm Tóibín

Picador. PB. Was \$32.99

**\$ \$29.99**

Available now



**R** Until recently, the only book I’d read by Colm Tóibín was his excellent nonfiction work on the fathers of Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats and James Joyce, *Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know*. A few weeks ago, I found myself listening several times over to Hisham Matar reading Tóibín’s story ‘One minus one’ on the *New Yorker’s Fiction Podcast*. In the story, the narrator is addressing a man who isn’t present, a former and still-loved partner, about the recent death of his mother – the loss of each magnifying and confusing the other. I then read Tóibín’s *Brooklyn* and realised

that he’s exactly the author I want to be reading right now. He fits somewhat into that Elena Ferrante niche, in that he writes immensely readable intergenerational stories that are as intelligent as they are propulsive, with a rich sense of place and complex characters who are intellectually, emotionally and/or physically displaced or adrift.

Tóibín’s new novel, *The Magician*, is a fictionalised biography of German writer Thomas Mann, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of *Buddenbrooks*, *Death in Venice* and *The Magic Mountain*, among others. The book is a fascinating series of running portraits not only of Mann himself, but also of his family and the way his children and siblings struggle in the shadow of his enormous success. It’s also a portrait of Germany. Mann has to negotiate the sudden rise of nationalism in the lead-up to the First World War, the interwar instability and failed revolution, the rise of the Nazi Party and the Second World War – which necessitated Mann and his family emigrate to the US – and then, finally, the country’s postwar division.

Not only is this a richly satisfying book, but it’s also one that has sent me back to read and re-read Mann’s own writing, as well as Tóibín’s earlier novel on Henry James, *The Master*. With its evocation of the upheaval of the war years, *The Magician* also speaks to works by Mann’s contemporaries, such as *Memories: From Moscow to the Black Sea*, the then famous Russian author Teffi’s account of fleeing the Russian Revolution.

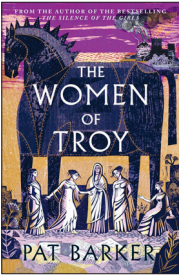
Oliver Driscoll is from Readings Doncaster

The Women of Troy

Pat Barker

Hamish Hamilton. PB. \$32.99

Available now



**R** In *The Women of Troy*, Pat Barker returns to the bloodied sands of ancient Greece to continue the story of her acclaimed retelling of *The Iliad*, *The Silence of the Girls*. The novel begins in the belly of the

great wooden horse, with Pyrrhus – Achilles’ son – preparing for the devastating sack of the city and his gruesome slaughter of Priam. From there Barker is somewhat liberated from her prototypical text; Homer and his fellow storytellers were more interested in the glory of battle than in the aftermath – the unburied bodies, desecrated homes and violated women that results from any war.

Necessarily, *The Women of Troy* is a very different book from *The Silence of the Girls*. The propulsive urgency of the first story has given way to the sinister, creeping dread of the second. The war is lost, the winners are declared, and the spoils – including the women from both sides – have been divided among the victors. The captured slave Briseis has been married off to protect Achilles’ unborn child, but her new status rests uneasily on her shoulders. To the Greeks she’s nothing more than an incubator, and to her fellow female captives she’s a traitor.

While the armies wait for a wind change that will allow them to finally return home, Briseis uses her new influence to try and protect the women of the camp from the men’s anger and violence. For the first time, Barker introduces readers to the more familiar female citizens of Troy: the cursed Cassandra, given as a sex slave to

Agamemnon; the bereaved Andromache, forced to share the bed of the son of her husband’s killer; Hecuba, who struggles to comprehend her fall from queen to slave; and Helen, whose beauty provides little protection from the rage of her cuckolded husband. If *The Silence of the Girls* was a masterclass in female rage, *The Women of Troy* is a study of survival.

Pat Barker is an extraordinary writer, and this is an extraordinary novel. Contemporary, heartbreaking, and galvanising, it is essential reading.

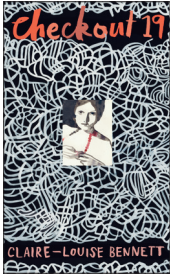
Lian Hingee is the digital marketing manager at Readings

Checkout 19

Claire-Louise Bennett

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$32.99

Available now



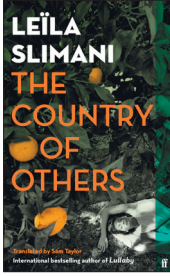
With fierce imagination, a woman revisits the moments that shape her life, from crushes on teachers to navigating relationships in a fast-paced world, to overhearing her grandmother’s peculiar stories. Fusing fantasy with lived experience, *Checkout 19* is a vivid and mesmerising literary journey through the small traumas and triumphs that define us, from the award-winning author of *Pond*.

The Country of Others

Leïla Slimani & Sam Taylor (trans.)

Faber. PB. \$29.99

Available now



Alsace, 1944. Mathilde finds herself falling for Amine, a Moroccan soldier fighting for the French. After the war, Mathilde follows Amine to Morocco but life as a farmer’s wife in the suffocating heat is full of sacrifice and restlessness. The first book in a three-volume saga of one Moroccan French family, this is a story of two nations at war, two cultures at loggerheads and one family torn apart.

Filthy Animals

Brandon Taylor

Daunt Books. PB. \$22.99

Available now



A young man treads delicate emotional waters as he navigates a series of encounters with two dancers in an open relationship; a little girl tears through the house like a tornado; a young woman battles

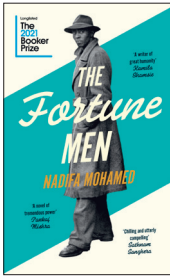
with the cancers draining her body. *Filthy Animals* is a group portrait of young adults enmeshed in desire and violence, a hotly charged new work of fiction from the author of Booker Prize finalist *Real Life*.

The Fortune Men

Nadifa Mohamed

Viking. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Longlisted for the Booker Prize. Mahmood Mattan is a fixture in Cardiff’s Tiger Bay, 1952, which bustles with Somali and West Indian sailors, Maltese businessmen and Jewish families. He is a

father, chancer, petty criminal, smooth-talker. He is many things, but he is not a murderer. Based on a real-life story, this is a searing indictment of the failings of justice, and a reclamation of a man’s dignity.

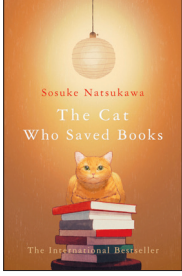
The Cat Who Saved Books

Sosuke Natsukawa &

Louise Heal Kawai (trans.)

Picador. PB. \$19.99

Available 14 September



Bookish high school student Rintaro Natsuki is about to close the secondhand bookshop he inherited from his beloved grandfather. Then, a talking cat appears with an unusual request: it needs Rintaro’s help to save books that have been imprisoned, destroyed and unloved. A tale of first love, fantasy, and a most unusual friendship that will bewitch all book lovers out there.

A Good Winter

Gigi Fenster

Text. PB. \$32.99

Available 14 September



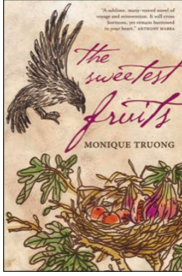
When Olga’s friend Lara becomes a grandmother, Olga helps whenever she can. But smouldering beneath Olga’s sensible support and loving generosity is a deep jealous need to be the centre of Lara’s attention and affection – a need that soon becomes a consuming, dangerous and ultimately tragic obsession. An enthralling psychological thriller, and a dark and complex portrait of a troubled mind.

The Sweetest Fruits

Monique Truong

Upswell. PB. \$29.99

Available now



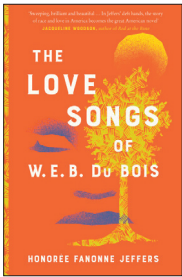
In *The Sweetest Fruits*, three women, Rosa, Alethea, and Setsu, tell the story of their life with globetrotting Greek-Irish writer Lafcadio Hearn. In their own unorthodox ways, the three women are also intrepid travellers and explorers. Their accounts witness Hearn’s remarkable life but also seek to witness their own existence and luminous will to live unbounded by gender, race and the mores of their time.

The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

Fourth Estate. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Ailey grows up in the north in the City but spends summers in the small Georgia town where her mother’s family has lived since their ancestors arrived from Africa in bondage. To come to terms with her identity, Ailey embarks on a journey through her family’s past, and discovers a legacy of oppression and resistance, cruelty and resilience, that is the story – and the song – of America itself.

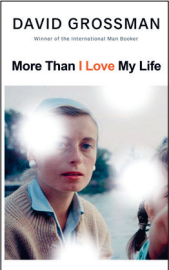


**Magpie**  
Elizabeth Day  
Fourth Estate. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



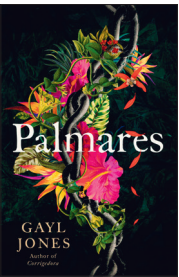
In Jake, Marisa has found everything she's ever wanted. Then their new lodger Kate arrives. Something about Kate isn't right. Is it the way she looks at Marisa's boyfriend? Sits too close on the sofa? Constantly asks about the baby they are trying for? Marisa knows something is wrong. She just doesn't know why. How far will she go to find the answer – and how much is she willing to lose?

**More Than I Love My Life**  
David Grossman  
Jonathan Cape. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



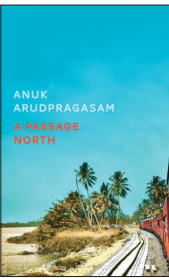
From the winner of the International Booker Prize, an epic novel about the legacy of war and trauma on three generations of women: Vera, age 90; her daughter, Nina; and her granddaughter, Gili. Long estranged, Nina's return to the family in Israel after years of silence forces mother, daughter and grandmother to confront the past head-on.

**Palmares**  
Gayl Jones  
Virago. PB. \$32.99  
*Available 14 September*



From plantation to plantation, Almeyda, a young slave girl, hears whispers, rumours of Palmares, a hidden settlement where fugitive slaves live free. But can this promised land exist? And what price is paid for freedom? A sweeping, magnificent historical epic, set in 17th-century Brazil, that has its basis in extraordinary historical events.

**A Passage North**  
Anuk Arudpragasam  
Granta. PB. \$29.99  
*Available 14 September*



Longlisted for the Booker Prize. It begins with a message: a telephone call informing Krishan that his grandmother's former caregiver, Rani, has died in unexpected circumstances. As Krishan makes the long journey by train from Colombo into the war-torn Northern Province for the funeral, so begins a passage into the soul of an island devastated by violence.

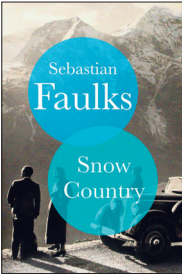
**An Island**  
Karen Jennings  
Text. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



Longlisted for the Booker Prize. For years Samuel has lived alone on a small island where he is the lighthouse keeper. Until the day a young refugee washes up on the beach. Samuel is unsettled by the

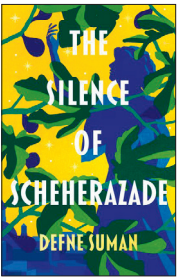
intruder. Who is the stranger? Why has he come? What does he want? The island belongs to Samuel now. But what does land mean? And who should control it? A powerful and suspenseful literary novel that takes place over four days on an island off the African coast.

**Snow Country**  
Sebastian Faulks  
Hutchinson. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



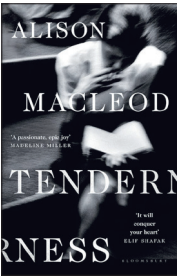
1914: Young Anton Heideck arrives in Vienna, eager to make his name as a journalist. But then war is declared. 1927: Lena lives an impoverished life in a small town, until a young lawyer spirits her away to Vienna. But the capital proves unforgiving. 1933: Anton, now an established writer, struggles to come terms with the loss of so many friends on the Eastern Front. At the mysterious sanatorium, Schloss Seeblick, a place of healing, two people will see each other as if for the first time.

**The Silence of Scheherazade**  
Defne Suman & Betsy Goksel (trans.)  
Head of Zeus. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



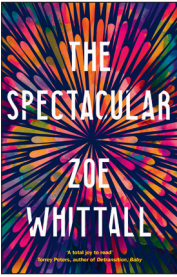
On an orange-tinted evening in September 1905 in the ancient city of Smyrna, Scheherazade is born. At the very same moment, a dashing Indian spy arrives in the harbour with a secret mission. Told through the intertwining fates of a Levantine, a Greek, a Turkish and an Armenian family, this unforgettable novel reveals a city, and a culture, now lost to time.

**Tenderness**  
Alison MacLeod  
Bloomsbury. PB. \$32.99  
*Available 14 September*

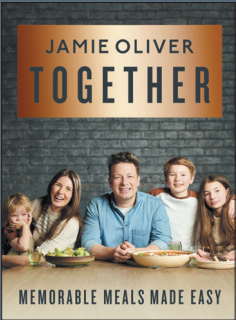


For readers of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a spellbinding historical novel about sensuality, censorship and the book that set off the sexual revolution. Told from the perspectives of a sprawling cast that includes an exiled D.H. Lawrence and a young Jackie Kennedy, *Tenderness* captures the epic sweep of the 20th century through the obscenity trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and the men and women who fought for its publication.

**The Spectacular**  
Zoe Whittall  
H&S. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



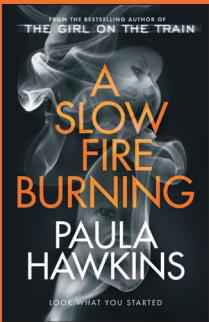
It's 1997 and 22-year-old Missy is touring America. Every night on stage, she plays the song about her estranged mother that made her band famous. Off stage, she parties as hard as anyone. When Missy crashes at her grandmother Ruth's house, Ruth decides it's time the stubborn women in her family find a way to understand each other again.



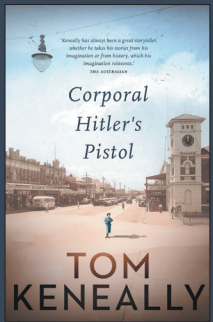
**Together**  
Jamie Oliver  
*Together* takes the stress out of cooking by teaching you hacks to get organised, get ahead. *Together* is about comfort, celebration, creating new memories and, above all, the sharing of mouthwatering food.



**Puff Piece**  
John Safran  
John Safran's wild, hilarious and thought-provoking *Puff Piece* is a probing look into Big Tobacco and the vaping industry, and how words can be literally a matter of life and death.

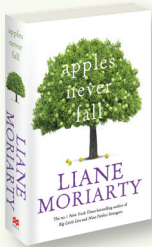


**A Slow Fire Burning**  
Paula Hawkins  
From Paula Hawkins, the author of global phenomena *The Girl on the Train* and *Into the Water*, comes a fresh, propulsive new novel.



**Corporal Hitler's Pistol**  
Tom Keneally  
Booker Prize-winner Tom Keneally tells a compelling story of the complexity and sophistication of early regional Australia. *Corporal Hitler's Pistol* speaks to the never-ending war that began with 'the war to end all wars.'

Read more at [penguin.com.au](http://penguin.com.au)



## apples never fall

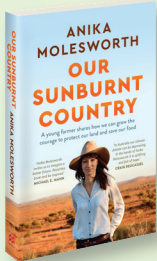
LIANE MORIARTY

From the author of *Big Little Lies* and *Nine Perfect Strangers*.  
'I loved it. *Apples Never Fall* is an absolute page-turner with all the wit and nuance that has put Liane Moriarty head and shoulders above the crowd and shows once again why she leads the pack.'  
Jane Harper

## LAKE SEDGE

LYNDALL CLIPSTONE

*There are monsters in the world.*  
'A shadow-drenched fairytale that readers will happily devour. Lyndall Clipstone's lush prose lends itself to a world both dark and elegant, brimming with monsters, and a young woman brave enough to face them.'  
Emily Lloyd-Jones



## OUR SUNBURNT COUNTRY

ANIKA MOLESWORTH

There is a way to protect our land, our food and our future, and it is within our grasp.  
'In a hope-filled, personal tale framed by her family farm in a sun-baked landscape, Anika Molesworth weaves philosophy, science and a poet's eye into a heartwarming tale of how to help heal the planet.'  
Matthew Evans

## THE MAGICIAN

COLM TÓIBÍN

From the author of *Brooklyn* and *Nora Webster*.  
'As with everything Colm Tóibín sets his masterful hand to, *The Magician* is a great imaginative achievement – immensely readable, erudite, worldly and knowing, and fully realized.'  
Richard Ford



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‘Crackling’ **Tony Birch**

‘Exquisite’ **Natalie Harkin**

‘Brilliant’ **Omar Sakr**

WINNER OF THE DAVID UNAIPON AWARD

how  
to  
make  
a  
basket

‘I adore this book,’  
Tony Birch

**JAZZ MONEY**

Discover  
the latest  
from **UQP**

‘Astute, tender  
and wise’  
GAIL JONES

**Believe  
in Me**

**LUCY NEAVE**

‘Powerful’ **Brenda Walker**

‘Astute’ **Gail Jones**

‘Profound’ **Amanda Lohrey**

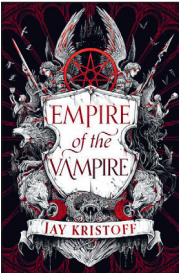
**UQP**

2021 Small Publisher of the Year

Sci-fi / Fantasy

Empire of the Vampire

Jay Kristoff  
Voyager. PB. \$32.99  
Available now

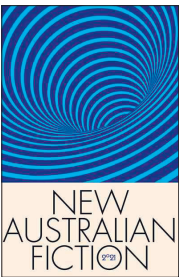


It has been 27 long years since the last sunrise. For nearly three decades, vampires have waged war against humanity; building their eternal empire as they tear down our own. Now, Gabriel de León, last remaining silversaint – a sworn brother of the holy Silver Order dedicated to defending the realm from the creatures of the night – is all that stands between the world and its end.

