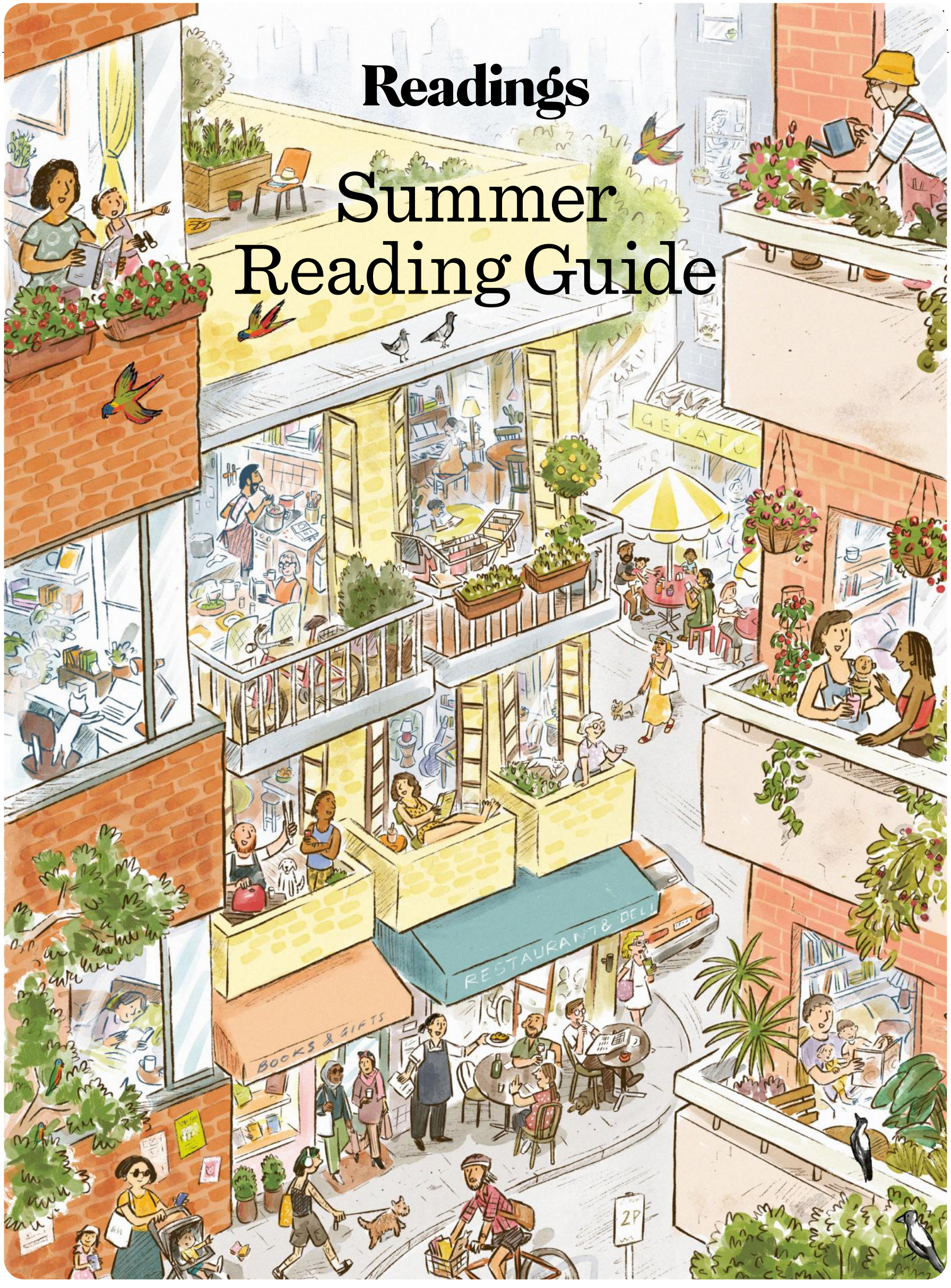
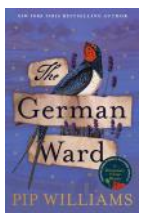
Readings

Summer Reading Guide



This season's best books selected by your favourite independent bookseller

The German Ward Pip Williams



S&S Affirm PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

The bestselling author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words* and *The Bookbinder of Jericho* is back with another work of historical fiction, this time centred on two lovers cleaved apart by the combat lines of WWI: English nurse Tilda Taylor (familiar to those who have read *The Bookbinder*) and German doctor Hugo Hemming. Finding her inspiration in real-life impressionist artist Iso Rae's paintings of the time and using her trademark captivating prose, Williams spins a tale revealed to us gradually through the unpeeling of layer upon layer of knowledge and meaning. A reimagining of an incredibly charged historical period rendered through contemporary eyes, *The German Ward* is a moving acknowledgement of our shared humanity and interlinked desires.



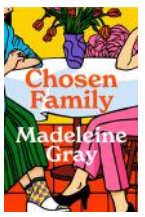
Pip Williams writes about her novel:

Tilda insisted I write *The German Ward*. She is one of those characters who has never been content with the amount of time I have given her on the page. She was an actress and a suffragette, and when I was writing *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, she thought she was the most interesting person in the room. Maybe she was, but I didn't want to write her story – I'd heard it before. In *The Bookbinder of Jericho*, she asserted herself again. But again, I resisted. I sent her to war and let her correspond with the main characters. She wasn't happy, but she's a professional, she did what I asked. She went to war and she wrote about it. Her letters were ironic and occasionally unhinged, and in one of them she hints at a love affair – I must admit, she was becoming more interesting, but still, I resisted.

And then I was in the archives of the Australian War Memorial, looking at drawings made in WWI by the Australian artist, Iso Rae. I call her Iso now, as if we are friends, and we might have been if we'd lived at the same time. When she made her drawings, she was in her mid-fifties; when I looked at them, so was I. Nice to meet you Iso, I whispered, when the curator took the first drawing out of the archive box. It was a pastel of men arriving at the ANZAC camp in Étaples, France. I could see each mark she made and the sketched lines beneath. I imagined her drawing it and I nearly cried.

The curator removed 18 drawings from the archive box that day. All of them signed and dated and annotated with information. There were men marching; men writing letters; men with their horses; men sitting in tents; men working around the camp, their prisoner-of-war garb identifying them as German. The final drawing was of men, not yet diagnosed. It was a euphemism for shellshock. Iso had drawn them watching a play. It should have been the last, but it wasn't. The curator smiled and lifted the edge of the drawing. On the underside there was a woman.

She has been sketched in pencil with her hands on her hips, her feet planted wide, her gaze direct and challenging. She is strong and beautiful and defiant, and I wondered what she was bracing for. Iso gave me no clues. Unlike all her drawings of men, this sketch was unsigned, undated and there was no annotation. The woman was a mystery, but she reminded me of someone. Tilda whispered in my ear. It is time.



Simon & Schuster HB
WAS $39.99
NOW $19.99

CHOSEN FAMILY
Madeleine Gray

If you somehow missed this incisive novel when it came out last year, you should rectify that immediately. The queer 'chosen family' of the title centres around Nell and Eve, who meet as outcasts at school, later reconnect at university, become parents together and then become estranged. This is one of the best evocations of school life – with its cliques and cruelties – that you'll ever read, and Gray's talents extend to depicting that great opening of possibilities university life can feel like (yes, the comparisons with *Normal People* are probably justified, but this novel is much funnier). If our blood relatives aren't always who we'd choose, sometimes our chosen family comes with just as many complications.



Ultimo PB
$34.99

CUL-DE-SAC
Eleanor Limprecht

The claustrophobia inherent in the suburban formation of a cul-de-sac tells us everything we need to know about Eleanor Limprecht's fifth novel: a deeply disturbing story of coercive control and thinly disguised violence. Jacquie is working a well-worn hospitality job in Sydney when she chances upon Brandon, a charming American expatriate who subsumes her into his life of wealth and privilege. But through the slow accretion of details, we learn the real terms upon which Jacquie's relationship with Brandon is predicated. If this sounds grim, it can be, but it isn't exclusively. A significant portion of the book occurs in lush country New South Wales as Jacquie rediscovers herself, her family – chosen or otherwise – and makes a decision that will change all their lives forever.



Macmillan PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

BIG LITTLE TRUTHS
Liane Moriarty

Though it's the sequel to *Big Little Lies*, Liane Moriarty's latest novel can easily be read in its own right. The friendships, secrets and motherhood that made the first book addictive are here again – this time with the best friends ten years older and dealing with menopause, teenagers and the lingering effects of trauma. Moriarty includes recognisable pressures of midlife, including caring for ageing parents. Then, just as everything feels familiar, a severed finger arrives at the school, a new history teacher appears, and a very real fear begins to circle their teenage children. Moriarty's great skill as a writer is making each character feel familiar before she shakes everything up. The result is sharp, entertaining and hard to put down.



Fremantle PB
$34.99

THE BOOK OF THE AFTER
Rebecca Higgie

Genre blending and heartrending, this is a novel of life, death, love and politics set around 2049, but stretching very far back and forward. The book of the title promises to tell people what happens after they die – the dead live on in the 'After' for as long as they are remembered. Rebecca Higgie takes us into that After, where we meet ordinary folk and historical figures. But she takes us equally vividly into the future 'present', where two likeable and principled politicians have been trying to save Australia from the terrible ravages of climate disaster. It's not only past and present apathy working against them, but an agent of chaos from the After. Like most good speculative fiction, this book is a piercing comment on our times.



Allen & Unwin PB
$34.99

DREAM GIRLS
Hannah Goldstein

Never is the terrain of friendship richer and more fraught than in teenagehood. Ruthie and Helena meet as two high school outcasts, diametrically opposed to one another but united by their mutual affection. Brilliant and beautiful yet neglected and capricious, Ruthie has all the trappings of what Helena, a decidedly uncool yet endlessly cared-for person, most desires. Hannah Goldstein's debut novel maps their friendship from its unlikely genesis in adolescence to the muddied waters of adulthood, when broken promises and betrayed loyalties start taking hold in irreversible ways. Suffused with a love of literature – each chapter is named after a line from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – and darkly funny, *Dream Girls* is a bildungsroman that surpasses the point at which its characters ostensibly come of age.

Literary Award Winners



$24.99

ANGEL DOWN
Daniel Kraus
Titan PB

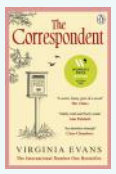
Set in the trenches of the Western Front during WWI, this supernatural horror novel was awarded the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



$39.95

CANNON
Lee Lai
Giramondo HB

This graphic novel exploring the intimacy of queer friendship and the weight of family responsibility won the 2026 Stella Prize.



$24.99

THE CORRESPONDENT
Virginia Evans
Michael Joseph PB

Composed of letters to friends, family and real-life authors, this heartwarming American novel was the winner of the 2026 Women's Prize for Fiction.



$34.99

FIERCELAND
Omar Musa
Penguin PB

Weaving the past and the present into an emotionally powerful family saga, this lyrical novel set in Malaysian Borneo won the 2026 Miles Franklin Literary Award.



$36.99

THE IMMIGRANTS
Moreno Giovannoni
Black Inc PB

This story of an Italian family building a new life in Victoria's tobacco-growing country in the 1950s won both *The Age* Book of the Year and the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction.



$29.99

TRANSCRIPTION
Ben Lerner
Granta PB

A brilliant meditation on the place of recording and broadcasting technology in our lives, *Transcription* was awarded the 2026 Orwell Prize for Political Fiction.



