

Readings Monthly

FREE | OCTOBER 2026

Readings' A Day in Carlton 2026 program!

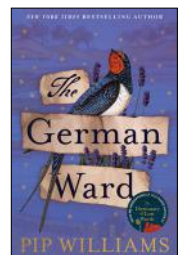
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A Q&A with Louise Kennedy

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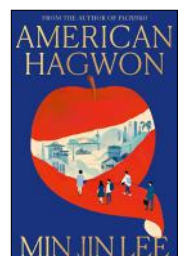
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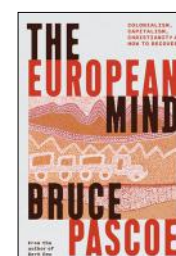
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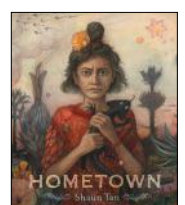
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SHAUN TAN
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FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2020 OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD

TEENAGE SEX AND DEATH AT
CAMP MIASMA

A FILM BY **JANE SCHOENBRUN** WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF **I SAW THE TV GLOW**
STARRING **HANNAH EINBINDER** AND **GILLIAN ANDERSON**

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News

Readings' A Day in Carlton

Mark your calendars, Readings' A Day in Carlton is back for 2026! From Friday 13 to Saturday 14 November, we're bringing you over 24 hours packed full of literary goodness in all its forms, creating the perfect opportunity for you to experience Carlton hospitality and vibrancy.

Discover the full program on the counters in our shops, and on our website. Book your tickets at readings.com.au/a-day-in-carlton

 Look for this event symbol throughout this issue to discover authors appearing at A Day in Carlton

Love Your Bookshop Day

Saturday 10 October is Love Your Bookshop Day! This year's theme is *Ask a bookseller. Shake up your shelf*, encouraging readers to step away from the algorithms and ask a bookseller. Celebrate the day in our shops by joining us for special events, freebies, giveaways and more! Find out more at readings.com.au/news

Promos

Win a print from *Old Vintage Melbourne*

We're giving you the chance to win one of eight framed prints from *Old Vintage Melbourne*. Simply purchase a copy of *Old Vintage Melbourne: A Culinary Chronicle* by Chris Macheras in a Readings shop (excluding Kids) and email a copy of your receipt to competitions@readings.com.au. Competition closes 11.59pm 6 October 2026. Only the winners will be contacted. Winners must collect the print from the shop they purchased from.



Events

with Chris Gordon



October is my favourite month: gardens are at their best, and freshly published books land on our shelves every day. My TBR pile keeps growing, but so do the choices – and I love having options almost as much as I love a sprig of jasmine by my bedside. As the weather grows warmer, we invite you to join us at one of our wonderful events. Most are free, and few things feel better than a spring evening spent in soft light, listening to authors discuss their work. Because in spring, we feast our senses.



For our full events calendar, the latest events information and to book tickets, scan the QR code or visit readings.com.au/events

Pip Williams & Toni Jordan in conversation
Monday 5 October at 6.15pm
Athenaeum Theatre, 188 Collins Street, Melbourne
Tickets are \$65 | \$55 concession per person and include a signed copy of *The German Ward*

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to hear award-winning novelist Pip Williams chat with Toni Jordan about her new book, *The German Ward*.

Suzie Miller in conversation
Wednesday 7 October at 6.15pm
Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton
Tickets are \$35 per person and include a signed copy of *Inter Alia* (\$10 without the book)

We are delighted to invite you to join us for a conversation between Suzie Miller and Marieke Hardy about Miller's new book, *Inter Alia*.

Paul Bangay in conversation
Tuesday 27 October at 6pm
Readings Hawthorn, 687 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn
Tickets are \$10 per person, redeemable off *Diary of an English Garden*

You're invited to hear Paul Bangay in conversation about his latest book, *Diary of an English Garden*, a lyrical homage to England's gardening heritage.

Dan Bouchier in conversation
Tuesday 27 October at 6.30pm
Readings State Library, 285–321 Russell St, Melbourne
Free, but bookings are essential

Join us to hear Dan Bouchier in conversation with Bridget Brennan about *The Elders*, a powerful and evocative journey through the heart of First Nations Australia.

READINGS MONTHLY
The *Readings Monthly* is a free, independent newspaper published by Readings. The print edition is available in all our shops and a copy is included with every online order. Sign up to our e-news to receive a link to a digital copy of each new edition or view them online at readings.com.au/readings-monthly

EDITOR Elke Power	PROOFREADERS Nico Callaghan & Lucie Dess
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR Judi Mitchell	GRAPHIC DESIGN Natasha Theoharous & Megan Tran
CARTOON Bernard Caleo	

FRONT COVER
The October *Readings Monthly* cover features a 1965 photograph by Wolfgang Sievers of the former Federal Coffee Palace, as featured in *Old Vintage Melbourne: A Culinary Chronicle* by Chris Macheras, published by

Scribe. Built in 1888 on the corner of King and Collins streets and later renamed the Federal Hotel, Sievers' photo of the first floor vestibule showcases what was one of 'the largest and most opulent hotels in the world' before its controversial demolition in 1973. Photo courtesy of State Library Victoria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
Readings acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay respects to all First Nations people of Australia, and recognise their connection to the land. Sovereignty was never ceded.

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

Readings donates 10% of its profits each year to the Readings Foundation. Learn more about the foundation at readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation

SHOP INFORMATION
See shop opening hours, browse and buy online at readings.com.au.
Australian online, mail and phone orders have \$9 flat rate shipping, with free shipping on orders \$100 and over.

CARLTON	309 Lygon St	03 9347 6633
KIDS	315 Lygon St	03 9341 7730
CHADSTONE	The Market Pavilion	03 9810 0860
DONCASTER	Westfield Doncaster	03 9810 0891
EMPORIUM	Emporium Melbourne	03 9810 0850
HAWTHORN	687 Glenferrie Rd	03 9819 1917
MALVERN	185 Glenferrie Rd	03 9509 1952
ST KILDA	112 Acland St	03 9525 3852
SLV	285–321 Russell St	03 8664 7540

KEY
Your key to getting the most out of the *Readings Monthly*

 Review
 Events
 Special price

with Alison Huber

Dear Reader



It's not every day that one of our colleagues wins a major literary award, so I must start my column this month acknowledging the brilliant achievement of Ender Başkan, who was awarded the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry

in September for his debut collection, *Two Hundred Million Musketeers*. Congratulations, Ender! I was re-reading a reflective piece that Ender wrote for his publisher, Giramondo, written back when the book came out in 2025, in which he traced the genesis of the book's title – also the collection's final poem – back to a brief moment shared with a colleague on a shift, a beautiful reminder of what a generative space of creativity, sociality and discovery a bookshop can be.

Congratulations are also in order for the unstoppable Christine Gordon, Readings' peerless Organiser of Events and Administrator of Literary Fun (not her actual job title, but she is literally the best in the business), on the announcement of the program for A Day in Carlton, the 2026 edition. I don't know how you've done it, Chris, and I don't know how it's time to do it all again, but you have, and it is!

Bruce Pascoe's *The European Mind* will be on top of many reading lists, and our reviewer points out that this is a book full of hope and optimism and the possibility of change: surely a book every one of us needs in these times. Our reviewers also speak highly of *The Lonely Generation* by Dr Michelle Lim, *Tongue* by Kathryn Crowcroft, and *The Curious Case of the Stolen Mace* by Sally Young. Magda Szubanski's first memoir, *Reckoning*, was a bestseller in 2015 and the beloved icon returns with her second work, *I Can't Tell You But I Will*. You might remember me relating how great both Magda and Bruce Pascoe were in their addresses to the annual gathering of booksellers back in June, and I'm getting goosebumps thinking about that night again just now! Certain folks (and I know who you are) will be excited about the 10th anniversary of Johnny Marr's autobiography, *Set the Boy Free*, which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the legendary album by The Smiths, *The Queen Is Dead*. It has been updated and republished with photographs, and while stocks last we'll have signed copies. Yes, I did say that!

Chris Macheras was onto a winner when he started curating photos of Melbourne's past, and the new instalment in the book iteration of this project is now available, *Old Vintage Melbourne: A Culinary Chronicle*, a collection of photos detailing our city's restaurants and cafes. Remember that place you used to go to back in the day? It's in the book! I reckon this might be my favourite of the three collections he's put together, it's so good. We also have an amazing competition for early purchasers to

go into the draw to win a framed print from the book (see page 3 for details on how to enter).

It has been more than a decade since Brooke Davis's breakthrough bestselling debut novel, *Lost and Found*, so it's lovely to have her second novel in shops this month: our reviewer calls it a 'joyous, sensual and compulsively compelling read'. Our staff also review the new books from Suzie Miller, Antoni Jach, Carrie Tiffany, Naima Brown, S.K. Lynch and Pip Williams, with a special mention of our former colleague and current rom-com superstar author Nina Kenwood's, *People Skills*, set most deliciously at a writers' festival.

Of all the advance copies I have access to, the one that colleagues asked for most often this year has been Min Jin Lee's *American Hagwon*, rounding out another decade-long wait between novels (yes, *Pachinko* was published nearly 10 years ago). The person who asked first is the one who has written the review! She calls it, 'a big, social novel ... a once-in-a-blue-moon novel that I feel I could recommend to anyone'. Perfect! It's not the only big book out this month: *In One Brief Moment All Eternity* by Elif Shafak is another whopper, with our reviewer calling it a '600-page absolute beast of a book'. If Big Books are not your thing, what about a 140-page experimental novella? Our reviewer speaks highly of Lara Pawson's *Spent Light*, describing it as a 'truly boundary-defying work'. We have a lot of fans of Patrick deWitt on staff, and *Dodge City* is fantastic, or as our reviewer puts it, 'an unmitigated pleasure to read from start to finish'. Speaking of fans, V.E. Schwab may or may not be aware that her biggest one is on staff at Readings; turn to page 10 as she talks us through the final instalment in the author's *Villains* series, which she vows to re-read from the beginning. Louise Kennedy's *Trespases* was a huge hit at Readings a few years ago, so *Stations* is bound to join many a must-read list: you'll find an exclusive Q&A with the author on page 5. Barbara Kingsolver has written her follow-up to *Demon Copperhead* in *Partita*, a novel of pianos and music, leaving your comfort zone and finding home. Bonnie Garmus, who famously became a debut and bestselling author in her sixties with *Lessons in Chemistry*, publishes her second work, *Peck & Peck*, which is set in the world of publishing, and according to our reviewer is, 'a good old-fashioned romp'.

And finally, dear Reader, because I have the mic, I have to point you towards the book I've reviewed this month, *The Song of Stork and Dromedary* by acclaimed Dutch author Anjet Daatje, translated by David McKay. Once in a while – rarely enough to be exceptional – reading a book feels like something else, something beyond just excellent or wonderful or great or page-turning or even outstanding, and is in a class all of its own. This is one of those exceptional books for me.

Comments and Note

with Kim Gruschow



Book Week is known for costume parades, but many other exciting activities and events happen during the last week of August, too! Readings recently received a Penguin Children's Bookseller Grant to encourage young readers. Putting

the grant to great use, my colleague Angela Crocombe facilitated and joined the wonderful author Maxine Beneba Clarke for some very special school visits to Carlton Primary, a small, multicultural community-focused school.

Maxine spoke to classes from each grade and students did tailored activities based around her books, *We Know a Place*, *Fashionista*, and *Sagittarius Rising*. Each student was given a personalised copy of one of Maxine's books.

Later in Book Week, the classes visited Readings Kids and each student was given a \$25 voucher to spend on a book of their choosing. Everyone was so excited to select a special book to take home and read again and again and again!

There's no way of knowing the full impact of these things, but I believe an opportunity to meet an author can be inspiring, even life-changing. I'm sure the Carlton Primary students will treasure their new books, and they

will remember Maxine's visit for many years to come. I hope one day we will see some of their own books on our shelves!

I remember in vivid detail the day my mum took me to an event with my favourite author, Margaret Mahy. The story time session was held at Katherine Mansfield's birthplace in Wellington, and I brought along a book with a corner missing, which I now know was a remainder. Margaret Mahy said, 'Wow, that's a rare one!' then signed it and drew a picture of a big, fluffy cat for me! Twenty-odd years later, near the start of my bookselling career, I was delighted to meet Margaret Mahy again. I was wearing a homemade Devo t-shirt, which she complimented, and she then told me she loved punk music and the band Talking Heads! What a legend!

Teacher-librarians play a crucial role in supporting young readers. They are also some of the greatest champions of Australian authors. When cuts to teacher-librarian positions across 58 non-government schools in NSW were announced recently, the news was met with widespread criticism. Author Kate Temple has launched a petition calling for teacher-librarian positions to be mandated in schools. Considering the massive impact school libraries and teacher-librarians have on literacy levels and student wellbeing, I think it's a no-brainer! **R**

Daisy
EDGAR-JONES

Esmé
CREED-MILES

SENSE
AND
SENSIBILITY

Commences
OCTOBER 15
at Cinema Nova



NOVA

380 LYGON ST, CARLTON
CINEMANOVA.COM.AU



A Q&A with Louise Kennedy

The prize-winning, bestselling author of *Trespasses* gives us insight into her new novel *Stations*, which is published this month.

***Stations* opens in the early 1980s and spans a period of 25 years. Why did you choose to situate the novel in this period of time?**

LK Like Róisín, I turned 15 in a drab town in the Irish midlands in 1982. It was a strange time in Ireland, tumultuous yet stagnant. The previous year, 10 men had died on hunger strike in the north and 48 young people had perished in a fire at a St Valentine's Day disco in Dublin because the exits were locked. The economy was in a deep recession and emigration levels had risen to their highest since the '50s. Also, like Róisín, my family had left the north of Ireland a couple of years earlier, which has had the effect of placing my teenage years in stark relief against my childhood. The minutiae of that time are almost luridly vivid to me. The haircuts that went wrong and the burgundy-coloured over-the-knee socks; the menthol cigarettes and classrooms that smelled of Taytos and menstrual blood. *Stations* follows Róisín and Red to London and by the end of the decade they are being pulled in very different directions: Róisín craving stability and Red spiralling into chaos. The story jumps forward to 2007. It is the end of the 'Celtic Tiger' era. The frugality and hopelessness the characters grew up with has been replaced by reckless consumerism and a brash sort of confidence and I find that contrast fascinating. 2007 is also the year Róisín turns 40. I wanted to know what, if anything, she has learned about herself and those close to her. Is she happy? Does she carry regret? Has she learned to forgive?

The novel begins in and circles back to a small Irish town, exploring the urge to leave and the pull to return. What do you think it suggests about the push and pull of community?

LK I think maybe I am interested in community because I am always the outsider. When I was 12, my family moved from the north to the south of Ireland for various reasons to do with the Troubles – not least a couple of bomb attacks on my grandmother's pub and the sectarian intimidation my father experienced at work. My parents assured me the relocation would make our lives perfect, but I struggled. Making friends was a treacherous business and by the end of my schooldays I was virtually ostracised, a fate I inflicted on Róisín. Late in *Stations*, she reflects on that time: 'I'd made friends as a child, but we moved and I couldn't find my place. Or maybe I didn't know my place.' Yet teenage Róisín persists, going to the dreaded discos, running errands for Tina, her tormentor, desperate to belong. But their generation is leaving in droves, and not only to find work: Red is run out of town, Barry is fleeing his father's expectations, Róisín feels rejected by her mother. By the end of the '80s, Róisín thinks she has left her family and the town behind her, yet the life she makes in London ultimately does not fulfil her. It is not until the end of the book that she feels something close to the pull of home. All the characters are drawn back there, in one way or another.

***Stations* explores adolescence with remarkable emotional precision. What drew you to write about this stage of life?**

LK My teens were ghastly. I was ghastly; angry at having left the north, frantic to find my place in a strange town and ashamed when I didn't manage it. At school the rules kept changing and it descended into, 'Let's do it to them before they do it to us,' as Jablonski said each week in *Hill Street Blues*. It was often painful to be in Róisín's head as she dealt with the daily mortifications of youth – the changes in her body, the wild surges of feeling and desire that she didn't know what to do with. The spectacular tantrums, the feeling of not being seen. When my own children were going through that stage it brought me right back to those days and I found it weirdly easy to move through the pages as a teenage girl.

We've heard that you moved to London yourself in the '80s. Can you tell us a bit about that experience? How did your personal connection to the city influence the writing of *Stations*?

LK Like many young Irish I emigrated to London in the '80s. There were few opportunities at home; the week I began my final exams at university our Taoiseach (prime minister), Charles J. Haughey, announced he would give four weeks dole to anyone who would leave and not come back. It felt as though the government had abdicated responsibility for us, but there were other reasons for leaving. Many were escaping the surveillance of church and neighbours, the stifling scrutiny of small-town life. Some of us were fleeing our families. But Ireland's relationship with Britain is complicated. Keenly aware of our history, we resented having to leave home and beg for work from our colonial masters. Yet we were in one of the world's great cities and it was exhilarating to traipse past monuments of empire in our mohair jumpers and scuffed Doc Martens. We had little money but there were always pints and gigs and parties, hordes of people like us asking, 'Where are you from? Are you long over?' There was a feeling of transience, that it was all just for a little while, which was unsettling but also liberating. Everywhere we went we met the previous generation of Irish who had gone to London for work. The men who had dug and shovelled and tunnelled, who had rebuilt post-war Britain. They were 30 years older than us, worn out from brutal work and drink and loneliness. We expected to do better, with our degrees and big dreams, but for many of us the things we carried put a fine life out of reach. I left London in late 1989 and until my first book was published spent little time there. Now I visit regularly and find myself comparing it to the place I knew. The squats are gone and the boroughs we gravitated to have been, as Róisín reflects in the book, 'fully gentrified'. The homeless and dispossessed are ever-present, though, in doorways and tube stations and on street corners. All that was on my mind as I wrote *Stations*.

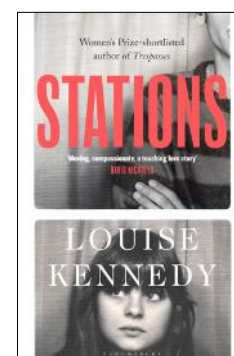
Nick Hornby said *Stations*, 'at its centre, is a brilliantly drawn collection of found family'. Is this how you'd describe your novel?