Anthologies

New Australian Fiction 2021

Rebecca Starford (ed.)  
Kill Your Darlings. PB. \$24.99  
Available now

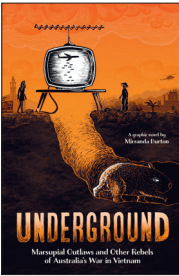


A son becomes enthralled in his father’s quest for treasure. A young woman is blamed for an unfathomable act. Teenagers break into an airfield. Strangers meet in the night. The world is thrown into chaos when people spontaneously combust. *New Australian Fiction 2021* features brilliant writers with distinct experiences, voices and styles from all corners of Australia.

Graphic Novel

Underground: Marsupial Outlaws and Other Rebels of Australia’s War in Vietnam

Miranda Burton  
A&U. PB. \$29.99  
Available now



It’s the 1960s, and the Australian government has begun conscripting young men to fight in Vietnam. Melbourne housewife Jean McLean and her friends, the Pughs, are determined to protest the draft, and begin the Save Our Sons movement. Meanwhile, teenager Bill Cantwell signs up for the army after his family’s rural orchard is sold off. And in Saigon, a young girl named Mai Ho asks her father to help her understand: why is her homeland at war in the first place?

Miranda Burton’s new graphic novel tells these intertwining stories – all of them based on real people – with deep empathy and painstakingly thorough research. Much of the book stems from interviews she conducted with veterans, anti-war activists and refugees. She presents their stories in bold and energetic cartoons, interspersed with darkly dramatic full-page scratchboard illustrations. Fans of Shaun Tan’s *The Arrival* or Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* will find many rich thematic and visual comparisons to be made. This is a moving account not only of the anti-war effort in Australia, but also of the lasting effect of the Vietnam War on Australia’s social, cultural and political history.

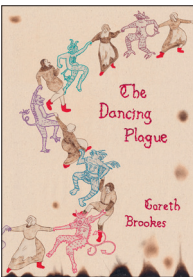
The tone is often serious – this is, after all, a story about war – but between sadder scenes there are many moments of endearing and irreverent humour. In my favourite, two confused police officers listen to a long and detailed description of a missing draft-dodger; they leave in disgust when they discover they’ve been sent to chase down a pet wombat. In another, a veteran praises the medic who saved his life with an emergency tracheotomy: ‘A pretty gutsy move for a fridge salesman.’

*Underground* will appeal to anyone with an interest in social activism or Australian history. If you’ve ever felt hesitant to try a graphic novel, this beautifully crafted book is a welcoming and rewarding place to begin.

Ele Jenkins is from Readings Carlton

The Dancing Plague

Gareth Brookes  
Self Made Hero. PB. \$29.99  
Available now

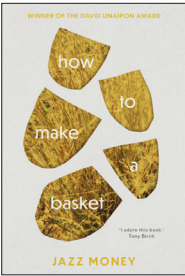


*The Dancing Plague* tells a true story, from 1518, when hundreds of people in Strasbourg were suddenly seized by the strange and unstoppable compulsion to dance. That story finds extraordinary expression in this graphic novel through Gareth Brookes’ unique mixed-media style, one that blends pyrographic technique with sumptuously colourful embroidery.

Poetry

How to Make a Basket

Jazz Money  
UQP. PB. \$24.99  
Available now



Jazz Money won the 2020 David Unaipon Award for her collection *How to Make a Basket*, and it’s easy to see why: this is an absolutely stunning collection of poetry.

The collection opens with a poem about the Djab Wurrung sacred birthing trees – ‘this is where life begins’ – one of which was felled under the Andrews state government to make way for the Western Highway. This poem honours all that these trees mean, while bubbling with anger at the ‘white hands white hats white clipboards’ that come to destroy. From here, Money considers what it is to live in a contemporary colonial state, and the collection emerges as both protest against settler violence and a celebration of First Nations and queer love. It is beautiful and lyrical – I couldn’t put this down. Money has a strong sense of form as she finds connection with her ancestors and her Country, feeling the trees, smoke, water, sky and heat all around her.

Money incorporates Wiradjuri as well as English in her poems, and I found this a moving experience to witness the effort to preserve the language in print, while also de-centering the White reader as the default audience. This asks White readers, like myself, to listen to and hold Money’s personal and cultural history – but it is not written to appease. I was particularly struck by this in one line: ‘and if I write / it’s for our language / stolen from the mouths / of babies in cribs.’ Throughout

the collection, I was reminded of Oodgeroo Noonuccal’s poetry – both in its voice of protest and in its sense of leadership and community. Readers who have enjoyed Evelyn Araluen and Alison Whittaker’s work will be similarly impressed with this collection. *Jazz Money* is a poet to return to again and again.

Clare Millar is from Readings online

Take Care

Eunice Andrada  
Giramondo. PB. \$24  
Available now



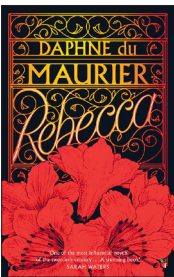
What does it mean to survive within systems not designed for tenderness? Bound in personal testimony, *Take Care* explores the magnitude of rape culture in the everyday: from justice

systems that dehumanise survivors, to exploitative care industries that deny Filipina workers their agency, to nationalist monuments that erase the sexual violence of war. Piercing the heart of our cultural crisis, these poems are salves, offerings and warnings.

Spotlight on a Classic

Rebecca

Daphne du Maurier  
Virago. PB. \$19.99  
Available now



‘Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again.’ It has been almost 20 years since I first read that opening line of Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca* and it still gives me goosebumps. I

remember reading the novel late into the night, under my bed covers, pausing only when I was overwhelmed and in horror of what might happen next.

Working as a lady’s maid in Monte Carlo, our unnamed protagonist is romanced by the mysterious widower Maxim de Winter. After a whirlwind fortnight of courtship, she becomes the second Mrs de Winter, leaving her life of servitude. After the wedding and honeymoon, she is whisked away from the south of France to Maxim’s country estate in Cornwall: Manderley.

But all is not well. The memory of the first Mrs de Winter, Rebecca, haunts Manderley. Maxim is a different man in this environment and our heroine is constantly found wanting by his forbidding housekeeper Mrs Danvers, who idolises the deceased Rebecca.

*Rebecca* blends elements of psychological thriller, romance, and gothic horror. In many ways it is a retelling of Charlotte Bronte’s *Jane Eyre*, but with stranger and more fascinating twists. So rarely do ‘classics’ qualify as page-turners, but Du Maurier’s novel fits the bill. It’s compelling and compulsively readable. Be forewarned, there are some questionable gender politics in the novel – this was published in 1938 after all – but they don’t detract from the sheer pleasure that reading it brings. Do yourself a favour, give the 2020 movie a miss and curl up with the book – maybe just leave all the lights on.

Tristen Brudy is from Readings Carlton



# Dead Write

with Fiona Hardy

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

Crime



**I Shot the Devil**  
Ruth McIver  
Hachette. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*

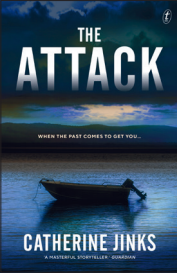
truth. Ripping the reality apart from the lies will take Erin from New York to Florida, piercing through everything she’s tried to hide, and everything she thought she knew. This is a raw, box-cutter-sharp noir that will raise your blood pressure with anger, and bleed you dry with pain in the best literary way.

**R**uth McIver’s manuscript of *I Shot the Devil* won Australia’s Richell Prize for Emerging Writers a few years ago, and on reading the published book, you can see why: this America-set crime novel is riveting from start to end.

Erin Sloane is a journalist who sometimes writes longform crime pieces for Long Island outlet *Inside Island*, but mostly chooses to drink, pop pills and try not to think about anything too important. One day, her editor sits her down with a new idea for a story: cover an old local case from the 1990s – the murder of teenager Andre Villiers by his friends. Trouble is, Erin knows that case all too well. That group of ‘Satanists’ – as the media fell over themselves to dub the culprits – were Erin’s friends too. Her boyfriend, Danny, was one of those sent down for Andre’s death. And the most possessed of them all, Ricky Hell – a beautiful, haunting enigma – was killed by a cop on the night. Now, after years of failing to shake the memory of those kids, the murder and every other god-awful thing that happened to her, Erin has to go right back and dig up what in the devil’s name did or did not happen that night.

This is a book that ripples with danger – Erin’s past is fraught, and none of the teenagers from that night led rosy lives. As Erin delves into the story, she finds that people are willing to talk, but not necessarily anything close to the

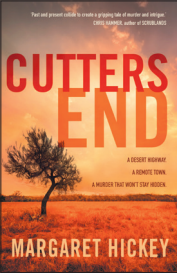
**The Attack**  
Catherine Jinks  
Text. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



On an island off the Queensland coast, a ferry docks; its cargo a bunch of teenage boys sent to a hard-line boot camp run by army vets. Robyn Ayres – once a primary school teacher, now the island’s caretaker – waits

to meet the boat, but when one of the boys raises his head, she’s hit with a rush of memory. Years ago, she was his teacher, and the battle between his grandmother and his mother ran riot through Robyn’s life. Now, under a different name, that boy is here again, on her island, in her space. She wants to help him, like she couldn’t back then, but when these teenagers incite more danger than even the vets can handle, Robyn’s sanity is stretched all the way to breaking point. A tense, intimate island thriller.

**Cutters End**  
Margaret Hickey  
Bantam. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



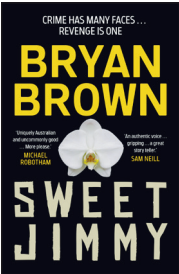
At the end of 1989, in the searing South Australian heat, a woman waits for a ride up the Stuart Highway. Less than a week later, near the rural town of Cutters End, a body is found, burned and broken. Now, some

30 years later, there’s renewed interest in the case, and Acting Inspector Mark Ariti – pulled from long service leave for the occasion – finds himself chasing up stories from long ago. Mark’s an Adelaide man now, but back in those days, he was a country kid, and friends with two of the girls – now women – who need to be interviewed. Alongside his new colleague, Senior Constable Jagdeep Kaur, the story of what happened along that highway is as hard to

see through as the dust and shimmering heat itself. Shelve this gritty, rural procedural right between Garry Disher and Jane Harper. (Or, if you must insist on shelving alphabetically instead of dramatically, after them.)

**Sweet Jimmy**  
Bryan Brown  
A&U. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*

For details on the event for this book, visit [readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)

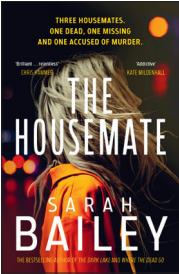


Enter any longstanding pub in the Australian suburbs and you could easily find this book propping up the bar there, surrounded by entranced punters a fair few drinks into their evening. This collection

of stories is like a series of punchy, well-honed yarns, every sentence as short and sharp as a bullet between the eyes. There are coppers and thieves, drug deals and murders, bad guys and almost-good guys, car chases and things that go boom. Bryan Brown – yes, that one, from that movie you’re thinking of – has a lot of tales to tell, so you might as well crack one open and listen in.

**The Housemate**  
Sarah Bailey  
A&U. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*

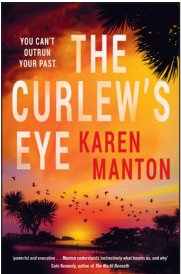
For details on the event for this book, visit [readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)



Everybody knows the Housemate Homicide: in 2005, in a share house in St Kilda, three women had a party and one of them wound up dead. Of the two remaining, one vanished and the other ended up in prison – but something felt wrong. Nobody in Australia was truly satisfied, not least Oli Groves, the journo who covered the case back then.

Nearly 10 years later, Oli is struggling with her awkward new parental responsibilities when the breakthrough of a lifetime calls up: the missing housemate has been found, dead. Oli’s put on the story again, along with podcasting upstart Cooper Ng, but there was more going on a decade ago than Oli really wants to admit. As the story alternates between the housemates’ fateful final months and Oli and Cooper’s investigation, a fresh and very real danger emerges. Sarah Bailey never shies away from flawed characters, and this excellent Melburnian thriller has plenty of them, along with a gripping, layered plot.

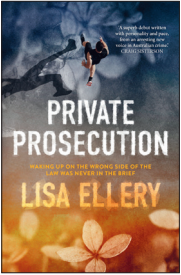
**The Curlew’s Eye**  
Kate Manton  
A&U. PB. \$32.99  
*Available 14 September*



Some books are just made for the word *evocative*. Karen Manton’s haunting story of a young family temporarily moving to the father’s childhood home is a whisper in the night, a face at the

window. There’s a sad, violent story behind Joel’s ruined family homestead in the Top End, and as Greta and her usually nomadic family settle into a roofless shack on the property, she finds the landscape beautiful, overwhelming and disquieting. There are new friends and fresh discoveries to be found among the rocks and ruins, but there’s also the threat of fire, a low thrum of constant danger, and people who live too close. There’s history buried here, and it all needs a reckoning. A heady and beautifully written rural Australian mystery.

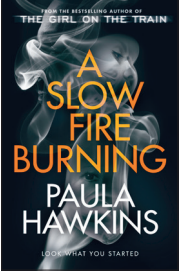
**Private Prosecution**  
Lisa Ellery  
Fremantle Press. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Andrew is living a smooth life as a junior prosecutor – working hard, playing hard, being a prat even harder. When he spends a night with the beautiful Lily, he sneaks out of her place in the morning hoping

there will be more nights in their future. Instead, he’s called in for questioning that afternoon for Lily’s murder. Guess who’s the last person known to have seen her, whose DNA is all over her, and who conveniently wrote a note before he left? Andrew is sure he knows who stabbed Lily, but he’s also sure that without any concrete evidence, he won’t be able to prove anything. So he goes on the hunt. WA lawyer Lisa Ellery clearly knows her stuff, and this is a solidly entertaining legal thriller.

**A Slow Fire Burning**  
Paula Hawkins  
Doubleday. PB. Was \$32.99  
**\$27.99**  
*Available now*



Paula ‘The Girl on the Train’ Hawkins is one of the most famous crime writers working today, and *A Slow Fire Burning* is another addictive psychological treat. Miriam, middle-aged, unhappy and living on a narrowboat on the river, goes to scold her neighbour and finds that the young man – Daniel Sutherland – has been killed.

Daniel’s death irrevocably connects Miriam with his extended circle: Laura, struggling with the aftermath of childhood trauma, who was the last to see Daniel alive; Irene, Laura’s elderly friend; Angela, Irene’s recently deceased neighbour; and Carla and Theo, Daniel’s aunt and uncle, forever bound together by grief. Between them all, secrets are hidden and revealed, lies told and explained, forgiveness given and withheld. And in all that, somebody must hold the key to who killed Daniel, and why. A wry exploration of humanity that burns as slow and hot as its title.

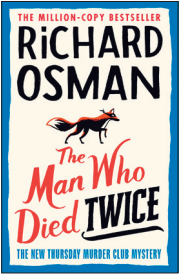
**Velvet Was the Night**  
Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
Jo Fletcher Books. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



It’s 1971, a time of political unrest in the perpetually unrestful Mexico City. Dictionary-loving vinyl fan Elvis is just about done with beating people up for a living, when he’s sent to find the missing

Leonora. Maite is a neighbour of Leonora’s. A secretary at a law firm, Maite lives for romance serials, English-language records and petty theft, and she’s also curious about her beautiful neighbour, whose cat she is looking after. As Elvis watches Maite from afar, he begins to see a future beyond his life. But in the world of gangs, violence, spies and assassins, there’s no easy way out of their lives without some blood being shed. A dark, yet strangely heartfelt noir.