$27

TWO HUNDRED MILLION MUSKETEERS
Ender Başkan
Giramondo PB

Başkan's exquisitely crafted collection exploring the complexities of new parenthood and family life won the 2026 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Poetry.



$34.99

WILD DARK SHORE
Charlotte McConaghy
Penguin PB

This taut psychological thriller set on a tiny island near Antarctica won several awards including the 2026 Australian Book Industry Award (ABIA) for Literary Fiction.

One For Sorrow Favel Parrett



Hachette PB
$34.99

The year is 1939 in Trondheim, Norway. Life is frugal and small, built around the seasons, the fjord and the factories where the men spend their waking hours. It's a new school year and bright, inquisitive Einar is enchanted by his primary school teacher Herr Kristiansen. Handsome, dynamic and a writer, the teacher encourages Einar's questions and loans him books – and the young boy is not the only person to feel enlivened by his presence. For a time, the world feels infinite. And then the Nazis descend. Written from the perspectives of Herr Kristiansen and Einar as both a child and a grown man, this is an elegantly told and heartbreaking tale of love and betrayal, memory and history, the horrors of war and the impossible necessity of narrative.



We asked Favel Parrett some questions about her novel:

One for Sorrow *is such an intriguing title: elliptical and expansive. What is the meaning behind this title, and the foreword?*
My publisher Vanessa Radnidge came up with this title from an old traditional rhyme. I was completely won over by the line 'seven for a secret never to be told' because at the heart of the story is a secret that alters many lives forever.

Could you tell us about your relationship to Trondheim and its history?
I won an arts residency in Trondheim in 2023 and I was given an apartment in the school building where much of the novel is set. One of the old classrooms was my studio, and the ghosts of the children from the past were there with me. I enrolled in Norwegian lessons and explored every street in the part of the city I was writing about. Trondheim will always be in my heart.

Young Einar's perspective is integral to this story. What do you see as the possibilities and limitations of telling this story from a child's perspective?
Young Einar's perspective gives us wonder, energy and the frustrations that come with not fully understanding everything that is going on – and so young Einar is always having to guess and question.

Einar's teacher Johan describes reading and writing as 'everyday resistance'. What does this term mean to you?
Books are once again being banned from schools and libraries in many countries across the globe. Everyday resistance might push us to question why. Who is controlling the narrative? Einar says at the end of the book – 'books are ours to choose and ours alone'.

Einar's mother remarks: 'You know my life is no worse under this occupation. Either way, I am trapped, at the mercy of men.' Why do you feel it is important to honour the stories of women like Fru Halvorsen?
Financially, Fru Halvorsen is trapped in a loveless marriage, and she has very little say in her future. Her only option is to carry on and be stoic. But in this scene, she pushes back. I love her in this moment.

1. What was Iso Rae's profession?



Picador PB
$34.99

INTER ALIA
Suzie Miller

'I swear I live my life juggling everything in the cracks of everyone else's needs' says Jessica Parks – feminist, friend and Crown Court judge, mother to 18-year-old Harry and wife to top criminal barrister Michael. Jessica describes her life as existing inter alia: a legal term that means 'among other things' and a suitable descriptor of the many competing responsibilities – domestic, professional, personal and ethical – she must address to be successful in a man's world. But when her son is accused of the incomprehensible, Jessica's life is thrown into disarray, and the many fragile compromises she has made on her path to success are exposed. This second novel from Miller, a multi-award-winning playwright and former lawyer, is a pacy interrogation of sexual politics, the manosphere, motherhood and the law.



Hachette PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

NO ONE'S LOOKING
Brooke Davis

Set during one summer in suburban Australia, this sophomore offering from Brooke Davis (*Lost & Found*) is a sexy, furious novel that will make you want to scream with laughter and rage, often simultaneously. When 'good girl' Susan is ambushed by her weeping husband's request for an open marriage, she turns to an unlikely object for support. Meanwhile her assertive younger sister Vicki struggles to make sense of her teen daughter's embrace of a new kind of feminism. As the two women navigate the daily humiliations of mid-life, glimpses into the past reveal their relationship over the years, building to a fiercely life-affirming portrait of sisterhood.



Allen & Unwin PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

GROUP CHAT
Zoë Foster Blake

Stella, Molly, Gab, Farah and Viv have been by each other's sides through professional successes, messy breakups and growing families. And as they get older, they are needing each other more than ever. That leaves only one solution – a girl's trip to Mykonos. Leaving their real lives at the airport in favour of morning swims, late lunches and partying into the night, the friends rediscover who they are. And despite the occasional personality clash, they depart the island closer than before, life-long memories and friendship secured. Readers who enjoyed Foster Blake's previous novel, the bestselling *Things Will Calm Down Soon*, are sure to enjoy this one too (and may even be inspired to book a similar trip!).



Text PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

PEOPLE SKILLS
Nina Kenwood

This delightful romcom from the author of *The Wedding Forecast* involves a coastal setting, a relentless boss, and a meet-cute that will make you laugh while recognising life's small, familiar challenges. After a major upheaval, Charlotte moves to a seaside town to work as assistant to the organiser of a local writers' festival. With the event demanding an all-hands-on-deck effort, she is *very* busy. And romance is definitely not on the agenda, especially in a town this small where everyone knows everything and everyone. But then Xavier arrives on the scene ... Fans of Rainbow Rowell and Emily Henry are sure to celebrate the fact that there's now a local author delivering similarly sweet and witty stories.



Ultimo PB
$34.99

ILLUMINATED RUINS
Miriam Sved

Unfolding in 1950s Hong Kong, Miriam Sved's third novel chronicles the lives of sharply realised characters engaged in the 'callow effort of self-invention' as the machine of colonial bureaucracy grinds on. Hungarian-Jewish doctors Uri and Lujza Weiss escape Nazi Europe for the British outpost, intent on eking out a respectable life with their children Millie and Tommy far-removed from the horrors they had endured. When they meet American couple Hugh and Nancy Mackay and their daughter Anne, the frisson of something unexpected and dangerous threatens to upend all their lives. Sved is adept at conjuring a time forever marked by the cataclysmic shifts wrought by the aftermath of WWII, the Cold War, the Suez Crisis and the military rise of Israel.

2026 Booker Prize Shortlist



$34.99

BLACK BAG
Luke Kennard
John Murray PB

This satirical novel is based on a 1967 campus experiment in Oregon. Replete with jokes and absurd scenarios, it addresses themes of masculinity and connection.



$32.99

THE END OF EVERYTHING
M. John Harrison
Serpent's Tail PB

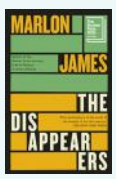
Satirical and unsettling, this post-apocalyptic adventure from a much-admired science fiction writer questions the limits of human understanding.



$32.99

MAY WE FEED THE KING
Rebecca Perry
Granta PB

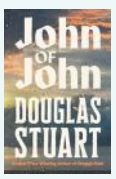
Written by an acclaimed poet, this novel is a stirring meditation on history and storytelling, and about what makes a life meaningful.



$34.99

THE DISAPPEARERS
Marlon James
Vintage PB

A new novel set in Jamaica from the 2015 winner of the Booker (for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*). See p5 for a full review.



$34.99

JOHN OF JOHN
Douglas Stuart
Picador PB

By the author of *Shuggie Bain* (the 2020 Booker winner), this novel set on the island of Harris is about how the bonds of family life can be torn by the weight of expectation.

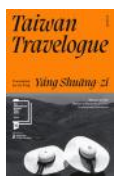


$35

THE THINGS WE NEVER SAY
Elizabeth Strout
Viking HB

The latest novel from one of the most-admired of all American novelists is about coming to terms with the mysteries at the heart of human existence.

And the winner of this year's International Booker Prize granted for translated fiction was:



$32.99

TAIWAN TRAVELOGUE
Yáng Shuāng-zǐ
(translated by Lin King)
Scribe PB

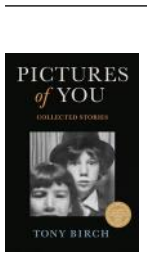
Asking whether love can overcome a power imbalance, this nuanced queer romance is set against the backdrop of 1930s Taiwan under Japanese colonial rule.



Penguin Modern Australian Classics

Penguin HB
$35 EACH

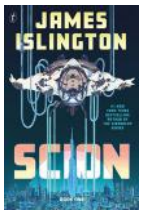
Paying tribute to Australia's rich literary heritage, this is a gorgeous collection of new editions of classic Australian novels. Presented in a deluxe clothbound hardback format featuring vibrant cover art, the books in the series are Tim Winton's *Cloudstreet*, Steve Toltz's *A Fraction of the Whole*, Timothy Conigrave's *Holding the Man*, M.L. Stedman's *The Light Between Oceans*, Richard Flanagan's *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Anna Funder's *Stasiland*, Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* and Tara June Winch's *The Yield*. Titles for younger readers include Robin Klein's Hating *Alison Ashley*, Melina Marchetta's *Looking for Alibrandi*, Morris Gleitzman's *Once*, and Ruth Park's *Playing Beatie Bow*.



PICTURES OF YOU
Tony Birch

UQP HB
WAS $45
NOW $16.99

Multi-award-winning First Nations author Tony Birch has written poetry, novels, essays and short stories. *Pictures of You* collates the best of over two decades of his celebrated short fiction and is offered here at a bargain price. Unmistakably grounded in the physicality of Melbourne, Birch's short stories touch on absent fathers in the throes of mental breakdowns, the weight of familial expectations, the eviction of working-class people and demolition of their homes, and the persistent patterns of incarceration and lost opportunities. Recurring characters appear in multiple stories as the tales echo one another. Throughout it all, Birch retains a clear-eyed lyricism as he documents life on the margins.



SCION: BOOK ONE
James Islington

Text PB
$34.99

This is a book for those who enjoy uncovering the histories and machinations of a dystopian future while in the thick of life-or-death action sequences. In a speculative future where the people crowdfund to assassinate the mega-rich, Azure is the assassin. His physical and cognitive genetic 'revisions' mean that he's terrifyingly good at his job. But do we trust the corporation that manages him? Unapologetic gore, corporate intrigue and sophisticated biotech fill this story starring clones, morally ambiguous AI and vicious 'biosecurity'. This is an impressive entry into science fiction from the author of the smash hit Hierarchy series.

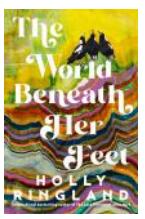
2. Who has written stories featuring volcanologists, cowboys and ranchers?



SICK NOTE
Olivia De Zilva

Pink Shorts PB
$32.99

Having previously published autofiction, Olivia De Silva now moves her attention to poetry. Dedicated to 'the workers in song', this debut collection is mostly a satirical swipe at capitalism from the perspective of a jaded young woman. De Zilva riffs on how cringe it is to be a girlboss, reflects on how employees are mandated to wear 'the plastic smile of productivity', and tries to figure out what actually constitutes a girl dinner. Stylistically, she favours prose poetry, with slabs of text with little or no punctuation. These unbroken blocks of words give her work a breathless quality, as though we are eavesdropping on her inner monologue. Whether it's time wasted in bouts of unemployment or work stress (hence the title), her book is fun and spiky.