LK I love that Nick said that. I think that for people who are far from home, and particularly for those who feel like we don't belong at home, other relationships are very important. With her family disintegrating, Róisín invests all her hope in Red, unable to understand that he can't return her love. Yet in other ways he gives her so much. Through his eyes, she sees the humanity in men like Micksy. Red insists that she reconcile with her father and though that relationship is fraught, she gains a sister and a stepmother, 'the best person in her life'. She learns to trust Guy and maintain a friendship with Sinéad. For all that, it isn't until the end of the book that it dawns on Róisín that she is not alone.

Which writers or books have influenced your writing of *Stations*?

LK Timothy O'Grady and Steve Pyke's *I Could Read the Sky*: Through the voice of an old man, O'Grady gives voice to the thousands who left and couldn't find their way home. O'Grady's character is from the generation before mine, but there is a timelessness to this work of gentle, lyrical beauty that captures the Irish emigrant experience better than anything I've ever read.

John Healy's *The Grass Arena*: The opening line of this eviscerating memoir has haunted me for years: 'My father didn't look like he would hurt anyone.' It was on my mind as I wrote the Red chapters, as I wrote Micksy and Muiris.



Stations
Louise Kennedy
Bloomsbury. PB. \$32.99
Available now

Read our review of *Stations* on page 8.

'I think that for people who are far from home, and particularly for those who feel like we don't belong at home, other relationships are very important.'

Read the rest of the Q&A with Louise Kennedy including what she's reading right now and her recommendations for books about community, homecoming or escape on our blog at readings.com.au/news **R**

Fiction

Australian Fiction

No One's Looking

Brooke Davis

Hachette. PB. Was \$34.99

 \$29.99

Available 13 October



  Two sisters living at the top and bottom of the same street, one teenage daughter, several true crime podcasts, tennis, and a purple dildo – these are just a few of the richly realised ingredients of *No One's Looking*, the latest compelling and delightful novel from Brooke Davis.

Five-year-old Susan meets her new baby sister – a squalling, red-faced infant – with a steadying hand and a calming bond that will go on to steer them through the loss of both parents, their marriages, child-rearing and childlessness and, most consistently, the highs and lows of watching women's tennis.

In what was once her childhood home on the top of the hill, Susan contemplates her quiet life, most of which centres on the whims of her husband, Alan. He has suddenly taken up skateboarding and (not particularly) ethical non-monogamy. Susan, who has always been amenable to others' demands, is hounded by her friends to indulge in self-care. She's finding it hard to keep up with what everyone – her husband, sister and friends – and, ultimately, her own instincts are telling her to do.

Down the bottom of the hill, trouble brews in the home of Vicki, her gentle and loving husband Gavin, and their firebrand 16-year-old daughter, Gretel. As Vicki devours podcasts about horrific crimes against women, she tries to walk the line between concern and control for her child, who is no longer a child. Having spent a lifetime hyper-aware of male violence, Vicki realises she no longer resembles the tragic young victims in her podcasts – but Gretel does.

These two sisters, who grew up essentially motherless and have had to be everything to each other, are now approaching a crossroads. Do they want to follow their own desires, or live in relation to, and under the control of, or even in control of, others? This is a joyous, sensual and compulsively compelling read.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

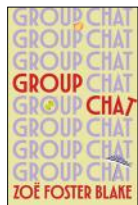
Group Chat

Zoë Foster Blake

A&U. PB. Was \$34.99

 \$29.99

Available now



When Farah's husband has an affair, her group chat offers an escape to Mykonos: a week in a luxury villa free from their husbands, sullen teenagers, sick parents and everyday pressures.

The five women each arrive carrying secrets. What follows is late nights, bad decisions, savage honesty and laughter.

For Stella the trip stirs something she can't ignore. Watching her friends and remembering who she was on this island 20 years ago begs the question: is choosing security the same as choosing happiness?

The Book of the After

Rebecca Higgie

Fremantle. PB. \$34.99

Available now



In 2049, *The Book of the After* has become a cult classic, and Negus Kebede has always wondered if what it says is true. His name means 'king' in his mother tongue but, following a great loss,

Negus is a reluctant leader – for what is a king without his queen? If *The Book of the After* is right, then they could be reunited. But a would-be assassin is haunting him, determined to alter Negus' destiny, and that of the country he loves. Crossing centuries and continents, space and time, this is a love story for the ages.

A Midsummer Party

Antoni Jach

Transit Lounge. PB. \$34.99

Available 1 October



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



  Ah, bella Roma! Antoni Jach's *A Midsummer Party* invites you to a gathering of friends old and new, Australian and European, at Xavier's place in Rome on a hot summer night.

Perched on the shoulder of our painter-publisher narrator, we get a first-person point of view on the party. We chat with past lovers, meet crazed academics, and manage that louche author who's always up for a stoush – and who indeed returns from a cigarette on the balcony at one point with blood and booze splattered all over his loud Hawaiian shirt.

Like a play, most of the narrative occurs in the apartment, shuttling between its Proust Library and lounge-room bar. We meet characters who later return to the scene or whose antics are discussed by characters 'on stage' at any one time, and in this way an Australia-Europe conduit of place and person is braided by the pages of the book.

This theme is developed and doubled by the generous inclusion of photographs throughout – snaps of country Australia and the streets of Rome and the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. These visual elements thicken the text, sometimes showing actual photographs that characters are looking at, sometimes showing the setting of the action at that point, and always functioning as memory, as those dream-like flashes of imagery that, flickering, accompany one's life.

From the jazzy cover to the photo-album-like pages, you will fall in easily among this group of charming travelling companions. They are flirtatious, melodramatic, melancholy, argumentative and decisive by turn. They are Australians who seek a wider world and Europeans transfixed by the strangeness of the Antipodes. A Russian boy whom we meet

on the train to Milan puts it best: 'Australia is a dream.' He gets out at Florence, leaving the main character, and his ex, and us, to puzzle away at this conundrum.

Bernard Caleo is from Readings Carlton and is the *Readings Monthly* cartoonist

People Skills

Nina Kenwood

Text. PB. Was \$34.99

 \$29.99

Available 6 October



 Nina Kenwood is funny – properly funny. She has a wonderful feel for life's absurdities, especially when it comes to romance, and *People Skills* is pure candy for the soul. There are gorgeous coastal scenes, a demanding boss, and a meet-cute that will make you laugh while also recognising the very real challenge of balancing work, friendship, family and, yes, desire.

After a major life upheaval, 30-year-old Charlotte moves to a seaside town – could it be Queenscliff?! – to work as the assistant to the organiser of a local writers' festival. Hillary Hobbs is a savvy, kind but demanding media personality, and she keeps Charlotte extremely busy. There is also real fun in wondering whether Kenwood has based Hobbs on anyone from the literary festival world. Kenwood herself once worked as a marketing manager for a literary organisation, and she clearly knows the personalities drawn to these roles.

With the festival fast approaching and everyone needed on deck, romance is the last thing on Charlotte's mind – especially in a small town where everyone knows everything about everyone. That is, until Hillary's son Xavier arrives and needs somewhere to stay. Charlotte has room in her sweet, rented cottage, but surely she cannot get involved with someone so recently heartbroken. She knows heartbreak too, having only just recovered herself. And then there is her job to think about: falling for the boss's son is hardly the safest path to a permanent role.

People Skills is a delightful rom-com that shows off Kenwood's charm and her deep understanding of the genre. Fans of Rainbow Rowell and Emily Henry will be thrilled to find an Australian author to add to their shelves. Long-term Nina Kenwood readers will be grateful for this satisfying new story, and if you are new to her wit, you are in for a treat.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

When Sullivan Met Lola

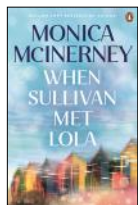
Monica McInerney

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available now



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



Eighty-six-year-old Lola Quinlan is not leaving this earth quietly. Against her family's wishes, she's flying solo to Melbourne for a week to chase an elusive dream. Sullivan Farrington is 12

years old. His life in Melbourne has turned upside down. His mother is in hospital, his father lives overseas and school is a battleground. But Sullivan wants to turn his life around. In a hotel beside the Botanic Gardens, Lola and Sullivan meet. A heartwarming story that celebrates all that makes life worth living and the power of kindness.

Inter Alia

Suzie Miller

Picador. PB. \$34.99

Available now



  Renowned lawyer Suzie Miller has written her second novel after her highly successful fiction debut, *Prima Facie*. This one also focuses on the legal world, centring on

newly appointed judge Jessica Parks. After overcoming imposter syndrome, Jess has now risen up the ranks, surpassing her barrister husband, Michael, who had also sought a judicial appointment – and yes, he is resentful of her achievement. Yet somehow, she is still living *inter alia*, 'juggling everything in the cracks of everyone else's needs'. She feels guilty for being a mother who was not always present. She feels guilty now for being a judge who is at times preoccupied by (aka responsible for) family issues. You can guess who cooks dinner in this household.

Michael, however, has enjoyed self-belief and always played to win, a trait he has endeavoured to drum into their son, Harry. His advice to Harry has been to never show weakness. After a protracted childhood during which he was bullied, Harry, now on the verge of adulthood, seems to finally be finding his feet – much to the relief of Jess, who hopes that the problems that have punctuated his early years are now about to subside.

Yet an unwelcome and devastating legal conundrum emerges in this whirlwind household full of legal expertise. Jess and Michael, who both know the law backwards, struggle to manage the intrusion of work issues into their home life. The clear-cut legal principles which govern their professional lives suddenly become murkier and less definite when applied close to home. The situation also threatens to undermine their carefully crafted careers when exposure of a purported crime seems likely to occur.

Inter Alia raises issues about misogyny in the legal world and in home life, as well as addressing tough questions about truth, cover-ups and where duty lies when something goes wrong. It also raises important issues about masculinity, privilege and status, and how we accommodate those who don't meet our expectations.

When you have placed your faith in the justice system your whole life, what happens when that system could lead to devastating outcomes for those you love? Does justice for victims override familial loyalty?

Pauline Hopkins is the manager of Readings Hawthorn

The Lady with the Dog
Carrie Tiffany

NewSouth. HB. \$29.99
Available 1 October



  It is strange to consider it a privilege to watch a loved one die. Yet Carrie Tiffany's *The Lady with the Dog* is a delicate, heartbreaking depiction of the distant grief that comes from being denied such a privilege. Told from the imagined perspective of Tiffany's mother, suffering a steady decline due to Alzheimer's disease during COVID lockdown, this touching book captures the unsettling disorientation of being trapped in a mind betraying its inhabitant. Compounding this all-too-common tragedy of degradation is the isolation of lockdown; Tiffany can only see her mother through the phone, befuddling at the best of times.

Anchoring our narrator is her dog. An ageing rescued German shepherd, it keeps the lady tethered, more than her daughter through the phone, more than the 'old man' who is the lady's long-suffering, heart-disease-riddled husband. It is not a cure – she continues to oscillate between a semblance of lucidity and endless confusion. Yet there is an immediacy and tangibility to their relationship. The dog digs holes in the garden; the lady finds joy in burying her trinkets in them. The dog licks her face; she recalls being similarly kissed in infancy by her first dog, a white foxhound.

Written in exquisite prose, Tiffany captures the strange melancholy of being in a mind at once wise in its years and yet backtracking into infancy. With Noel McKenna's sketches creating space for reflection between the pages, *The Lady with the Dog* is an homage to Chekhov's famous short story exploring a different sadness and longing: one we share with the author, one the Lady continuously grasps and releases, never certain. *How is she meant to remember she is dying when there is no pain?*

Undeniably moving and beautifully crafted, a tribute to life, love and lost moments, this book is a rare treasure.

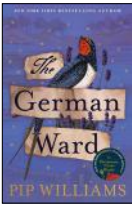
Harvey Weir is from Readings Doncaster

The German Ward
Pip Williams

Affirm. PB. Was \$34.99
 **\$29.99**
Available now



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



  *The German Ward* is a story of forbidden love, art and memory in wartime, inspired by artist Iso Rae's unofficial First World War paintings. Since I reached the brilliant final

line – which I'll avoid quoting to protect the plot – I have found the novel hard to forget. There is much to unpack in Pip Williams' latest brilliant novel. On the surface, *The German Ward* is about an English nurse and a German doctor, a prisoner of war, who fall in love in France in 1915. But it reaches far beyond that: it is about women's agency, the cruelty of war and, yes, enduring love.

The story unfolds through several lenses. There are the quiet sketches by Iso Rae, discovered in the war archives by researcher Eva, which capture both intimacy and grief. Then there is Tilda, the unconventional English nurse assigned to care for German prisoners of war at an army camp hospital in France. Tilda is a vivid character: glamorous yet adrift, searching and desirous – a woman accustomed to being seen and judged. The noise and grime of war do not diminish her; instead, they reveal her stoicism and kindness. It is on the ward that Tilda meets Hugo, and their love story begins.

Pip Williams has long championed unacknowledged women and their work, and she does so again here. Through careful layering, we see Eva's research into Iso, and we also glimpse how Williams draws from these histories to create Tilda and her lover. The result is masterful and honest. It's particularly skilful because the layers enrich the love story, rather than distract from it. Readers of Anna Funder and Sophie Cunningham's recent work will recognise this framework. Williams' fans will be delighted by another novel from one of Australia's finest storytellers, while anyone who has wondered whether their work, family or love goes unseen will feel deeply grateful for it.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

Australian Poetry

Asked
Andy Jackson

Giramondo. PB. \$27
Available 1 October



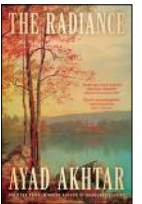
 The poems in Andy Jackson's new collection feel their way into the impairments of our ecologies and our dialogues. These poems use an array of established and invented

forms, turning them to unusual effect under the pressure of our collective grief and bewilderment. Engaging in aslant conversation with musicians and composers, poets and artists, while reckoning with historical and contemporary thinkers, this is poetry that affirms the value of collaboration and interdependence, with all its promise and difficulty.

International Fiction

The Radiance
Ayad Akhtar

Summit. PB. \$34.99
Available now



A writer escapes the city to live by a pond in a small rural enclave, like a latter-day Thoreau. After a near-fatal hit-and-run, something spiritual inside him awakens. Caught between revelation and madness, an uncanny pull toward a brilliant colleague ensnares him in a

scandal that threatens to destroy them both. *The Radiance* is a campus novel, a mystery, an erotic entanglement and an inquiry into what the soul contains – rendered without irony and without piety.

Tenderness
Rowan Beaird

Manilla. PB. \$32.99
Available now



 Who doesn't love reading or watching a film about a wedding? They are such exhilarating moments, full of drama, tension, guests who never usually encounter each other, and thus

everybody's dirty laundry is exposed. Shay is ready to begin her life anew after she's left Synanon, which was originally called a drug rehabilitation program, but is now known as a violent and dangerous cult. As her wedding to the wealthy and charming Andrew approaches, all the guests arrive at the isolated island off the coast of Virginia upon which Andrew's family have been holidaying for generations. Among the guests are Joel, Shay's ex who is not entirely over his love for her, and William, Shay's brother, who is convinced that a woman with shaved hair that he's spotted on the island is a Synanon member who has come to harm Shay. As secrets are unveiled and tensions rise, the wedding guests will see just how much of Shay's past has come back to haunt her.

Set over the course of a few days, *Tenderness* is a mysterious and enticing slow-burn drama that leaves you hooked until the very end. With the backdrop of 1970s America, a period when dangerous cults, such as the Manson family and Jonestown, were very much part of the cultural zeitgeist, along with serial killers and Vietnam War trauma, Rowan Beaird zeroes in on a small group of characters who are vulnerable and searching for a place to call home. They are searching for themselves in love, in religion, and in a broken family. Echoing the cultural paranoia about hidden evils, this is a wedding brimming with chaos and characters who are on the verge of a breakdown.

Tenderness is the perfect beach read for the months ahead – you can delight in soaking up all the drama and gossip along with the warmth!

Aurelia Orr is from Readings Kids

The Starving Bride
Catherine Chidgey

Penguin. PB. \$34.99
Available 6 October



In near-future England, Hazel Whitlock has lost her boyfriend and her job, and is estranged from her parents when she signs up to a revived Blackpool sideshow act as the 'Starving Bride'. On display in the Blackpool Tower, along with a prowling lion, Hazel must lie in silence while she is viewed by fascinated spectators. Her friend Gilda worries for her welfare; councillor Frank Marsh is concerned for the stability of the tower; and the world outside is growing increasingly unstable. Hazel must decide how far she is willing to go to be seen.

The Song of Stork and Dromedary
Anjet Daanje & David McKay (trans.)

Scribe. PB. Was \$39.99
 **\$34.99**
Available now



 This book is my new obsession. I first encountered news of it from an early reader at Scribe, the wonderful independent Melbourne publisher celebrating its 50th year in 2026, who had

just read an extract and was mesmerised. I heard from him again when he had finished reading, and the strength of his feelings about the book was palpable. When at last an advance copy arrived for me in the post, it was accompanied by an incredible sheet of endorsements from early readers around the world and at home, and a note on its reception from Scribe's visionary publisher, Henry Rosenbloom. Though all of this forewarning does make one sit up and take notice, I always approach a book with my own opinion as yet unformed. It could still go either way for me: I am my own reader, and generally unmoved by hype. This time, however, all the positive recommendations in the world could not have prepared me for the unique and wonderfully engrossing reading experience I've had with this book. This is a book for the ages, a feat of translation and imagination that I lost myself in for many hours (and at 720 pages, there is no exaggeration there) and longed to return to whenever I was doing anything but reading it.

The story revolves around the character of Eliza May Drayden, whose life circumstances will feel familiar if you know anything about the biography of Emily Brontë and her literary family. Eliza May has written a book, *Haeger Mass*, critically panned at its time of publication (and compared poorly with the much more well-received novel by her elder sister, Millicent), but much later recognised as a masterpiece. Far from being a fictionalisation of the life story of a person who once lived, this book is so much more, using Brontë's story as a spark to light a fire about writing, books, creativity, literary culture, the immortal bonds of sisterhood, how it's possible to interpret the lives of others, and the traces we leave in the world. It's told in discrete sections, each focusing on a character who has encountered Eliza May somehow, perhaps having met her during her lifetime, or in some cases the resonance occurs much longer afterwards, but all are in some way connected to her and her family. In some parts, the writing feels so authentic, it's as if a new work by Emily Brontë has been uncovered, which is an astounding accomplishment when the acts of translation between Dutch and English in both directions are taken into account. As it was in the work of the Brontës, death is ever-present here, so much a part of the lives of the living, but this presence is life-affirming rather than morbid. While I was reading, it made me think many times about how the energy of a person is not extinguished when their life ends, but instead lives on in others and in the natural world. It's extremely moving.