**The Man Who Died Twice**  
Richard Osman  
Viking. PB. \$32.99  
*Available 14 September*



All right, I can see you’re already perking up about this one. I honestly couldn’t tell you how many times I’ve recommended Richard Osman’s first book, *The Thursday Murder Club*, to a

customer only to be told they have in fact already read it and *loved* it. Well, the Club is back, and as you’d expect from four elderly English people living in a retirement village, they have more murders to solve. There’s a street attack, stolen diamonds, dead bodies that aren’t all they seem and friendly drug dealers. There’s Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron – and anyone else they can rope into their shenanigans. And there’s you, the reader too, having just about the most delightfully funny time you could have, while still reading about people getting shot in the head. If you’re not already across Osman’s wildly popular books, now really is the time.



### Also out this month

*How to Kill Your Family* by Bella Mackie (HarperCollins, PB, \$29.99); *The Heron’s Cry* by Ann Cleeves (Pan Mac, PB, \$32.99); *Another Kind of Eden* by James Lee Burke (Orion, PB, \$32.99); *The Dark Remains* by William McIlvanney & Ian Rankin (Canongate, PB, \$29.99); *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny (H&S, PB, \$32.99) ... and more!



# Nonfiction

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

*Australian Studies*



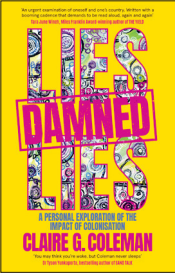
**Why You Should Give a F\*ck About Farming**  
Gabrielle Chan  
Vintage. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*

all eat, and have come to expect food that is cheap, readily available and of high quality. Which is why I ask that if you were to read one nonfiction book this year, please make it this one. From water and soil, to the food on our tables, this is the vital story behind our supermarket shelves.

Margaret Snowdon is from Readings Carlton

## Australian Studies

**Lies, Damned Lies**  
Claire G. Coleman  
Ultimo Press. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



**R** Noongar writer Claire G. Coleman blazed onto the local literary scene like a comet with her debut novel *Terra Nullius* in 2017. With its ingenious blend of historical and speculative fiction, it challenged many readers to rethink and reimagine the destructive and dystopian forces of colonialism. Coleman called it ‘an empathy bomb’, and the same could be said of her new collection of essays, *Lies, Damned Lies* – although here, the chief emotions conjured are fury and rage, which Coleman harnesses to tear down the pillars holding up the logic of settler colonialism.

The book is divided into three parts; the first, ‘Bones’, is the most directly personal. Essays in this section explore identity, belonging, Coleman’s family history, connection to Country, and the monstrous and the abject in the White imaginary. Many of these essays are exceptionally moving, particularly the ones that focus on Coleman’s father and grandfather, members of the ‘Hidden Generation’ who were forced to conceal their Noongar culture. Coleman and her father both grew up thinking their family was Fijian, and the vulnerability with which she recounts the unravelling of this lie is palpably raw and painful.

Parts two and three – ‘The colony’ and ‘Prepare for the end’ – interrogate the

**R** ‘I would rather pay for the farmer who passes up a few points of economic productivity to keep the fallen tree in the paddock for nesting birds. I would rather pay a farming family who is involved in the local community and the netball competition, rather than the corporate titan managing remotely from Switzerland, or the superannuation fund...’

In principle I completely agree with these words by Gabrielle Chan and it’s one of the reasons I was very keen to read her new book. We really do stand at a crossroads crowded with interconnected issues for the future of the planet, weighing up the lives we want to live and the lives of future generations. One of those issues is food security, and Chan (a political journalist married to a farmer) has done a brilliant job of interviewing a cross-section of interested parties on the subject, including farmers, policymakers, people whose businesses service the farmers, retailers, researchers, advocates, economists, historians and agricultural investors.

The biggest problem Chan raises (in my view) is the mindset of untrammelled economic growth capitalism that infiltrates our food systems. Due to Chan’s balanced reporting, I found myself inside the logic of higher yields from lower inputs, but the reality is this economic viewpoint puts no value on the natural world. It ignores the unique relationships farmers have with the land they farm, and it has no time for 60,000 years of First Nations wisdom and survival.

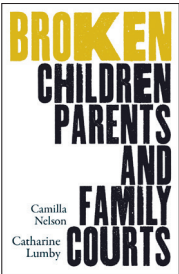
Farming in Australia is connected with many other issues at our crossroads, but it is highly likely few Australians are thinking about it on a regular basis, despite the fact that we

lies underpinning settler colonialism and how colonisation relates to apocalypse. In Coleman’s explanation, ‘settler colonialism’ aims to ‘replace the people who live on the land the colonisers desire with the settler population and its culture’. Coleman repeatedly reminds readers colonialism is not a discrete event that happened long ago, but an ongoing process that exists in the policies of this country, the discourse of our media and social media, and in all our minds. Here, Coleman wields her words as weapons, lining up foundation myths such as Cook’s arrival in Australia and the lie of *terra nullius*, and felling them one by one. Coleman argues the truth can be weaponised, just as ‘fake news’ and misinformation are, and *Lies, Damned Lies* operates as her rallying cry. Her arguments crackle with energy and personal conviction, although I imagine there will be readers who chafe at this, and others who might want the book to elaborate further. Frankly, I don’t think Coleman cares. As she notes: ‘My weapons are honed. They are aimed at your heart and soul.’

Jackie Tang is the editor of *Readings Monthly*

**Broken: Children, Parents and Family Courts**  
Camilla Nelson & Catharine Lumby  
La Trobe University Press. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*

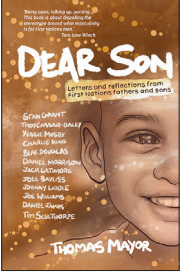
★ For details on the event for this book, visit [readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)



*Broken* explores the complexities and failures of Australia’s family courts through the stories of the children and parents whose lives have been shattered by them. Camilla Nelson and Catharine Lumby take the reader into the

back rooms of the system and reveal how the family courts – despite the high ideals on which they were founded – have turned into the worst possible place for vulnerable families and children.

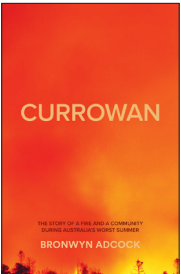
**Dear Son: Letters and Reflections from First Nations Fathers and Sons**  
Thomas Mayor (ed.)  
Hardie Grant. HB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



*Dear Son* shares heartfelt letters written by First Nations men about life, masculinity, love, culture and racism. Along with his own vivid and poignant prose and poetry, editor Thomas Mayor invites 12 contributors to each write a letter to their son, father or nephew, bringing together a range of perspectives to celebrate First Nations manhood.

**Currowan: The Story of a Fire and a Community During Australia’s Worst Summer**  
Bronwyn Adcock  
Black Inc. PB. \$32.99  
*Available 20 September*

★ For details on the event for this book, visit [readings.com.au/events](https://readings.com.au/events)



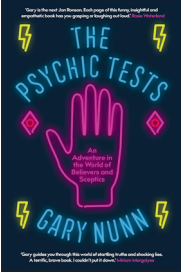
During the 2019–2020 bushfire season, journalist Bronwyn Adcock fled the Currowan fire with her children. Her husband, fighting at the front, rang with a plea for help before his phone went dead. This is Adcock’s heart-pounding account, braiding pacy, immersive reportage with much larger questions of how we live in a climate-changed world. It is a story of tragedy, survival and the power of community.

**Quarterly Essay 83: Top Blokes: The Larrikin Myth, Class and Power**  
Lech Blaine  
Quarterly Essay. PB. \$24.99  
*Available 13 September*



What makes a top bloke? Does the myth of the larrikin still hold sway? And whatever happened to class in Australia? In this perceptive and often hilarious essay, Lech Blaine dissects some ‘top blokes’, with particular focus on Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese, in this riveting narrative of how image conquered politics, just as globalisation engulfed the Australian economy.

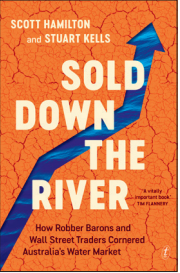
**The Psychic Tests: An Adventure in the World of Believers and Sceptics**  
Gary Nunn  
Pantera. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Why do such large swathes of the population want their fortunes told? Why this need to believe? As we wade further into the post-truth era, journalist and lifelong sceptic Gary Nunn

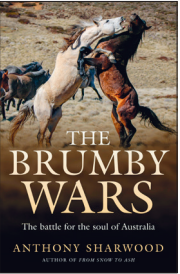
embarks on a two-year investigation of the mysterious unregulated world of psychics, mediums and astrologers to understand their uncanny power – and whether it’s used for good or evil.

**Sold Down the River: How Robber Barons and Wall Street Traders Cornered Australia’s Water Market**  
Scott Hamilton & Stuart Kells  
Text. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



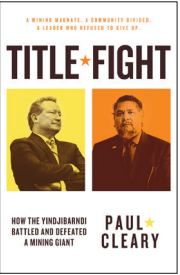
In 2012, Australia signed up to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan, a scheme designed to create a market for the Basin’s water and to safeguard the environment. But the Plan has gone horribly wrong. Policy experts Scott Hamilton and Stuart Kells interview irrigators, farmers, Traditional Custodians and water traders to tell this disastrous story and expose the shocking and shameful betrayal of a precious natural resource and of Australia’s regional heartland.

**The Brumby Wars: The Battle for the Soul of Australia**  
Anthony Sharwood  
Hachette. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



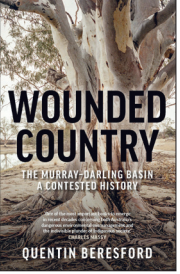
Feral pests or icons? An intense culture war is raging around Australia’s wild horses, known as brumbies. It pits a vision of the Man from Snowy River and the Anzac Light Horse against the spectre of ecosystems destroyed by feral animal populations. Featuring interviews with figures from many sides of the debate, Anthony Sharwood’s *The Brumby Wars* introduces a national issue.

**Title Fight: How the Yindjibarndi Battled and Defeated a Mining Giant**  
Paul Cleary  
Black Inc. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Set in the ancient landscape of the Pilbara, *Title Fight* is a David-and-Goliath story that pits Andrew ‘Twiggy’ Forrest’s billion-dollar Fortescue Metals Group against several hundred Yindjibarndi people and their leader in this fight, Michael Woodley. Detailed in clear-eyed prose here, the result was an epic 13-year battle, fought by Woodley and the traditional owners in the courts on a shoestring budget.

**Wounded Country: The Murray-Darling Basin – A Contested History**  
Quentin Beresford  
NewSouth. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



The Murray–Darling Basin is under threat. This vast and spectacular geographical region has been exploited for nearly 200 years. Waves of farmers exploited the region’s potential, and



dispossession and marginalisation denied local First Nations people their lands. In *Wounded Country*, Quentin Beresford investigates the complex history of Australia’s largest and most important river system, and asks: how can we save the once mighty Murray–Darling?

**The Accidental Prime Minister**  
Annika Smethurst  
Hachette. HB. \$39.99  
Available 15 September



Who the bloody hell is Scott Morrison? In this biography, political journalist Annika Smethurst examines the man behind the headlines and slogans to reveal what makes Morrison tick. From his childhood, to the spill that catapulted him to the prime ministership, to his 2019 election win, *The Accidental Prime Minister* gives greater insight into the man who would lead Australia.

Biography

**Dear Senthuran: A Black Spirit Memoir**  
Akwaeke Emezi  
Faber. PB. \$27.99  
Available now



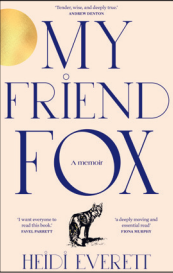
**R** *Dear Senthuran: A Black Spirit* Memoir is written as a collection of letters to friends. It’s both exhilarating and exhausting – like a friend calling you up and unloading their dramas onto you – but if you’re patient and let Emezi roll, then the prose, which is volcanic, will carry you through this memoir in a state of amazement.

This is the catalogue of Emezi’s literary ascent and their personal struggles. As a writer they burst onto the scene with the novel *Freshwater* in 2018, have written three books since, been on the cover of *Time* magazine, and bought a lavish house in New Orleans. They are confident in their talent. At the same time the bedrock of this story is, as the blurb says, Emezi’s ‘gruelling work of realignment and remaking necessary to carve out a future for oneself’. Around the time Emezi publicly came out as trans, they also came to identify as an *Ogbanje*, which in the Nigerian Igbo tradition are accursed spirit children. *Dear Senthuran* details, at full force, Emezi’s struggle to be recognised for who they are. Emezi appears in constant conflict with fellow writers, lovers, their parents, friends. The details are juicy and harrowing: book deals, surgeries, affairs, trysts. ‘There is something bright and brilliant in me. It doesn’t make me feel special it makes me feel terribly alone.’

There is something irresistible about the momentum *Dear Senthuran* conjures line by line. There is so much Emezi in this memoir, and though that leaves not much room for anyone else, it is also a strength of the book – it delivers a maddening, ferocious experience. You are forced in, closer and closer to Emezi’s self. While some readers may be challenged by *Dear Senthuran*’s hyper-individualistic measures of success, others are going to be blown away by this fierce and unapologetic book.

Ender Başkan is from Readings Carlton

**My Friend Fox**  
Heidi Everett  
Ultimo Press. HB. \$27.99  
Available now



**R** Heidi Everett meets her friend the fox on a rainy, winter’s night in Melbourne. She has been walking for two weeks. The encounter is life-changing as the fox helps her to understand that she needs support to survive: ‘It’s one thing to exist, it’s another to live.’ Is the fox real or is he an hallucination? He has been shadowing her for most of her life.

*My Friend Fox* is an incredibly candid memoir about a lifelong struggle with mental health. Everett’s writing is extraordinarily beautiful and original. She manages to tell her story in a way that is poetic, funny and heartbreaking all at the same time. She describes one of her psych ward admissions with a level of wisdom and insight that is so badly needed if we as a society are going to improve our understanding of mental illness and how best to live with it. Amazingly this is Everett’s first book and not only is it filled with writing of overwhelming quality and perception, but the pages are also interspersed with her own enchanting line drawings. These illustrate everything from the clock that hangs over the television in the common room of the ward to a field of rusted car parts and blackberry bushes next to her childhood home in the outer suburbs of Melbourne.

This memoir is an essential read if we are going to reckon with a mental health system which is itself in need of healing. Everett is already a successful and talented artist, comedian, musician and mental health advocate; *My Friend Fox* shows her to also be a remarkable writer and extremely important storyteller.

Kara Nicholson is from Readings online

**All About Yves: Notes from a Transition**  
Yves Rees  
A&U. PB. \$32.99  
Available now



What happens when, aged 30, you understand you’re transgender? This was the question that confronted historian Yves Rees, who transitioned in 2018. *All About Yves* tells their moving journey, laying

bare the messiness of bodies, gender and identity. It shares the challenges and joys of being transgender and gender diverse in Australia today, and reveals how these experiences contain lessons for everyone.

**This Much Is True**  
Miriam Margolyes  
John Murray. HB. Was \$49.99  
**\$39.99**  
Available 14 September



Miriam Margolyes is Britain’s favourite (and naughtiest) treasure. Now, at the age of 80, she has finally decided to tell her extraordinary life story. From declaring her love to Vanessa Redgrave to being told to be quiet by the Queen, this

The Nazis Knew My Name

MAGDA HELLINGER & MAYA LEE

with David Brewster

“Thought-provoking book and a must-read for anyone interested in the Holocaust.”

Arianna Neuman

Author of *When Time Stopped*

RED ROULETTE

DESMOND SHUM

“There simply isn't another inside history of today's Chinese leadership like this one.”

Matt Pottinger

former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor

‘A tour de force.’

Angela Saini, author of *Superior*

From ancient Egyptian priests to the Apollo astronauts, and Babylonian tax collectors to the MIT professor who invented juggling robots, join Michael Brooks and his extraordinarily eccentric cast of characters in discovering how maths shaped the world.

THE ART OF MORE

how mathematics created civilisation

Nature Is Never Silent

how animals and plants communicate with each other

MADLEN ZIEGE

“It's always amazing how talkative nature is — very enlightening and entertaining!”

PETER WOHLLEBEN, author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*

‘Enlightening and entertaining!’

Peter Wohlleben, author of *The Hidden Life of Trees*

Animals and plants must communicate with one another to survive, but they also tell lies, set traps, talk to themselves, and speak to each other in a variety of unexpected ways.

SCRIBE

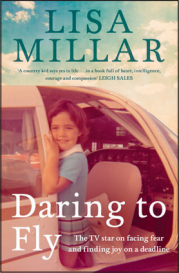
Seriously good books.

scribepublications.com.au



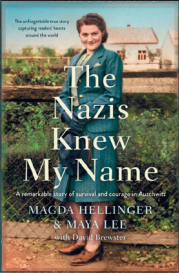
book is packed with hilarious stories as warm and honest, as full of life and surprises, as its inimitable author.

**Daring to Fly: The TV Star on Facing Fear and Finding Joy on a Deadline**  
Lisa Millar  
Hachette. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



As a child in small-town rural Queensland, Lisa Millar dreamed of a bigger life. Working as a foreign correspondent in London and the US achieved that, but three decades as a journalist witnessing tragedy and horror has a cost. *Daring to Fly* is Millar’s story, an inspiring reckoning with trauma, fear and, ultimately, joy.