THE WORLD BENEATH HER FEET
Holly Ringland

4th Estate PB
$34.99

Celebrating nature's intangible beauty, Holly Ringland's novels depict landscape with an artist's eye, making reading her work a vivid and visceral experience. In Ringland's third novel, a grieving Maggie Byrd returns to southern Queensland from a charmed London life after inheriting a lush rewilded farm from her beloved uncle. Returning to her childhood home after years away forces Maggie, a deeply relatable character, to reckon with her own past, the land's ancient history and the future she wants. Beautifully imagined and epic in scope, *The World Beneath Her Feet* asks a compelling question: can we ever truly escape the influence of our first love?



YOU MUST TAKE PART IN REVOLUTION
Melissa Chan & Badiucao

S&S Affirm PB
$39.99

In a dystopian near future, Hong Kong is a city of relentless surveillance and explosive resistance. Fifteen years earlier, when that tension between freedom and control first began to bubble during the city's famous 2019 protests, three friends met, fought together and then were torn apart by a single devastating act of violence. What follows is a reckoning, both for a world steadily slipping into authoritarianism and for the three friends, who each must ask themselves what they're fighting for and what they're willing to sacrifice. In this powerful graphic novel, Badiucao's stark visuals – grimly monochrome except in flashes of brutal red or rare glimpses of hopeful yellow – perfectly complement Chan's political verve.

Highly Recommended



BEST OF AUSTRALIAN POEMS 2026
Michael Farrell (ed)
Puncher & Wattman PB

$32.95

This anthology showcases contemporary work coming out of the vibrant, active and broad spectrum of poetry being created in Australia right now. *Note: December release.*



THE EXTRAORDINARY FLORENCE STOKER
Karen Brooks
HQ PB

$34.99

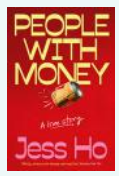
Historical fiction based on the eventful and enigmatic life of a 19th-century Irish socialite who was once engaged to Oscar Wilde and eventually married Bram Stoker.



MASSIF
Garth Nix
Allen & Unwin PB

$34.99

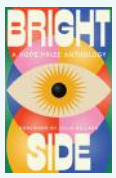
The first adult sci-fi novel from Nix is a gripping interstellar mystery set in an inventive new universe in the 24th century.



PEOPLE WITH MONEY
Jess Ho
S&S Affirm PB

$34.99

This sharply satirical debut novel set in Melbourne is about class divisions, relationships and the dangers of mixing the two.



BRIGHT SIDE
Various Authors
Simon & Schuster PB

$24.99

Winning and shortlisted stories from the most recent Hope Prize are included here. Proceeds from sales go towards supporting education, leadership and mentoring for girls across rural Africa.



LONELINESS IS A MOLECULE
Helena Fox
Picador PB

$32.99

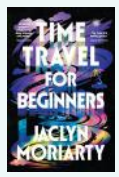
Suffering from profound grief, Miri escapes to Rome, where she starts on the path to healing – and perhaps to happiness.



MEANJIN 85.1
Ashley Hay (ed)
QUT PB

$28

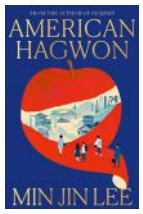
Titled 'Regeneration', the latest edition of this literary journal features contributions from over 40 established and new Australian writers. *Note: December release.*



TIME TRAVEL FOR BEGINNERS
Jaclyn Moriarty
Ultimo PB

$34.99

This feel-good novel is about a Sydney time-travel agency that assists its clients to go wherever they wish in the past. But is there a catch?



4th Estate PB
WAS $37.99
NOW $32.99

AMERICAN HAGWON
Min Jin Lee

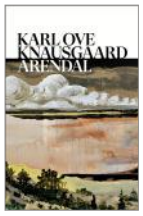
Avowed lovers of *Pachinko* have been waiting with bated breath for the third instalment in Min Jin Lee's planned quartet centred on the Korean diaspora. Coming in at a whopping 600+ pages, *American Hagwon* doesn't disappoint. Epic and sprawling in scale yet somehow contained in its dissection of sacrificial love and the immense importance of education, the book derives its name from the gruelling cram schools in South Korea that train students for academic excellence. Travelling from Australia to South Korea to North America, the novel charts the waxing and waning fortunes of the Koh family and the constellation of interconnected characters that orbit them, all united by their endless striving for better living conditions and the incontrovertible pillars of a good life.



4th Estate PB
$36.99

ANNIE PROULX STORIES
Annie Proulx

A volcanologist in one of the new stories in this book is good at his job because he 'especially grasped the invisibility of massive forces working far under the surface, unseen and unsuspected until they exploded'. One could say the same of Annie Proulx. Her particular talent for depicting what lies within people, what they repress, and what erupts from them is evident in this collection. Not many of Proulx's characters are volcanologists or anything similar. Most are cowboys and ranchers living hard lives of 'smothered misery' in the country. Three previously uncollected stories do move out of this world, but are still distinctly from her brilliant mind. *Note: December release.*



Harvill PB
$36.99

ARENDAL
Karl Ove Knausgaard

You can practically feel the cold seeping into your bones reading the fifth instalment of Karl Ove Knausgaard's The Morning Star series, a wintery meditation on love, desire and family. The year is 1976, the setting a fantastical Norwegian small town where channels and seas connecting islets and skerries become encrusted with ice. Over the course of a restless, seemingly never-ending, relentlessly catalogued night, Syvert ruminates on time, memory, dreams and the mysterious forces that govern our lives. All the while, the details of his unhappy life come into focus as he unwittingly sets into motion the events that will capsize his life in the few days following. Strange, philosophical and quietly riveting, *Arendal* is a prequel to *The Wolves of Eternity* but very much works as a standalone read.



Harvill Secker HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $19.99

THE CITY AND ITS UNCERTAIN WALLS
Haruki Murakami (translated by Philip Gabriel)

In this novel, the wall between reality and unreality is, to quote one character, 'entirely uncertain'. This is a book of dreams and echoes. Dreams are held in a library, they are told to a lover, they are recounted in this book. There are self-referential echoes within the pages, but also echoes of Murakami's earlier works, and other books and music. An unnamed, now middled-aged narrator yearns so desperately for the girl he fell in love with when they were teenagers that he visits an otherworldly city. Is the city imagined or real? Is he its creator, its documenter or its inhabitant? Are dreams messages or memories or metaphors? The answer is entirely uncertain.

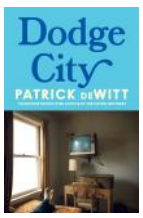
3. Who was married to Adelaide Percheron?



Hamish Hamilton PB
$34.99

THE DISAPPEARERS
Marlon James

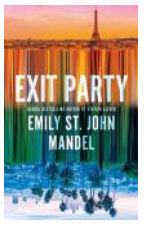
Jamaica, 1988. Eight gay men meet and try to stage an openly queer play in defiance of a culture in which even the suspicion of homosexuality can be a death sentence. After a hurricane of mob violence descends on one of their rehearsals, the group is shattered – one man is dead and the rest are left brutalised and broken. In the aftermath, each search for solace in their own ways. Some disappear, others chase love or vengeance, and yet for all of them, survival is the simplest and most powerful act of defiance. James' *The Disappearers* is a true epic, a relentless march of desire, pain and violence that delivers sentence after sentence of extraordinary beauty.



4th Estate PB
$34.99

DODGE CITY
Patrick deWitt

It's 1967, and country boy Lee's life and identity are expanding in his new home of Los Angeles. Lee is neither a hippie nor a square, just somewhat passively in the middle. When he's drafted into the Vietnam War, he makes a matter-of-fact decision to dodge. He says goodbye to his maybe girlfriend, loads up on amphetamines, and sets out to visit four family members on his way to the Canadian border. Patrick deWitt, who was shortlisted for the 2011 Booker Prize for *The Sisters Brothers*, has full control of his characters, penning sharp, believable dialogue. Yes, there's a cool car, but this road trip novel is really about what makes a life and a person and a place in the world.



Picador PB
$34.99

EXIT PARTY
Emily St. John Mandel

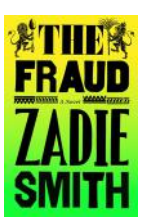
With her fourth book *Station Eleven*, a bestselling novel that went on to be adapted into a worldwide hit TV series, the pressure must have been on Emily St. John Mandel to deliver with *Exit Party*. It does not disappoint. Set after the collapse of the United States in a very near future beset by climate catastrophe and uncertainty, the novel opens at an eerie party, with a couple of confused doppelgangers emerging from the kitchen. As the novel progresses, timelines and perspectives shift until we find out what happened. This is highly inventive fiction that plays with eternal themes – self, freedom, control and the price of survival.



Oneworld PB
$32.99

FEMALE LIFE ON PLANET EARTH
Laleh Khadivi

'There can be something really liberating about losing a mother, especially for a girl', a woman remarks to Heti, the central character of Laleh Khadivi's digressive, discursive book that situates itself in the aftermath of Heti's mother's death. In her haze of grief, Heti discovers something shockingly contrary to the idea of her mother that she had lived with her whole life. This kickstarts a reckoning of sorts as she lays bare the motivations and life experiences of the women around her. *Female Life on Planet Earth* is populated by a long list of characters incidental, yet crucial, to the unfolding of Heti's desire to understand her mother, forever made opaque by her demise. An ode to women, mothers and daughters, this novel is a beautifully rendered portrait of metamorphosis and self-actualisation.



Penguin PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $16.99

THE FRAUD
Zadie Smith

Mrs Touchet is a Scottish housekeeper in 1870s England. She lives with her ageing cousin, a once-acclaimed novelist in denial about his diminishing readership and increasing debts. Then their household is gripped by a scandal consuming the tabloids – the trial of a long-lost heir who has returned from abroad to claim his family's colonial fortune. Through Mrs Touchet's insider-outsider perspective and a memorable cast of characters, Zadie Smith sharply scrutinises the cultural and social landscape of the time – the rigid enforcement of gender roles and class divides, the interplay of British wealth and the Caribbean slave trade and the enduring allure of true crime. This ambitious book by the author of *White Teeth* subverts both the mores of the era and the genre of the historical novel.

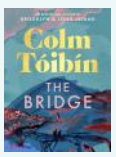
Highly Recommended



$34.99

AS YOU WAKE, BREAK THE SHELL
Becky Chambers
Hodderscape PB

This queer romance is the first novel in a planned sci-fi duology by a writer known for her skill in worldbuilding and character development.



$29.99

THE BRIDGE
Colm Tóibín
Picador HB

Set in the Pyrenees, this novella charts the emotional journey of a young man seeking connection and haunted by loss.



$29.99

COLD
A.S. Byatt
Chatto & Windus HB

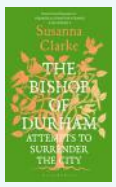
From the author of *Possession*, this beautifully presented novella tells a tale of elemental passion and hope. Includes an afterword by R.F. Kuang (*Yellowface*).



$34.99

FAREWELL TO EDEN
Sebastian Faulks
Hutchinson Heinemann PB

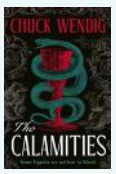
Set in Palestine and England after WWII, this historical novel is about believing in the promise of a better life after experiencing great suffering.



$22.99

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM ATTEMPTS TO SURRENDER THE CITY
Susanna Clarke
Bloomsbury Circus HB

A long-lost chapter in the lore of *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*, presented in short-story form.



$34.99

THE CALAMITIES
Chuck Wendig
Del Rey PB

The heir to one of the world's most influential families reckons with the demonic secret behind their power in this contemporary dark fantasy.