I feel confident to say that everyone who reads and loves this book will, like me, remember how they found it, where they were when they read it, and who they want to tell about it. A literary mystery, a ghost story, a piece of contemporary gothic fiction, a perfect work of style and substance, a novel that admires the reader

and acknowledges the transformative act of reading itself, this is truly a book like no other: a knockout piece of publishing in the year 2026.

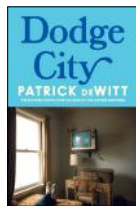
Alison Huber is the head book buyer

Dodge City

Patrick deWitt

Fourth Estate. PB. \$34.99

Available now



R If you are someone who just skims the first and last lines of a review, I can help you out by stating that *Dodge City* is an unmitigated pleasure to read from start to finish.

Set in the 1970s, our hero, Lee Clarke, receives his draft papers after being expelled from his college due to a fistfight with another student. His girlfriend, Calliope ('She bought him dense books written by touchy men with dire opinions of humanity; she took him to movies that didn't make sense, apparently on purpose. This sometimes led to sidewalk quarrels, with Cal defending this or that filmmaker's aesthetic, and Lee speaking on behalf of clarity and what he called the obligation to the paying Customer') is nonplussed and assumes that he will be able to re-enrol in a different college and avoid the draft. When this becomes impossible, he decides to go on the run and leave for Canada.

He finds a job driving an E-type Jaguar to New Jersey, and along with a bucketful of amphetamines, he departs. On this road trip, he decides to farewell his family, who are separated by divorce and distance. His first stop is his alcoholic father who, working as a dog catcher, kidnaps dogs from a neighbouring town and hides dozens of them in his house to pump up his dog-catching numbers. Cal has no plans to catch up with his long-estranged brother, but during a phone call with his mother he is guilted into doing so.

This is a deeply humane and moving story and, like *French Exit* and *The Sisters Brothers*, it would make a wonderful movie. In my mind, I was casting Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd, Karen Black, Harry Dean Stanton and Gena Rowlands, with Charles Bronson as the dognapping dad.

Patrick deWitt has written another brilliant novel that is both sprawling and intimate.

Pierre Sutcliffe is from Readings St Kilda

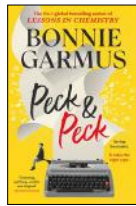
Peck & Peck

Bonnie Garmus

Manilla. PB. Was \$34.99

\$29.99

Available 13 October



R Bonnie Garmus's latest novel is a fairytale in which integrity prevails. Instead of a protagonist battling forests, spells and giants, we meet poet Batter Grey, whose battleground is a

publishing house known for printing celebrated poetry. Readers may wonder which real poetry journal inspired this sparky, strange and scintillating novel, but that hardly matters. True to the fairytale form, the book is less about what appears on the page than the humanity behind it.

Peck & Peck is set in a publishing house in lower Manhattan, situated in an extraordinary, much-admired building – a kind of castle, complete with a petrified forest inside. Batter Grey, a poet, is finally

granted his lifelong wish: to work at Peck & Peck. He starts in the basement, printing and discarding pages of poetry. The work is thankless, but there is hope for him. Before long, it becomes clear that, like much of the arts, Peck & Peck's prestigious poetry journal is in trouble. Powerful enemies are trying to bring Peck & Peck undone, though no one knows who is behind the attack. Meanwhile, Batter struggles in the basement and lies to the people who love him most: his parents. He craves their admiration, but has he fully considered what they have given him? Their stories matter as much as winning a poetry competition, being published or saving Peck & Peck.

This is a good old-fashioned romp through familiar tropes of good and evil. Each character is beautifully drawn and utterly delightful. The descriptions of the building are astonishing and will leave you wishing it were real – think *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and you are getting close. For anyone wanting a story that sweeps them up into the clouds, this is it. For anyone hoping greed and convention have had their day, this is it. And for anyone who believes a second novel can never match a first – and we all loved *Lessons in Chemistry* – this is it. *Peck & Peck* is a glorious ride, one that may even make you believe that humanity, in the end, is good.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

Ply

Hernan Diaz

Picador. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Centuries from now, an orphan adrift in an American city grows up to become a pincher. Stealing electricity from the grid to power the music scene is a risky occupation, and the city can be dangerous. She is right to be wary. But soon, she is drawn into a paranoid maze where her closest friends and even her own identity are called into question – all while following a thread leading to a scientific experiment that could change the fabric of reality itself.

Styx: The River (Volume 2)

Nikita Gill

Solstice. PB. \$34.99

Available now



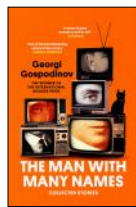
Styx is the firstborn child of Titans. Coming of age in a world simmering with paranoia and unspoken fear of Kronos, Styx learns to conceal her rage and disillusionment with her parents and siblings. She finds solace and sisterhood in her cousin, Asteria. Together, they train in the arts of creation and magic. As they seek their divine purpose, they discover true love and the fierce resilience of motherhood.

The Man with Many Names

Georgi Gospodinov & Angela Rodel (trans.)

W&N. PB. \$32.99

Available 20 October



From the International Booker Prize-winning Georgi Gospodinov comes a collection of his finest short stories – each with one eye on the past, one on the future; an ear for the crucial detail that

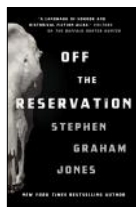
everyone else is missing; and the ability to reveal the ever-changing, ever-beautiful world as you have never seen it before. They include stories about a girl born with two different eyes, a father hanging laundry, a woman on a train, a lonely drifter on a freezing New Year's Eve and a celebrated connoisseur of sunsets.

Off the Reservation

Stephen Graham Jones

Titan. PB. \$34.99

Available 13 October



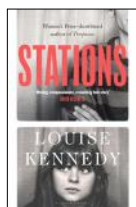
Five years after the massacre on the Blackfeet reservation, Nathan Yellow Tail finds himself in hospital after a terrible accident. It should've killed him and it nearly killed his best friend, Sebby. When Nate is given the chance to reset and maybe save Sebby, he steps up. Nate and three older Blackfeet set off in a run-down camper van to find and repatriate the bones of a Blackfeet boy who died at a school where Indigenous children were abused. But when they obtain the bones, something terrible has escaped with them.

Stations

Louise Kennedy

Bloomsbury Circus. PB. \$32.99

Available now



R The heartbreak in this novel makes reading it feel almost visceral. Perhaps all first loves carry pain, regret and obligation; if so, this story will tear you apart before slowly filling you again with beautifully structured prose. Louise Kennedy's latest novel is extraordinary.

At its centre is Róisín, a dutiful and earnest teenager who falls deeply in love with Red, a beautiful but troubled young man who seems unable to escape the violence of his family. Beginning in a small Irish village in the 1980s, where everyone knows everyone else, the story moves from the village to a London squat and back again.

It follows Róisín, Red and those around them from the heady, intoxicating days of youth – when work, play, alcohol, music and dreams blur together – into adulthood, where the truth of their circumstances is finally laid bare. Yet this is not only a love story; it is also a portrait of violence, neglect and the enduring power of hope.

Róisín's relationship with her parents stands in stark contrast to Red's with his family. Her bond with her mother gives the novel much of its emotional force, allowing the story to turn inward while also celebrating the immense gift of unconditional parental love. Readers of Kennedy's earlier work, *Trespasses*, will recognise the wit, devotion and dignity she gives to an Irish mother trying to protect and support her daughter while holding her head high in the village.

Stations examines class and education without compromise. It shows how secrets and expectations can damage women and their children, and how Róisín's story becomes Ireland's story – and ours too. It speaks to anyone who understands that domestic violence kills people, destroys futures and leaves a deep chasm in society. And yet, amid its pain, the novel still returns us to longing. Along the way, you may find yourself remembering your own

first love and wondering, as I did, where they are now.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

Partita

Barbara Kingsolver

Faber. PB. Was \$34.99

\$29.99

Available 6 October



Since the day her brother took his own life, 11-year-old Livia has had to survive. A gifted pianist, Livia's escape is music. A new life away from the farm's silence since Cyrus' death beckons and when Livia begins college as a music major and scholarship prodigy, it feels as if a fresh start is within reach. Immersing herself in a world where she excels, Livia glimpses the possibilities of a life beyond the farm and her parents. Then one springtime, Livia catches sight of a man she may come to wish she had never noticed.

American Hagwon

Min Jin Lee

Fourth Estate. PB. Was \$37.99

\$32.99

Available now



R Min Jin Lee's long-awaited follow-up to *Pachinko* follows the movements of a family: John, Helen and their three children, Bo, DH and Mido. Opportunities open and close, fortunes shift, people change and so does the world, and as time passes the family moves between Seoul, Sydney and California.

Education is central to this story; the titular hagwon refers to the private after-school tutoring Korean students attend to prepare for the difficult university entrance exams. Universities can be highly selective, and while hagwons can help students achieve academic results, they can add more layers of financial strain and pressure on families.

No one can avoid life's curveballs, and Min Jin Lee is interested in what it is that carries people through as they withstand the inevitable shocks. The 1997 financial crisis is one pressure point in the book, but so too is the fraying of relationships.

For some characters, education helps build a strong safety net; for others, though, the burdens of the journey seem to outweigh the benefits. If there is any answer to be found in *American Hagwon*, it's that one size does not fit all. If a novel about education sounds a little dry, I assure you this is anything but. Education is a core part of a much bigger saga about the movement of people, and of roles and relationships within families, friendships, marriages and across communities.

Min Jin Lee writes with immense compassion about the difficult choices that her characters face, and the book conveys a sense that when strong bonds are formed, within families and through love, the lines between sacrifice and blessing are very blurred.

Sweeping and intimate, *American Hagwon* is a big, social novel. It's an immersive drama of the highest quality, and a once-in-a-blue-moon novel that I feel I could recommend to anyone. It's been almost a decade since *Pachinko*,

but it's safe to say *American Hagwon* was worth the wait.

Kim Gruschow is the children's book division manager

Bitter Melon

Liv Little
Dialogue. PB. \$34.99
Available 20 October



Jalissa and her dad aren't close, but when he invites her to Jamaica, his homeland, for the first time, she says yes. She's running from heartbreak and loss; he's running out of time. As they travel through sun-drenched towns and navigate tangled family roots, old wounds open and long-held silences begin to break. They're both trying to outrun something. Along the way, they cross paths with people whose stories shift their own, helping them face the past, reckon with the present and reimagine the future.

The Comets: Collected Short Fiction
Eoin McNamee

Riverrun. PB. \$32.99
Available 6 October



A frosty northern witch changes the life of a 12-year-old girl by teaching her that women keep their dreams in their hair. The wondrous souls of the dead become bright comets arcing over a seaside town. A girl on fire runs through the snow, and a woman on the run is transformed into an ice queen by her own will. Lives unravel and are remade and if they are lost, they are lost to beauty. At once realist and magical, contemporary and timeless, *The Comets* confirms Eoin McNamee's status as one of Ireland's greatest storytellers.

A Tiny Speck of Black and Then Nothing
Emily Midorikawa

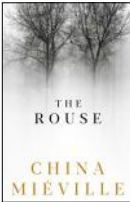
Manilla. PB. \$34.99
Available 6 October



In Osaka, Anna, a teacher who has come to Japan to learn about her heritage, befriends Loll. Loll is a glamorous British hostess who works nights at the Moonglow bar. Beneath Loll's glittering façade she has secrets: her skin bears unexplained bruises, she protects a jade necklace, and her mysterious best client has links to the criminal underworld. When Loll goes missing, Anna, desperate to find her friend, is thrown onto a dangerous trail that will take her into the darkest corners of the neon-choked metropolis.

The Rouse
China Miéville

Picador. PB. \$39.99
Available now

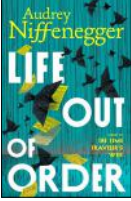


Maur's life has been shaped by an unbearable loss. But in the aftermath of what is an apparently ordinary tragedy, deeper, stranger questions arise. Their answers may lie within the dark heart and darker history of an old soldier who shares Maur's obsessions – and is

violently pursued by the same unknown, unquiet forces. So begins *The Rouse*: at once a sprawling saga of a bloody century, and the intimate story of two lives, their loves, regrets and secrets – and a terrifying journey into untold mystery.

Life Out of Order
Audrey Niffenegger

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$36.99
Available 6 October



Alba DeTamble is a time traveller like her father before her. But the hardest thing she carries isn't the burden of futures or pasts – it's a secret: she is in love with two different people. Zach lives in the present and can't follow her when she disappears. Oliver can travel through time, just like her. As Alba careens from time to time through a world in chaos, she must face a question she can no longer avoid: how is it possible to love, and live a meaningful life, in an increasingly troubled, fractured world?

Spent Light
Lara Pawson & Teju Cole (intro.)

Text. PB. \$34.99
Available now



R In a nondescript house in a nondescript London suburb, an unnamed woman is handed a toaster by her recently widowed neighbour. This act of displacement triggers a cascade of recollection and reflection; without warning, we are pulled into a breathless *Ulysses* of household objects and their interconnected griefs. Flitting from item to item, our narrator addresses her absent partner on her kaleidoscopic memories of skinning squirrels and collecting dog hair, on washing machines and stolen bibles, on public tragedies and private disasters. Her monologue is unashamed, fricative against the social boundaries that delineate sex and bodily function from the material world and its attendant political dimensions. There's no place to hide in *Spent Light*: this house is alive and listening.

Slim and incisive, Lara Pawson's debut novel is a truly boundary-defying work: at once postmodernist literature, a deconstructive treatise on commodity fetishism, and an autofictive love story. First published in 2024 by British publisher CB editions, this Australian release includes a foreword by novelist and art historian Teju Cole, who introduces Pawson's work from within a wider intertextual web of literary, artistic and philosophical canons. In this canny preface, Cole writes that 'as far as consciousness goes, the thing's the play' – and to that end, our narrator can be read as a set piece while the stage itself receives top billing. Objectification, Pawson wryly observes, goes both ways.

Selected among a bevy of other accolades in 2024 as one of the Books of the Year by *The Guardian* and *New Statesman*, *Spent Light* commands attention like few of its contemporaries. In just under 140 pages, Pawson has whittled down the writhing beast of late capitalist disillusionment and found something still breathing at its core. Held up to the light, it almost looks like hope.

Gene Pinter is from Readings Chadstone

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

The German Ward

PIP WILLIAMS

FROM THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

From New York Times bestselling author Pip Williams comes a powerful story of desire.

affirm press

OVER 1.5 MILLION COPIES SOLD

CHRIS HAMMER

A thriller of remarkable complexity and irresistible force.
DERVLA McTIERNAN

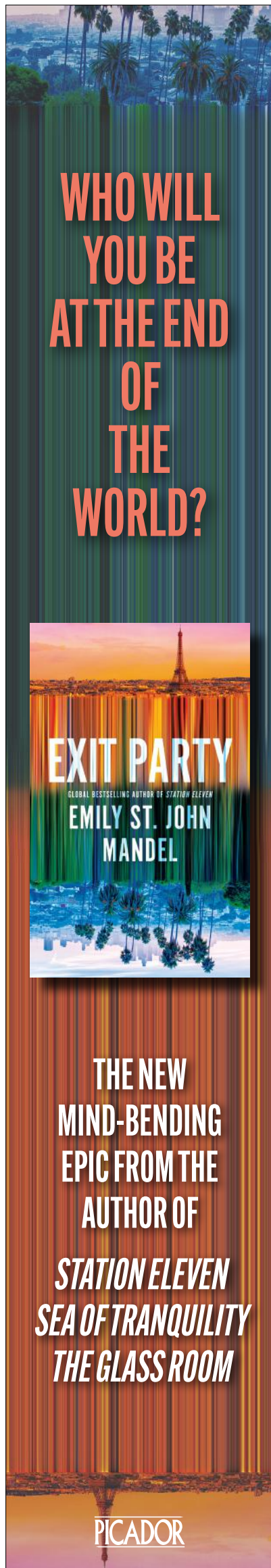
Succession meets Le Carre: a masterclass in tension, power and moral ambiguity.
SHANKARI CHANDRAN

FULL CIRCLE

'A thriller of remarkable complexity and irresistible force.'

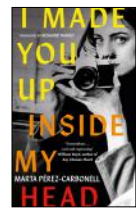
DERVLA McTIERNAN

Summit Books Australia



I Made You Up Inside My Head

Marta Pérez-Carbonell & Rosalind Harvey (trans.)
Sceptre. PB. \$29.99
Available 16 October



On a sleeper train from London to Edinburgh, a woman and two strangers tell stories about their lives. One passenger reveals the truth behind the novel he wrote: he betrayed the confidence of a young man, Hans, by converting his life story into fiction. Details of Hans's life became public knowledge, his trust exploited for the author's own gain. As her companions reveal that Hans has since disappeared, with foul play suspected, Alicia becomes gripped by the question of what really happened between the two men.

The Late Life

Bernhard Schlink & Charlotte Collins (trans.)
W&N. PB. \$32.99
Available 20 October



At 76, Martin Brehm is content. He tends his garden, writes, and cares for his six-year-old son, David, while his much younger wife pursues her work as a painter. But when he is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Martin becomes determined to secure a future for those he loves and leave behind something lasting. But as his plans unfold, he begins to question what it truly means to give. A tender and profound novel that explores how to live fully at the edge of death, the value of a good death and how to leave, well.

A Ghostly Little Book: Five Frightening Tales from Five Essential Writers

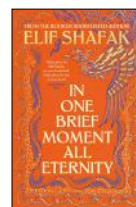
Olga Ravn, Eliza Clark, Tom Crewe, Roddy Doyle & Helen Oyeyemi
Viking. HB. \$32.99
Available 6 October



A beautiful testament to the enduring appeal of the spook, *A Ghostly Little Book* is a landmark collection of specially composed modern ghost stories from five of today's most acclaimed and exciting authors: Roddy Doyle, Olga Ravn, Eliza Clark, Tom Crewe and Helen Oyeyemi. From anguished apparitions and surprising scares to chance encounters, spectral phones and vengeful spirits, these tales chart the many twists and turns the ghost story might take: strange, unsettling, heartwarming, hilarious and, of course, blood-chilling.