**The Nazis Knew My Name**  
Magda Hellinger & Maya Lee, with David Brewster  
S&S. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



In 1942, kindergarten teacher Magda Hellinger was among nearly a thousand young Slovakian women deported to Auschwitz concentration camp. Hellinger would become one of the prisoners

selected to administer the camp, a role that required her to walk a fine line, using every opportunity to save lives while avoiding suspicion. This is Hellinger’s exceptionally moving memoir, completed by her daughter Maya’s extensive research alongside testimonies from fellow Auschwitz survivors.

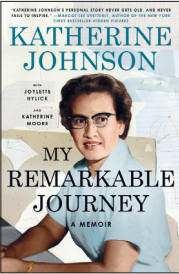
**Ill Feelings: Stories of Unexplained Illness**  
Alice Hattract  
Scribe. PB. \$27.99  
*Available now*



In 1995, Alice Hattract’s mother was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. When Hattract fell ill with similar symptoms, it took years for them to receive the same diagnosis. In this radical

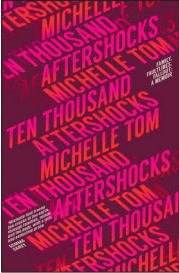
genre-spanning memoir, Hattract examines both of their case histories, drawing on a tradition of writing about ill health that speaks to the defiant nature of living with a medically unexplained illness.

**My Remarkable Journey**  
Katherine Johnson with Joylette Hylick & Katherine Moore  
HarperCollins. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Katherine Johnson’s remarkable life inspired the bestseller *Hidden Figures*. Now, Johnson shares the full story in her own words. From working at NASA, to helping to achieve the moon landing, to living through a century of turmoil and change, Johnson’s life remained committed to the same basic tenets: no one is better than you, education is paramount, and asking questions can break barriers.

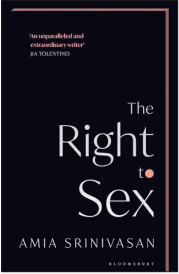
**Ten Thousand Aftershocks**  
Michelle Tom  
Fourth Estate. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



After Michelle Tom’s house was damaged by a deadly earthquake in Christchurch, she and her young family relocated to Melbourne. But soon after arriving, Tom learned her estranged sister was dying, forcing her to return home and its memories of childhood. *Ten Thousand Aftershocks* explores the seismic upheaval of Tom’s family tragedies, and her lifelong struggle to connect with her mother.

Cultural Studies

**The Right to Sex**  
Amia Srinivasan  
Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



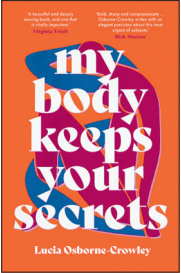
Oxford University academic Amia Srinivasan may be known to some readers for the title essay of this collection, which appeared in the *London Review of Books* in 2018. The piece uses the grim

phenomenon of recent violent crimes committed by so-called ‘incels’ (involuntary celibates) as a starting place to think about consent, power, desire, sexual rights and prejudices, and the way that feminist thinking might intervene in these complex issues. Around this central essay (which is also accompanied by an expansive and reflective ‘coda’ that revisits its argument and responds to some of its criticisms), the book covers a lot of fertile ground, including the author’s experience teaching the work of anti-pornography feminists to students in the new millennium, the ethics of student-staff relationships on campus, and the limitations produced by ‘carceral feminism’, in other words, a feminism that relies on the institutions of state-based power to achieve its aims. At its heart, the book advocates for the real-life impacts that feminist politics – in particular a feminist politics of sex – can achieve. For Srinivasan, ‘doing feminism’ is not discursive gymnastics, but an enacted practice that can change the world and the way we live with each other in it.

Srinivasan’s writing is strong, her arguments stylishly produced, leading the reader across diverse subjects and source materials. The book demonstrates a confidence that is at times quite thrilling to read. I was pleased to have a reason to revive a dormant account in my academic memory bank during the author’s analysis of voices from an earlier generation of feminists – people such as Andrea Dworkin, Catherine A. MacKinnon, Adrienne Rich, among others – whose work Srinivasan revisits here with a relevance for another new generation and its media ecologies. This careful attention to feminist politics and theory as historically informed and contingent, and as a vibrant assemblage of intersecting traditions with competing arguments and counterarguments, rather than as consensus, is much needed during these times, and this collection is essential reading for anyone engaged in – or eager to join – the cause.

Alison Huber is the head book buyer at Readings

**My Body Keeps Your Secrets**  
Lucia Osborne-Crowley  
A&U. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



If you have already read Lucia Osborne-Crowley’s *I Choose Elena* then you will understand her latest brilliant work, *My Body Keeps Your Secrets*, comes with a warning from me. This book is about sexual assault. But if you are not one of the nearly three million people in Australia who have been sexually assaulted, do not think for a moment that this book is not about you or for you. It is. This book needs to be read and shared.

Osborne-Crowley was raped when she was 15 years old. Sometime after that, her body’s athleticism started to suffer, and the next ten years were filled with pain. It wasn’t until she realised the link between her rape and her physical being that she began to examine the intricacies of abuse, trauma and shame. She realised that harrowing memories can cause physical harm. These memories cannot be rearranged into a simple logical narrative. So Osborne-Crowley did what so many of us do: she began assembling accounts, both in fiction and life, to make sense of her own being. Readers of Lisa Taddeo’s *Three Women* will appreciate this writing; it exists within the same school of sharing. And like Taddeo, although the events described are harrowing, Osborne-Crowley writes with compassion and grace.

*My Body Keeps Your Secrets* is about assault, but it is also about power and where it lies. The reader is asked to consider how we define ourselves. Do you choose a painful memory, or do you choose another truth? Do you take guidance from Jules, one of the book’s interviewees, who learnt to knit to help them process? Do you look to your literary heroines? Or do you simply knit one, purl one, and know, deeply, that your story is for you alone. Only you get to choose how you define your secrets. And of course, therein lies the great sovereignty of this book.

Chris Gordon is the programming and events manager at Readings

**The Fran Lebowitz Reader**  
Fran Lebowitz  
Virago. HB. \$45  
*Available now*



In this collection of wisecracking essays, the iconic Fran Lebowitz turns her trademark caustic wit to everything from children to novelty ice cubes and landlords. Her attitude to work is the perfect antidote to our exhausting culture of self-betterment: ‘3.40pm. I consider getting out of bed. I reject the notion as being unduly vigorous. I read and smoke a bit more.’

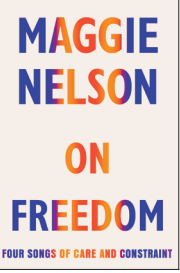
**Puff Piece**  
John Safran  
Hamish Hamilton. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



When cigarette company Philip Morris rebranded itself as a health enterprise dedicated to a smoke-free future, John Safran decided to investigate. He found a company trying to keep their

tobacco business alive with a ‘HeatStick’ that emits ‘aerosol’ rather than ‘smoke’. *Puff Piece* is a probing look into Big Tobacco and the vaping industry, and how words can be literally a matter of life and death.

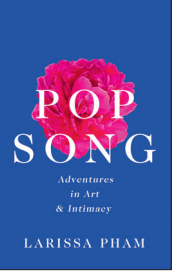
**On Freedom**  
Maggie Nelson  
Jonathan Cape. PB. \$35  
*Available now*



So often deployed as a jingoistic, even menacing rallying cry, the rhetoric of freedom both rouses and repels. Does it remain key to our autonomy, justice, and well-being, or is freedom’s long star turn

coming to a close? *On Freedom* examines such questions by tracing the concept’s complexities in four distinct realms – art, sex, drugs and climate. An invigorating, essential book for challenging times by the author of the electrifying *The Argonauts*.

**Pop Song**  
Larissa Pham  
Serpent’s Tail. HB. \$27.99  
*Available 14 September*

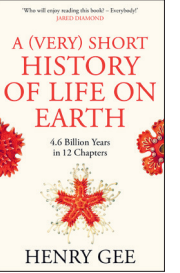


Larissa Pham paints a fractured portrait of modern intimacy and desire in this book about the distances between people and within ourselves. Plumbing the well of culture for clues about love and loss –

from Agnes Martin’s abstract paintings to Anne Carson’s *Eros the Bittersweet* – this brilliant work of debut nonfiction explores the state of falling in love, whether with a painting or a person.

History

**A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth: 4.6 Billion Years in 12 Chapters**  
Henry Gee  
Picador. PB. \$34.99  
*Available 14 September*

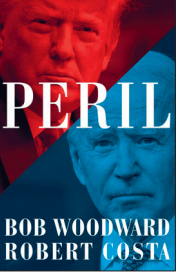


For billions of years, Earth was an inhospitably alien place. And yet, despite facing every setback that living organisms could encounter, life has been extinguished and picked itself up to evolve again.

An enlightening story of survival, of persistence, illuminating the delicate balance within which life has always existed, and continues to exist today. This is our planet like you’ve never seen it before.

Politics

**Peril**  
Bob Woodward & Robert Costa  
S&S. HB. \$49.99  
*Available 21 September*

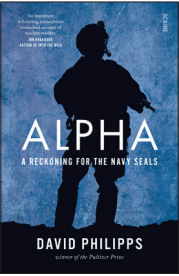


The transition from President Trump to President Biden stands as one of the most dangerous periods in American history. Based on exclusive interviews with more than 200 insiders and



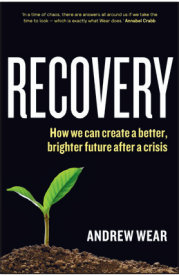
eyewitnesses, *Peril* is a spellbinding account of that time, taking readers deep inside the Trump White House, the Biden White House, the 2020 campaign, and the Pentagon and Congress.

**Alpha: A Reckoning for the Navy SEALs**  
David Philipps  
Scribe. PB. \$35  
*Available now*



*Alpha* uncovers the shocking rise and fall of Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher, who was accused of war crimes by members of his platoon. The resulting court martial would divide his platoon, then the Navy, the Pentagon, the White House, and ultimately the American public. A starkly modern story that exposes the dark underbelly of America’s special forces.

**Recovery: How We Can Create a Better, Brighter Future After a Crisis**  
Andrew Wear  
Black Inc. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



We have recovered from many crises in the past: war, pandemic, natural disaster, depression. As we seek recovery from the COVID-19 health and economic crisis, what can we learn from other recoveries?

Through interviews with experts, policymakers and community leaders, this book examines past recoveries and investigates implications for the future.

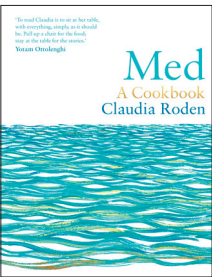
Food

**Together: Memorable Meals Made Easy**  
Jamie Oliver  
Michael Joseph. HB. Was \$49.99  
**\$ \$39.99**  
*Available now*



Getting together and sharing a meal with loved ones has never felt so important. Each chapter of *Together* features a meal, from seasonal feasts to curry nights, with a simple, achievable menu that can be mostly prepped ahead and includes hacks to get organised and get ahead. Inspirational but practical, *Together* is about comfort, celebration, and the sharing of mouth-watering food.

**Med: A Cookbook**  
Claudia Roden  
Ebury. HB. \$55  
*Available 14 September*

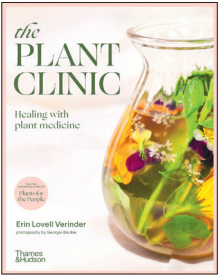


World-renowned food writer Claudia Roden revisits Mediterranean cookery 30 years on with new simple, vibrant dishes. This is how she cooks for friends and family – always putting flavour first, beautiful ingredients, fuss-free cooking, relaxed

eating. Claudia also shares a life’s worth of travelling and stories from Provence to Petra, Madrid to Morocco and more.

Health

**The Plant Clinic: Healing with Plant Medicine**  
Erin Lovell Verinder  
T&H. PB. \$39.99  
*Available now*



*The Plant Clinic* is a guide to reigniting your health. Herbalist Erin Lovell Verinder decodes the healing properties of various plants, including over 150 remedies for common health complaints. Sharing both common and esoteric herbal wisdom, along with the ultimate First Aid Kit for soothing bruises, aches and pains, this is the book to make you glow.

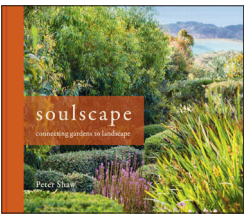
Gardening

**The Good Life: How to Grow a Better World**  
Hannah Moloney  
Affirm Press. PB. Was \$39.99  
**\$ \$34.99**  
*Available now*



From growing your own tea, to building a DIY water tank, making yoghurt to co-housing, with *The Good Life* you’ll gain the skills, self-reliance and confidence needed to engage meaningfully with your space, your food and your community. It is your ultimate guide to improving your wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around you to create a better world for all.

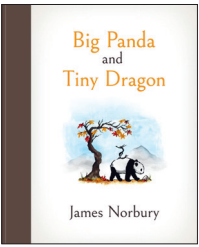
**Soulscape: Connecting Gardens to Landscape**  
Peter Shaw  
Melbourne Books. HB. \$59.99  
*Available mid-September*



*Soulscape: Connecting Gardens to Landscape* takes readers on a journey through ten gardens located along the world-famous Great Ocean Road. It illustrates the challenges and outcomes of creating a garden by the sea or in the wilderness, and how each garden fits within its natural environment.

Gift Books

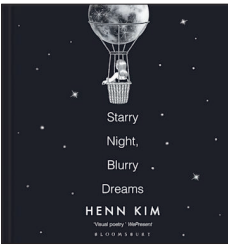
**Big Panda and Tiny Dragon**  
James Norbury  
Michael Joseph. HB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



This is the uplifting illustrated story of two beloved friends as they journey through the seasons of the year together, into the wild, exploring the thoughts and emotions, hardships and happiness that connect us

all. Inspired by Buddhist philosophy, James Norbury shares the ideas that have helped him through difficult times, in the hope they can help others too.

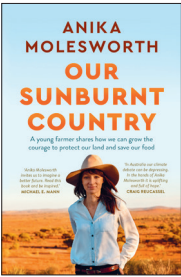
**Starry Night, Blurry Dreams**  
Henn Kim  
Bloomsbury. HB. \$24.99  
*Available now*



*Starry Night, Blurry Dreams* is a collection of visual poetry about loneliness, love and existing in our world. When words aren’t enough to describe our emotions, this book will offer comfort, joy and a friend in the dark. South Korean illustrator Henn Kim has worked on projects with UNICEF, as well as illustrating the iconic cover of Sally Rooney’s bestseller *Normal People*.

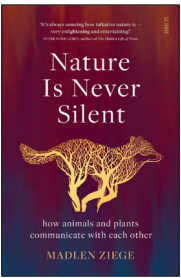
Environmental Studies

**Our Sunburnt Country**  
Anika Molesworth  
Pan Mac. PB. \$34.99  
*Available now*



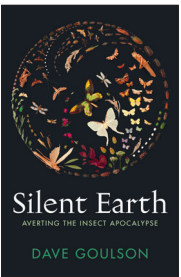
Anika Molesworth fell in love with her family’s farm at an early age but when the Millennium Drought hit, the future she’d always imagined for herself seemed impossible. As she learned more about the causes of, and the solutions to, the extreme weather, Anika realised there was a practical and sustainable way forward – to protect our land, our food and our future – and it is within our grasp.

**Nature Is Never Silent**  
Madlen Ziege & Alexandra Roesch (trans.)  
Scribe. PB. \$29.99  
*Available now*



In forests, fields and gardens, there is a constant exchange of information. Animals and plants must communicate with one another to survive, but they also tell lies, set traps, talk to themselves, and speak to each other in a variety of unexpected ways. A fascinating journey into the world of nonhuman communication and how it might help us understand our own place in the natural world.

**Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse**  
Dave Goulson  
Jonathan Cape. PB. \$35  
*Available now*



Insects are essential for life as we know it. As they become more scarce, our world will slowly grind to a halt; we simply cannot function without them. Drawing on the latest ground-breaking research and a lifetime’s study, Dave Goulson reveals the shocking decline of insect populations that has taken place in recent decades, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

Music

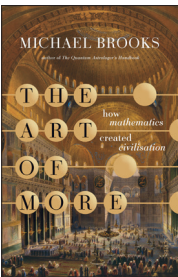
**You Are Beautiful and You Are Alone: The Biography of Nico**  
Jennifer Otter Bickerdike  
Faber Social. HB. \$39.99  
*Available 14 September*



Over the course of her life, Nico was an ever-evolving myth, an enigma that escaped definition. Though she is remembered for contributions to *The Velvet Underground & Nico*, her artistry and influence are often overlooked. A redemptive, myth-shattering biography which cements Nico’s legacy as one of the most vital artists of her time, inspiring a generation of luminaries.