$32.99

DAMS
Irene Solà (translated by Mara Faye Lethem)
Granta PB

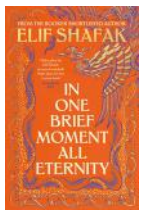
Finally published in an English-language edition, this lyrical debut novel is by the Catalan author of critically acclaimed *When I Sing, Mountains Dance.*



$24.99

GAINING GROUND
Joan Barfoot
Faber PB

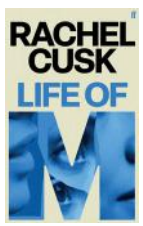
First published in 1978 and now presented in a new edition, this Canadian novel is a radical portrait of a woman who flees her husband and children in search of self.



Viking PB
$34.99

IN ONE BRIEF MOMENT ALL ETERNITY
Elif Shafak

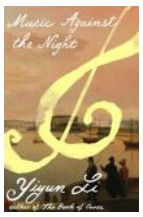
The latest novel by acclaimed British-Turkish author Elif Shafak brings to life one of the leading voices of literary realism, French novelist Gustave Flaubert. Oscillating between Flaubert's imagined voice and the narrations of women in his orbit – from the dead to the alive to fictionalised characters to the feminised voice of opium – Shafak conjures up the famously solitary iconoclast who chafed against the expectations of a historically tumultuous time. Through Shafak's extravagant prose, a great many details of Flaubert's life come into focus: his childhood spent in a hospital-house on the precipice of 'the dark and decaying'; his flair for characterisation and narrative; his eschewing of his social station to consort with those deemed undesirable. Dazzling in scope, spellbinding in its minutiae, this work is a rapturous ode to language and storytelling.



Faber PB
$32.99

LIFE OF M
Rachel Cusk

In *Life of M* the world's a stage, and M, a famous actor and Cusk's subject, is both real and an invention. Apparently, *M* is about Natalie Portman, which is not exactly the point, although it kind of is too. Intrigued? You should be. Perplexed? Read on. What does it mean to dedicate your life to performance? Does fame give you power or take it away? How does the screen shape our construction of reality? In pristine and occasionally perplexing prose, Cusk brings her keen eye to a made-up actor's real world (or is it to a real actor's made-up world?), asking fascinating questions about truth and beauty, fame and artifice, and who gets to decide who we are.



4th Estate PB
$34.99

MUSIC AGAINST THE NIGHT
Yiyun Li

With two historical figures at its centre (and more at its periphery) readers might initially expect this novel to concentrate on the heydays of its protagonists, 18th-century musicians John Field and Adelaide Percheron. Instead, Pulitzer Prize–winning author Yiyun Li weaves her story from the married couple's early years in Dublin, London, Pondicherry and Paris. John and Adelaide were both child prodigies, but in utterly different ways – partly because of their genders, and partly because of their very different (and distinctive) personalities. What becomes of prodigies whose futures do not live up to early promise, the knowing narrator asks? And, perhaps most all, what is music in life? And in death?



Faber PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

PARTITA
Barbara Kingsolver

The feted author of *The Poisonwood Bible* is back with a majestic, transportive story that interrogates the deep recesses and outer reaches of love – love for music and art, for each other, for past and present versions of ourselves. Wunderkind pianist Livia Bohusz has settled into a quiet, contented life in rural Tennessee when an unexpected call from an old flame disrupts her carefully won sense of equilibrium, forcing her to reexamine the past. We're catapulted decades back into the heady days of Livia's prestigious music scholarship in Indiana and her brief but life-changing encounter with young firebrand Sigurd. Rapturous, deeply affecting and interwoven with the most striking prose, *Partita* has been hailed by the *New York Times* as 'a sexy novel about life's what-ifs'.



Polygon HB
WAS $39.99
NOW $12.99

THE PERFECT PASSION COMPANY
Alexander McCall Smith

A new series by prolific Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith is always to be welcomed. The Perfect Passion Company books may not quite match the general appeal of his Number 1 Ladies' Detective Agency novels, but they share the wit, gentle philosophising and likeable characters that made those books global bestsellers. This first book in the series introduces Katie, a young woman who takes on the operation of an Edinburgh introduction agency while its owner, her cousin Ness, takes a gap year in Canada. Katie isn't sure that she's the right person to matchmake the agency's clients, but with the help of William, her handsome and charming Australian neighbour, she gets off to a good start.



Picador PB
$34.99

PLY
Hernan Diaz

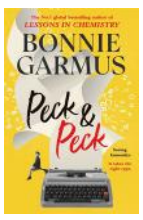
In the city, there are only a few ways to get electricity: buy it at extortionate prices from Tensor, the corporation with a stranglehold on the grid; haggle for batteries at the market; or sneak up to a powerline and pinch that electricity right from under Tensor's nose. 'Pinching' is dangerous, technical, lucrative work and Diaz's protagonist is one of the best there is, powering the city's music scene with her custom-built battery. Trouble is, there's someone watching her, someone who wants her pinching skills for an experiment that aims to unweave the world itself. Set centuries after the collapse of modern society, *Ply* reads like a low-tech *Neuromancer*, transposing the nervy, high-concept paranoia of cyberpunk into a quieter, greener but no-less-thrilling world.



Picador HB
WAS $29.99
NOW $14.99

A LONG WINTER
Colm Tóibín

This novella was originally published as part of the short-story collection *Mothers and Sons* in 2005. The mother-son theme recurs in much of Colm Tóibín's work – here it is at the very heart of the story. When Miquel's mother walks away from the family home in the Spanish Pyrenees into a blizzard, Miquel and his father search for her, but without success. They must wait until the snow thaws to discover what happened, and Miquel doesn't know whether to maintain or lose hope. Without her, and isolated from their neighbours, their lives now echo with absence and ineptitude. But then there is a possible shift with the introduction into their lives of another young man, local orphan Manolo. Typically fine writing from Tóibín.



Manilla PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

PECK & PECK
Bonnie Garmus

Matching the critical and commercial success of *Lessons in Chemistry* was always going to be a challenge for Bonnie Garmus, but with her second novel she may well come close. Set in 1980s New York, the story is narrated by Batter Gray, a college graduate who lands a job at prestigious publishing company, Peck & Peck. Housed in a whimsical building in Manhattan, the company publishes a renowned poetry journal put together by irascible editor Salton Peck and an eccentric cast of editors. Soon, Batter is drawn into a confusing fight for control of the company, a situation that will test his character and shape his future. Bibliophiles will particularly enjoy this novel's celebration of the art of poetry and the importance of typography (the latter being the subject of excellent gags scattered throughout the narrative).



Text PB
$34.99

PRIMEVAL AND OTHER TIMES
Olga Tokarczuk (translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones)

Primeval is a place held together by its stories. Its denizens live in a mythic world that is set apart from history, yet is nonetheless interlaced with its wars and conflicts. There is Genowefa, who feared losing her husband in one war then lost use of her legs witnessing a massacre in the next. Her son Izydor falls in love, joins a monastery and then finds himself under government suspicion for a postal scam. And strangest of all, Squire Poplieski loses his books, his house and eventually his mind playing a game of dice, dreams and nested worlds. Though Tokarczuk treads familiar ground here, she perfects her fragmentary style with rich, earthy texture and a real sense of narrative cohesion.

Highly Recommended



$29.95

GOOD-BYE
Osamu Dazai (translated by Ralph McCarthy)
New Directions PB

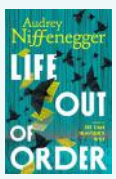
Most of the 11 works of short fiction and vignettes in this collection by a revered Japanese 20th-century writer are being published in English for the first time.



$24.99

THE HORSE AND I
Genki Kawamura
Ithaka PB

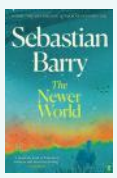
Addressing themes of loneliness and obsession, this novel by the author of *If Cats Disappeared from the World* is a psychological mystery based on a real-life crime.



$36.99

LIFE OUT OF ORDER
Audrey Niffenegger
Jonathan Cape PB

Time-traveller Alba DeTamble, daughter of the protagonists in *The Time Traveller's Wife*, has a problem: she's in love with two people in two different times and places.



$34.99

THE NEWER WORLD
Sebastian Barry
Faber PB

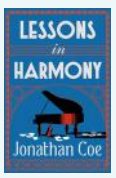
This immersive novel from a masterful Irish writer is about one man's life in the aftermath of the American Civil War.



$34.99

HOLLYWOOD, ENDING
John Green
Penguin PB

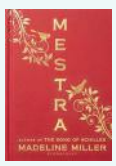
The first adult novel by wildly popular YA writer John Green focuses on the relationship between young screen actors and addresses the destructive potential of celebrity culture.



$36.99

LESSONS IN HARMONY
Jonathan Coe
Viking PB

In this novel about the power of music, an unlikely friendship is forged between musicians Maurice Ravel and Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1907 Paris.



$14.99

MESTRA
Madeline Miller
Bloomsbury HB

A beautifully presented short story about Mestra, daughter of the King of Thessaly, who is able to metamorphose into any being she can imagine.



$29.99

ON THE CALCULATION OF VOLUME V
Solvej Balle (translated by Jennifer Russell & Sophia Hersi Smith)
Faber PB

The fifth instalment in the acclaimed series of Danish novels.



PUBLIC ACCESS AFTERWORLD
Jane Schoenbrun

Sceptre PB
$34.99

For decades there's been a rumour lurking on the message boards. It says there's a world beneath ours – a place where all the television we watch is real, dreamed into existence and beamed onto our screens. A place that swallows people up. A place that needs a saviour. Unfortunately for Bethany Peters, a burnt-out trans girl making ends meet as a content moderator, that monumental responsibility falls to her. Welcome to *Public Access Afterworld*, a gleefully weird horror epic that feels like a culmination of sorts for Schoenbrun, taking the explorations of queerness, internet culture and meta-storytelling that permeate their best-known films and building them into a mythology of villains, monsters and defiant heroes.



THE SONG OF STORK AND DROMEDARY
Anjet Daanje

Scribe PB
WAS $39.99
NOW $34.99

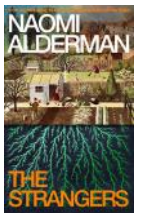
This expansive book comes in at a colossal 720 pages and straddles multiple genres – literary thriller, philosophical puzzle, ghost story, gothic tale. Reaching across space and time, *The Song of Stork and Dromedary* is moulded in the image of Emily Brontë as it traces the life of the fictional Eliza May Drayden's only novel, *Haeger Mass* – derided when it was first published in the early 1800s but subsequently embraced by legions of fans. Narrated through 11 discrete chapters that span three centuries, Daanje uses the seed of something real to create a boundary-pushing, life-affirming treatise on writing and creativity, the boon of sisterhood, and meaning-making in a world where the only surety is death.



STATIONS
Louise Kennedy

Bloomsbury Circus PB
$32.99

Róisín and Red meet as teenagers in smalltown Ireland in 1982. He's electric, charming and very clever. She's lonely and detached, clever too, but unsure of herself. Over time, their connection deepens and the two find themselves living together, tending to their psychic injuries alongside others in a London squat. History nips at their heels, addiction looms and Red slips away. Spanning 25 years, *Stations* is a wrenching and elegant novel about friendship, yearning and found family; the small choices that make up a life; and the bright pain that lurks just beneath the skin. 'Can you not feel it?' says Red. 'All those wretched lives layered up underneath us.' A worthy follow-up to the much-admired *Trespasses*.