In One Brief Moment All Eternity

Elif Shafak
Viking. PB. \$34.99
Available 20 October



Elif Shafak is back and stronger than ever with this 600-page absolute beast of a book. Divided into five parts, this fictional account of Gustave Flaubert's life, as the (in)famous author of *Madame Bovary*, examines (and complicates) the relationship between reality and fiction. Gustave is a lonely

child, alienated from the seriousness of his physician father, and the devoutness of his religious mother, who both regard his love for storytelling as asinine, a passing mania.

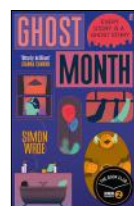
Shafak does not just ask us to sympathise with Gustave, in his strangeness, idiosyncrasies and compassion, but also with the women whose lives he touches, and who in turn touch his. From his close family, like his mother, maid and sister, to passing acquaintances, like an acrobat from Egypt and a pretty girl with a dying mother, to inter-fictional characters themselves, like Emma Bovary and Dulcinea, Shafak spins her web, drawing us closer to the novel's central question – why did Flaubert choose to end the life of his beloved heroine? What does her death mean?

Those who haven't read *Madame Bovary* need not be alarmed – with her signature maximalism and richness, Shafak guides us through historical and literary context, while keeping the thematic and sentimental arc of the story steeped deeply in the present. We are asked to consider women's contributions to literature – as writers, readers, editors and characters – in a way that evokes Anna Funder's analysis of Mrs Orwell in *Wifedom*, along with the feminist movement towards feminising the canon, and the questions on all our minds as we read classics and contemporary literature alike. However, Shafak's novel cannot be simplified into a didactic feminist yarn; Shafak is interested in literature itself, and her love for the written word weaves itself into every facet of this beautiful, complex tale.

Teddy Peak is from Readings Carlton

Ghost Month

Simon Wroe
Faber. PB. \$32.99
Available now



Every September, the spirits of the dead return before vanishing four weeks later in a puff of green ash. The haunting has become a holiday full of annual reckonings with the past. The ghosts aren't real in any harmful way, and it's hard to tell the silent spectres from ashen commuters. This year, four strangers prepare for a visit from their dearly departed, forcing them to confront all the things that haunt them, not just their dead. As suppressed truths emerge from the shadows, each will end Ghost Month changed in ways they never imagined.

Etna

Paul Yoon
Scribner. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Set in a fictional country in the present day, this is a story told through the eyes of an ex-military dog, Etna. After surviving years of a devastating war, Etna decides to leave the men he has fought alongside and return to the place he was taken from as a pup, in the hope that if a home exists for him, it might be there. Thus begins an exhilarating odyssey told through the eyes of a dog as he traverses ruined landscapes and fights to survive in a world that, even in peacetime, proves to be just as precarious.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

As You Wake, Break the Shell

Becky Chambers
Hodderscape. PB. \$34.99
Available 20 October



Life on planet Fortune is hard; its atmosphere is poisonous. Pilot Cora suffers from a dangerous, rare illness caused by her bond with Colibri, the alien animal she pilots to quarry vital water for the colony. If Cora seeks treatment, she risks losing her licence, and Colibri. Then she meets Signy, whose medicine can save her. But Signy must break the rules that govern their lives to help her. As Cora and Signy navigate their balance of risk and trust, they need to confront what they owe each other and their community.

Victorious (Villains, Book 3)

V.E. Schwab
Titan. PB. \$34.99
Available 13 October



R Eli Ever. Victor Vale. Two men: first best friends, then mortal enemies, each destined to be the other's shadow. One left standing – but the game isn't over yet. Against all the odds and all the years, a group of allies and archrivals meet, against an opponent they could have never predicted, to see who will finally be Victorious.

Eight years later, and the thrilling conclusion to an incredible series is finally here. When you throw yourself straight back into the story, it will feel like you never left this world and these characters. Comforting in a nostalgic way, *Victorious* has that classic V.E. Schwab writing style we all know and love. Full of twists and turns, hard-hitting emotions and action-packed fighting, it will have you flying through the pages, with a fear of the end but a desire to know what happens to our favourite characters. The new characters introduced are well fleshed out, with the time-shift chapters helping to understand their growth and making them feel like they've been in the series all along.

Finishing this series hit me emotionally and made me instantly want to re-read the series from the beginning. I feel like these characters have been in my life for a long time, and it was a hard goodbye, but V.E. Schwab's execution and writing are gripping and familiar. I cannot recommend this series enough.

Yasmin Baker is from Readings Online

D: Heavy Water (Bomb Light, Book 2)

Neal Stephenson
HarperCollins. PB. \$34.99
Available 13 October



In 1934, British journalist Owen Crisp-Upjohn is dispatched to Moscow, where his assignments draw him into espionage and the orbit of a maverick aristocrat and a woman with a shadowy past in Soviet intelligence. Their mission is to secure the Earth's only supply of heavy water before it reaches Nazi hands. This high-stakes international pursuit tests loyalties in an ever-tightening web. **R**

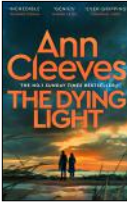
Crime

A Game of Cat and Killer
(Casebooks of Mikeneko Holmes, Book 1)
Jiro Akagawa & Haydn Trowell (trans.)
MacLehose. PB. \$34.99
Available now



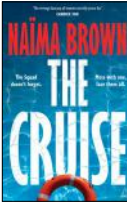
Detective Yoshitaro Katayama is afraid of many things: heights, dark spaces, blood, and women. When a young female student is found murdered, he's given two choices – review the crime-scene photographs or head to Hagoromo Women's College to investigate – and reluctantly opts for the latter. But the murders don't stop, and soon Katayama has a different surprise on his hands: an orphaned calico cat named Holmes, whose owner has become a victim. Surely that's the last thing Katayama needs.

The Dying Light
(Two Rivers, Book 4)
Ann Cleeves
Pan Mac. PB. \$34.99
Available now



Detective Matthew Venn is called to investigate the death of a young woman whose body has been found in the swimming pool of a luxury holiday home in North Devon, and her best friend is missing. The property belongs to rising political star Paul Armstrong, which draws media scrutiny. As more tragedy strikes, Venn and his team begin questioning a community brimming with secrets. Caught between a powerful family's secrets and a powder keg of local tensions, Venn must navigate a treacherous path.

The Cruise
Naïma Brown
A&U. PB. \$34.99
Available now

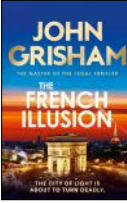


R Bailey Collins is the senior producer for the popular reality TV show *The Cruise*. The show takes 10 contestants on a luxury cruise ship where they battle it out in a series of physical competitions to win the cash prize of \$500,000. It has everything you could want in a reality show: jaw-dropping drama, sizzling romances, and competitors who are willing to do whatever it takes to win. When the next round of people come in for auditions for Season 2 of *The Cruise*, Bailey sees Eli Murphy, the man who sexually assaulted her in high school. Bailey has done everything to forget the past, including changing her name and appearance. Her whole life was irrevocably changed by Eli's heinous actions. But here is an opportunity to exact her revenge; now, she is the one with total control. She accepts Eli as a contestant and calls on The Squad – a group of women who will stop at nothing to protect and seek justice for one of their own. Think *Thelma & Louise* meets *Survivor* but set against the backdrop of a luxury cruise sailing between paradisaal islands in Oceania. *The Cruise* is a fun, fast-paced

feminist revenge fantasy about sisterhood, confronting demons and reclaiming identity. Each woman in The Squad has survived a traumatic experience or an abusive relationship, and they all refuse to be held back by their past. This novel is unapologetic in its thirst for vengeance and in calling out men who do bad things. With a string of ride-or-die female protagonists, the backdrop of the glossy and dazzling reality show, and a deliciously devious revenge plan, Naïma Brown has created a highly dramatic and thrillingly chaotic novel – all you have to do is get comfortable and let it unfold.

Aurelia Orr is from Readings Kids

The French Illusion
John Grisham
H&S. PB. \$34.99
Available now



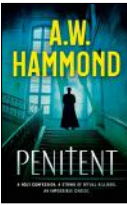
After Paul and Chelsea Tanner's fairytale wedding, their future is full of promise. But their honeymoon to Paris takes a dark turn when they are kidnapped while on a day trip to the French countryside. Who would target them – and why? This is not the first crime of its kind. The search for answers soon stretches across borders, with the FBI, CIA and French intelligence trying to piece together the puzzle. Struggling to find answers, a young lawyer is recruited to be the bait in an elaborate CIA operation.

Full Circle
Chris Hammer
S&S/Summit. PB. Was \$34.99
\$29.99
Available now



Travis Somerland is accustomed to danger, but nothing can prepare Travis for what confronts him at Montechino. Or the murders. Montechino, part palace, part fortress, is the secluded estate of the Claptons, modern-day robber barons who believe business is arithmetic, not morality. Now Travis finds himself entangled in the ultimate power struggle, generations in the making, as the Claptons challenge one of the country's most formidable families. Can he survive the dynastic rivalries to bring justice to an unjust world?

Penitent
A.W. Hammond
Echo. PB. \$34.99
Available now



R Father Tom Morgan has been a priest for many years. He's atoning for the choices he made in his past as an investigative journalist – choices which continue to haunt him. He's finally found a perfect community in Saint Dominic's Catholic Church, where his inspiring and sometimes controversial sermons are bringing more parishioners to the church than ever before. But when Father Tom hears the confession of a murderer, he is frozen in

moral indecision. If he breaks the seal of the confessional, it will mean automatic excommunication as a priest. However, he does not want to let another person be harmed because of his actions. Not this time. Meanwhile, Detective Atalia Reid is hunting a serial killer who poses his victims as Christian martyrs. When she interrogates Father Tom as part of her investigation, he is caught in a vicious and escalating battle between faith and justice. *Penitent* is a dark and gripping murder mystery, as well as a character study that tests morality and personal philosophy in the pursuit of justice. As a Christian myself, I admire and respect how A.W. Hammond has balanced his evident research into Catholic doctrine and church teachings with shedding light on how some people abuse religion for their own power or ideology. It truly underscores that Father Tom's dilemma isn't something to be dealt with flippantly; it's a true struggle between faith and conscience if a priest is put in this position. *Penitent* is ultimately a story of seeking forgiveness and redemption, and making the right decision. This novel is perfect for anyone who loves a mystery with a moral or religious focus, such as Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* or even the 2025 *Knives Out* film, *Wake Up Dead Man*. With every page-turning chapter leading to its heart-hammering, edge-of-your-seat conclusion, *Penitent* is definitely one of my favourite crime releases of 2026. Aurelia Orr is from Readings Kids

Something He Did
S.K. Lynch
Ultimo. PB. \$34.99
Available now

R Once you start, you will not be able to put down this addictive thriller set both in Melbourne and across the ditch. It delves into the life of Jake, a one-time All Blacks captain who is revered like a god in his homeland and is struggling to adapt to his post-sporting life, still seeking the adulation and extreme wealth he has enjoyed for so long. He recognises his own toxic masculinity and, after a traffic accident, resolves to become a better man. But can he do it? We also meet Claudia, the detective sergeant in the local Missing Persons Unit, who is enlisted in the search for Jake's missing daughter. But this is not a simple tale: it is about how life can change in an instant, and how choices have consequences that can reverberate for a lifetime, not only for the protagonist but also for families and strangers too. It also raises questions about the possibilities of redemption and the validity of revenge as a strategy to correct injustice. It is about what happens when good people turn bad, whether bad people can be forgiven, and what can happen when hope evaporates and hopelessness sets in, not least because reciting to oneself the mantra that 'You are not your mistakes' can begin to ring hollow. Lying, double lives and a focus on status and wealth all come under scrutiny here, and the characters' lives collide in unexpected ways that will leave you breathless.

Sarah-Kate Lynch's journalistic expertise is obvious in this story. She certainly knows how to spin a yarn. In her acknowledgements she says, 'I personally love a good revenge story, but it would be better if everyone was just nicer to each other in the first place and then we could dispense with the BE KIND t-shirts because it would be like having BREATHE IN AND OUT t-shirts.' There's food for thought. Be prepared to stay up all night reading this one.

Pauline Hopkins is the manager of Readings Hawthorn

London Station
David McCloskey
Swift. PB. \$34.99
Available 13 October



A new US administration installs a CIA Director determined to disrupt the Agency and sceptical of its close relationship with British intelligence. Case officers, including newly appointed London Chief of Station, Artemis Procter, must now navigate a tense environment as old friends become adversaries and no one knows who to trust. When agents run by both services begin dying, Procter and her London team must decide whether loyalty to the Mission and their friends means disobeying the Agency they serve.

The Heights
Ian Rankin
Orion. PB. \$34.99
Available 6 October



The Heights: a gleaming new, high-end high-rise looming over Hyde Park. A billionaire's playground offering sumptuous suites for the global elite. But when a night concierge is found murdered in the lobby, the gilded lives within come under intense police scrutiny. In a world designed to keep prying eyes out, Londoner Detective Gillian Gish must find a way past their power, wealth and unimaginable influence. The rules may be different at the top – but is anyone truly above the law?

Tell Me Something True
Michael Robotham
Hachette. PB. Was \$34.99
\$29.99
Available now



Arlo Hackett doesn't expect mercy when he returns home to the small town of Yulara after a 12-year prison sentence. The last time Arlo was there, his brother Luke was charged with a terrible crime, and Arlo was found guilty by association. His return is like cracking open a time capsule full of hatred and violence, along with memories of the people he loved – the ones he couldn't save. Yulara wants Arlo gone, but every insult and humiliation pushes him to confront what really happened all those years ago. **R**



A DAY in CARLTON

Returns for 2026!



Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager for Readings

Chris Gordon reflects on last year's wonderful literary whirlwind and looks ahead to this year's brilliant program!

Last year, just before Readings' A Day in Carlton's final event, Jimmy Watson's Bedtime Stories, surrounded by colleagues, authors, customers and publishers, I cried – drink in hand, sobbing on the street – simply because I was overwhelmingly happy.

Every event, at every venue, had run smoothly. Readings staff smiled, waved, sold books, checked tickets, gave directions and introduced sessions without a hitch. On the steps of the Church of All Nations, a huge crowd gathered for the free BBQ, celebrating the sunshine and one another after the launch of a new Australian title. A group of women of African background from the local community had raised more than five times their target by serving traditional coffee that morning. Every outdoor table on Lygon Street was full, and there were bags of books at people's feet. Authors shared tables with friends and family. Staff laughed. A Day in Carlton had become a love-in: a much-needed celebration of wit, kindness, fresh ideas, stories and community.

Mark Rubbo – Readings' chairman and my A Day in Carlton partner-in-crime – and I, together with our wonderful colleagues Lucie Dess, Joe Rubbo and Rosalind McClintock, were beside ourselves with relief. (Hence some of the tears.) Later that evening, Mark said, 'Let's do it again next year. And let's expand.' And here we are, about to launch our third epic community event: A(nother) Day in Carlton.

I want to thank our community of authors, poets, musicians and journalists who have agreed to be part of the festival. Some live close enough to walk to the festivities in minutes; others, including award-winning journalist Niki Savva, economist Richard Denniss, bestselling authors Pip Williams, Julia Baird, Liane Moriarty and Monica McInerney, and musician and newly minted Miles Franklin winner Omar Musa, are flying in for the day. We are grateful for the support of Crowne Plaza Carlton and the University of Melbourne Norma Redpath Studio in helping us to host these guests. I also want to acknowledge our sponsors for their generosity, including gifts of wine from Emmalene Wines and support from the ABA Bookseller Events Program, assisted by the Australian Government through Writing Australia.

I want to thank La Mama Theatre, the Carlton Courthouse, Brunetti Classico, the Kathleen Syme Library, Jimmy Watson's Wine Bar, the Church of All Nations, UMAC, the Torch, the Potter Museum of Art and Cinema Nova for generously sharing their venues. I am grateful to the proprietors on Lygon Street and surrounds for their enthusiasm, to the publishing houses that make everything easier for us, and to the exceptionally talented Readings staff who lead conversations, introduce speakers and welcome readers with cheer.

I also acknowledge the first storytellers of this region, the people of the Kulin Nation.

Please join us for this warm, heartfelt community occasion. Plan your time carefully. Will you attend the Poetry Gala, led by Tim Loveday, on Friday evening? Join Chloe Hooper and Nam Le as they guide us through *Book of Hours*? Begin Saturday with an intimate conversation between a Readings staff member and an author, or have coffee and cake with Monica McInerney and me? Bring your children to *Little Lunch* festivities, celebrate Scribe's 50th birthday, hear Julia Baird discuss masculinity with friends, drink beer with the Tough Guy Book Club, or enjoy wine at Jimmy Watson's? Will you join the poetry walk through Carlton, where poets will be tucked into corners, ready to recite their lines?

There is so much to celebrate in Carlton. You can walk from venue to venue in minutes, dine on the street, visit galleries, libraries, theatres and a very good bookshop – the best in the world, some might say – and feel the many stories that make Carlton such a unique and inspiring place. And will you see me cry again? Possibly. Will you see me, alongside a legion of Readings staff, delighting in our community of readers and writers? Why yes, of that I am sure – you will.



Right

Mark Rubbo and Christine Gordon standing in the doorway of The Church of All Nations.

Photos | Lian Hingee



**Readings' A Day in Carlton
2026 program**

Readings' A Day in Carlton is back from Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 November – over 24 hours packed full of literary goodness in all its forms, creating the perfect opportunity for you to experience Carlton hospitality and vibrancy. Discover the full program: find it on the counters in our shops, or look it up and book tickets on our website at readings.com.au/a-day-in-carlton

Clockwise from top left

Local women at the coffee and sweet treats stall in the Church of All Nations Community Centre.

Ready to perform an Eritrean coffee ceremony – where green beans are hand-roasted, ground, and brewed – at the coffee and sweet treats stall.

A crowd of people gathered outside Readings Carlton.

Mark Rubbo and Andy Griffiths talking at the coffee and sweet treats stall.