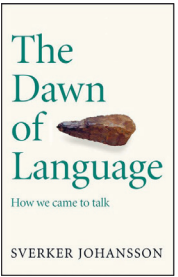
Science

**The Art of More: How Mathematics Created Civilisation**  
Michael Brooks  
Scribe. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Science writer Michael Brooks takes us on a fascinating journey through the history of civilisation, as he explains why maths is fundamental to our understanding of the world. From ancient Egyptian priests to the Apollo astronauts to the MIT professor who invented juggling robots, join Brooks and his extraordinarily eccentric cast of characters in discovering how maths is at the root of art, architecture, government and society.

**The Dawn of Language: How We Came to Talk**  
Sverker Johansson & Frank Perry (trans.)  
MacLehose. PB. \$32.99  
*Available now*



Who was ‘the first speaker’ and what was their first message? This is an erudite, tightly woven account of one of humanity’s greatest mysteries – the origins of language. Drawing on evidence from many fields, including archaeology, anthropology, neurology and linguistics, Sverker Johansson weaves these disparate threads together to show how our human ancestors evolved into language users.

**What’s Eating the Universe?: And Other Cosmic Questions**  
Paul Davies  
Allen Lane. HB. \$35  
*Available now*



Scientists now understand the history of our universe better than the history of our own planet, but they continue to uncover startling new riddles. In this electrifying book, award-winning physicist Paul Davies walks us through



A practical guide to living  
*vibrantly* with plant medicine.

Featuring 150  
plant recipes for  
over 100 health  
concerns.



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on a **poisoned**  
planet

EARTH  
DETOX



How and Why We Must  
Clean Up Our Planet

JULIAN CRIBB

'Starkly engaging, beautifully written, and  
deeply unnerving' - Geoffrey Holland

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Man-made toxins affect our health,  
safety, and lives. **Earth Detox** plots  
an empowering, hopeful path to  
a safer, cleaner world.



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UNIVERSITY PRESS

the puzzles and paradoxes that have  
preoccupied cosmologists from ancient  
Greece to the present day.

## Personal Development

**12 Birds to Save Your Life:  
Nature's Lessons in Happiness**  
Charlie Corbett

Michael Joseph. HB. \$35

Available 14 September



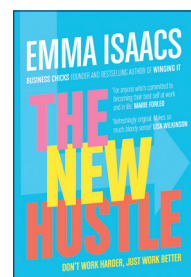
Discover the healing  
power of nature through  
the captivating stories of  
12 birds and how joy can  
be found in the smallest  
of events. This book is  
about coping with being  
human. It's about how  
unexpected events smash  
and bash their way into our lives without  
permission. And how a love of the natural  
world – in particular birds – will help to raise  
you from these periodic depths.

**The New Hustle: Don't Work  
Harder, Just Work Better**

Emma Isaacs

Pan Mac. PB. \$34.99

Available now



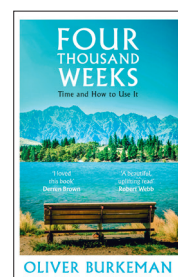
Work more, sleep less,  
hustle to get ahead. But  
what if we've been  
served a lie about what  
it takes to be successful?  
Do we need to rewrite  
the old work rules?  
Emma Isaacs presents  
77 anti-rules aimed at  
embracing flexibility, making quick  
decisions and saying no to the things that  
don't matter, so you can say yes to the  
things that do.

**Four Thousand Weeks: Time  
and How to Use It**

Oliver Burkeman

Bodley Head. PB. \$35

Available now



The average human  
lifespan covers four  
thousand weeks. How  
should we use them  
best? This is a  
liberating, engrossing  
and frankly realistic  
exploration of this  
problem. Rejecting the  
futile modern obsession with 'getting it  
all done', *Four Thousand Weeks*  
introduces tools for constructing a  
meaningful life, showing how the  
unhelpful ways we've come to think about  
time aren't inescapable, unchanging  
truths, but choices we've made, as  
individuals and as a society.

## Photography

**Dogs in Melbourne**

Chris Cincotta

Chris Cincotta. HB. \$39.99

Available late September



With over 100  
stories from  
dogs in  
Melbourne, and  
the humans who  
love them, this  
is the ultimate  
book for dog

lovers, Melbourne lovers and everyone  
else. From the creator of *Humans in  
Melbourne*, this gorgeous coffee-table  
book is packed with fantastic and moving  
tales about some very good boys and girls.

## Travel Photography

**The Great Forest:  
The Rare Beauty of the  
Victorian Central Highlands**

David Lindenmayer with  
Chris Taylor, Sarah Rees &  
Steven Kuitert (photogs.)

A&U. HB. \$49.99

Available now



The city of  
Melbourne lies on  
the edge of a vast  
plain surrounded by  
a green and blue  
mountainous rim,  
whose hills and  
peaks are home to  
the magnificent Mountain Ash, the tallest  
flowering plant on the planet. *The Great  
Forest* is a photographic tribute to this  
extraordinary and now increasingly  
threatened landscape and the delicate  
webs of life it cradles.

## Interior Design

**Nature Style:  
Cultivating Wellbeing at Home  
with Plants**

Alana Langan, Jacqui Vidal &  
Annette O'Brien (photog.)

T&H. HB. \$34.99

Available 9 September



From the founders  
of the botanical  
wares design studio  
Ivy Muse comes a  
practical guide to  
styling the home  
for health and  
harmony, using  
nature as a  
blueprint. With expert advice on  
houseplants, as well as pro-tips on the  
choice of decor and materials, finishes  
and furnishings, this book shows how  
natural elements can be incorporated  
into any room in the house effectively  
and affordably.

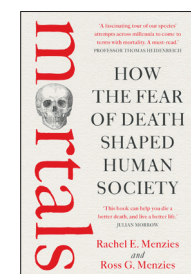
## Psychology

**Mortals: How the Fear of  
Death Shaped Human Society**

Rachel E. Menzies & Ross G.  
Menzies

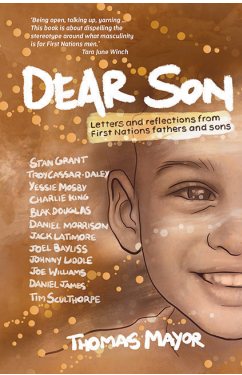
A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available 14 September



Human societies are  
shaped by many  
things, but underlying  
them all is one  
fundamental force – our  
fear of death.  
Psychologists Rachel E.  
Menzies and Ross G.  
Menzies examine all the  
major human responses to death across  
history. They emphasise the importance of  
understanding this anxiety, pointing out  
how this unconscious dread of death is  
leading to more rampant consumerism  
and overpopulation.





**Dear Son**  
Thomas Mayor  
(ed.)  
Hardie Grant. HB.  
\$34.99  
*Available now*

# Dear Son: Letters and Reflections from First Nations Fathers and Sons

In this heartfelt new anthology, 12 First Nations men each write a letter to their son, father or nephew, bringing together a range of perspectives on life, culture and First Nations masculinity. This is a shortened extract from editor Thomas Mayor’s letter.

Dear Son,

Do you remember, when you were about nine, you tried to take my hand as you always did, and I said you were too old to hold my hand in public?

I wish I had never said it.

I now know that what I said was wrong.

At the time, I thought what I felt was natural, that when a son reaches a certain age, a father will feel awkward about demonstrating his affection for him. I thought this was how a father helped a son to become a man.

But what is it to be a man?

You are barely nineteen now and this question might not have crossed your mind. You’ve moved to the big city of Perth, concentrating on your apprenticeship. For the first time you are living away from your family, with new responsibilities. You are regularly cooking for yourself and your housemates, paying bills and keeping your home clean and tidy.

How are your cooking skills coming along? I enjoyed guiding you over the phone through cooking your first simur, or vermicelli chicken. You haven’t called for help since.

But I have thought about it – about ‘manhood’ and ‘fatherhood’ – especially

now that I’m raising young children again, with the arrival of your much younger brother and sister, William and Ruby, who are eight and six years old. I have wondered what shapes how we behave as men, and in particular, as fathers.

It is undeniable that our fathers shape how we father our own children, whether we are conscious of it or not, and whether we do it well or not. Above all, our understanding of being a man and a father is linked to our own father figures. This is especially pertinent to us – Indigenous men – who all have a mother and father, at least within a few generations, who have been terribly wronged – enslaved, raped and dispossessed.

Your Pop’s generation were born under lawful segregation and the complete control of a white ‘Chief Protector’. Pop lived in Queensland, the state that inspired apartheid in South Africa. His generation of young men were the first to throw off those shackles, but they remained bound by the walls of prejudice. His generation, mine and yours, we all struggle against a more subtle, more cunning systemic racist control. This, and more than 200 years of intergenerational trauma. These burdens are uniquely ours to carry on these stolen lands. To this ongoing struggle, for you and your children to come, I have dedicated my life.

With my obligation to the following generations in mind, I thought it would be good for you and me both if I were to write about fatherhood. Reading books and writing thoughts are wonderful things – I can hear you saying, ‘Yes, Dad, I know, you tell me that every time we talk.’

Well, son, this letter is my example for you. I will write to you about the behaviours that I once thought were acceptable for men – behaviours I now know are wrong. I will also write about the effects of historical trauma that I have passed on to you, and your sisters.

For good measure, I have invited some friends to write about fatherhood as well, because different perspectives are essential. I want you to learn to be a good man, a good partner to your loved ones, a good human being – and I want you to understand that there are more ways than one to do this, if you learn humility, empathy and how to love, the way our ancestors did.

When I was a boy, there was a memory I would use as if it were a child’s tattered comfort blanket. I’d pull the blanket out of a compartment in my mind after one of the many admonishments from your Pop. It was a vivid and happy memory of a time when my father had showed his love for me, holding me high above him as he spun around. I remembered the sensation of flying through the air, looking into your Pop’s laughing face, while behind him, the pictures on the walls flew by in a blur. A moment of nonsensical joy and unbounded fatherly love. ‘Why can’t he love me like he once did?’ I would ask those pictures on the wall, as I drank the salty tears that ran down my face.

There were other joyous moments with your Pop when I was a toddler. And it is not as though there have been none since then. My dad softened a great deal in his later years. But while I was growing up, such affectionate moments were few and far between. I treasure each one.

Your Pop often told me I was stupid, but I pretended I didn’t care. It seemed I could

never do anything right, and after hearing this over and over, my attitude was: If you think I am stupid, Dad, that’s what you will get! I resigned myself to not even try to be better. My confidence became battered and scarred. To this very day, my confidence is like a shadow, impossible to coax out unless I am forced to step into the spotlight – and there it is.

Pop rarely gives voice to his culture and the prejudice he has faced. His attitude, I feel, is carried over from the times when our families were focused on surviving. His attitude has always been to work hard and get on with it. I have the greatest admiration for him because of this, while at the same time, I have seen how this attitude leaves too much unsaid. Perhaps it hurts him to speak of what he has gone through. Perhaps he has never healed.

Who knows how much of your Pop’s harshness toward me was a result of the way society treated him? We will never know. He won’t talk about it.

Son, for us to learn how to improve ourselves and the next generation of men, we can learn from our own feelings – what pleases or hurts us; what others do that causes feelings of jealousy or anger, and what affects how we trust someone. We can do better if we try to be perceptive and use empathy to improve how we relate to others.

We should keep an open mind to the underlying reasons for a person’s behaviour. If someone has been abused as a child, for example, as an adult, they might struggle to express and accept love; or a child who is disruptive in school might not be naughty for the sake of it, but because of the impact of a mental trauma. And different from what I was taught when I was young, we should believe that a person’s depression is real, and like other health afflictions, requires care. It’s the same with poverty and powerlessness.

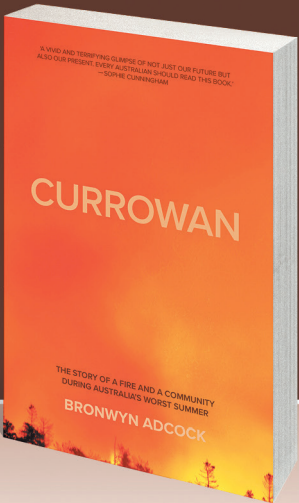
For fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people especially, the effects of inter-generational trauma are a scientific fact linked to historical truth. It is intergenerational trauma and the conditions created by prejudice – the systemic and constitutional powerlessness of First Nations people – that causes high levels of Indigenous incarceration, domestic violence and poor health. The root cause of our plight is racism, not our culture or a genetic flaw in our DNA.

You and I have both suffered from tapping into retro Australian culture. We have both lived with intergenerational trauma. We must continue the great efforts of our mothers and fathers. We will rebuild.

Thomas Mayor is a Torres Strait Islander man born on Larrakia country in Darwin. Writer, activist and tireless campaigner for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Mayor is also the author of *Finding the Heart of the Nation* and the children’s information book *Finding Our Heart* (with illustrations by Blak Douglas).

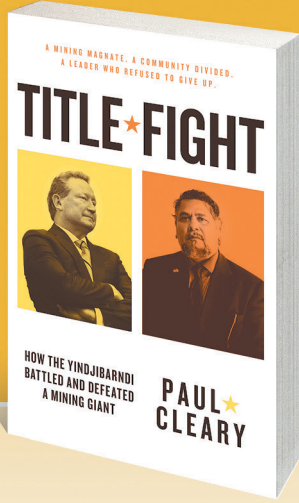
*Dear Son* is available at all Readings shops and online. This extract has been edited for length.

For the month of September, Readings will donate \$3 from every sale of *Dear Son* to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

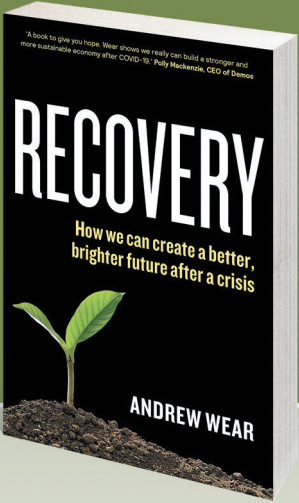


An insider’s account of surviving one of Australia’s worst bushfires, and how we live with fire in a climate-changed world

‘A brilliant piece of reportage from the inside of the Black Summer maelstrom’ —**Adrian Hyland**  
  
‘Every Australian should read this book.’ —**Sophie Cunningham**



A David-and-Goliath story set in the ancient landscape of the Pilbara and the epic thirteen-year legal battle of the Yindjibarndi people



In times of crisis lies opportunity. *Recovery* shows us how we can build back better after COVID-19.



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Board Books

Today's Sun

Gregg Dreise  
Picture Puffin. BB. \$14.99  
Available now

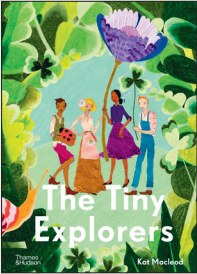


illustrator Gregg Dreise. The perfect gift for every new baby and their family.

Picture Books

The Tiny Explorers

Kat Macleod  
T&H. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



find – a blueberry here, a soft pink feather there. They seem to be unwittingly following a silvery trail as they carry their bounty to a final secretive place.

*The Tiny Explorers* is a joyful, beautiful book that celebrates the natural world in all its colourful, graceful glory. Kat Macleod has truly created something special. For ages 3+.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

Big Dog, Little Dog

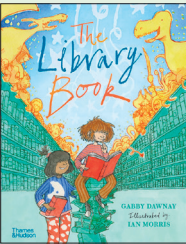
Sally Rippin & Lucinda Gifford (illus.)  
Little Hare. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



First there was just Big Dog. And then, one day, Little Dog arrived ... A beautiful and hilarious story about the ups and downs of welcoming a new family member from beloved children's author Sally Rippin, and illustrator Lucinda Gifford.

The Library Book

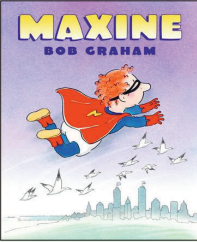
Gabby Dawnay & Ian Morris (illus.)  
T&H. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



Zach isn't convinced that books are for him – they're too long, they're boring and he would rather watch TV. But thanks to his friend Ro, Zach falls for books hook, line and sinker. Written in a catchy rhyming style, *The Library Book* will trigger a love of words in readers of all abilities.

Maxine

Bob Graham  
Walker. HB. \$27.99  
Available 8 September

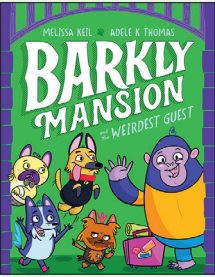


Graham's celebrated picture book *Max*.

Junior Grade

Barkly Mansion and the Weirdest Guest (Barkly Mansion, Book 1)

Melissa Keil & Adele K. Thomas (illus.)  
Hardie Grant. PB. \$14.99  
Available now



minded gorilla named Edmund shows them simpler, more creative ways of solving problems.