THE STRANGERS
Naomi Alderman

Fig Tree PB
$34.99

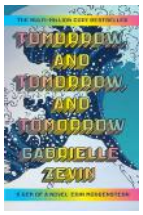
'I had never produced anything so personal before, but the book emerged from me with a single-mindedness that frightened me', writes Naomi Alderman in *The Strangers* – the author's inventive autofictional sci-fi. As Alderman reels with grief over the recent death of her mother and years of consecutive miscarriages, she and her father set up a wildlife camera in the backyard and capture the first-ever photograph of a perplexing and intelligent new animal species called the mimmoth. As the species proliferates, Alderman can't shake the feeling she has a special connection with these animals. Is our collective reality changing before our eyes? Is some kind of conspiracy at play? Or is this mourning? Or even psychosis? A singular, strange and searching book from the author of *The Power*.



TALES FROM THE CAFE
Toshikazu Kawaguchi (translated by Martin Aitken)

Picador HB
WAS $34.99
NOW $15.99

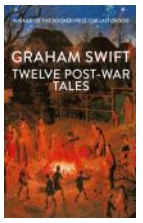
Tales of time travel open the door to philosophical ponderings in the Before the Coffee Gets Cold books. This is the second in the bestselling Japanese series, and if you're not already on the bandwagon, it's a good place to hop on. Four people visit the tucked-away Tokyo coffee shop to travel in time according to very strict and very odd rules. A father visits his best friend, a son his mother, a company man his lover, and a detective his wife. These brief forays into the past and future, and the glimpses into the lives of the café staff and regulars we are offered, are about love and loss as well as the meaning and possibilities of happiness.



TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW
Gabrielle Zevin

Vintage HB
WAS $39.99
NOW $14.99

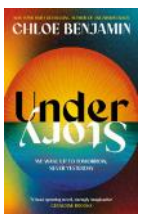
Meet Sam Mazer and Sadie Green – famous games designers, long-time collaborators and, once upon a time, childhood friends. Again and again, they are brought together by chance, only to be separated by betrayal or hurt. Yet Sam and Sadie can never truly escape each other, united by a burning passion for creating art and an enduring love that neither can easily articulate. When they're making games together, whether as defiant college students in the '90s or boundary-pushing professionals in the 2000s, they're unstoppable. The trouble is everything else that gets in the way – poverty and disability, terrible boyfriends, and a world that only wants game developers to look and act a certain way. This is a witty, big-hearted love story about everything except romance.



TWELVE POST-WAR TALES
Graham Swift

Scribner HB
WAS $35
NOW $14.99

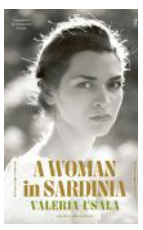
In many ways, stories set in the midst of war are easy to tell – when history rests on a knifepoint, the stakes are clear as day and the drama feels close enough to touch. There's a different kind of power in these 12 stories, which instead rest on the margins and in the aftermath of such devastation. An ex-King's Hussar grapples with his trauma in peacetime; a diplomat's housekeeper visits London Zoo on the morning of September 11; and the Cuban Missile Crisis briefly derails a wedding and sends a father spiralling into the past. Swift finds beauty and solemnity in these smaller, more personal crises – in the lives and loves that might otherwise lie hidden in the long shadows of history.



UNDER STORY
Chloe Benjamin

Tinder PB
$34.99

Loss and hope intermingle in this novel. It opens with an American mycologist arriving at Antarctica's McMurdo Station, where she has signed up to work as a humble kitchen steward. Laurel is grieving both the loss of her son and the end of her marriage, only to encounter her ex-husband Eli when he comes to the station to study an unexplained phenomenon nearby. Dubbed the Arc, the eerie dome of light may prove Eli's theory about two universes – one running forward in time and one running backwards. If that's the case, could the Arc provide a chance for the parents to reunite with their child? This ambitious work of literary fiction with elegant sci-fi themes represents the best of both genres.

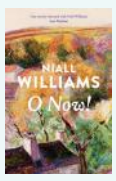


A WOMAN IN SARDINIA
Valeria Usala

Text PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $13.99

This story of three generations of women living in a rural Sardinian village in the early decades of the 20th century is perhaps best described as Mediterranean Gothic. We initially meet Maria, abandoned by her lover and shunned by her neighbours after bearing an illegitimate child. That child, a daughter called Teresa, becomes the main focus of the novel and its most arresting character. Beautiful and hard-working, Teresa's fierce independence alienates the villagers and eventually leads to her murder, which is witnessed by her young daughter, Maddalena. Valeria Usala recounts the intertwined stories of these women in a form that resembles a Greek tragedy – we are told Teresa's fate from the book's opening and follow as the relentless forces of greed, ignorance and prejudice build to an inevitable but nonetheless shocking denouement.

Highly Recommended



O NOW!
Niall Williams
Bloomsbury HB
$22.99

In this novella, Williams returns to his fictional town of Faha in County Clare to explore what it means to live a meaningful life.



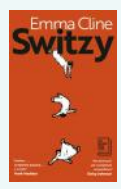
OWLS AND OTHER FANTASIES
Mary Oliver
Corsair HB
$34.99

Twenty-six poems by the late Pulitzer Prize–winning writer inspired by the birds that played an important role in her life.



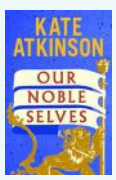
SOLACE IN WINTER
Mary Lawson
Chatto & Windus PB
$34.99

Set in a fictional Canadian small town in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam draft, this perceptive character-driven novel is full of grief, hope and love.



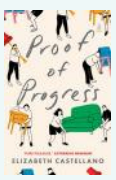
SWITZY
Emma Cline
Chatto & Windus PB
$34.99

Longlisted for the 2026 Booker Prize, this novel by an acclaimed American writer is a portrait of an ageing man with an unreliable mind.



OUR NOBLE SELVES
Kate Atkinson
Doubleday PB
$34.99

A story about the damage wrought by war and the power of love and connection set during the 1951 Festival of Britain.



PROOF OF PROGRESS
Elizabeth Castellano
Scribner PB
$34.99

A witty and acerbic novel about an aging B-list actress who finally writes her 37-year-overdue memoir.



SPENT LIGHT
Lara Pawson
Text PB
$34.99

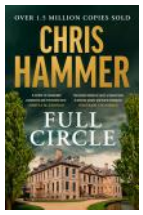
Everyday domestic objects trigger intimate memories and troubled histories in this exhilarating mash-up of fiction, memoir, history and essay.



TAIPEI STORY
Rebecca F. Kuang
Borough PB
$34.99

Set over one summer in Taipei, this wryly funny novel by the author of *Yellowface* is about self, family and the meaning of home.

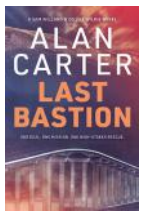
Crime & Thrillers



Summit PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

FULL CIRCLE
Chris Hammer

Travis Somerland knows a bit about corporate crime. When working undercover for the Australian Federal Police, he investigated financial malfeasance at Murtrie Corp, a dynastic media company. That didn't end well. Now, just released from prison, he has a new job as a driver for Felix Clapton, the genius businessman behind the Titanic Research hedge fund. Soon, Travis finds himself drawn into Clapton's plans to target Murtrie Corp by shorting its stock. It's exciting, but then things start to go wrong ... Chris Hammer's new stand-alone novel is meticulously plotted and expertly paced. As the tension builds, so too do echoes of *Succession* and *The Big Short*, making *Full Circle* a dead-cert for eventual small-screen treatment. In the meantime, it makes for riveting reading.



Fremantle PB
$34.99

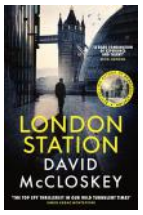
LAST BASTION
Alan Carter

We last met this book's main character, SAS veteran Sam Willard, in Carter's 2024 novel *Prize Catch*. Now Sam's in Hobart's Risdon Prison awaiting trial on a war crime–related murder charge. Wherever Sam goes, death and destruction tend to follow, and this outing is no different – a violent and xenophobic far-right group called the Van Diemen Brotherhood is wreaking havoc on the Apple Isle and Sam is let out of jail to assist the national security service in extracting the son of a prominent federal politician from their ranks. Working alongside three strong female characters – two of whom are of a certain age – Sam infiltrates the Brotherhood and total chaos ensues. The well-plotted narrative takes what Carter describes as 'inspiration from uninspiring times' and proceeds at a cracking pace.

Michael Joseph PB
$34.99

THE LAST CASE
Jørn Lier Horst

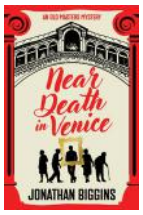
It's set in Norway, there's at least one psychopath, and there are some brutal crimes, but this isn't your typical Scandi Noir – our detective is a loving father and grandfather without any major personal issues. William Wisting is an experienced officer and the murderer he arrested years ago is about to be released. And Wisting's on the top of his kill list. Cold cases are reemerging, there's a new murder and Wisting's journalist daughter is away following a story, leaving him in charge of his granddaughter. The Wisting series, written by an ex-cop, has been around for years, but you can dive in here without having read the earlier books.



Swift PB
$34.99

LONDON STATION
David McCloskey

Three authors dominate the contemporary spy thriller genre: Mick Herron (the Slough House books), Daniel Silva (the Gabriel Allon series) and David McClosky, a former CIA analyst whose literary debut, *Damascus Station*, was lauded by former CIA chief David Petraeus as the best spy novel he had ever read. He wasn't the only fan – the book became an instant global bestseller. *London Station* is McClosky's fifth thriller. It stars CIA officer Artemis Procter, an ornery recovering alcoholic who lives by a simple professional mantra: collect the intel and protect your agent. Appointed head of station in London – a job she doesn't want – Artemis finds herself embroiled in a situation where both intel and agents are under threat and the relationship between the CIA and British intelligence is on the way to be permanently fractured. A topical and terrific read.



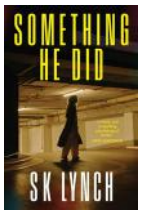
Summit PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

NEAR DEATH IN VENICE
Jonathan Biggins

Like his fellow comedian Richard Osman of Thursday Murder Club fame, Jonathan Biggins has a talent for delivering quirky cosy crime tales featuring lots of gags. In *Near Death in Venice* (boom! boom!), we meet Tristan Barclay, disgraced *Antiques Roadshow* presenter and soon-to-be-pensioned-off tour leader with bespoke company, Belvedere Tours. Tristan wants his final tour to be particularly memorable, so plans a big gesture – one that is neither legal nor well-planned. Fortunately, his best friend Ali and a posse of pension-aged Belvedere regulars step in to assist him while touring from London to Venice on an art-themed itinerary. This chortle-inducing caper will be particularly enjoyed by readers interested in art and travel.



4. Who has written about the appeal of Ayn Rand to criminals and billionaires?



Ultimo PB
$34.99

SOMETHING HE DID
SK Lynch

In her debut crime novel, SK Lynch skilfully juggles multiple characters and narratives. Set in Melbourne, *Something He Did* is about the permeable line between good and bad, and maybe even between right and wrong. It's about the dangerous tendrils both deceit and domestic violence can sprout, and about how cruel fate can be. When a teenage girl visiting from New Zealand goes missing, Detective Sargeant Claudia Russo and her team investigate. Has Brooke run away from her father, or has someone taken her? The reader knows all along, but Brooke's family doesn't. A sense of dread builds and narratives become entwined as this book heads towards its startling conclusion.