Robyn Annear standing on Lygon Street in Carlton with a group of people during the 'Robyn Annear Tours Carlton' walking tour. **R**

Nonfiction

Australian Studies

The Elders

Dan Bourchier &
Jackie Huggins (foreword)

Pan Mac. HB. \$36.99
Available now



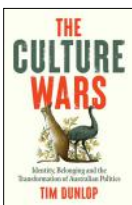
The Elders is a powerful journey through the heart of First Nations Australia, gathering the voices of respected Elders and custodians of the world's oldest living culture.

Through conversations with Dan Bourchier, Elders including Uncle Ross Jakamarra Williams and Aunty Gail Mabo explore and reflect on Country, language, kinship, the environment and identity. This is a vital call for truth-telling, healing and the urgent preservation of culture.

The Culture Wars

Tim Dunlop

MUP. PB. \$29.99
Available 13 October



Sometimes it seems as if everything has become a culture war. In this sharp, accessible book, Tim Dunlop asks why this is so and what that shift – decades in the making – has done to Australian

democracy. This compelling, original and hopeful account situates Australia's culture wars within history, while revealing how they are now energised by market economics, media concentration, social media and global political movements.

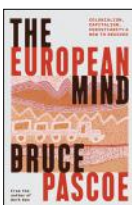
The European Mind

Bruce Pascoe

Magabala. PB. \$36.99
Available now



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



R How did we get here? Where might we go next? These two questions lie at the heart of Bruce Pascoe's latest and boldest reckoning with Australia and its colonial history.

The European Mind is an ambitious, wide-ranging and meticulously researched chronicle of the philosophies and perspectives that underpin both Australia's colonisation and the broader political order of the modern day. Capitalism, imperialism and Christianity all bear some responsibility for Europe's historical drive to conquer nations, claim land and extract resources, but Pascoe also digs deeper, looking at how the advent of agriculture, ancient warfare and industrialisation all set the Western world on a path that has proven increasingly destructive for both the land and the people who value it most.

The book's arguments are backed by a plurality of sources, drawing on the work of historians, anthropologists and First Nations thinkers across the globe to weave an arresting portrait of the European mind and all the ways it has failed the

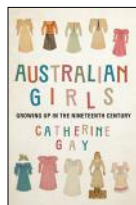
human species. Yet among all these scholars and voices of the past, Pascoe's wry humour and optimism stand out, a comforting thread to follow within this tapestry of time. Indeed, for all its sombre reflection on injustice and inequality, *The European Mind* still feels like a hopeful book, finding space to celebrate those cultures and practices that have rejected conquest and valued community and Country instead. As the world finds itself increasingly beset by astronomical wealth gaps, authoritarian leaders and ecological collapse, maybe it's time to look to these societies, historic and living, and see what we can learn from the age-old paths they've walked down. After all, if the world is the way it is primarily because of a certain dominant way of thinking, then all we really need to do to start improving things is to consider changing our minds.

Joe Murray is from Readings Kids

Australian Girls: Growing Up in the Nineteenth Century

Catherine Gay

Monash. PB. \$39.99
Available 1 October



Despite their significant contributions to our nation's past, settler and Aboriginal girls have been overlooked in Australian history. Drawing on materials and artworks uncovered in local and national archives, *Australian Girls* reinterprets our national story through the lens of these girls' experiences. It reveals how the lives of girls in the 19th century intertwined with broader currents, including colonial invasion and settlement, labour, education, family and community.

The Year Our Voice Broke: The Indigenous Voice Referendum and the Australian Public

Murray Goot & Tim Rowse

Monash. PB. \$39.99
Available 1 October



The Indigenous request for a constitutionally entrenched Voice was thrust into the spotlight when Anthony Albanese promised a referendum in 2022. Murray Goot and Tim Rowse trace the development and fortunes of the Voice right up to the referendum and its aftermath in 2023. They also raise vital questions about how political ideas are presented to the public, how campaigns are run, and how the No vote may shape the future of our Indigenous affairs.

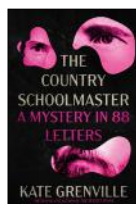
The Country Schoolmaster

Kate Grenville

Black Inc. PB. \$36.99
Available now



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



Rummaging around in the archives one afternoon, Kate Grenville comes across an innocuous-looking file full of letters about a schoolteacher in country NSW. Intrigued, she keeps reading – and

discovers a tale far more curious and complex than first appears. Was Joseph Connor savagely beating the students in his care? Or was he the victim of a small-town vendetta? And what went so terribly wrong between him and his daughter? Grenville simply must know: was Connor a victim or a villain?

Our Place: How to Solve the Housing Crisis and Rebuild the Australian Dream

Matt Lloyd-Cape

La Trobe. PB. \$36.99
Available now



Drawing on the latest research, policy expert Matt Lloyd-Cape explains how our housing system broke and offers an evidence-based guide to solving the crisis. He reveals that although social housing tenants, renters and first-home buyers are worst affected, the whole of society suffers in a housing crisis. From intergenerational inequality to the rise of far-right politics, the housing crisis is reshaping the nation. To solve it, Lloyd-Cape argues, we need to think bigger – much bigger, and the tools are within reach.

Old Vintage Melbourne: A Culinary Chronicle

Chris Macheras &
Stephanie Alexander (foreword)

Scribe. HB. Was \$59.99

\$54.99

Available now



A celebration of the restaurants, bars, cafés, pubs and markets that have helped shape Melbourne's unique cultural identity,

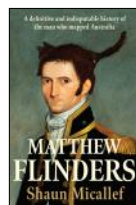
the latest book in Chris Macheras's immensely popular *Old Vintage Melbourne* series profiles around 120 of Melbourne's culinary institutions. It draws on original research, historic photography and direct contributions from the venues and their families. Some are iconic and enduring, while others have long since closed, yet remain etched in Melbourne's memory.

Matthew Flinders: A Definitive and Indisputable History of the Man Who Mapped Australia

Shaun Micallef

Affirm. HB. \$49.99

Available now



The story of Matthew Flinders, like the story of Colonial Australia, is one of tragic lows and high comedy, of embarrassment, shame and humiliation. Enter Shaun Micallef to tell this tale as it has never been told (but probably should have): with meticulous research and an overweening sense of the ridiculous. As he charts Flinders' chaotic route around Australia and beyond, Micallef asks bigger questions about who we are as a country and what it means to

hold onto a legacy in an ever-changing-its-mind world.

The Curious Case of the Stolen Mace: Solving Australia's Strangest Political Crime

Sally Young

NewSouth. PB. \$36.99

Available 1 October



R In October 1891, the ceremonial mace was stolen from Victoria's Parliament House in a case which has never been solved. This is Sally Young's starting point for a fascinating and engaging leap back into Melbourne's history to uncover the facts of what happened and to shed light on those who were intimately involved in both the initial investigation and the ensuing inquiries.

But this book also offers so much more than the story of a missing mace. Sally paints a vivid and lively picture of Melbourne at that time and the personalities who wielded power and influence. She describes how Melbourne's population doubled in a decade in the 1880s and had a population greater than many European cities such as Rome, with a massive building boom which in turn led to land speculation deals and financial extravagances – and corruption.

We learn of the small group of men in Melbourne – bound by friendship, blood ties and self-interest – who exercised control in politics, business, newspapers and banks. Sir Matthew Davies, the speaker of the house and member for Toorak, for example, was also co-owner of three of Melbourne's five newspapers and company director of a bank. But he was not unusual – even Premier Munro owned a building society. No surprise then that the Voluntary Liquidation Act passed through Parliament with lightning speed to prevent depositors from accessing their own money when the whiff of a land bust was scented.

But it is not just politicians we learn about in this rollicking tale. The police who are called to investigate the theft of the mace have questionable dealings not only with politicians and journalists but also with underworld characters. Rumours abound about the mace being found in a brothel, but they are never verified – in no small part because that would be extremely inconvenient to many of the politicians who frequented those premises. And then there are the workers at Parliament House who come under scrutiny for the theft, given that if the mace were melted down the money to be gained would be many times their meagre salaries.

Against the background of wealth and money, much of it firmly connected to those occupying seats in parliament, stories of the stolen mace struck a chord with the general populace 'because they highlighted the moral failing and hypocrisy of corrupt politicians.'

There are also other facts of history that we learn: the struggles faced by women trying to care for children and make ends meet while their husbands were gallivanting about; Ascencio de Freitas, who gave food for free to around 160 of Melbourne's poor every day for decades; and how 10 days before the theft, the Women's Suffrage Petition was tabled

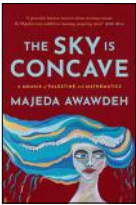
in Parliament with 30,000 signatures arguing that ‘government of the people by the people should mean all the people and not one half.’ (Women finally got the vote in Victoria in 1908.)

This is a wonderful story expertly told by a dedicated historian. What a fantastic glimpse into life in Melbourne. Essential reading and a ripping tale!

Pauline Hopkins is the manager of Readings Hawthorn

Biography

The Sky Is Concave: A Memoir of Palestine and Mathematics
Majeda Awawdeh
UQP. PB. \$36.99
Available now



Born near Nazareth as a Palestinian citizen of Israel, Majeda Awawdeh learns early the limits imposed on her body, her voice and her dreams. After marrying at just 17 to escape an increasingly stifling home life and continue her education, Awawdeh finds herself shouldering the double burden of occupation and patriarchy in another kind of prison. Armed only with singular determination, love for her three children and passion for learning, she begins to redraw the boundaries of her reality. Awawdeh recounts her journey through a childhood shaped by civil discrimination and rising religious conservatism to hard-won intellectual, financial and personal freedom in Australia.

Too L.A.: Letters Never Sent (But Some Were)
Eve Babitz & Lili Anolik (ed.)
Atlantic. PB. \$36.99
Available now



In between the partying, the drugs and the love affairs, Eve Babitz made time to chronicle the world in works like *Eve’s Hollywood*. But Babitz considered her letters ‘the kind of writing I do best’ though rarely deposited them in a mailbox. Her missives to friends like Joseph Heller, Annie Leibovitz and Steve Martin are irresistible. In *Too L.A.*, Lili Anolik has raised these letters from the tomb and with an informative commentary guides the reader through the lifelong party that was Babitz’s real masterpiece.

Opening Night
Sara Baume
Granta. PB. \$34.99
Available 6 October



Shortly after the pandemic, novelist Sara Baume came across a painting that so intrigued her she contacted the artist, Mollie Douthit, an American living in a log cabin along Ireland’s coastline. Baume and Douthit discovered they had much in common and bonded over art, nature and solitude. Falling under their spell, Baume decided to write about Douthit’s paintings, and soon found herself drawn into ideas about community and nationality, about neurosis and mysticism, about love and pain and the power of art.

One Day a Cat Came to Me: Timeless Zen Wisdom from a Cat & His Monk
Bokyong Sunim & Jinwoo Park (trans.)
Souvenir. PB. \$34.99
Available 13 October



After more than a decade at a city temple in Seoul, Bokyong Sunim – the Venerable Bokyong – moves to a rural mountain temple where, in the depths of winter, an unexpected guest appears on his doorstep: a ginger-and-white cat. Their everyday interactions unfold into generous and life-affirming meditations on cats, companionship, patience, the fleetingness of time and the satisfactions and challenges of different ways of seeing the world. A blend of philosophy, mindfulness and connection with nature.

All Heart
Mick Fanning
S&S. PB. \$36.99
Available now



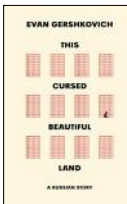
Most people know Mick Fanning as the surfer who won three world titles. Some know him as the bloke who punched a shark. But that’s only part of the story. Deeply personal and inspirational, *All Heart* is about growing up in a loud, loving family. It’s about chasing a dream and experiencing the highest of highs. It’s about being broken into pieces by unimaginable loss; about three brothers and a father dying too soon. It’s about doing whatever it takes, and learning whatever you can, to find your way again.

Fry & Laurie
Stephen Fry & Hugh Laurie
Michael Joseph. HB. Was \$55
\$45
Available 13 October



Batman & Robin, fish & chips, gin & tonic. Fry & Laurie – some pairings become iconic. Across four brilliant series of great satire, comic genius and hilarious use of language, *A Bit of Fry & Laurie* cemented Stephen and Hugh as a double act and paved the way for their future stardom. This is the definitive compendium of everything the pair have written together, including early and never-before-published sketches, all threaded through with TV stills and early photography of the duo.

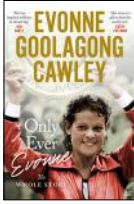
This Cursed Beautiful Land: A Russian Story
Evan Gershkovich
HarperCollins. PB. \$36.99
Available now



In March 2023, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich became the first Western journalist since the Cold War to be arrested by Russia on espionage charges. Born to Soviet émigré parents, Gershkovich had loved his life in Moscow as a young journalist. Imprisoned for 16 months, he continued to report – documenting Russia’s sprawling prison system, its vocabulary, customs and Soviet heritage. *This Cursed Beautiful Land* is an extraordinary chronicle of a

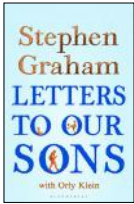
misunderstood people, their land, history and culture.

Only Ever Evonne: The Whole Story
Evonne Goolagong Cawley
A&U. HB. Was \$49.99
\$39.99
Available now



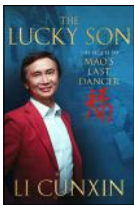
Evonne Goolagong Cawley rose from a humble upbringing in the NSW town of Barellan to become the first Aboriginal woman to win Wimbledon, as well as the world’s number one tennis player. In this memoir Goolagong Cawley reflects on her childhood, her groundbreaking career, life as a Black woman in a white-dominated sport and her struggles with a domineering coach. She also shares her on-court battles with tennis greats, her love story with husband Roger and reveals her hopes for tennis, Australia and First Nations peoples.

Letters to Our Sons
Stephen Graham with Orly Klein
Bloomsbury. PB. \$36.99
Available now



Award-winning actor Stephen Graham and psychology lecturer Orly Klein have invited fathers from around the world to put into words the things they couldn’t say out loud to their sons. With contributors including Olympian Tom Daley, Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem, artist and musician Goldie and *Rivals* star Danny Dyer, as well as Louis Theroux and more, this is a raw and extraordinary outpouring of the sometimes messy, often joyful and always complex realities of modern fatherhood.

The Lucky Son
Li Cunxin
Penguin. PB. Was \$36.99
\$29.99
Available 6 October



Li Cunxin captivated the world with his memoir, *Mao’s Last Dancer*. In his long-awaited sequel Li reveals what happened next in this life that cheated fate, and wrestles with the blessings and responsibility of good fortune. Torn between his life in the West and the memories of his family in rural China, Li builds a family with wife Mary, choosing to make Australia home. From ballet star and author to ballet company artistic director, *The Lucky Son* is an inspiring book about life, family, following your heart, and gratitude.

Well, Well, Well: My Wellness Odyssey
Judith Lucy
Scribner. PB. Was \$36.99
\$29.99
Available now



In 2022, Judith Lucy retired from stand-up comedy, planning to write a fun guide to all the wellness treatments she’s tried over the years. But when she grew sick and realised she was completely burnt out, the book became something more. *Well, Well, Well* is also a record of her search to

restore her health – from reiki and sound healing to cryotherapy and an ayahuasca retreat. This is an honest, funny and clear-eyed examination of what had been so wrong with how she (and a lot of us) had been living.

Fictional Selves: A Memoir
Kyle MacLachlan
Century. HB. Was \$55
\$45
Available now



In *Fictional Selves*, beloved actor Kyle MacLachlan shares an account of his unconventional journey in Hollywood and the projects that have shaped who he is today. Insightful and droll, he chronicles his humble beginnings; the lifelong hesitation to fame that shadowed him early on; behind-the-scenes stories from his most famous roles, and lessons learned along the way; his relationship with late director and close friend David Lynch; romantic entanglements; his own take on being a father; and much more.

The Weight of Witness
Bushra Othman (ed.)
Hardie Grant. PB. \$29.99
Available now



This powerful collection of essays brings together the voices of Australian and New Zealand healthcare workers who have served in Gaza during the ongoing genocide, preserving frontline testimonies of courage, grief, humanity and resistance in the face of Israel’s devastation. *The Weight of Witness* bears witness to the horror and trauma that the people of Gaza have endured and to the deliberate destruction of the healthcare system – and pays tribute to the enduring spirit of the Palestinian people.

An Unexpected Life: A Memoir
Gloria Steinem
Ebury. HB. Was \$45
\$39.99
Available now



An Unexpected Life is the late feminist icon Gloria Steinem’s inspiring and candid memoir of her early life and her path to becoming one of the world’s most visionary and influential voices. Intimate, funny and rich with hard-earned wisdom and reflections on hope, happiness and how to keep fighting, this book offers readers the opportunity to learn directly from one of the world’s most enduring voices, as we continue the work of building a better future.

I Can’t Tell You But I Will: A Memoir
Magda Szubanski
Text. HB. Was \$55
\$45
Available now



I Can’t Tell You But I Will is the powerful and tender new memoir by beloved icon Magda Szubanski. In her book she writes with searing honesty about her complicated relationship with her dying mother

Margaret. As Magda stepped into the fight for same-sex marriage in Australia, she was also confronting the heartbreak of her mother’s decline. This unforgettable book describes the true cost of caring, the courage it takes to keep going, and the impossible pull between public duty and private grief.

Cookbooks

Simple Pleasures: Recipes to Fall in Love with Every Day

Julia Busuttil Nishimura
Plum. PB. Was \$44.99

\$39.99

Available now

This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



Eating well at home is one of life’s true pleasures, and it’s easier than you think. With Julia’s guidance, a well-stocked pantry and some good seasonal produce are all you need to create simple and flavourful dishes you’ll want to cook on repeat. With an emphasis on ease and enjoyment, Julia shows you how to turn household staples into something truly special. With sweet and savoury bakes, plus a whole chapter of desserts, *Simple Pleasures* is an essential book for the modern home cook.

Asian Home Cooking: A Cook’s Guide to the Everyday Dishes of Asia

Adam Liaw

Hardie Grant. HB. Was \$65

\$55

Available now



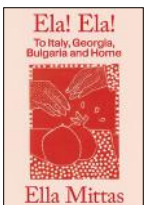
A joyful, deeply personal guide to the everyday dishes of Asia, Adam Liaw’s latest book draws on years of travel, research and lived experience, and features more than 200 authentic, accessible recipes that bring the flavours of the world’s largest continent into your kitchen. These are the dishes that families cook at home – meals that are simple, nourishing and full of flavour. Comprehensive and accessible *Asian Home Cooking* is a timeless resource for anyone who loves food, family and flavour.