I defy any child (or adult!) to resist the wacky adventures of these goofy, adorable animals as they explore the joys and conundrums of collaboration and friendship. The pairing of illustrator Adele K. Thomas and author Melissa Keil is genius; the cartoon-inspired artwork on every page adds to the mayhem and exploits of this madcap animal family, and the mischievous humour and wordplay is guaranteed to keep children reading while laughing out loud. Best of all, it is the first book in a series with more to come! Highly recommended for ages 6+.

Athina Clarke is from Readings Malvern

Dulcinea in the Forbidden Forest

Ole Könnecke & Shelley Tanaka (trans.)  
Gecko. HB. \$24.99  
Available 8 September



situation faced by Dulcinea, the protagonist of Ole Könnecke's modern fairytale, *Dulcinea in the Forbidden Forest*. When her father falls foul of the wicked witch while searching for blueberries for Dulcinea's special birthday pancakes, Dulcinea must make the treacherous journey to the witch's castle and use all her wits to save her father – and, more importantly, her birthday!

This is a hilarious and beautifully illustrated take on a classic tale. It is another win for New Zealand

**R** Barkly Mansion is home to four idiosyncratic, excitable dogs: Lady Delilah (who likes things 'just so'), Kyle (who's a bit of a snob and loves all things fancy), and the adventurous Cookie and Fizzie. But this little family of dogs is in for a few surprises when a lateral-minded gorilla named Edmund shows them simpler, more creative ways of solving problems.

independent publisher Gecko Press, proving again why they're my favourite (and most eccentric) publishing house for children's books. For ages 5+.

Jeremy George is from Readings Malvern

Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City

Rob Biddulph  
Pan Mac. PB. \$16.99  
Available 14 September



Drawing feels like magic to Peanut Jones, but art can't fix her problems. Her dad has gone missing, and she's stuck in a boring new school. When she finds a unique pencil turbo-charged with special powers that pulls her into another world, maybe, just maybe, she might find out what happened to her dad.

Middle Grade

Pax: Journey Home

Sara Pennypacker & Jon Klassen (illus.)  
HarperCollins. HB. \$19.99  
Available now



**R** If you've read Sara Pennypacker's 2016 novel *Pax*, then chances are you count it among your favourite reads. *Pax* is the story about the powerful bond of kinship between a boy called Peter and the eponymous fox he rescues – the sole surviving kit of his pack. As a result of an unnamed war, Peter is forcibly separated from his fox. This opens profound wounds of loss and grief for Peter, and it drives the redemptive story that follows.

In the sequel, *Pax: Journey Home*, we find Peter still feeling emotionally conflicted and fighting against the instinct to love and connect with those around him. The aftermath of war has left the waterways toxic, and Peter joins a band of environmental warriors to heal the land. Peter takes advantage of the warriors' nomadic lifestyle to live a more independent life, beholden to anyone.

In a parallel story, *Pax* sets out in search of safer ground and a new home for his pack. When boy and fox cross paths again, the story reaches a crisis point where love, trust and sacrifice meet their ultimate test. This is a worthy sequel that builds on the emotional foundation of the original story, and adds deeper layers of complexity and richness to the much-loved characters. For readers 10+.

Natalie Platten is from Readings Doncaster

Julia and the Shark

Kiran Millwood Hargrave & Tom de Freston (illus.)  
Orion. HB. \$19.99  
Available 14 September



**R** Like the ocean it explores, *Julia and the Shark* is deep, rich and mysterious. Julia lives on a remote island where her scientist mother obsesses over tracking the elusive Greenland shark. As Julia discovers the wonders of astronomy and the joy of friendship, her mother descends into a vortex of confusion.

Beautifully imagined, *Julia and the Shark* is a moving and poignant tale of love and family that features a unique mother-daughter relationship. It's a story of passion and obsession; the quest to find a mysterious sea creature; and an adventure steeped in friendship and courage. Ultimately, like the lighthouse Julia's family lives in, it is a beacon of hope.

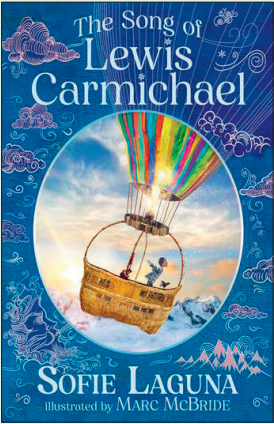
The dreamy, ethereal illustrations perfectly express the mystery and foreboding of author Kiran Millwood Hargrave's vision. The writing is lyrical, evoking the mesmerising beauty of nature and the overwhelming power and depth of the ocean; the reader smells the



spray of the waves and feels the mystery beneath them. Such is the power of Millwood Hargrave’s writing, she breathes life into any landscape be it geographic or emotional.

This is an exceptional story for readers ages 9+ and a joy to read aloud at home and in the classroom. Highly recommended.

Athina Clarke is from Readings Malvern



The Song of Lewis Carmichael

Sofie Laguna & Marc McBride (illus.)  
A&U. PB. \$16.99

Available now

**R** This utterly exquisite adventure story about travelling in a hot air balloon on the boreal winds to the Arctic north has all the hallmarks of a contemporary classic.

Matthew is a quiet, reserved boy – he struggles to fit in and feels his solitary nature is a disappointment to his parents. He is secretly obsessed with the Arctic and has read many books about the harsh landscape and the remarkable animals that live there. Feeding a bird with a broken wing at the park becomes the precursor to an incredible journey with the talking bird, known as Lewis Carmichael, to the Arctic. Matthew is challenged and encouraged by Lewis Carmichael as they travel, and he becomes more confident in his abilities. The two of them have an extraordinary adventure that changes them both forever.

It’s an utter delight for readers ages 9+ and will be a magical read-aloud for younger audiences as well.

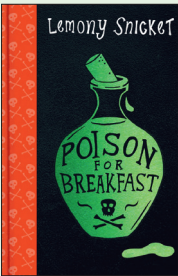
This is a classic hero’s journey written with great sensitivity by award-winning author Sofie Laguna. The story is complemented by beautiful line drawings rendered in blue by Marc McBride. It’s an utter delight for readers ages 9+ and will be a magical read-aloud for younger audiences as well.

Angela Crocombe is the kids book buyer at Readings

Poison for Breakfast

Lemony Snicket & Margaux Kent (illus.)  
Oneworld. HB. \$17.99

Available now



**R** Mr Lemony Snicket, pseudonymous author of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, has just eaten the same breakfast he prepares for himself every day when he discovers a piece of paper slid under his door. It reads: ‘You had poison for breakfast.’ Thus begins a very unusual little book that attempts to solve the mystery of Snicket’s poisoning, all while taking numerous delightful tangents.

It is easy to imagine this tale narrated by the baritone voice of Patrick Warburton, the actor who played Snicket in the recent *A Series of Unfortunate Events* TV adaptation. As Snicket says, this book is about bewilderment, and the reader may often feel

as confused as the character, even as they enjoy the wordplay, anecdotes and tangential musings on such topics as, what came first, the chicken or the egg? Line drawings pepper the book throughout, and a note section at the end gives references to some of Snicket’s anecdotal asides. Lemony Snicket fans, young and old, will adore this very eccentric book, but it is perhaps not the best place to start for the uninitiated. For ages 10+.

Angela Crocombe is the kids book buyer at Readings

Mel and Shell

Julia Lawrinson  
Fremantle Press. PB. \$16.99

Available now



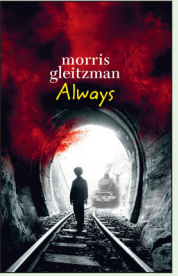
It’s 1979. ABBA rules the airwaves, rollerskating is cool, and Mel and Shell are best friends. There’s nothing they like more than making up dances to ABBA songs, and there’s nothing they like less than Scary Sharon and Stinky Simon. But things are changing, fast. Confiding in her penpal from

1829, Shell discovers she has a lot to learn about loyalty, honesty and rollerskating.

Always

Morris Gleitzman  
Viking. PB. \$19.99

Available now



It’s 15 years since readers were first introduced to Felix in *Once*, and across six celebrated books, our brave young hero has survived many unforgettable and emotional journeys. Now comes the final part of Felix’s story, bringing to a powerful climax a series that countless young readers around the world will remember – always.

Nonfiction

The Sky

Hélène Druvert & Juliette Einhorn  
T&H. HB. \$39.99

Available now



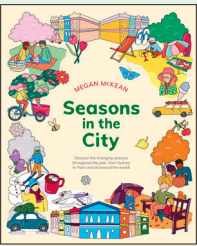
**R** With illustrations by Hélène Druvert and words by Juliette Einhorn, *The Sky* is a piece of art featuring cleverly designed laser-cut pages that lift us up through the atmosphere and carry us along the wind on delicate dandelion seeds. This coffee-table children’s information book covers all aspects of the sky, including where the sky begins and where it ends (much later than I thought!). Beautiful illustrations of zeppelins and hang-gliders, along with many other vehicles, demonstrate all the ways humans have conquered the sky, and the final page is full of ways we can protect our sky – and our planet. On top of the stunning illustrations, the text is interesting too, full of refreshing new facts to learn. This a fantastic book highly recommended for all kids who have an interest in the sky, the weather or space. For ages 9+.

Dani Solomon is the manager of Readings Kids

Seasons in the City

Megan McKean  
Lothian. HB. \$29.99

Available now



Do you know springtime in Tokyo is cherry blossom season? Or that on the longest day of summer in Stockholm the sun stays up for 18 hours? Find out what different seasons look like in cities all around the world in this beautifully illustrated book for

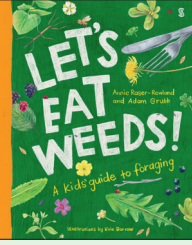
readers and travellers of all ages. From the award-winning author and illustrator of the *Hello!* series.

Let’s Eat Weeds!: A Kids’ Guide to Foraging

Annie Raser-Rowland, Adam Grubb & Evie Barrow (illus.)

Scribble. HB. \$24.99

Available now



From salads to main dishes, edible weeds are delicious! Find out how to identify them, where and when to find them, and how to cook them in this informative companion for the young urban or rural forager. Learn to smell your way to an angled onion, bake weeds ‘n’ cheese pie, and safely harvest the juicy fruits of a prickly pear.

Graphic Novels

Squirrel Do Bad (Trubble Town, Book 1)

Stephen Pastis

Hardie Grant. HB. \$19.99

Available 15 September



**R** Welcome to Trubble Town where our protagonist Wendy has decided to rebel against an overprotective parent. This process begins with consuming an excess of sugar and descends into total chaos for the Trubble Town residents, and an explosion at the mayor’s office!

Trubble Town is home to all kinds of weirdos and critters who Wendy meets in her travels. There’s a guy in a peanut costume known as Nutman and three radical activist moles named Myrtle, Girdle and Menace to Society. There’s a heartbroken hairless chihuahua and the town judge is a koala open to taking bribes of eucalyptus leaves. There’s also a squirrel who must be stopped at all costs, which leads to a noteworthy abundance of Looney Tunes-style explosives.

Stephen Pastis will be known to many readers as the creator of the well-loved *Timmy Failure* series. Featuring simple artwork, Pastis’ unhinged new graphic novel series sits perfectly alongside the *Wimpy Kid* and *Dog Man* books. It’s a chaotic, funny and dynamite-filled distraction for those who partake in its hijinks. For ages 8+.

Kim Gruschow is from Readings St Kilda

Treasure in the Lake

Jason Pamment

A&U. PB. \$16.99

Available 14 September



Grand adventures begin where you least expect. Iris knows this because she’s read them all. But when she and her best friend, Sam, stumble upon an unusually dry riverbed on the outskirts of town, they make a discovery beyond anything Iris has read about: a hidden city, lost in time and shrouded in mystery. A fantasy-adventure graphic novel perfect for fans of Kazu Kibuishi’s *Amulet* series.

Cranky Chicken

Katherine Battersby

Lothian. PB. \$14.99

Available now



Everything about Chicken is cranky. And everything makes Chicken cranky. What Cranky Chicken is not is lonely. Nope, definitely not. So what happens when this very cranky chicken meets a very cheerful worm? Perfect for newly independent readers, this is the first funny story in a charming illustrated series about an unlikely friendship that will warm your heart.



# Young Adult

## BOOK OF THE MONTH *Young Adult*



### It's Not You, It's Me

Gabrielle Williams  
A&U. PB. Was \$19.99  
**\$15.99**  
Available now

When the two characters find they are able to communicate through the typewriter, Holly begins to see some curious parallels in their lives and slowly begins to unravel the mysteries surrounding their connection. While all this makes for an exciting romp, details of Holly's younger life provide additional insight into her dawning respect and yearning for Trinity's life, which makes the climax all the more moving.

Fun, freaky and poignant, the what ifs and wherefores of two lives that collide is inventively imagined and skilfully executed. Gabrielle Williams makes the inexplicable seem perfectly logical, and *It's Not You, It's Me* is a compulsive read for ages 13+.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

**R** Who would have thought a 1970s Brother typewriter would be the inspiration for this fabulous time-slip young adult story?

Forty-year-old Holly is returning from her birthday lunch in Melbourne 2020 when she inexplicably finds herself lying dazed on an LA footpath in 1980 in the body of a teenager named Trinity. Mystified and shaken, Holly is led to Trinity's home by a kind neighbour, Lewis, who is concerned by 'Trinity's' weird behaviour. Holly/Trinity is already freaked out by her unfamiliar blue nails and wild clothes. When confronted with her image in the mirror, she realises she is definitely not in her body. In Trinity's bedroom the shocks keep coming: there on the desk is an orange Brother typewriter, exactly like the one Holly's friends just gave her for her birthday back in Melbourne.

Fun, freaky and poignant, the what ifs and wherefores of two lives that collide is inventively imagined and skilfully executed.

And so begins this original, funny and thrilling novel of swapped identities that has Holly trying to behave like a normal eighties American teenager, all while attempting to find a way back to her own world. Meanwhile in Melbourne, Trinity is enraged and wreaking havoc with Holly's life.

### The Forevers

Chris Whitaker  
Hotkey. PB. \$19.99  
Available now



**R** What would you do if the world was going to end in 30 days? There is an asteroid heading towards earth. It has been moving towards us for a decade, looming above in space. There have been

repeated attempts to destroy it and divert it – some of which are reminiscent of the 1990s movie *Armageddon* with Bruce Willis – but it is still coming. There is one last shuttle, one last attempt. Will it work? Time is running out.

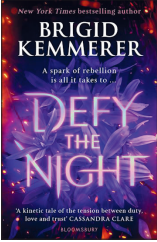
For Mae, the end of the world is just one more problem to try and cope with. Mae already has it rough; she cares for her younger sister, who is blind, and her grandmother, who is showing signs of dementia, all while facing the trauma – still fresh – of losing her parents years before. Throw in an unexpected dead friend – Abi Manton. Did Abi jump or was she pushed?

This is the premise of Chris Whitaker's first young adult novel, *The Forevers*. Whitaker is already an award-winning author of adult thrillers (*Tall Oaks*, *All the Wicked Girls* and *We Begin at the End*), so I was intrigued to see how he would handle the transition to YA. His prose is heartbreaking and raw, but also full of depth. Mae and her community express the confusion, loss and rage they feel in different ways, and it is challenging at times to witness. But there is also hope, love and belief here. Throughout, you see the dark and light in people, as well as the grey. A worthy read for ages 14+.

Claire Atherfold is the manager of Readings State Library

### Defy the Night

Brigid Kemmerer  
Bloomsbury. PB. \$16.99  
Available 14 September



**R** *Defy the Night* is the first in a new series by Brigid Kemmerer, author of the highly acclaimed *Cursebreakers* novels. The story takes place in the Kingdom of

Kandala, a far-off land plagued by a contagious disease of mysterious origins and deadly effect. Its only cure? An elixir made out of moonflower petals, a resource of limited supply that is overconsumed by the rich and unattainable to the poor.

The novel is told from two perspectives. There is the courageous Tessa Cade, an apothecary who spends her nights sneaking into the royal sector with her mysterious partner-in-crime, Wes, stealing medicine to distribute among the poor. We also see the story through the eyes of Prince Corrick, the loyal brother to the king of Kandala, tasked with the role of ensuring order in a kingdom divided by desperation and mistrust.

Brigid Kemmerer excels at writing YA fantasy novels that take it to the next level, and *Defy the Night* is testimony to her skill. Here, the classic tale of Robin Hood is refreshingly retold with vivid writing and fully realised characters. Its action-packed scenes are perfectly balanced by points of political drama and intrigue. Though some readers may worry such moments may feel drawn out or tedious, the worry is unfounded as Kemmerer masterfully crafts a fleshed-out political landscape that only adds more complexity to the story.

With action-packed writing, swoon-worthy romance and the odd twist that will leave readers reeling, *Defy the Night* is the perfect escapist novel for fans of YA fantasy. Recommended for readers ages 13+.