Hachette PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

TELL ME SOMETHING TRUE
Michael Robotham

When authors such as Geraldine Brooks, Michael Connelly, David Baldacci and Stephen King heap praise upon a book, sensible readers sit up, take notice and immediately go out to buy it. This is the situation with the latest title written by one of Australia's most successful and acclaimed crime writers, Michael Robotham. Set in the fictional country town of Yulara, *Tell Me Something True* travels back and forth in time to tell the story of Arlo Hackett and the tragic events that led to his 12-year jail term for being an accessory to the rape and murder of teenager Saxon Winacott. Granted parole, Arlo heads back to Yulara and starts to investigate what really happened. Was the culprit his now-deceased younger brother Luke, as the courts determined, or someone else? And if so, who? Moving and gripping in equal parts, this is Robotham's best book to date.

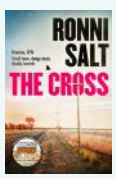


Summit PB
$34.99

WHAT WE LEFT BEHIND
Linda Atkins

When Tara was 16, her best friend left school one day and was never seen again. The police were convinced that Ally had run away, but Tara thought differently – she knew her friend would not have left her behind. Since then, Tara has fled Western Sydney and created a new life for herself, but a shocking confrontation unearths how powerfully she is still haunted by the loss of her friend. As a result, she decides that it's time to find out what happened to Ally and face the memories she has kept at bay for so long. The problem is that other secrets may finally be revealed, ones that were supposed to stay hidden forever. *Note: December release.*

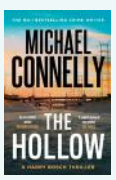
Highly Recommended



$34.99

THE CROSS
Ronni Salt
Hachette PB

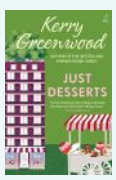
A distinctly Australian and acerbically funny tale of ratbaggery, religion and revenge set in the Riverina town of Gunnawah in 1973. *Note: December release.*



WAS $34.99
NOW $29.99

THE HOLLOW
Michael Connelly
Michael Connelly PB

Retired LAPD detective Harry Bosch sets out to crack a cold case and put demons from his childhood to rest.



$34.99

JUST DESSERTS
Kerry Greenwood
Allen & Unwin PB

The final novel – a Corinna Chapman outing – from the late, great creator of the Phryne Fisher books.



$32.99

WATCH THE QUIET SNOW
Mick Herron
Baskerville PB

The complete collection of Herron's Slough House novellas: *The List*, *The Drop*, *The Catch*, *The Last Dead Letter* and *Standing by the Wall*.



$34.99

DARK DAYS HOTEL
Anna Downes
S&S Affirm PB

Set in Tasmania, this is a dark and twisty thriller about health, wealth and our dangerous obsession with the two.



$34.99

IN PLAIN SIGHT
Robyn Dennison
Text PB

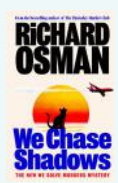
In this chilling Australian crime novel a sex-crimes detective returns to her home town and a past she'd hoped would remain buried.



$34.99

THE TAPER MAN
Nick Harkaway
Viking PB

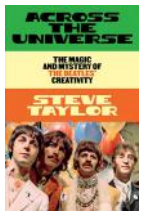
Harkaway's bestselling take on George Smiley is back, and this time the le Carré-created spy is on the trail of a traitor right at the top of American intelligence.



WAS $34.99
NOW $27.99

WE CHASE SHADOWS
Richard Osman
Viking PB

The second book in Osman's We Solve Murders series sees the mismatched detective trio of Amy, Rose and Steve pursuing a ruthless killer through Italy, America, Spain and England.



Scribe HB
$49.99

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
Steve Taylor

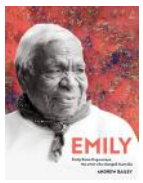
You might think you know everything there is to know about The Beatles, but have you ever zoomed right out to consider the *how* of them, the collision of ideal circumstances that allowed four working class lads from Liverpool – in a very short space of time – to harness their genius and change the world forever? Enter Steve Taylor, celebrated scholar of transpersonal psychology and spirituality, and a former professional musician. His is a unique and welcome perspective that provides not only a colourful potted history of the band, but a thoughtful meditation on transcendence itself. Divided into three sections – Synchronicity, Creativity and Normality – *Across the Universe* considers the alchemy of cultural, historical, spiritual, psychological, social and political conditions that made The Beatles the phenomenon they are.



Macmillan HB
$36.99

THE ELDERS
Dan Bourchier

First taking form as a series of interviews for the ABC in 2023, this book is the newest development in a project of listening and truth-telling that feels especially vital in post-referendum Australia. Drawing on conversations with 12 different First Nations leaders, community members and storytellers, Bouchier shares stories of survival, resistance and joy in the face of hardship and investigates what it means to be an Elder. Is it about age? Knowledge? Responsibility? There are no definitive answers to be found in this book, but in the lives of these Elders we find things that are more important: laughter, kindness and healing. In translating these conversations to page, Bouchier has a deft but gentle hand, adding context where needed but always letting his subject's voices shine through.



Allen & Unwin HB
$55

EMILY
Andrew Bailey

Regarded by many as Australia's most important artist, Emily Kame Kngwarreye only started painting on canvas at the age of 79. Andrew Bailey's comprehensive portrait provides an intimate retelling of the remarkable seven years in which the artist and her profoundly tactile paintings came to prominence. Bailey traces her involvement in Utopia, a women's art project in the Northern Territory, through to her first solo show in Sydney, her growing influence on the Australian art market and the first major solo exhibition of her work in Europe, which was held at the Tate Modern in 2025.



Century HB
WAS $55
NOW $45

FICTIONAL SELVES
Kyle MacLachlan

In this memoir, American actor Kyle MacLachlan emerges as a remarkably thoughtful and pragmatic character. As well as tracing the highs (*Twin Peaks*) to the lows (*Dune*) of his career, MacLachlan reflects on his close family ties, his interest in the creativity and ambition of Gen Z cultural figures, and life as a husband and father. More than a catalogue of people, places and events, the book explores the tension between MacLachlan's public and private selves, proving that he is far from the stereotypical Hollywood superstar – loyalty and kindness, rather than fame, appear to drive him. The actor's sharp sense of the absurd delivers genuine laugh-out-loud moments, while his openness and vulnerability make for moving reading.



Michael Joseph HB
WAS $55
NOW $45

FRY & LAURIE
Stephen Fry & Hugh Laurie

This hefty collection of sketch comedy scripts brings us the whip-smart wordplay and absurdity that was the hallmark of one of Britain's most beloved comedy duos. Every scene from four seasons of *A Bit of Fry and Laurie*, which aired on the BBC from 1989 to 1995, is reproduced, as well as some material never filmed and thus never before published. Scattered throughout are the famous vox pops, short non-sequiturs that are as intelligent and surreal as the longer scripts ('So I told them to stuff it. But they said it had been dead too long'). With their stardom increasing in the years after their show, this book is perfect for those who are yet to discover their origins – or for those who want to remember them.

I Can't Tell You But I Will Magda Szubanski



Text HB
WAS $54.99
NOW $45

Those readers expecting the second memoir from Australian actor and comedian Magda Szubanski to feature jokes and celebrity gossip won't find what they are expecting within the pages of this book. Like its 2016 predecessor *Reckoning*, this is a book about family, friendship, fame, self-doubt and complex personal histories. Most of all, it's about courage – what this is, what sacrifices it can entail and how admirable a trait it is. Much of *I Can't Tell You But I Will* is about Szubanski's complex and often fractious relationship with her mother Margaret, a feisty Scottish woman who is described here as harbouring a 'raging, pitiless demon' inside her. Fragmentary chapters deal with hefty issues including intergenerational trauma and sexual abuse, but the tone is cathartic and the narrative is leavened with love and understanding. A second strand of the book revisits the author's path to overcoming what she describes as 'internalised homophobia' and forging her true 'social self' by playing a prominent role in the 2017 marriage equality campaign.

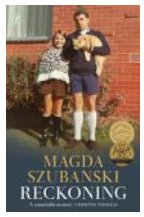
In this extract from *I Can't Tell You But I Will* (p113), Magda Szubanski describes the process of writing her first memoir, *Reckoning* (Text PB $26.99):

'I had no idea how hard it is to write a book. The sheer slog of it. Sat hunched over a keyboard for hours every day until your fingers cramp and your neck feels like someone has tried to drill through your vertebrae.

It was a terrifying book to write. Some sentences in *Reckoning* were like pulling strands of razor wire from the soft muscle of my heart. I lost months of sleep, agonising about how to depict hell without hurting anyone, causing offence or writing a tome so miserable no one would want to read it.

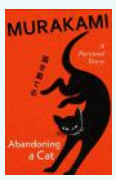
And I had to find the feelings again. In order to describe it, I had to relive being a suicidal teenager coming to realise that she was gay in a world that despised her. But it wasn't all hard. To my amazement, as the writing progressed, my psyche gave birth to a book I could never have anticipated; one full of beauty and horror and lyricism and longing. It felt miraculous, as though I had just discovered that I was fluent in another language.

And I read, searching for those gems of insight that alter perception. It became the greatest adventure of my life.'



Reckoning was the recipient of multiple literary awards, including the Australian Book Industry's 2016 Award for the Book of the Year.

Highly Recommended



$34.99

ABANDONING A CAT
Haruki Murakami
Harvill HB

In this essay, the cult Japanese writer focuses on his troubled relationship with his late father, meditating on memory and what makes us who we are.



$36.99

ALICE'S DREAMING
Tom Griffiths
Black Inc PB

One of Australia's most-admired historians tells the story of writer Alice Duncan-Kemp and her early 20th-century childhood learning from Aboriginal women and men on Mithaka Country.



$34.99

CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD
Michael Cragg
Faber Music PB

Who is the 'real' Kylie Minogue? And how has she remained a mystery throughout a 40-year career in the fickle world of pop? Music journalist Michael Cragg investigates.



$34.99

FOREIGN RETURN
Neha Kale
NewSouth PB

Mixing personal narrative with art and cultural criticism, an Indian-Australian writer asks whether it is possible to find home somewhere you were never supposed to belong.



$34.99

THE ABSENT WOMAN
Eve Sneider
Atlantic PB

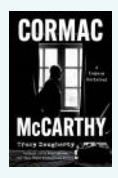
Drawing on the personal archive compiled by *New Yorker* writer Janet Malcolm, biographer Eve Sneider delivers a fascinating portrait of this influential figure.



$39.95

ARISTOTLE
Philip Freeman
Yale HB

The first modern biography of Aristotle – philosopher, scientist, literary critic and seeker of happiness.



$45

CORMAC MCCARTHY
Tracy Daugherty
St Martin's PB

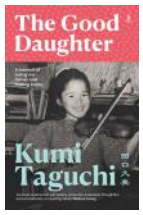
This biography traces how the author of masterpieces such as *Blood Meridian* chose to devote himself to his literary pursuits at the expense of personal relationships.



$36.99

FULL THROTTLE
Deniz Tek
Macmillan PB

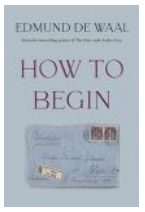
The co-founder of 1970s underground band Radio Birdman writes about his role as a pioneer of Australian rock music, as well as his careers as an emergency physician and flight surgeon.