Ela! Ela! To Italy, Georgia, Bulgaria and Home

Ella Mittas

Ella Mittas. HB. \$65

Available 15 October



Leading on from her bestselling debut, Ella Mittas returns with *Ela! Ela! To Italy, Georgia, Bulgaria and Home*. In her trademark style Ella joins insightful food writing with recipes that become immediate home staples. From her grandparents’ backyard in Melbourne to a biodynamic vineyard in Lucca, a sacred mountain festival in the Georgian Caucasus to the archives of Bulgaria’s Slow Food network, this is a book about inheritance – what gets carried forward, and what gets left behind.

Sauces: Japanese Eats and Beats Takako Tamura

Melbourne. HB. \$49.99

Available 13 October



Authentically Japanese and backed by a hip-hop soundtrack, *Sauces* is a sensory experience. Takako Tamura is a Japanese Australian chef known for blending traditional Japanese flavours with modern seasonal cooking, culture, music and art. In these pages you will find mouth-watering recipes, each accompanied by beats by Japanese composer Moyou (scannable via QR code). *Sauces* is a testament to food’s ability to connect people across cultures – and sauces have never sounded so good!

Weeknights with Alice: Smart, Speedy Meals Starting with the Veg

Alice Zaslavsky

Murdoch. PB. Was \$45

\$39.99

Available now



Following the runaway success of *In Praise of Veg and Salad for Days*, Alice Zaslavsky returns with a curated collection of 80 quick, clever veg-forward dinners, each designed to make dinner feel like a breeze, not a squeeze. With her trademark warmth, Alice shows you how to build satisfying meals from the vegetable crisper up, using a streamlined pantry and zero fuss. These are recipes you’ll come back to until you have them on autopilot. *Weeknights with Alice* will transform the way you cook at home.

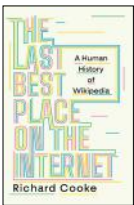
Cultural Studies

The Last Best Place on the Internet: A Human History of Wikipedia

Richard Cooke

Black Inc. PB. \$36.99

Available 13 October



One of the keystone inventions of the 21st century, Wikipedia is the largest repository of human knowledge ever made, with editions in 343 languages read by millions every day – all created by unpaid, mainly amateur and mostly anonymous volunteers. In this entertaining book, journalist Richard Cooke delves into Wikipedia’s fabled creation, its extraordinary success and its profound effects on politics, business, literature and society. A fascinating journey into one of the most vital – and most endangered – cultural achievements of our time.

Tongue

Kathryn Crowcroft

Giramondo. PB. \$32.95

Available 1 October



How much is there to say about a tongue – that thing that lolls in our mouths, tastes and aids speech, is sometimes poked out in jest, or pierced? In *Tongue*, her debut, poet

and scholar Kathryn Crowcroft creates a makeshift history of the organ: moving between mythology, biblical texts, philosophy, literature, medieval and Chinese medicine, and the university libraries and academic conferences in which she undertakes her research. For medieval medicine, the health of the tongue was a barometer for one’s morality. Now, scientists know that a tongue has a unique print more useful for identification than those on our fingers. What emerges through this makeshift history is something I love in creative nonfiction writing: how the text is written is tied to what the writing is about. Crowcroft outlines the cellular structure of a tongue and then recreates this structure in her work. There are a tongue’s bumps, buds and curvature. Turns to poetic, fragmentary prose feel earned.

This tie of how and what is written feels important, because as much as *Tongue* is a book about its namesake, it is also a book about things often left unsaid. Alongside a history of tongues, Crowcroft writes of her relationship with her mother, her late father, and the domestic violence that she grew up with. There are no graphic depictions of violence, but rather depictions of silences and fraught half utterances – metaphorical tongues bitten and held. In text messages between them, Crowcroft’s mother mistakes ‘LOL’ to mean ‘lots of love’. *Tongue* is a slim but expansive book, one in which small images and gestures feel hefty, affecting, and thought-provoking. Fans of Claudia Rankine, Anne Carson and Annie Ernaux will know the pleasures of reading this kind of lyrical nonfiction writing, and I wager will find similar pleasures here.

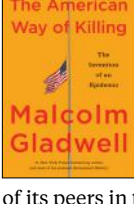
Jade Butler is from Readings Carlton

The American Way of Killing: The Invention of an Epidemic

Malcolm Gladwell

Abacus. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Why, when it comes to lethal violence, is America so different from the rest of the globe? It is wealthier, better educated, more technologically sophisticated, more religious than almost any of its peers in the developed world, which would suggest that it should also have the lowest levels of violence. Yet the opposite is true. In this bold new book, Malcolm Gladwell outlines the paradox, then walks the reader through a series of stories drawn from every corner of American life and culture looking for answers.

Gardening

Great Gardens Australia

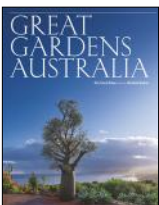
Richard Allen &

Kimbal Baker (photog.)

Miegunyah. HB. Was \$79.99

\$69.99

Available 13 October



Take a stunning visual journey around Australia through a selection of exquisite private and public gardens. From the humidity of the tropical north and the searingly hot interior, to the cooler

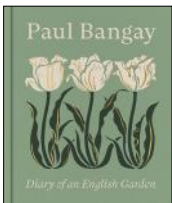
temperate south, Australia’s local climates have inspired gardens as diverse as the continent. *Great Gardens Australia* celebrates 30 striking gardens, highlighting the vision, adaptability and ingenuity of the people who both created them and tend them today.

Diary of an English Garden

Paul Bangay

T&H. HB. \$90

Available now



For decades, Paul Bangay has looked to the great gardens of England as both touchstone and inspiration. In this intimate new volume, he finally finds a

cottage in the Cotswolds ready for bold reinvention. What follows is the story of a new beginning: reimagining boundaries and axes, planting hedges and perennials, experimenting with structure and softness, and discovering, season by season, what thrives, what falters and what surprises. This is Paul Bangay at his most reflective and personal.

Graphic Narrative

Push the Wall: My Life, Writing, Drawing and the Art of Storytelling

Frank Miller

Canongate. HB. \$55

Available 13 October



In *Push the Wall*, Frank Miller chronicles the creation of his most iconic works, including *Sin City*, *300*, *Wolverine* and *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. Miller reveals how he got his first breaks, how he poured his own life into his darkly realistic characters, how he fought against comic-book censorship in the early 1980s, and how he introduced manga-style storytelling to US readers. Miller transformed the way comics are told, and this is how he did it.

History

The Shortest History of Cities series

Various authors

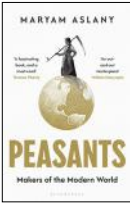
Black Inc. PB. \$27.99 each

Available now



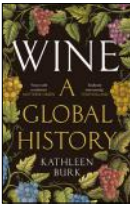
Black Inc.’s *Shortest History* series offers clear and concise accounts of broad-ranging topics from the world’s leading subject-matter experts. Every book can be read in an afternoon and will transform your perspective for a lifetime. This month Black Inc. are releasing five exciting new titles in the series, focusing for the first time on cities: Linda Jaivin on Madrid, Matthew Kneale on Rome, Rory MacLean on Berlin, Gillian O’Brien on Dublin and John Zubrzycki on Delhi.

Peasants: Makers of the Modern World
Maryam Aslany
Bloomsbury. PB. \$36.99
Available now



For centuries peasants fed empires, fuelled revolutions and built modern states. Despite industrial modernity, they make up a quarter of humanity, underpinning the global economy, stabilising food systems and protecting ecosystems. *Peasants* journeys across three continents deep into the landscapes where global supply chains begin, uncovering the lives behind some of the world's most vital produce: sugarcane, rice, coca and cocoa. An urgent reminder that the story of the countryside is the story of us all.

Wine: A Global History
Kathleen Burk
Profile. HB. \$69.99
Available 6 October



Wine: a drink, a medicine, a ritual and a commodity. Across millennia, it has been used to celebrate and commiserate, as a negotiating tool and a diplomatic gift. But where – and when – was it first discovered? And how did it become a worldwide phenomenon? From the planting of grape seeds in conquered territories across Ancient Rome, to the uprooting of vineyards during the Chinese Communist Revolution, this is a stunning global survey of wine from acclaimed historian Kathleen Burk.

Interior Design

Factory Convent Schoolhouse Home: Soulful Transformations of Unusual Spaces
Lynda Gardener & Lean Timms
Artisan. HB. \$59.99
Available 6 October



An air control tower in Scotland. A historic carpenter's shop in Madrid. A laundromat in Texas. A medieval convent in Tuscany. None of these may seem the most obvious candidates for a beautiful, soulful family home but that is just what each one has become in the hands of their curious and creative new stewards. In this book interior stylist and hotelier Lynda Gardener and photographer Lean Timms take us on a world tour of some of the most astonishing home renovations you've ever seen.

Robson Rak: Permanent Residence
Kathryn Robson & Chris Rak
T&H. HB. \$79.99
Available now



Robson Rak creates compelling homes: spaces that feel grounded, generous and instinctively liveable, where architecture and interiors are conceived

as one. Their work is defined by craftsmanship, material integrity and meticulous detail. Organised by guiding themes, this monograph reflects on the studio's design process and their enduring idea of home. Along with evocative photography and personal commentary, it offers an intimate look at a practice where architecture and interiors are inseparable, and where thoughtful design elevates everyday life.

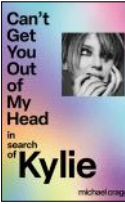
Shaping Spaces: The Art of Making a Home
Claudia Lambert
Smith Street. HB. \$69.99
Available now



Shaping Spaces showcases interior designer Claudia Lambert's work, who has moulded the homes of families, couples and individuals around the world. Each project is different – some grand, some modest, some playful, some serene – but all share the same philosophy: that design should elevate daily life, reflect the people within it and create spaces that feel as alive as the stories they hold. This book gives readers the inspiration and tools to help them evolve their own homes into spaces that reflect their story.

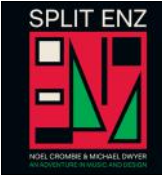
Music

Can't Get You Out of My Head: In Search of Kylie
Michael Cragg
Faber Music. PB. \$34.99
Available now



From her late-'80s beginnings in *Neighbours* to her gold- and platinum-selling hits, Kylie Minogue is the best-selling Australian pop star of all time. Selling over 80 million records internationally, she has collaborated with some of the biggest names in music, fashion and photography across her various shape-shifting eras and become a modern-day icon. But who is the 'real' Kylie? Award-winning writer Michael Cragg takes us on a journey into the psyche of one of the world's most enigmatic pop stars.

Split Enz: An Adventure in Music and Design
Noel Crombie & Michael Dwyer
A&U. HB. \$59.99
Available now



Split Enz is one of the most distinctive pop-rock groups of all time. Never designed to fit, they emerged from art school mischief in early-1970s New Zealand and turned pop music into surreal theatre. This is the story of a band that dreamed its own path and refused to behave, and in the process changed the shape of Australasian music. A collectable, full-colour, lavishly illustrated hardback including costumes, designs, photographs, memorabilia and new interviews,

The new novel from the author of **TRESPASSES**

RÓISÍN AND RED. FRIENDS FOR LIFE...

'A moving and immersive novel about first love, addiction and regret'

MIN JIN LEE

'I gulped this down'

EMMA DONOGHUE

'Louise Kennedy can make your heart ache like few others'

LUCY CALDWELL

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For those who
want to know a city,
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The Shortest Histories of some of
the world's most iconic cities,
from the piazzas of Rome to the
bazaars of Delhi.



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created with the full participation of
the band.

Johnny Marr: Set the Boy Free (Illustrated anniversary edition)

Johnny Marr

T&H. HB. Was \$64.99

\$49.99

Available 22 October



Published to celebrate
the 10th anniversary of
Johnny Marr's
bestselling
autobiography *Set the
Boy Free* and the 40th
anniversary of the
release of The Smiths'

The Queen Is Dead, this illustrated
anniversary edition includes swathes of
never-before-published photography
from this classic Smiths era and comes at
a time when Marr's stature as a musician,
songwriter and household name
confirms his position as a modern
cultural icon. A true collector's item with
a new introduction and exclusive
updates from Marr.

Natural History

The Last Snow Gum: Loving and Saving the Most Precious Tree on Earth, and Ourselves

Anthony Sharwood &
Anna Langford

Hachette. PB. \$36.99

Available now



Snow gums are the most
beautiful trees on Earth.
But they're vanishing
quickly. Through the fate
of this one exquisite
mountain tree species, we
gain a terrifying snapshot
of the future of

biodiversity across the world. In this
highly readable and compelling book,
bestselling author Anthony Sharwood and
climate activist Anna Langford help us
view Australia's unique high country with
fresh eyes, show us what's being lost, what
can be saved – and how we might just save
ourselves in the process.

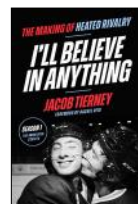
Performing Arts

I'll Believe in Anything: The Making of Heated Rivalry Season 1 (The Annotated Scripts)

Jacob Tierney &
Rachel Reid (foreword)

Trapeze. HB. \$55

Available 13 October



Based on Rachel Reid's
blockbuster *Game
Changers* book series,
Heated Rivalry premiered
in late 2025 and took the
world by storm. From the
show's creator Jacob
Tierney, *I'll Believe in
Anything* is an official and complete
collection of annotated scripts with all
new exclusive behind-the-scenes content.
It answers all the questions fans have
been asking and shows how Tierney, his
partner Brendan Brady and the Accent
Aigu team have rewritten the playbook
for adapting romance novels to
the screen.

Personal Development

Vibe: The Secrets of Strong Connections in a Lonely World

Adam Grant

WH Allen. PB. \$36.99

Available 13 October



Building meaningful ties
is one of the most pressing
problems of our time. As
social media forces
face-to-face interaction
behind digital screens,
communication gets
outsourced to AI, and the
world becomes more polarised than ever,
our loneliness crisis shows no signs of
slowing. Through pioneering studies and
insights, Adam Grant reveals how we can
forge faster, stronger and longer bonds
and teaches us that similarity is not
necessary for solidarity, chemistry doesn't
always happen quickly, and closeness
doesn't always take time.

Photography

Passage: The Art of Atong Atem

Atong Atem

T&H. HB. \$90

Available now



This is the first
major monograph
on acclaimed South
Sudanese Australian
artist Atong Atem. A
vivid exploration of
migration, memory and
the making of identity,

it traces her journey from South Sudan to
Australia's east coast, revealing how
family, storytelling and image-making
shape her richly staged portraits. Working
across photography, video and textiles,
Atem reimagines the intimacy of
portraiture, constructing lush tableaux
that probe diaspora, postcolonial identity
and the meaning of home.

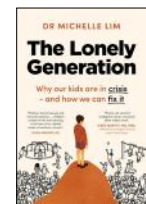
Psychology

The Lonely Generation: Why Our Kids Are in Crisis – and How We Can Fix It

Dr Michelle Lim

Pantera. PB. \$36.99

Available now



Told in an
accessible and
conversational tone, Dr
Michelle Lim – Australia's
leading expert on
loneliness – busts common
myths and provides
actionable solutions for
helping young people alleviate loneliness.
Broken down into small, digestible
sections, Dr Lim thoroughly explains what
loneliness is, why it's especially prominent
within the younger generations, and how
we as individuals and as a collective can
help mitigate this crisis.

Using anecdotes from her 20+ years of
experience as a psychologist, and recent
studies both national and worldwide, Dr
Lim shows that loneliness has detrimental
effects on both mental and physical

health. Commonly known to be associated (not interchangeable) with anxiety and depression, it's uncommonly known to lead to poorer immune response, inadequate sleep and higher risk of type 2 diabetes. The effects of loneliness don't stop at the individuals experiencing it either, as they have an impact on those individuals' friends, family, wider network and strangers.

Dr Lim provides practical advice to parents, employers, mentors and teachers on how they can assist young people in their lives to have healthy social networks. Strategies range from being intentionally kind to others, implementing the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) curriculum in schools, and undertaking CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with a trained psychologist. Recognising that there is no 'cure' for loneliness is important, as is being aware that what might help one person might make it worse for another. Dr Lim also stresses that loneliness is 'part of the human experience', meaning there is nothing wrong with those who feel it – loneliness is a biological signal, much like hunger and thirst.

Although it can be hard and nerve-racking to reach out to someone, it's important to put effort into connecting with people around us. I found myself reflected in these anecdotes, but also saw my family and friends. Having also been one to perpetuate these harmful myths on loneliness, it's crucial to unpack our own biases and unlearn the stigma and shame that loneliness carries.

Jacinta Richards is from Readings Chadstone

Reference

Parlour Games for Friends and Family: 130 Games of Offline Fun
Myfanwy Jones & Spiri Tsintziras
Scribe. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Parlour Games for Friends and Family sets out to revive the tradition of indoor family games: push aside the screens, turn off the TV, and bring some mental stimulation, silliness and laughter, joy and connection back into your living room. This book is bursting with games of logic and memory, wordplay, card games, role-play and rough and tumble. Not a single game requires equipment that you won't find in your average home: a pack of cards, a dictionary, dice, paper and pen. A good time is guaranteed.

Science

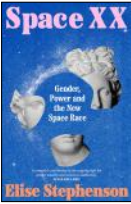
The Best Australian Science Writing 2026
Fiona McMillan-Webster (ed.) & Sujatha Raman (foreword)
NewSouth. PB. \$34.99
Available 15 October



Now in its 16th year, this much-loved anthology selects the most riveting, entertaining, poignant and fascinating science stories from Australian writers, poets and scientists. *The*

Best Australian Science Writing 2026 anthologises another landmark year in science. From AI to the climate crisis and the changing nature of what science looks like, there's been plenty of ground to cover. Science writers have been vital in decoding these glimpses of the future, and the many solutions that scientists are working on.

Space XX: Gender, Power and the New Space Race
Elise Stephenson
Monash. PB. \$32.99
Available 1 October

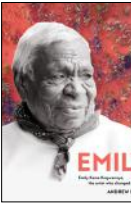


Outer space is humanity's next great frontier, yet fuelled by militarism, privatisation and patriarchy, and dominated by a 'broligarchy', its future will not be equally shared.