Xiao-Xiao Kingham is from Readings Kids

### Road Tripping with Pearl Nash

Poppy Nwosu  
Wakefield Press. PB. \$24.95  
Available now



Summer is finally here, and Pearl Nash is on a mission to save her slowly disintegrating friendship. Solution: an end-of-year road trip. Except, instead of her best friend Daisy's feet on her dash, Pearl's

stuck in the middle of the desert with the endlessly irritating Obi Okocha, as the pair of them head to the most epic end-of-year party ever. Suddenly Pearl has all the ingredients for the perfect disaster.

### Anything but Fine

Tobias Madden  
Penguin. PB. \$19.99  
Available now



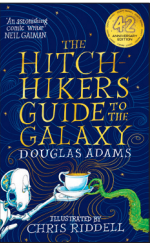
Luca is ready to audition for the Australian Ballet School, but all it takes to crush his dreams is one missed step and a broken foot. Jordan is the popular school captain of Luca's new school. Everyone says

he's straight – but Luca's not so sure. As their unlikely bond grows stronger, Luca starts to wonder: who is he without ballet? And is he just setting himself up for another heartbreak?

## Classic of the Month

### The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (42nd Anniversary Illustrated Edition)

Douglas Adams & Chris Riddell (illus.)  
Pan Mac. PB. \$26.99  
Available now




**R** A radio play, a trilogy of five (or six, depending on whether you count Eoin Colfer's 2009 contribution to the series), a TV series, multiple comic books and stage shows, a video game, a film, and

now a new illustrated edition by the legendary Chris Riddell. There seems to be an insatiable hunger for the adventures of Arthur, Ford, Zaphod, Trillian and Marvin.

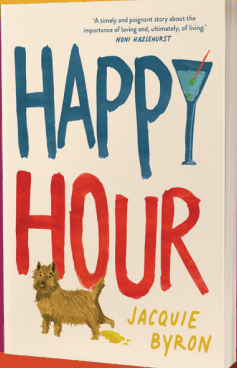
Having read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* countless times, I was sceptical I could be captivated all over again. Luckily, Riddell's charming illustrations manage to add a whole new dimension to Adams' work. Done in Riddell's signature style, the illustrations capture the humour and whimsy of the classic sci-fi caper, while providing a new perspective on Adams' universe. The pairing of author and illustrator makes this anniversary edition an amazing introduction for a new generation of fans, old and young alike.

My only complaint? I want more illustrations. Chris, could you please draw something for every page? Highly recommended for ages 12+.

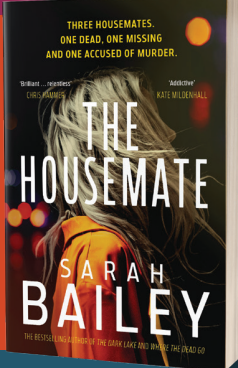
Tristen Brudy is from Readings Carlton




‘An absolute delight. Funny, clever, compelling, and utterly original.’  
**NINA KENWOOD, *It Sounded Better in My Head***



‘A timely and poignant story about the importance of loving and, ultimately, of living.’  
**NONI HAZLEHURST**



‘The plot is brilliant, the pace is relentless ... a book of great emotional power and depth - Bailey's best yet.’  
**CHRIS HAMMER, author of *Scrublands***



‘A beautiful and deeply moving book, and one that is vitally important.’  
**VIRGINIA TRIOLI**

ALLEN & UNWIN



# Bargains

## Ramen Otaku: Mastering Ramen at Home

Sarah Gavigan with Ann Volkwein  
PB. Was \$42.99 **Now \$14.99**



From the chef behind the beloved shop Otaku Ramen, Sarah Gavigan, comes a guide to ramen for the home cook. Ramen is often shrouded in mystery, but *Ramen Otaku* strips away the mystique while embracing its history, magic and rightful place in the home kitchen. Gavigan's recipes are accessible to anyone wanting to learn about the cuisine.

## Ballyhoo!: Posters as Portraiture

Wendy Wick Reaves  
PB. Was \$39 **Now \$14.99**



*Ballyhoo!* looks at the poster as a form of popular portraiture. By interweaving the three themes of poster art, celebrity promotion and advertising, it suggests how a famous face can enhance the message of the poster, how posters have defined and disseminated images of prominent Americans, and how they can provide an instructive glimpse into an era.

## Transit Maps of the World: Expanded and Updated Edition

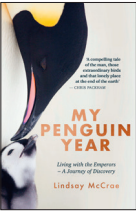
Mark Ovenden  
PB. Was \$59.99 **Now \$16.99**



*Transit Maps of the World* is a comprehensive collection of historical and current maps of every rapid-transit system on earth, featuring subway, light rail, and streetcar maps from New York to Nizhny Novgorod. This new edition contains 36 more pages and revisions of 250 city maps and listings given from almost a thousand systems. A cult bestseller!

## My Penguin Year: Living with the Emperors – A Journey of Discovery

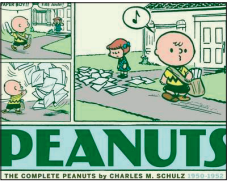
Lindsay McCrae  
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$12.99**



In *My Penguin Year*, author Lindsay McCrae recounts a year spent living alongside the most resilient creatures in nature, the emperor penguins. He experienced every aspect of a breeding emperor's life, including living in the worst winter on the planet, and faced the inevitable sacrifices and personal obstacles that came with living his childhood dream.

## The Complete Peanuts: Volume 1, 1950-1952

Charles M. Schulz  
PB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$14.99**

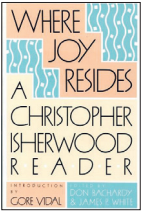


*The Complete Peanuts* offers a unique chance to see Charles M. Schulz solidify his universe, day by

day. This first volume covers the first two-and-a-quarter years of the strip. Hundreds of these strips have rarely been reprinted before – including Snoopy's debut as a puppy. It also includes an introduction, a biographical essay and an in-depth interview with Schulz from 1987.

## Where Joy Resides: A Christopher Isherwood Reader

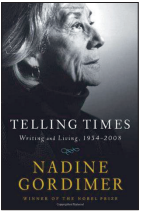
Christopher Isherwood, Don Bachardy & James P. White (eds.)  
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$14.99**



Best known for *The Berlin Stories*, the inspiration for the musical *Cabaret*, Christopher Isherwood was a major figure in 20th-century fiction and the gay rights movement. *Where Joy Resides* is the perfect introduction to his essential writings. It includes two complete novels, *Prater Violet* and *A Single Man*, as well as excerpts from Isherwood's nonfiction works.

## Telling Times: Writing and Living, 1954–2008

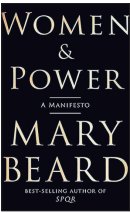
Nadine Gordimer  
HB. Was \$69.99 **Now \$16.99**



*Telling Times* is a celebration of Nobel Prize-winning author Nadine Gordimer's nonfiction. From the twilight of white rule in South Africa to the fight to overthrow the apartheid regime, and her role in confronting the contemporary phenomena of violence and the dangers of HIV, it is both a literary exploration and extraordinary document of social and political history in our times.

## Women & Power: A Manifesto

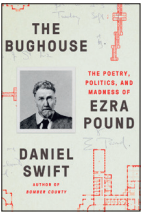
Mary Beard  
HB. Was \$24.99 **Now \$12.99**



In *Women & Power* Britain's best-known classicist Mary Beard addresses the misogynists and trolls who mercilessly attack and demean women the world over. She traces the origins of this misogyny to its ancient roots, examining the pitfalls of gender and the ways that history has mistreated strong women since time immemorial.

## The Bughouse: The Poetry, Politics, and Madness of Ezra Pound

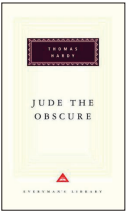
Daniel Swift  
HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$14.99**



In 1945, Ezra Pound was due to stand trial for treason for his broadcasts in Fascist Italy during WWII. Before the trial could take place, he was pronounced insane and sent to St Elizabeth's Hospital where he was held for more than a decade. *The Bughouse* tells the story of Pound's stay; it is a tale of politics, madness and modern art in the 20th century.

## Jude the Obscure

Thomas Hardy  
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$15.99**



Thomas Hardy's masterpiece still hasn't lost its power to shock us and disturb our dreams. Jude's story – his futile desire to better himself through education, his failed marriage and doomed love

for the free-spirited Sue Bridehead – shows with clarity the effects of prejudice and oppression upon innocent minds, and forms a passionate plea for tolerance.

## Design: The Groundbreaking Moments

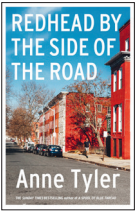
Nina Kozel  
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$19.99**



In 20 fascinating and diverse chapters this book explores groundbreaking moments – great ideas and turning points – in the history of design. From the bentwood chair to Apple computers and IKEA furniture, it focuses on innovative, nonconventional approaches by designers, artists, and schools of ideas that left indelible impressions on the ways we live and work.

## Redhead by the Side of the Road

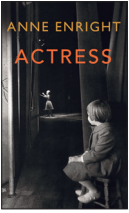
Anne Tyler  
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.99**



Micah Mortimer is a creature of habit. A self-employed tech expert and superintendent of his Baltimore apartment building, he seems content leading a steady and circumscribed life. One day, his routines are blown apart when his woman friend tells him she's facing eviction, and a teenager shows up at Micah's door claiming to be his son.

## Actress

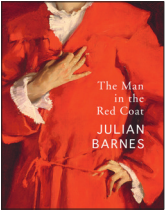
Anne Enright  
PB. Was \$29.99 **Now \$12.99**



This is the story of Irish theatre legend Katherine O'Dell, as told by her daughter Norah, from early stardom in Hollywood, to the highs and lows on the stages of Dublin and London's West End. But this mother-daughter relationship cannot survive Katherine's past, or the world's damage. *Actress* is a daughter's search for the truth – the dark secret in the bright star.

## The Man in the Red Coat

Julian Barnes  
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$15.99**



Surgeon Samuel Pozzi was a society doctor, pioneer gynaecologist and free-thinker – a rational and scientific man with a famously complicated private life. His life played out against the backdrop of the Parisian Belle Époque, the beautiful age of glamour, decadence, narcissism and nativism. *The Man in the Red Coat* is at once a witty tour of the Belle Époque and a life of a man ahead of his time.

## First Words: Art Charts

Aino-Maija Metsola  
PB. Was \$24.99 **Now \$14.99**

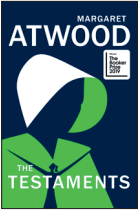


Rediscover the joy of learning with these 12 stylish, bright and colourful pull-out posters from leading Finnish artist Aino-Maija Metsola. Featuring first words and early concepts, each of the large posters covers a different subject, helping young children to

see and say their first words. These subjects include colours, counting, shapes, opposites, European seasons and pets.

## The Testaments

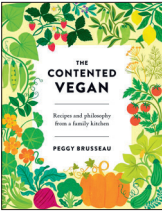
Margaret Atwood  
HB. Was \$42.99 **Now \$16.99**



The Republic of Gilead is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, two girls with radically different experiences of the regime come face to face with the legendary, ruthless Aunt Lydia. But how far will each go for what she believes? The electrifying sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale* that reveals the innermost workings of Gilead and the culpability of those in power.

## The Contented Vegan

Peggy Brusseau  
HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$16.99**



Food writer Peggy Brusseau has been a vegan for over 30 years, and is often asked for guidance by people considering changing their diet. How do I get enough protein? How can I eat a plant-based diet when my partner doesn't want to? *The Contented Vegan* is your essential guide to transitioning to a vegan diet, combining delicious recipes with practical advice on making the switch.

## Shuggie Bain

Douglas Stuart  
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$15.99**



Winner of the 2020 Booker Prize. A heart-wrenchingly moving first novel set in Glasgow during the Thatcher years, *Shuggie Bain* tells the story of a boy's doomed attempt to save his proud, alcoholic mother from her addiction, as he grapples with his own sexuality. An intensely emotional and all-encompassing novel.

## The Meaning Revolution: Leading with the Power of Purpose

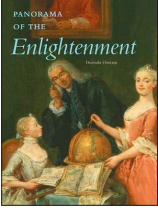
Fred Kofman  
PB. Was \$35 **Now \$12.99**



Forget the textbook practices of leadership taught in business schools, this is a new model for how to inspire – through purpose, principle and people. *The Meaning Revolution* is Fred Kofman's call to arms for anyone who has ever felt unengaged at work. It offers practical advice for how we can all find more meaning and dignity in whatever we do.

## Panorama of the Enlightenment

Dorinda Outram  
HB. Was \$99.99 **Now \$29.99**



The Enlightenment is that crucial, and profoundly exciting, period between the late 17th century and the French Revolution, that laid the foundations for the Western world. With nearly 400 illustrations, this book tells the fascinating story of the men and women of the Enlightenment in their search for definition and redefinition of the values of their time.



# Pop/Rock/Alt Music

## Comfort to Me

Amyl and The Sniffers

\$29.99 | Also on vinyl

Available 10 September



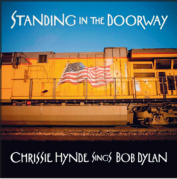
Produced by Dan Luscombe, Amyl and The Sniffers’ sophomore album draws from a wide pool of references. The musical influences range from old-school rock’n’roll and modern hardcore, to hometown heroes such as Coloured Balls and Cosmic Psychos, while the lyrics take inspiration from vocalist Amy Taylor’s rap idols and countless garage bands.

## Standing in the Doorway: Chrissie Hynde Sings Bob Dylan

Chrissie Hynde

\$22.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



Chrissie Hynde covers Bob Dylan on this new album of songs that were recorded during lockdown with her Pretenders bandmate James Walbourne. The record was created almost entirely by text message: Walbourne would record an idea on his phone and Hynde would add her vocal. Tracks on the album include ‘Blind Willie McTell’, ‘You’re a Big Girl Now’ and ‘Love Minus Zero/No Limit’.

## Love Will Be Reborn

Martha Wainwright

\$19.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



Martha Wainwright is beginning again. The beguiling performer and songwriter with a captivating voice makes a most welcome return.

Her first new album in five years, the songs on *Love Will Be Reborn* are originals by Wainwright, who plays piano and guitar alongside Toronto musicians Thom Gill, Phil Melanson and Josh Cole.

## Solar Power (Vinyl)

Lorde

\$59.99 | Only on vinyl

Available now



The highly awaited third album from genre-defying songwriter Lorde. In her own words, *Solar Power* is ‘a celebration of the natural world ... In times of heartache, grief, deep love, or confusion, I look to the natural world for answers. I’ve learned to breathe out, and tune in. This is what came through.’ Only available on vinyl.

## Screen Violence

Chvrches

\$21.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



Scottish synth-pop band Chvrches releases its fourth studio album. Narrating the theme of screen violence in three main forms – on screen, by screens and through screens – it touches on feelings of loneliness,

disillusionment, fear, heartbreak and regret. The track ‘How Not to Drown’ features The Cure’s Robert Smith.

## The Wait

Vika and Linda

\$21.99 | Also on vinyl

Available 17 September



*The Wait* is beloved duo Vika & Linda’s first album of original songs in 19 years. The songwriting credits read like a who’s who of Aussie music

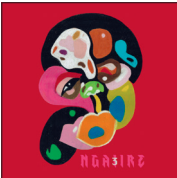
royalty and include Don Walker, Glenn Richards, Chris Cheney, Bernard Fanning, Kasey Chambers and Brandon Dodd, Ben Salter, Paul Kelly, Matt Walker and Neil Murray, Mick Thomas and Jemma Rowlands, and emerging talent Eva Seymour.

## 3 (Vinyl)

Ngaiire

\$49.99 | Only on vinyl

Available now



Sydney-based, Papua New Guinea-born future soul artist Ngaiire’s latest album was made over the last three years during an incredible

time of change, learning and processing for the artist. Diving deep into her identity, heritage, history, Ngaiire describes the album as ‘a collection of love letters to three entities – myself, my country and those I love both here and now departed’. Only available on vinyl.

## Other You

Steve Gunn

\$22.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



Acclaimed songwriter and guitarist Steve Gunn returns with a stunning new album. Seeking to create an album that would push

his melodic and compositional sensibilities to new heights, the resulting tracks find Gunn pushing his cosmic Americana to exciting new dimensions encompassing elements of prog, jazz and contemporary classical music.

## Begin to Look Around

Gretta Ray

\$21.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



*Begin to Look Around* is the debut album of Melbourne singer–songwriter Gretta Ray. A wonderful and empowering coming-of-

age record, *Begin to Look Around* chronicles the journey of a young artist navigating the winding lanes of womanhood, romance, heartbreak, travel and friendship. Ray describes it as ‘a documentation and celebration of the lessons I have learned about love, life and my unrelenting passion for music’.