THE GOOD DAUGHTER
Kumi Taguchi

Scribner PB
WAS $34.99
NOW $14.99

In this memoir, a figure who makes a living from interviewing others takes on the role of questioning herself and her own background. Kumi Taguchi, the current host of SBS's *Insight*, tracks her life in Australia as someone with a biracial identity (Japanese father and Australian mother). After failing to bond with her taciturn father following her parents' divorce, Taguchi heads to her ancestral home in Japan in the hope of understanding and reconnecting with both her father and her cultural heritage. *The Good Daughter* is a deeply observed book about identity, belonging and the struggles of being caught between personal desires and parental and societal expectations.



HOW TO BEGIN
Edmund de Waal

Chatto & Windus HB
$39.99

How does a poet begin to write poetry? How does a potter begin to make pots? How can anyone begin to make art? These are the questions posed and considered in this new book by Edmund de Waal, author of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* and also a renowned British potter. The book weaves parallel narratives starting with de Waal's grandmother as a young poet who corresponded with Rainer Maria Rilke about poetry (the letters are reproduced at the end of the book). She in turn advised de Waal in response to his early efforts at poetry. He subsequently had influential mentors for his ceramic work. And the advice he in turn can offer? 'Go on', says de Waal 'is the only message you need to hear as an artist.'

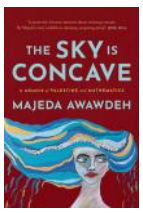


IS IT TOO LATE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT?
Judi Dench

Michael Joseph PB
WAS $36.99
NOW $29.99

This memoir takes the form of a series of probing conversations between Dame Judi Dench and her close friend, actor and theatre director Brendan O'Hea. It's structured as themed interviews, with O'Hea's persistent follow-up questions coaxing enjoyable colour and candour out of Dench. She recounts in great detail her happy, mischievous childhood in York, from her memories of air raids to the names of her neighbours. Also covered are her most acclaimed roles (Queen Victoria, Iris Murdoch, M) and her relationship with her late husband, Michael Williams (who, we learn, first proposed to her – unsuccessfully – in Adelaide, while she was touring Australia with *Twelfth Night*). Dench and O'Hea have a great rapport, which makes such revelations feel all the more intimate.

The Sky Is Concave Majeda Awawdeh



UQP PB
$36.99

This deeply considered and poetic memoir by Palestinian academic and educator Majeda Awawdeh delves into a mind and body simultaneously occupied by colonising forces and patriarchal might. Education blazes a path of salvation in *The Sky is Concave* as we follow Awawdeh from the 1948 Region to New South Wales. Considering Awawdeh's background as a mathematician, it's unsurprising that the book is governed by the language of precision. Axioms, equations and principles such as the hidden variable, set theory, inflection points and asymptotes are terms that have been subsumed by the English lexicon but in Awawdeh's text they are returned to their original meaning, lending her experience of dispossession and abuse an unshakeable clarity. Narrated with the gift of hindsight, Awawdeh's life story is suffused with an undercurrent of dread and foreboding, her personal oppression signposted by the larger suffering of a people.



We asked Majeda Awawdeh some questions about her memoir:

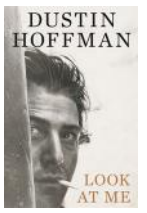
The brutal mass of what you endured at the hands of religion, marriage and the state is lent clarity by the steadfastness of the mathematical principles that are interspersed throughout your memoir. What made you decide to anchor your story in this way?
Mathematics has been more than a subject to me; it has been a way of seeing the world. It helped me make sense of the nonsensical and find structure beneath chaos and complexity.

Can you tell us how this memoir came together and about your decision to meld prose with poetry?
Writing transformed me from someone carrying a story to someone who understood it and can help others. I melded prose and poetry because both express the fluidity of life and feelings.

There are Arabic words in the text, such as qaher*, that don't have an equivalent meaning in English. What was it like writing this deeply personal story in your third language?*
Writing a memoir in my first language is more intense, allowing me to go deeper and relive the experience, while another language creates distance, making the process more bearable.

In many ways, your arrival in Australia heralded a change in your fortunes for the better. How do you reconcile the virtues of living here with the current anti-migrant populist rhetoric that is taking hold on a broader scale?
I came as a student, then applied for skilled migration. My story reminds us that migration is not simply about what someone takes, but also about what they give back.

What is the importance of releasing this book into a world where the dispossession of Palestinians is still happening as we speak?
My memoir sheds light on Palestinians who remained and found themselves Israeli citizens after 1948, confronting the ongoing genocide of their people. Their identity and memory cannot be erased.



LOOK AT ME
Dustin Hoffman

Gallery UK HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $39.99

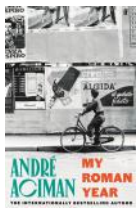
In a recent interview, acclaimed actor Dustin Hoffman admitted that he found writing this autobiography unexpectedly poignant, even painful. The reason was simple: 'You realise that those parts of your life are over, never going to happen again'. Those 'parts of life' include plenty of interactions with well-known figures in famous places – Hoffman recalls an unexpected clash with Steve McQueen, adventures in Greenwich Village during the turbulent 1960s and encounters with luminaries including Laurence Olivier, Maggie Smith, Gene Hackman, Mike Nichols, Robert Duvall and Arthur Miller. Other anecdotes are less star-studded but just as engaging, focusing on family, friendship, love and ageing. Perhaps most interesting of all are Hoffman's recollections of personal experiences that shaped some of his most celebrated performances.



THE LUCKY SON
Li Cunxin

Penguin PB
WAS $36.99
NOW $29.99

This sequel to *Mao's Last Dancer*, Cunxin's childhood memoir, has been written using the same dignified, pragmatic voice. Both humbling and inspiring, *The Lucky Son* follows Cunxin's journey from principal dancer with the Australian Ballet to his retirement as artistic director of Queensland Ballet in 2023, roles made possible by his relentless work ethic. Though it addresses dance, friendship and ambition (he recounts both losses and triumphs with insight and grace), the memoir is predominantly a tribute to family. Cunxin writes about his eldest daughter's deafness, his parents' ageing and deaths, his and his wife Mary's health scares, and his unwavering commitment to family and friends in China. He also traces China's transformation and shares his fears for his homeland's future.



MY ROMAN YEAR
André Aciman

Faber PB
WAS $36.99
NOW $14.99

It's 1960s Rome, and 15-year-old André Aciman, his deaf mother and younger brother have been forced to relocate from their home in Alexandria. As Sephardic Jews, the political climate at the time has made it impossible to remain in Egypt. Leaving behind their comfortable life, the family (minus their father, who has stayed behind to salvage what he can) find themselves exiled and impoverished in a foreign city, with only a great uncle to support them. This coming-of-age memoir from a writer best known for his novel *Call Me by Your Name* covers themes of memory, displacement, love and loss. Initially, Rome's gritty post-war charm is lost on the young André, but through the course of the book a growing love of the city, its energy and charm comes to frame his teenage adventures.



ONLY EVER EVONNE
Evonne Goolagong Cawley

Allen & Unwin HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $39.99

This memoir from one of Australia's most famous and celebrated tennis heroes, follows Evonne Goolagong Cawley from her humble, unlikely beginnings in country New South Wales as one of seven siblings. It covers her meteoric rise to win the Australian Open four times, as well as conquering Wimbledon twice and becoming became the number-one tennis player in the world. Among the high points, there were plenty of setbacks in her career, and this handsome hardback (which includes photos) also documents the obstacles and racism Cawley experienced – 'I was still a Black girl living in a white world' – as well as her self-doubt. Tackling the topical issues of race and gender in sport in an easy, conversational style, *Only Ever Evonne* recounts a remarkable journey.



SONGS FROM THE FIREFRONT
Tim Winton

Hamish Hamilton HB
WAS $45
NOW $39.99

The 'songs' of this title are more than 30 personal stories. Some are short glimpses into Tim Winton's love for his family, up and down generations. Others are about the 'firefront': the climate disaster, in all its guises, that is a very real and present danger. The contrast between them is deliberate – Winton is also writing about how to make art in a time of disaster. What doesn't appear in the title is his love for the sea, which has appeared in much of his previous writing, both fiction and non-fiction, and is evident through many of these pieces. There is also thoughtful writing about his friendship with Helen Garner, the appeal of Ayn Rand to criminals and billionaires, and the writing of *Cloudstreet*.



Witness: People. Politics. Culture. Feminism. 1975-2025 Anne Summers

New South PB
$49.99

An important figure in Australian second-wave feminism, Anne Summers has had an extraordinarily diverse and significant career working as a journalist, editor, publisher, bureaucrat and university academic. Having previously written two memoirs, Summers here concentrates on her writing, compiling a selection of works published over 50 years. Organised chronologically by decade, *Witness* showcases everything from long-form investigative journalism to celebrity profiles and eulogies for friends and mentors. All are accompanied by short introductions purpose-written for this book.



Summers began her career in journalism at the *National Times* in 1976, when the style of reporting known as 'New Journalism' dominated the pages of influential magazines including *Harper's*, *The Atlantic* and *Rolling Stone.* The initial piece Summers wrote for the *National Times* (which opens this collection) was 'How women live – if they must – without men', a profile of Australia's first women's refuge, which Summers had been involved in establishing. This piece was followed by six articles investigating the brutal prison system in New South Wales, a series that would go on to win a Walkley Award for best newspaper feature story. One of these articles 'If prison is purgatory, then Grafton is hell' is included here, as are many subsequent pieces where Summers inserts her viewpoint into the narrative in typical New Journalism style. This melding of journalism and political activism (particularly of the feminist variety) has been her career trademark, one that she clearly relishes. As she recounts when remembering her first journalistic assignment: 'I could not believe my luck that I worked at a newspaper that covered these topics and enabled me to be both witness and advocate for the reforms we deemed were essential for a just society'.

The *National Times* was the first of a number of major publications that Summers has worked with over her career. *Witness* includes a variety of articles published in the *Australian Financial Review*, where she had stints as political correspondent, Canberra bureau chief and US editor, as well as profiles of celebrities and political figures published in Fairfax's *Good Weekend*, which she edited between 1993 and 1997. There are also pieces from her online publication Anne Summer Reports, published between 2012 and 2016. Alongside long-form articles for these and other publications are plenty of columns written for *The Sydney Morning Herald.*

Perhaps the most impressive piece in the collection (Summers herself describes it as 'without doubt the most consequential speech I have ever given in terms of its contents and its reach') is 'Her rights at work: The political persecution of Australia's first female prime minister', a lecture given at the University of Newcastle. Documenting the many ways in which Julia Gillard was being relentlessly undermined and persecuted while in office, this lecture was given six weeks before Gillard's legendary 'sexism and misogyny' speech to federal parliament in October 2012. It is one of a number of pieces in this collection that demonstrate how Summers' journalism has so often – and so persuasively – functioned as a much-needed call to arms.