In a world-first study of gender and diversity in space, Elise Stephenson speaks to almost 1,000 people from 70 countries, including ethicists, astronauts and engineers, to reveal a story of inequality, exclusion and denigration of women in STEM. She imagines a better way forward and argues that a more inclusive future can, and must, be fought for.

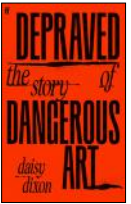
Visual Arts

Emily: Emily Kame Kngwarreye, the Artist Who Changed Australia
Andrew Bailey
A&U. HB. \$55
Available now



Emily Kame Kngwarreye, an Anmatyerr woman from the Central Desert, only started painting at the age of 79. She is now regarded by many as Australia's most important artist, with an international reputation that continues to grow. Drawing on accounts from those close to her as well as previously unexamined sources, Andrew Bailey reveals the inside story of how a senior law woman from one of the remotest areas came to prominence in just seven years and started an art movement that changed the nation.

Depraved: The Story of Dangerous Art
Daisy Dixon
Faber. HB. \$45
Available now



What makes an artwork immoral, and why are we so drawn to troubling creations? In *Depraved*, philosopher of art Daisy Dixon takes the reader on a journey through some of the most volatile and contentious works ever produced – from prehistoric sculpture to extreme metal music, Renaissance paintings to videogames. She reveals how beautiful art can sometimes be the most insidious, and why the greatest threat might lie in our own judgements about the art we censor or condemn. **R**

Ngarn Wa'ngal

A landmark publication dedicated to the eucalypt and the art it inspires

Melbourne University Publishing

UQP

An awe-inspiring tale of one woman's journey to intellectual, financial and personal freedom.

'Simply breathtaking.'

CLARE WRIGHT

'A story of ultimate courage.'

TONY BIRCH

Kids & Young Adult

Board Book

On a Bushwalk (Little Worlds, Book 3)

Andrea Rowe &
Hannah Sommerville (illus.)
Little Hare. BB. \$19.99
Available now

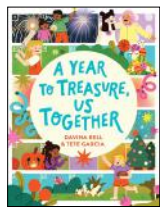


From the CBCA Award-winning creators of *Jetty Jumping* comes a brand-new Little Worlds board book. *Yellow sunlight peeking through ... That's how a bushwalk welcomes you.* Little people love to explore little worlds! Discover the glimmering colours and hidden wonders of a bushwalk in this beautiful book for our smallest nature-lovers.

Picture Books

A Year to Treasure, Us Together

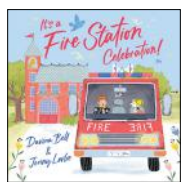
Davina Bell & Tete Garcia (illus.)
Lothian. HB. \$24.99
Available 13 October



A firework pops! It all begins – the sparkle that a new year brings. From New Year's Eve, starting school, Lunar New Year, Easter, NAIDOC Week and Book Week to birthdays, Diwali, Halloween, Chanukah, Christmas and back to New Year, this is an absolutely joyous celebration of ... celebration. With illustrations full of exploding colour from newcomer Tete Garcia.

It's a Fire Station Celebration!

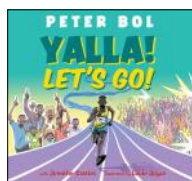
Davina Bell & Jenny Løvlie (illus.)
Little Hare. HB. \$24.99
Available now



Fergus never misses his weekly visit to the place he loves most – the fire station! Though he has seen it a squillion times, he always has more questions to ask about the most fascinating place in the world, much to the exasperation of the adults around him. But it turns out no question is ever too silly to be asked – especially if it could save lives!

Yalla! Let's Go!

Peter Bol, Jennifer Castles &
Louie Joyce (illus.)
A&U. HB. \$24.99
Available now

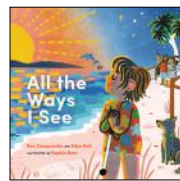


The incredible story of young Peter Bol, who migrated with his family from Sudan to Australia and went on to become the first Australian in 53 years to reach the 800-metre Olympic Games final. The perfect sports picture book to inspire

young readers to dream their own big dreams, celebrate the joy of athletic achievement and encourage kids to find their own path.

All the Ways I See

Nas Campanella, Eliza Hull &
Sophie Beer (illus.)
A&U. HB. \$24.99
Available 13 October

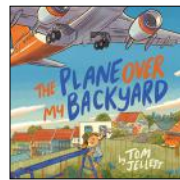


  Brimming with sun, sand and wonder, *All the Ways I See* is a heartfelt ode to a day at the beach. Told from the perspective of a blind child, it's a joyfully expressed story that'll have you hearing the surf, smelling the sunscreen and feeling the sun on your face. ABC News's national disability affairs reporter Nas Campanella and award-winning writer, musician and disability advocate Eliza Hull OAM collaborated on this book and the story is told through evocative language, tactile textures and joyful illustrations by the iconic Sophie Beer. Designed with accessibility features for blind, low vision, D/deaf and/or hard of hearing audiences via audio, sign language and braille translation, *All the Ways I See* is a sunny hug of a book for ages 2+.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

The Plane Over My Backyard

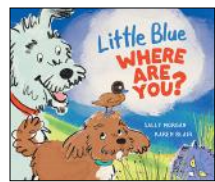
Tom Jellett
Affirm. HB. \$22.99
Available now



Planes soar over my backyard – big ones, small ones, bright ones and some with special markings. I love to see them gliding to and from the airport at all hours. But today is very special: we get to travel on a plane! Discover the wonder of planes and air travel with this delightful picture book from the bestselling creator of *The Train at the End of My Street*.

Little Blue Where Are You?

Sally Morgan & Karen Blair (illus.)
Fremantle. HB. \$27.99
Available now



  *Little Blue Where Are You?* is a delightfully playful picture book for little ones who love dogs and a rhyming story. After their cheeky adventure in *The Midnight Chew*, our canine friends Skippy Gillespie and Boofa Boy Jones are back. This time they're bounding through the park to save the tiny lost duckling, Little Blue, from the claws of the nasty cat, Rocky Road Jack.

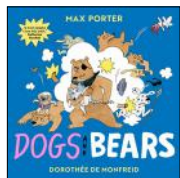
The book's rhyme scheme is energetic and creates a perfect read-aloud rhythm, and the colourful illustrations bring to life a beautifully warm, sunny summer's day. Written by the beloved Sally Morgan, a Palyku author from the Pilbara region of Western Australia, and illustrated by the award-winning Karen Blair, the story's pages are wonderfully bright and

full of movement. This story is perfect for any young lover of adventures, dogs or mischievous friendships. Or, really, any little one who is looking for a new, fun read-aloud! For ages 2+.

Lili Reus-Smit is from Readings Kids

Dogs and Bears

Max Porter &
Dorothee de Monfreid (illus.)
A&U. HB. \$24.99
Available 20 October

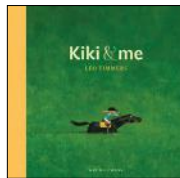


 Max Porter, author of such literary fiction favourites as the devastating *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, *Shy* and *Lanny*, embarks on his first foray into children's literature with *Dogs and Bears*, illustrated by Dorothee de Monfreid. As I think one should, this reviewer approached his newest book with no small amount of scepticism. Celebrities and 'grown-up' authors dipping their toes into the colourful waters of children's literature rarely land well, but it is perhaps to be expected that Porter, exceptional as he is, is one of the few exceptions to this rule. *Dogs and Bears* is a silly, playful and delightfully un-didactic story which will teach children exactly nothing except the word 'brawl'. With wonderful illustrations featuring de Monfreid's signature comic style, this cheeky book will delight children aged 4+.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

Kiki & Me

Leo Timmers & David Colmer (trans.)
Gecko. HB. \$34.99
Available 1 October



 This picture book by award-winning Belgian author-illustrator Leo Timmers is an absolute must-have for horse lovers of all ages. With incredible illustrations, it captures that very first moment when horse and young rider meet and how their relationship changes over time. Unusually, the story is told from the perspective of the horse, Polly, not her rider, Kiki.

The extra-large hardback format enables Timmers to sometimes place up to eight separate black-and-white drawings on a double-page spread of the activities that Kiki and Polly get up to together. There are also many wordless double-page spreads featuring evocative large-scale paintings of their extraordinary adventures out in the world together. As Kiki gets older, a new friend takes up more of her time. What will happen to her first best friend, Polly the horse?

This is an incredibly beautiful picture book, exquisitely drawn, about the bond between horse and rider. It will surely have young readers clamouring for their own precious Polly. Highly recommended for ages 4+.

Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

Junior Grade

Djeran Djerup: Mika and Meero

Alton Walley
UWAP. PB. \$16.99
Available now



 Meet Mika and Meero. These mischievous siblings are learning as they live on Noongar Boodja (Noongar Country). In alternating voices, Meero and his older sister introduce readers to their family and culture. The siblings are fully immersed in the natural world; birds, animals and insects are central to Noongar culture and never far away. An enemy crab scuttles around nipping toes. Stinging ants interrupt Meero's dancing. Nature causes plenty of chaos – and hilarity, too!

This is the first book in a new series by Noongar author and illustrator Alton Walley. Noongar words are woven into the text, and a glossary can be found at the back of the book. There is bold colour on every page, fun illustrations throughout, and playful text design to encourage young readers. *Djeran Djerup: Mika and Meero* is a very welcome addition to our junior fiction shelves. For readers aged 5+.

Kim Gruschow is the children's book division manager

Middle Grade

The Boy Who Knew Too Much (Game of Pets, Book 1)

Aaron Blabey
Pan Mac. PB. \$16.99
Available now



 A new Aaron Blabey series is exciting. Blabey is known for the global sensation that is *The Bad Guys* series, but also for such treasures as *Thelma the Unicorn*, *Pig the Pug* and loads more.

This new book doesn't disappoint. It's the story of 11-year-old Griff, who saves up to buy a pet. He is allergic to anything with fur, as well as all fish, so the options are limited.

The lady at the pet shop recommends an axolotl. Griff falls deeply in love with Bob at first sight. The ensuing adventures are hilarious as Griff takes home this little amphibian, only to discover that he (Griff) is now responsible for saving the world! The pets are running (and ruining!) the world: they are controlling their human owners and causing climate change and the destruction of the world!

This is all part of an elaborate game show involving all the pet groups we know and love – a bird, a dog, a cat, a horse, a capybara, a tortoise, a fish and a chinchilla. This book ends on such a cliffhanger that there are sure to be many more books. It's funny, with brilliant Blabey illustrations, and is a fantastic addition to any library for readers aged 7+. Reluctant and prolific readers unite – this is one for us all!

Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

Bodder Finn at the Edge of the World
Phil Cummings

Walker. PB. \$17.99
Available 1 October



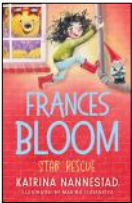
R Bodder Finn lives in a world called Alibon, where homes are chiselled out of tall stone spires, where each day is lit by a glowing orb that hangs, unmoving, in the sky, and where the people live in fear of monsters lurking in the darkness at the edge of the orb's light. It's a strange world, but despite that, Bodder is like any other kid – he's curious, he loves animals, he occasionally annoys his older sister, Ailie, and he would do anything for his best friend, Olo. Bodder particularly likes maps, and dreams of exploring every corner of the world, so when his dad gets a job in Light's Edge, the last village before the stretch of sea that leads into the darkness of the Forever Night, Bodder jumps at the chance to go with him. But something strange is happening in Alibon, and when a chunk of sky falls down over the village, Bodder, Ailie and Olo are separated from the adults and set adrift in a little riverboat, floating on dangerous currents into the darkness.

This is an exciting adventure story that will delight young fantasy readers. It's full of charm, and the mysteries of the world are slowly and carefully revealed, satisfying your curiosity while raising new questions to keep you turning pages. I'm sure kids will love this classic adventure – and they'll be egging their friends on to read it too, so they can discuss every twist and turn! Recommended for ages 8+.

Bella Mackey is the digital content lead

Star Rescue (Frances Bloom, Book 3)
Katrina Nannestad & Marina Zlatanova (illus.)

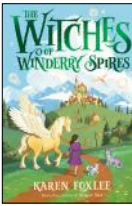
ABC. PB. \$17.99
Available now



Frances Bloom has everything she needs – a cottage by the sea, a fairy floss machine and grandparents who never say, 'Don't!' Life is perfect, until Steven Starmaker begins searching for his runaway movie star, Frances's gold is stolen during the Year 3 treasure hunt, Grandma Maude and Grandpa Harold disappear, and a strangely familiar woman called Ms Thorn appears on the scene.

The Witches of Winderry Spires
Karen Foxlee

A&U. PB. \$24.99
Available now



R Karen Foxlee writes stories with lots of heart, and this is no exception. One of my favourite books of all time is *Lenny's Book of Everything*, so I was excited to read a new Foxlee novel. This story is more of a fairytale than *Lenny*, but has the heart that Foxlee is known for in her characters.

Lucy Broadmeadow is picked out of everyone to go and live with the witch in a faraway land. Lucy is kind, brave and very unsure why she has been picked. When she arrives, there are big problems; she must take charge and try to use her bravery to fix things. Together with her new friends – a water dragon who is scared

of water, a winged wolf pup and a flying horse who doesn't like to fly – Lucy goes on vast adventures to find the missing witch and the disappearing magic, and to change the course of the world. Along the way, she learns a lot about the qualities she possesses, particularly her resilience, and about how important friendship is.

This is a delightful story for kids aged 9+ who love a little magic in their fairytales. Thoroughly recommended!

Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

Camp Half-Blood: The Wild Zone (From the World of Percy Jackson)
Rick Riordan

Puffin. PB. \$29.99
Available now



Welcome to Camp Half-Blood, the secret sanctuary for demigod kids. Katie Kim may be a newcomer, but she knows they weren't supposed to be in the Wild Zone. Why, then, did counsellor Clarisse take her and four other newbies there at night? When Katie's half-brother goes missing, it sparks the arrival of vicious monsters and a mysterious curse.

City of Clouds
Kiah Thomas

HarperCollins. PB. \$17.99
Available now



Ever since the king, greedy for magic, stole a piece of an ancient volcanic glacier, Edgemere has been cursed: the castle is locked, the skies dark and its people trapped beneath heavy clouds. When Thea's friend Jack disappears and becomes imprisoned in the castle, Thea realises she must break the curse and return the piece of glacier to save him. To leave Edgemere she will need to rely on help from others – but how will she know who to trust?

Mari the Unwonderful Witch
Asako Yuzuki & Ecre Karadag (trans.)

Puffin. PB. \$19.99
Available now



R In Stone Flower Town, witches and humans live peacefully alongside one another. There are cobbled streets and gabled houses, surrounded by the beautiful (if a little spooky) Blackcurrent Forest – it's positively idyllic! But the harmony between witches and humans is still new; witches used to be outcasts, and it was only through using their powers to help and protect the town that witches were accepted. And so, the wonderful witches of Stone Flower Town use their magic to look after those around them, but never for themselves.

Mari is a bold, gregarious young witch, who unapologetically uses her powers to change the colour of hair, fashion crazy outfits and make her dessert as big as possible. Mari's human friends love her exuberance, but it worries her family – could Mari's magic threaten the peace between humans and witches? When Mari befriends Madeline, the outcast witch who lives alone in the forest, it opens her eyes to something strange happening in the town, and makes her even more determined to stay as unwonderful as ever.

Asako Yuzuki, the author behind the chart-topping thriller *Butter*, is making her debut as a children's author! And while this whimsical story of witchcraft is very different from her adult novels, there are common themes around living authentically in spite of social pressures, the narrow roles expected of women, and – of course! – a love of food. It's a beautifully inclusive fantasy world that explores the complexity of building an equal world in a way that is still clear and approachable for kids. This sweet story is sure to delight readers aged 8+ who love *The Worst Witch*, *Kiki's Delivery Service* or the magical worlds of Diana Wynne Jones – and it's the start of a series, so we can look forward to more of Mari's adventures!

Bella Mackey is the digital content lead

Graphic Narrative

Hometown
Shaun Tan
A&U. HB. Was \$35
\$29.99

Available now



This author is at A Day in Carlton, see the program insert for details



R Shaun Tan is a mainstay of all our childhoods. One of my earliest memories is of my father showing me, page by painstaking page, each weird and wondrous creature, construct and corner of the imagined city in *The Lost Thing*. As a wayward child who often felt out of place (and who doesn't from time to time?), Tan's *Lost Thing* might well have been me. Twenty-six years later, his illustrations and storytelling are more entrancing than ever. *Hometown* contains vibrant, wonderful creations that could only come from his hand.

Our main character, the sole human in a world of deliciously odd creatures, is content living as part of her large, eccentric family and their community. She explores, tinkers, playfights, wanders and wonders at the exquisite joys of life on her planet – until an unerringly familiar humanoid arrives and tells her she must come home with him, back to 'where she belongs'.

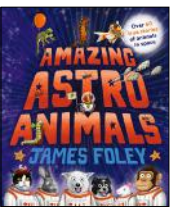
Where does one belong, when they come from one place, but have lived their whole life in another? Once the cat (or hammer-headed-lizard-ish thing) is out of the bag, can you ever cram it back in? In classic Shaun Tan fashion, the journey from question to answer is whimsical, warm and vivid. For ages 9 to 99!

Harvey Weir is from Readings Doncaster

Kids Nonfiction

Amazing Astro Animals: Over 60 True Stories of Animals in Space
James Foley

Fremantle. HB. \$34.99
Available now



R 'Astrochimp' HAM was famously the first ape in space, and many are familiar with Laika, the Russian stray turned space dog, who was tragically the first

earthling to orbit our planet. Lesser known are the hissing cockroaches, mealworms, oyster toadfish and Japanese fire-bellied newts that were at some point launched into space in the name of science, progress or politics. *Amazing Astro Animals* presents a case file for each species, and the array is truly vast: slimy-nauts, scaly-nauts, feathery-nauts, aqua-nauts and more are covered, with delightful endpapers depicting an astronaut portrait for each.

Readers of all ages are captivated by space, and this animal astronaut showcase has broad appeal. James Foley has drawn from his picture book and graphic novel talents to create a uniquely entertaining and genuinely fascinating nonfiction book. There are fun comic strips and visual gags throughout, and fans of Foley's wonderful picture book *Stellarphant* will be delighted to recognise a familiar face in the opening pages. This is an excellent book. Highly recommended for ages 6+.