## Saint Georges Road

The Black Sorrows

\$19.99 | Also on vinyl (late October)

Available 10 September



Joe Camilleri and The Black Sorrows are proud to present this latest release. The Black Sorrows are one of Australia’s most prolific

and enduringly popular bands renowned for their high-energy live shows, musicianship and infectious, rootsy rhythms. This is an exciting music event celebrating an Australian music icon with all new original tracks written by Camilleri and his long-time writing partner Nick Smith.

## Springtime in New York: The Bootleg Series, Vol. 16 (1980-1985)

Bob Dylan

\$24.99 2CD | Also on vinyl

Available 17 September



The latest chapter in Columbia/Legacy’s *Bob Dylan Bootleg* series revisits an often-forgotten, rich vein in Dylan’s vast catalog,

shining light on the provocative new directions Dylan was taking as a songwriter and a recording artist from 1980 through 1985. Includes previously unreleased outtakes, alternate takes, rehearsal recordings, live performances and more. A 5CD deluxe edition is also available.

# Country Music

## Living in Colour

Shane Nicholson

\$21.99 | Also on vinyl

Available now



After winning three ARIA Awards, 11 Golden Guitars, two APRA awards, this new album shows Shane Nicholson in different hues:

trusting and cynical, father and friend, sometimes buoyant and in love, beginning to have faith in the world, other times struggling to make sense of the same world that can rip your heart right out.

## Ramble in Music City: The Lost Concert

Emmylou Harris and the Nash Ramblers

\$24.99 | Also on vinyl

Available 3 September



Emmylou Harris formed the Nash Ramblers, an acoustic all-star group, in 1990 and they made their debut at the

Tennessee Performing Arts Center in September of that year. Now, 30 years later, the concert which was recorded and shelved has been unearthed. The set includes music by Rodney Crowell, Ruth Franks, Townes Van Zandt, as well as Harris’ own compositions.

# Jazz/Blues Music

## Side-Eye NYC (V1.IV)

Pat Metheny

\$31.99 | Also on vinyl

Available 10 September



Pat Metheny remains utterly unpredictable. A new Metheny record could be almost anything. *Side-Eye NYC (V1.IV)* is an exciting,

vibrant and energised new platform for him, showcased in a recording that features 30 minutes of intricate new music set alongside a few unexpected and creative re-workings of Metheny classics re-imagined.

## Dear America

Eric Bibb

\$22.99 | Also on vinyl

Available 10 September



If you could call out to your country, what would you say? On *Dear America*, songwriter Eric Bibb finds himself unpacking a seven-

decade relationship with the USA. It’s a record that laces its exploration of the nation’s most poisonous issues with hope, love and a brighter road ahead. All is not lost, stresses Bibb, and neither are we.

# TV on DVD

## Baptiste: Season 2

\$29.99

Available 22 September



The second season of *Baptiste* follows the retired detective as he delves into Budapest’s corrupt underworld to find a British

ambassador’s missing family. Ambassador Emma Chambers is thrust into the crosshairs of Baptiste’s most complex case to date, as the detective navigates an untrustworthy Hungarian police force and the media.

## Jack Irish: Season 3

\$24.99

Available 15 September



Guy Pearce reprises his iconic role as Jack Irish, a former criminal lawyer, part-time debt collector and private investigator. The unmissable final

season delves deep into Jack’s past, questioning everything he thought he knew about his life and bringing him face-to-face with an antagonist more personal and destructive than he has ever encountered.

## The Mallorca Files: Season 2

\$29.99

Available 22 September



The stylish detective duo is back, and Max and Miranda’s partnership has finally found its rhythm. Just in time too, because there’s no shortage of

murky cases waiting to be cracked. Everything from an opera star singing his final notes in the famous Drax caves, to the dark history of the Spanish Civil War resurfacing all too literally.

# Film on DVD

## In the Heights

\$29.99

Available 22 September



Washington Heights. The scent of a *cafecito caliente* hangs in the air just outside a subway stop, where dreams rally a vibrant and tight-knit community. At the intersection of it all is

the likeable, magnetic bodega owner Usnavi who saves every penny from his daily grind as he hopes, imagines and sings about a better life. A cinematic event from Lin-Manuel Miranda.



# Classical Music

## ALBUM OF THE MONTH

### Classical



**The British Project**  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra & Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla  
DG. 4861547. \$24.99

was highly criticised upon debut and never achieved the success Walton wanted. After Walton’s death, Christopher Palmer, a well-known arranger of lesser-known British works, took Walton’s music and shaped it into a symphonic suite, delightfully assimilating the vocal parts into the orchestra.

Across these four works, the real attraction of the album is the performance of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra with its outgoing music director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, at the helm. There’s a real style to the shaping of the phrases in the lush string moments, and bright woodwinds give flavour to what could otherwise be some muted patches. An odd duck this may be, but well worth exploring and drilling into the layers of musicianship and meaning contained in these works.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

**R** I always like being honest in my reviews and to be frank, this is an odd duck of a recording: the glories of Vaughan Williams’ *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, paired with the almost unknown arrangement of a symphonic suite from William Walton’s opera *Troilus and Cressida*. Throw in Britten’s *Sinfonia da Requiem* – his largest pure orchestral work – with Elgar’s melancholy *Sospiri* Op. 70 and you have a beautiful but strange album of 20th-century British orchestral works.

There’s a real style to the shaping of the phrases in the lush string moments.

In 1940, Britten was commissioned by the Japanese government to write a piece to celebrate the 2600th anniversary of the founding of Japan by the legendary first emperor, Jimmu. But they dismissed *Sinfonia da Requiem* when he presented it due to its use of Latin and overall style. However, a performance of the *Requiem* in Boston led to the commission of his famous opera *Peter Grimes*. William Walton, inspired by the success of the first ever popular English Opera, spent seven years working on *Troilus and Cressida*, which was based on a narrative poem. However, it

**First Light: Muhly & Glass**  
Pekka Kuusisto & Norwegian Chamber Orchestra  
Pentatone. PTC5186745. Was \$29.99

**\$ \$22.99 (limited stock at this price)**



**R** This recording felt like a musical representation of the last 18 months. From a world premiere recording to a piece

that was recorded on separate continents, it’s a miracle that this album ever came into existence thanks to the difficulties of performing in these strained times. Pekka Kuusisto is well known in his native Finland for his championing of contemporary composers, and having only just taken over the tenure as artistic director of the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, he is using this opportunity to do what he does best – be adventurous.

*Shrink* is the latest offering from a Melbourne favourite Nico Muhly. A contemporary violin concerto written for and dedicated to Kuusisto and co-commissioned by the Australian Chamber Orchestra, *Shrink* premiered here in Melbourne in December 2019 in a highly praised performance. How wonderful to revisit this piece here in its world premiere recording. Philip Glass’ ‘The Orchard’ finds Kuusisto and US-based Muhly collaborating again, as they try to work out how to record the piece while stuck on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Entering different recording studios, they each put down their tracks and somehow the beauty of their

friendship shines through this ‘separate yet together’ approach to modern recording. The album finishes with Kuusisto’s own arrangement of Philip Glass’ String Quartet No. 3. It was instantly recognisable to my ears as a long-time classical music listener, though this arrangement stands out for its sumptuous timbre, due to Kuusisto’s use of a full string orchestra.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

**Echoes of Life**  
Alice Sara Ott  
DG. 4860474. \$29.99



**R** The past will always echo through the years, affecting the future in ways that are surprising and often far reaching. Would

Chopin have guessed that in the year 2021 we would still be playing and revelling in his music? It’s been over 180 years since he originally wrote the 24 Preludes, Op. 28 but they continue to be an integral part to any pianist’s repertoire, and when you’re an internationally renowned musician you can’t help but be influenced by their bite-sized beauty. Alice Sara Ott certainly is, but more than that she’s found other works that give these preludes a contemporary context. Interspersing the 24 Preludes are seven pieces ‘from composers who, in their own time, challenged the system and redefined music’, writes Ott. Ligeti, Nino Rota, Takemitsu and Ott herself each have a moment here that blends almost seamlessly with the charm of Chopin’s Preludes.

At this moment in my life, I’m definitely doing some comfort reading and listening, but I still yearn for something more. I listened to this album on repeat for an entire day in lockdown and it gave me the emotional space I wanted; in the refinement of Ott’s playing, I found a moment of peace.

Kate Rockstrom is a friend of Readings

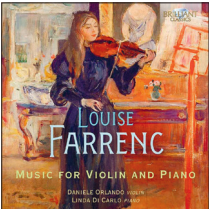
**Roots**  
Randall Goosby, Zhu Wang & Xavier Dubois Foley  
Decca. 4851664. \$24.99



An exploration of music written by Black composers and inspired by Black culture, *Roots* pays homage to the pioneering musicians

who paved the way for Randall Goosby’s generation, and looks to the future with a specially commissioned piece by young Black composer Xavier Dubois Foley. With *Roots*, Perlman protégé Goosby celebrates his own journey and shows young people that classical music can inspire everyone.

**Louise Farrenc: Music for Violin and Piano**  
Daniele Orlando & Linda Di Carlo  
Brilliant Classics. 95922. \$16.99



Louise Farrenc was one of the first successful female composers in 19th-century France. An accomplished pianist, she held a

professorship at the Paris Conservatoire. This new recording contains the two violin sonatas and the *Variations Concertantes sur une Mélodie Suisse*, of which Robert Schumann wrote: ‘So sure in outline, so logical in development ... that one must fall under their charm.’

**Passion: Lully, Charpentier & Desmarests**  
Véronique Gens, Ensemble Les Surprises & Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas  
Alpha. ALPHA747. Was \$31.99

**\$ \$24.99 (limited stock at this price)**



This programme marks the eagerly awaited return of Véronique Gens to Baroque music and Lully, in which she made a name for

herself at the start of her career. It presents airs from Lully’s *Atys*, *Persée*, and *Alceste*, as well as works by Charpentier, Desmarests and Collasse. All works present roles for powerful women, the type of dramatic characters that Gens embodies with all the charisma that has made her reputation.

**Love Songs: Works for Solo Piano**  
Angela Hewitt  
Hyperion. CDA68341. Was \$29.99

**\$ \$24.99 (limited stock at this price)**



Destined to become a favourite, Angela Hewitt’s *Love Songs* compiles some of the best-known musical declarations of love across the centuries,

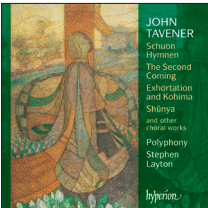
heard in transcriptions by some of the greatest composers and pianists. Hewitt’s exquisite recording, which includes two of

her own transcriptions, is the culmination of a 20-year ambition – one she was finally able to research and realise in 2020 as the world came to a standstill.

## Classical Specials of the Month

**John Tavener: Choral Works**  
Polyphony & Stephen Layton  
Hyperion. CDA67475. Was \$29.99

**\$ \$9.99 (limited stock at this price)**

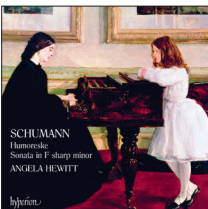


‘Polyphony fields 25 singers for this project and for this repertoire, I think you’ve got about as good as a choir could get. Stephen Layton

directs with clarity and sensitivity. In fact, his expert pacing is the main reason for this recording’s success. This is one of Layton’s best CDs yet, and that’s saying something.’ – *BBC Radio 3 CD Review*

**Schumann: Humoreske & Piano Sonata No. 1 in F sharp minor, Op. 11**  
Angela Hewitt  
Hyperion. CDA67618. Was \$29.99

**\$ \$9.99 (limited stock at this price)**



Angela Hewitt’s Schumann performances have been praised for their ‘urgency, jubilation and introspection’ and ‘power and

finesse’. On this album, Hewitt has recorded two of his greatest piano works, filled with changing ambiguous moods and dazzling bravura moments. Her clean, thoughtful, incisively musical playing, which nevertheless allows a flow of passion to be released, is perfectly suited to this music.

**The Songs of Robert Schumann: Vol. 9**  
Ann Murray, Felicity Lott & Graham Johnson  
Hyperion. CDJ33109. Was \$29.99

**\$ \$9.99 (limited stock at this price)**



‘Volume 9 in Graham Johnson’s survey of the complete songs of Robert Schumann continues the extraordinarily high standards of

previous volumes ... Sopranos Felicity Lott and Ann Murray have sweetly dulcet voices individually and together they are divine ... This is another disc that all lovers of *lieder* will not want to be without.’ – James Leonard, *AllMusic*

**Rachmaninov: Vespers, Op. 37**  
Corydon Singers & Matthew Best  
Hyperion. CDA30016. Was \$21.99

**\$ \$7.99 (limited stock at this price)**



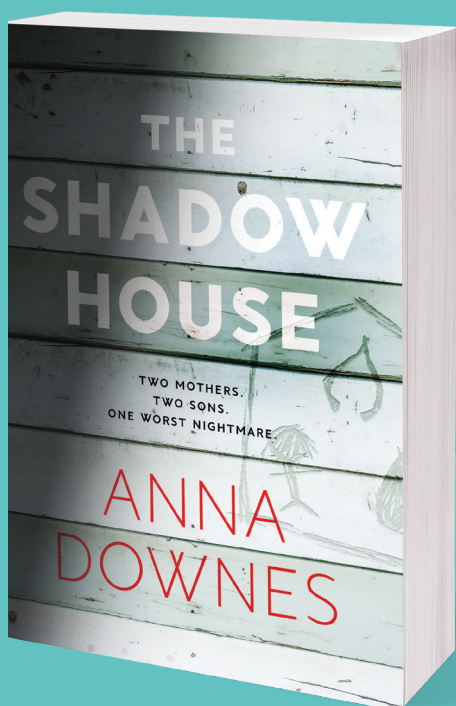
‘Matthew Best’s Corydon Singers are in many ways outstanding. They pitch the music beautifully, and sing with a controlled

flexibility that still sounds fresh and devoted. The distribution of voices is balanced well, and recorded well, even in the notorious problems of the “Nunc dimittis” and its descending bass line.’ – *Gramophone*



‘Downes is brilliant at keeping us on tenterhooks.’

Stephen Romei,  
*The Australian*



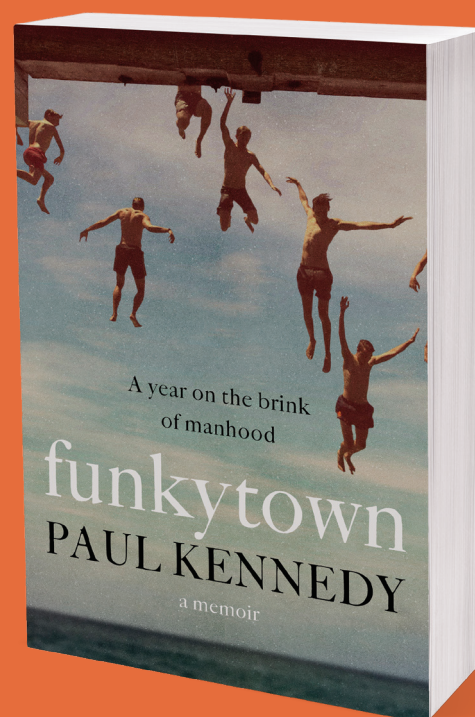
## THE SHADOW HOUSE

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.

Melbourne’s epic new portal fantasy series.



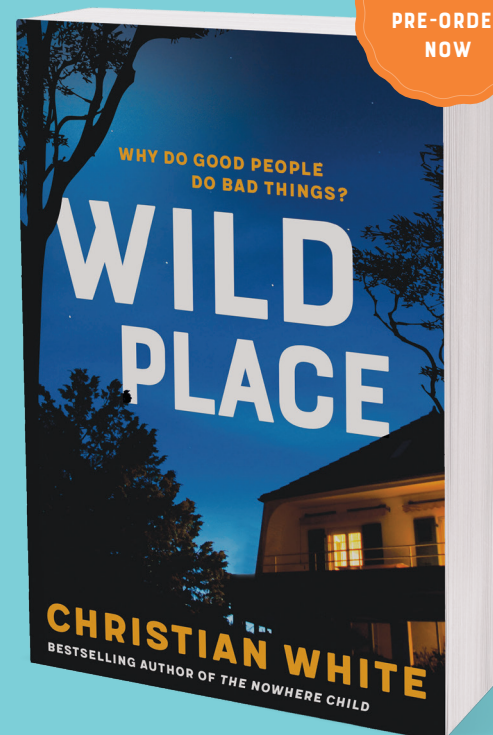
## SEVEN WHEREWITHAL WAY

SAMANTHA-ELLEN BOUND

The first book in a portal fantasy series full of heart-in-your-mouth action, unforgettable characters and folklore-inspired magic that feels both fresh and familiar. Kids who devoured *Nevermoor* and *The Land of Stories* will be completely enchanted by *Seven Wherewithal Way*.

‘White is a master of misdirection ... prepare to be dazzled.’

*The Age*



## WILD PLACE

CHRISTIAN WHITE

From the author of bestsellers *The Nowhere Child* and *The Wife and the Widow*, *Wild Place* is a white-knuckle descent into a street near you.