Kim Gruschow is the children's book division manager

Big Ideas from Art: Inspiring Young Minds to Love and Enjoy Art
The School of Life

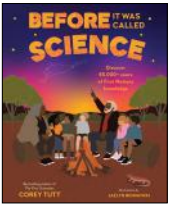
The School of Life. HB. \$42.99
Available 13 October



Big Ideas from Art introduces art as something children can use, not just study. It shows how art connects to our feelings, helps us understand ourselves, and can bring comfort, excitement and joy. Readers will learn how to look at art without feeling bored, what kinds of art might help in different moods, and why everyone becomes an art expert long before they ever visit a museum.

Before It Was Called Science
Corey Tutt & Jaelyn Biunaiwai (illus.)

A&U. HB. \$32.99
Available now

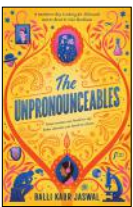


In this follow-up to the groundbreaking children's book *The First Scientists*, Corey Tutt is back to share more incredible stories of how Australia's First Peoples practised science long before it carried that name. Featuring vibrant illustrations and a glow-in-the-dark cover, this is the perfect book to get kids excited about science and sustainability. Together, we can walk towards a better future, caring for Country as the first scientists always have.

Young Adult

The Unpronounceables
Balli Kaur Jaswal

A&U. PB. \$19.99
Available now



R Navkiranjhot Ahloowalia (Navy for short) has a name that means 'the new light' and a strong Punjabi cultural heritage. But at school, her teachers mispronounce her name every time they say it out loud and confuse her with her best friends, who are also from Indian families and also have long names. Navy's

Illustrated by award-winning Australian artist LEVI PINFOLD

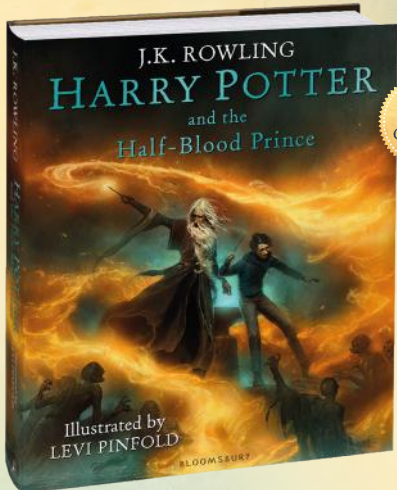
J.K. ROWLING

HARRY POTTER

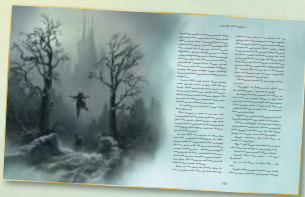
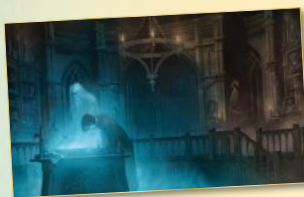
and the Half-Blood Prince

Illustrated by LEVI PINFOLD

A POWERFUL AND EVOCATIVE TOUR DE FORCE



6th October

Illustrations by Levi Pinfold and Jim Kay © Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2015-2016. Text © J.K. Rowling 2005. HARRY POTTER TM & © WB&L

immigrant parents are entirely focused on her getting into a specialist STEM school and starting a career in biomedicine. But Navy is secretly researching art history and becoming captivated by classic paintings she finds online. Trying to balance the needs of her two very different best friends is also proving a challenge as she studies every single spare moment, despite having second thoughts about her science-focused future career.

Navy starts dating an Indian boy without her parents' knowledge, even while the pressure starts to build for the entrance exam to the STEM school. As her secrets threaten to swallow her whole, Navy must balance her own heart and what teachers at school are telling her against her strict parents' very high expectations and the peer pressure within their immigrant community. It's a tricky tightrope to walk and Balli Kaur Jaswal expertly renders it, bringing readers along as they anticipate Navy's reckoning.

With a charming sense of humour, this is a beautifully written coming-of-age story about having the courage to stand up for yourself and find out who you really are, despite your family seeming to have your future all mapped out for you. Recommended for contemporary fiction lovers, this is a powerful tale of the pressures placed upon young second-generation immigrants that will resonate with many, and offer insight to other readers aged 12+.

Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

for a refresher on the characters and setup. The series is recommended for lovers of dystopia and adventure stories aged 12+.

Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

The Pools

E. Lockhart

A&U. PB. \$26.99

Available 6 October



Once, in a New England town known for its hot springs, something terrible happened. It should have been a warning to stay away from the pools, but no one is afraid of the water

anymore. When new girl Lexie meets Chester, their chemistry is undeniable, but they are both hiding secrets. One winter morning, five people, including Chester, go for a swim in the pools. What happens there shocks the town and changes Lexie's life forever.

Trust Fall

Lynn Painter

S&S. PB. \$22.99

Available 13 October



Julia is just a small-town girl from Nebraska who loves her peaceful life. But when her wealthy, elderly neighbour leaves everything to Julia and her family after his passing, Julia is swept

away to live in a historic brownstone in New York City and attend an elite private school. It should be a dream come true; however, Julia is failing classes and she's falling for her mysterious and handsome tutor, who is hiding an explosive secret.

Live

Luke Palmer

Firefly. PB. \$22.99

Available now



Year 12 pupil George is passionate about his band and his music, though the other band members are less so. They play for their friends' parties, and he hopes they might hit the big time, despite surprise

competition from new girl Beth and fellow-pupil Taidh. But when disaster strikes one of the band members, the whole year group must confront loss and grief, discover who their true friends are, and try to rebuild their futures.

The Sixth Faction (A New Divergent Series)

Veronica Roth

Harper Fire. PB. \$29.99

Available 13 October



Beatrice Prior stands on the brink of a decision every person in her world must make: five factions, five futures, five lives. She's going to make the bravest choice, even though it means leaving

her family behind. But when tragedy strikes at her Choosing Ceremony, Beatrice's whole world changes. Her ensuing decision thrusts her into the crosshairs of an underground rebellion, and into the path of a boy with secrets as dangerous as her own. **R**

Richard Glover

How to Ruin a Child

A journey into the alarming, hilarious and ever-changing advice given to Australian parents.

From the bestselling author of *The Land Before Avocado*, a journey into the alarming, hilarious and ever-changing advice given to Australian parents.

A RUSSIAN STORY

THIS CURSED BEAUTIFUL LAND

EVAN GERSHKOVICH

The revelatory, much-anticipated memoir from the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was wrongly imprisoned in Putin's Russia

Donna Hay

KIDSBYING

Whisk - Bake - Share

From Australia's #1 bestselling cookbook author, Donna Hay, comes a brilliant new baking book for kids.

Thyme to Cook

Emma Galloway

Thyme to Cook is a practical guide to growing, harvesting and cooking real food at home to nourish our bodies and minds!

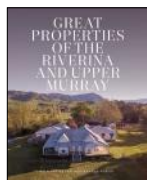
Out now

HARPERCOLLINS

Bargains

Great Properties of the Riverina and Upper Murray

Richard Allen & Kimbal Baker (photog.)
HB. Was \$79.99 **Now \$19.99**

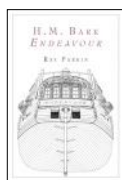


Great Properties of the Riverina and Upper Murray tells the story of 16 significant properties in the region. Illustrated with sumptuous

photographs, the book brings these estates to life in all their grandeur, including Khancoban Station, Upper Wantagong, Quat Quatta and Burrabogie, to tell stories of adaptation and change, and reveal their owners' and occupants' ambitions and dreams.

H.M. Bark Endeavour (Box Set)

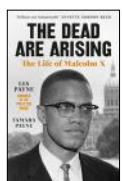
Ray Parkin
HB. Was \$200 **Now \$49.99**



Ray Parkin – sailor, artist and author – set out in the 1970s to discover everything he could about HMB *Endeavour*, one of the most famous ships in maritime history. The result is the most painstaking study of the ship ever undertaken and a unique account of Captain James Cook's voyage on the *Endeavour* up the east coast of Australia in 1770. This is an absorbing book full of wisdom, insight and information.

The Dead Are Arising:

The Life of Malcolm X
Les Payne & Tamara Payne
PB. Was \$26.99 **Now \$9.99**

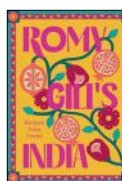


The Dead Are Arising is a detailed and riveting work that affirms the centrality of Malcolm X to the African American freedom struggle and the story of the 20th century. Investigative

journalist Les Payne conjures a never-before-seen world, painting vivid, dramatic scenes from start to finish, from Malcolm's clandestine meeting with the KKK in 1961 to an account of his murder in 1965.

Romy Gill's India

Romy Gill
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$24.99**



Step into the heart of India's vibrant culinary heritage with *Romy Gill's India*. Renowned chef Romy Gill takes you on a journey through her ancestral kitchens in the Bengal and Punjab region, where she discovered the true essence of home-cooked Indian cuisine. In this cookbook, Gill shares over 70 of her beloved family recipes, each a testament to the flavours that define her childhood.

Nadiya's Everyday Baking

Nadiya Hussain
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$16.99**



Nadiya's Everyday Baking collects more delicious, achievable bakes from Nadiya Hussain's BBC 2 series that will delight you, your friends and your family every day. There are cakes you'll want to make for every occasion, sweet treats to indulge in with

cups of tea, speedy oven-baked meals, simple and portable bites for picnics and lunchboxes, desserts for the whole family and irresistible breakfast pastries to kick off any weekend.

The New Cucina Italiana

Laura Lazzaroni
HB. Was \$45 **Now \$24.99**



Everybody loves Italian food! And this generation of chefs has come a long way from their nonnas' kitchens. Combining an innate sense for quintessentially Italian flavour with a contemporary approach, Italy's new culinary masters define a fresh gastronomy. This book covers 32 chefs and restaurateurs who are reinterpreting the 'greatest hits' of Italian dining.

One Pot Vegan

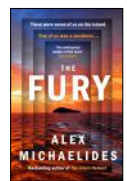
Roxy Pope & Ben Pook
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$16.99**



Based on the most popular recipes from their channel *So Vegan*, Roxy Pope and Ben Pook have created 80 delicious, quick and easy recipes which prove that vegan food is fun, tasty and never been easier!

The Fury

Alex Michaelides
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$10.99**



This is a tale of murder. Or maybe that's not quite true. At its heart, it's a love story, isn't it? One spring morning, reclusive ex-movie star Lana Farrar invites a small group of her closest friends for a weekend away, on her private island, just off the coast of Mykonos. Beneath the surface, old friendships conceal violent passions and resentments. And in 48 hours, one of them will be dead.

We Do Not Part

Han Kang, e. yaewon & Paige Aniyah Morris (trans)
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$15.99**



In December, Kyungha travels from Seoul to Jeju Island. The trip is at her friend Inseon's request: Inseon was hospitalised after an accident and she needs Kyungha to feed her bird. A snowstorm hits the island when Kyungha arrives, and she worries the bird might not survive. As night falls, she struggles her way to Inseon's house. There, the long-buried story of Inseon's family surges into light.

August Blue

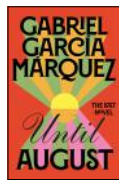
Deborah Levy
HB. Was \$35 **Now \$15.99**



Elsa M. Anderson is a classical piano virtuoso. In a flea market in Athens, she watches an enigmatic woman buy two mechanical dancing horses. Is it possible that the woman who is so enchanted with the horses is her living double? Chasing their doubles across Europe, the two women grapple with their conceptions of the world and each other, culminating in a final encounter one fateful summer.

Until August

Gabriel García Márquez & Anne McLean (trans.)
HB. Was \$35 **Now \$12.99**



Sitting alone, Ana Magdalena Bach surveys the men of the hotel bar. She is happily married and has no reason to escape the world she has made with her husband and children. And yet, every August, she travels here to the island where her mother is buried and, for one night, takes a new lover. This extraordinary novel is a profound meditation on freedom, regret, and the mysteries of love.

The Fraud

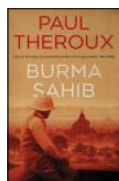
Zadie Smith
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$12.99**



Victorian England is transfixed by the real-life trial of the Tichborne Claimant, in which a cockney butcher, recently returned from Australia, lays claim to the Tichborne baronetcy, with his former slave Andrew Bogle as star witness. Watching the proceedings, and with her own story to tell, is Eliza Touchet, cousin, housekeeper and perhaps more, to failing novelist William Harrison Ainsworth.

Burma Sahib

Paul Theroux
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$12.99**



Eric Blair stood out amongst his fellow police trainees in 1920s Burma: 19 years old, unusually tall, and a diffident loner fresh from Eton. After five years spent in the narrow colonial world of the Raj, a decaying system steeped in overt racism and petty class conflict, he would emerge as the George Orwell we know. A fascinating, atmospheric novel inspired by George Orwell's years in Burma.

Australia's Remarkable Trees (new edition)

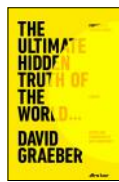
Richard Allen & Kimbal Baker (photog.)
PB. Was \$44.99 **Now \$16.99**



Australia's Remarkable Trees explores the lives of 50 of Australia's oldest, largest and most unusual trees. Illustrated with more than 500 photographs, this book is not just a celebration of Australia's great trees; it also prompts us to look to the future to see what lies in store for them. It is a call to arms to preserve and protect our oldest living things, and the forests and wilderness in which they live.

The Ultimate Hidden Truth of the World ...

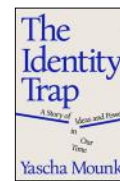
David Graeber
PB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$15.99**



A renowned anthropologist, activist, and author of the classics *Debt* and *The Dawn of Everything* (with David Wengrow), David Graeber was as well known for his essays as he was for his iconic role in the Occupy movement and his paradigm-shifting tomes. Drawn from over 20 years of pioneering writing, this is an essential and inspiring collection of Graeber's most important essays and interviews.

The Identity Trap

Yascha Mounk
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$13.99**



For much of their history, societies have oppressed ethnic, religious and sexual minorities. But over recent decades, a justified focus on their protection and a new ideology, which Yascha Mounk terms 'identity synthesis', has become influential. Tracing its origins, Mounk argues it is counterproductive and makes a case for universalism and humanism to achieve genuine equality.

The Road to Freedom

Joseph E. Stiglitz
PB. Was \$36.99 **Now \$13.99**



Joseph E. Stiglitz takes on the giants of neoliberalism and examines how public opinion is formed. He reclaims the language of freedom from the right to show that far from 'free' markets promoting growth and enterprise, they in fact reduce it. He shows how neoliberal economics and its implied moral system have impacted our legal and social freedoms, and offers an alternative to that which prevails today.

A Day in the Life of Abed Salama

Nathan Thrall
PB. Was \$36.99 **Now \$13.99**



Five-year-old Milad is on a school trip to a theme park just outside Jerusalem when his bus is involved in a horrific accident. His father, Abed, rushes to the scene to find Milad has already been taken away. Abed begins a journey to learn Milad's fate, navigating the maze of obstacles he faces as a Palestinian. Interwoven are the stories of Jewish and Palestinian people whose lives unexpectedly converge.

Is It Ever Just Sex?

Darian Leader
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$15.99**



As acclaimed psychoanalyst Darian Leader argues, there is no such thing as 'just sex'. It is always about so much more than that – about fantasy, anxiety, guilt, revenge, violence, love – and Leader draws on his analytic experience, historical research and case studies to explore their importance to every aspect of our sexual lives. A delightfully thought-provoking study of why we have sex.

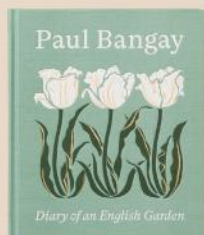
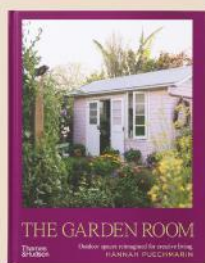
300,000 Kisses

Seán Hewitt & Luke Edward Hall
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$14.99**

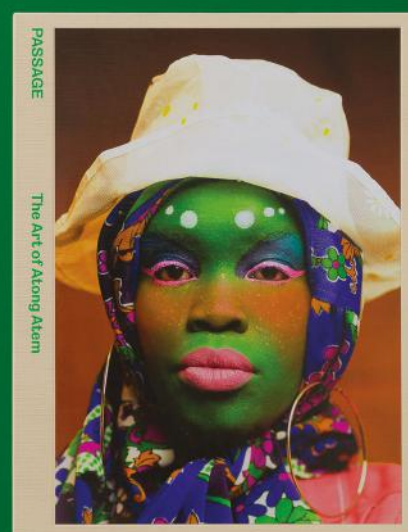
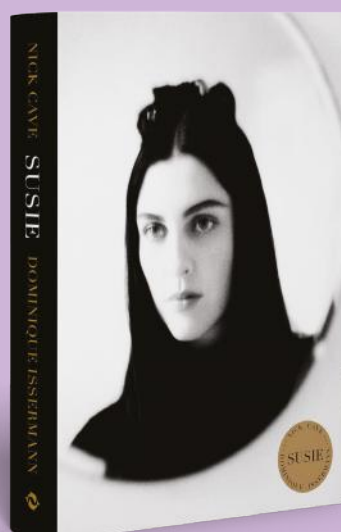


For centuries, evidence of queer love in the ancient world was ignored or suppressed. Even today, only a few famous narratives are widely known – yet there's a rich literary tradition of Greek and Roman love that extends beyond this handful of stories. In this landmark anthology, Seán Hewitt and Luke Edward Hall bring to life 40 of the most exhilarating queer tales in the classical canon.

Bonus last-minute fiction bargains! Leave *the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam (PB; Was \$22.99, **Now \$9.99**) and *The Coast Road* by Alan Murrin (PB; Was \$32.99, **Now \$12.99**). **R**



Thames & Hudson Something for everyone



In order of appearance: *The Garden Room* by Hannah Puechmarin, \$59.99; *Flower Power* by Jac Semmler, \$85; *The Picking Garden* by Jo Turner, \$49.99; *Diary of an English Garden* by Paul Bangay, \$90; *Where They Live Japan* by Paul Barbera and Kirsty Munro, \$59.99; *Susie* by Nick Cave, \$69.99; *Passage* by Atong Atem, \$90; *We Live in a Bus* by Dave Petzold, \$24.99; *Dinner with* puzzle series illustrated by Iratxe Lopez de Munain, \$36.99 each.

Thames
&Hudson