Readers and Writers Against the Genocide PB
$29.99

THE WEIGHT OF WITNESS
Dr Bushra Othman (ed)

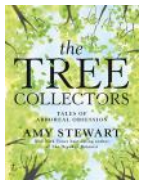
The need to bear witness is powerfully expressed in this collection of writing from Australian and New Zealand doctors who have served in Gaza during the ongoing genocide. Common themes emerge from their testimonies: the resilience of the region's healthcare workers; horror at the needlessly life-threatening disruptions; and the total unpreparedness felt by all who arrived. In an essay towards the book's end Dr Mohammad Irhimeh, co-founder of The Palestinian Australian New Zealand Medical Association, writes of the moral injury that occurs for healthcare workers who witness preventable suffering when operating within systems unable – or unwilling – to stop it. This sentiment is continually evoked throughout these pages and reaffirmed in the reflections from medics denied entry to Gaza, at least one due to 'prohibition on life-saving equipment'. An urgent read.



Scribner PB
WAS $36.99
NOW $29.99

WELL WELL WELL ...
Judith Lucy

One of Australia's best-known comedians, Judith Lucy, announced her retirement from stand-up comedy in 2022. In *Well Well Well ...* she documents what led to the decision (burnout) and the effect this had on her physical and psychological wellbeing. It sounds heavy, and it is, but the hilariously self-deprecating wellness journey Lucy embarks on in an attempt to get healthy again is an altogether honest and laugh-out-loud account of what happens when Western medicine doesn't provide all the answers. It all culminates in an ayahuasca retreat in the Amazon, where Judith's hoped-for voyage of self-discovery goes horribly wrong. The book ends with our protagonist in a reflective mood and in a much healthier place than when her journey began.



Text HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $19.99

THE TREE COLLECTORS
Amy Stewart

The life of a tree collector, says Amy Stewart, 'is filled with adventure and wonder'. This book, which she both wrote and illustrated, profiles 50 of these collectors. Some collect trees to conserve threatened species, others to restore the land and push back climate change. Many want to surround themselves in beauty, and some build collections to evoke happy childhood memories or memorialise a loved one. Organised into types of collector – Healers, Ecologists, Artists, Curators, Educators, Community Builders, Enthusiasts, Seekers, Preservationists and Visionaries – the book celebrates passionate individuals across the globe who collect different trees in different ways.



Ebury HB
WAS $45
NOW $39.99

AN UNEXPECTED LIFE
Gloria Steinem

Just months after her death aged 92, we have been gifted with the final written work of activist, feminist, journalist and boundary pusher Gloria Steinem. Though billed as a memoir, Steinem refuses main character status, instead shining a light on the visionaries who inspired her and the lessons she learned along the way. Generous, wise and inspired, the book honours the extraordinary gusto and resilience of artists and thinkers including James Baldwin, Gloria Jean Watkins (aka bell hooks), Ruth Bader Ginsberg and other courageous folks who might otherwise be excluded from the historical record. Remember, Steinem counsels: 'If it's all white, it isn't feminism.'

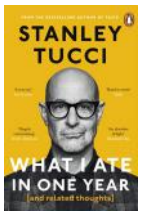


Fig Tree HB
WAS $45
NOW $19.99

WHAT I ATE IN ONE YEAR
Stanley Tucci

Actor and passionate foodie Stanley Tucci describes this book as 'a diary of food, family, friends, love, loss and digestive issues'. Twelve months of daily entries record his meals in restaurants and kitchens, on film sets and press junkets, at home and abroad. These meals – some memorable, others inedible – are a prism through which Tucci reflects on the ways his life, his career and his family are constantly evolving. Sure to be a hit with all of us who have adored accompanying Stanley on his food-focused television travels through Italy, *What I Ate in One Year* is a satisfying follow-up to Tucci's bestselling 2021 memoir *Taste: My Life Through Food.*

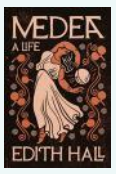
Highly Recommended



$36.99

GREAT AND UNFORTUNATE THINGS
Jason Arday
Simon & Schuster PB

Published before his recent tragic death, this is the story of Arday's extraordinary journey from a non-verbal childhood in a London council house to a professorship at Cambridge University.



$41.95

MEDEA: A LIFE
Edith Hall
Yale HB

A classicist explores the possibility that Medea, mythology's archetypal murderous mother, could be based on a historical figure who migrated to Greece in the late Bronze Age.



$26.99

MOTHER MARY COMES TO ME
Arundhati Roy
Penguin PB

This acclaimed memoir from the political activist and Booker Prize–winning author focuses on the vexed relationship she had with her mother.



$36.99

TOO L.A.
Eve Babitz & Lili Anolik (ed)
Atlantic PB

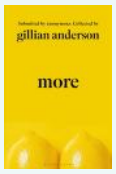
A collection of letters written by Eve Babitz, writer and 1970s Hollywood party girl, accompanied by informative and irreverent commentary from the author of *Didion & Babitz.*



$36.99

HOW TO BE HOPEFUL
Caitlin Moran
Ebury PB

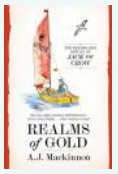
An account of what happens when a high-profile British writer reaches 'Peak Despair' about the state of the world and decides to try and reclaim hope in the quotidian.



$36.99

MORE
Gillian Anderson
Bloomsbury PB

In this follow-up to the bestselling *Want*, Anderson presents additional letters from anonymous women discussing their sexual fantasies.



$36.99

REALMS OF GOLD
A. J. Mackinnon
Black Inc PB

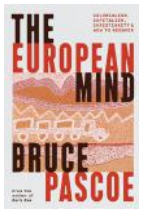
In this sequel to *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, the author picks up where his first voyage left off, sailing and rowing single-handedly from Romania to Venice.



WAS $59.99
NOW $49. 99

WORLD IS ALMOST AT PEACE
Rob Hirst
Pantera HB

The entire lyric catalogue from the late Midnight Oil musician, published alongside photographs and behind-the-scenes stories from Hirst and his collaborators.



The European Mind Bruce Pascoe

Magabala PB
$36.99

Since the release of *Dark Emu*, his blockbuster book examining the overlooked history of Indigenous agriculture in Australia, Bruce Pascoe has been hard at work writing other books. Yet to all intents and purposes, it feels like we're still stuck in 2014 and the dust-cloud of controversy and misunderstanding that *Dark Emu* kicked up.



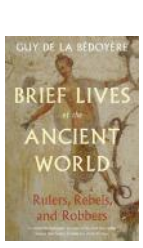
With that in mind, Pascoe's latest and most ambitious book feels like an invitation to step forward and take that discourse into a more productive and holistic place. Why does it matter whether or not Indigenous Australians conformed to a certain definition of civilisation if the evidence shows millennia of sustainable habitation? What values about progress and civilisation did colonisation impose on this land, occupying our minds as forcefully as the settlers' fences and guns occupied Country? More importantly, where did those values first come from?

To answer these questions is no easy feat and to do so, Pascoe must dig deep into the past and examine the birth of European thought, drawing on the work of celebrated social historians such as Yuval Noah Harari, David Graeber and David Wengrow. He discusses the role Christian values played in shaping early colonialism through the writings of explorers, philosophers and religious leaders and lays out how extractive forms of agriculture and capitalism have dictated how we organise our societies and relate to the land, stifling alternatives that might prove kinder and more sustainable in the long run. Pascoe also illustrates how those alternatives have been upheld in First Nations cultures across the globe, whose respect for the natural world and systems of community have been enshrined in memory, lore and Country for generations.

In telling the story of colonialism, *The European Mind* confronts some sobering and violent episodes of history, but while Pascoe offers space for the reader to feel angry or upset, he never dwells on that darkness. His focus is on understanding, not blaming – we all live in the aftermath of those decisions and choices, surrounded by wealth inequality, forever wars and devastated ecosystems, but there's no use ignoring things or pointing fingers at the past. We can only start to repair things by looking at the damage head-on.

In that project of repair, this book represents a fantastic foundation for our future: dense yet approachable, and told with a generosity and optimism that is evident on every page. The roots of society's problems may lie deep but we are all capable of taking steps to care for our shared world. Change, Pascoe assures us, is closer and easier than we think – nothing more than a 'fork in the road'. To begin, we simply need to cultivate the basic values of 'patience, tolerance and respect'. That's an idea that all Australians should be able to get behind.

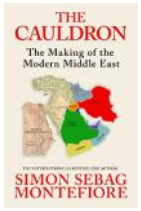




BRIEF LIVES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
Guy de la Bédoyère

Yale HB
$41.95

In this book, historian Guy de la Bédoyère profiles an eclectic cast of characters from the Western ancient world. Colourful anecdotes bring these figures to life – we learn that one of the Emperor Vespasian's less-popular official decrees was to introduce a public-toilet tax; that Pliny the Elder was a prude; that Ramesses II fathered more than 100 children; and that the Emperor Elagabalus got his kicks from dressing up as a female prostitute. One of the best stories recounts how the mummified body of Alexander the Great was hijacked by his former general Ptolemy on its way from Babylon to Greece. A few women make appearances (including Hatshepsut, Boudica and Agrippina the Younger) as do wacky figures such as the Greek philosopher Diogenes. An entertaining introduction to the movers and shakers of antiquity.



THE CAULDRON
Simon Sebag Montefiore

Weidenfeld & Nicolson HB
$55

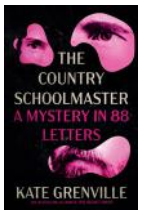
The Middle East is squarely in the Western eye and, in our era of sound bites and algorithms, subject to simplistic explanations and ill-informed conjecture. Enter celebrated historian Simon Sebag Montefiore, who sets out to cast light on the region from Morocco to Iran from 1900 until today – a task he acknowledges as 'daunting'. Montefiore underlines that the Middle East is as much characterised by poetry, trade and cosmopolitanism as by the turbulence that currently besets it. The narrative moves at a cracking pace, coverage is necessarily brief and the cast of characters is extensive. It can all be a bit dizzying, but Montefiore sketches events and personalities with clarity, also providing useful historical context and incidental colour. Engaging and deeply researched, this volume will dispel stereotypes and illuminate a misunderstood region.



CINNAMON
Nira Wickramasinghe

Scribe PB
$36.99

Cinnamon is the queen of spices, or so suggests historian Nira Wickramasinghe in this thrillingly expansive read. This ingredient has inspired mythology and poetry, altered the patterns of global trade and permanently transformed Sri Lanka – cinnamon has enchanted humans for millennia. Wickramasinghe traces its appearances throughout the archives of history, revealing the spice's inclusion in ancient embalming rituals, medieval kitchens, doctors' bags, and more. Her clear-eyed description of the lives of cinnamon peelers under colonial rule in Sri Lanka resists any inclination to romanticise, while her thoughtful analysis of changing attitudes towards the spice – from awe over its medicinal purposes to cloying delight over a puppy with a cinnamon-bun tail – illustrate the interconnectedness of our world.



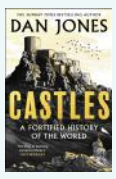
THE COUNTRY SCHOOLMASTER
Kate Grenville

Black Inc PB
$36.99

This is a truly fascinating glimpse into a precise snippet of history as well as the process of creating story. In a small New South Wales country town in the late 19th century, schoolmaster Joseph Connor is accused of poor teaching and bad behaviour. Over years, the case for and against the truth of this is captured in letters, which Kate Grenville happened across in the state archives (and reproduces here.) In these letters we see a glorious array of family burdens, small-town life and petty bureaucracy. This incomplete story would not leave her novelistic instincts alone, and thus we are gifted a history book that follows not just Grenville's discoveries as she reads through the archives, but also her shifting opinions of Connor.

5. Who tried ayahuasca at a retreat in the Amazon?

Highly Recommended



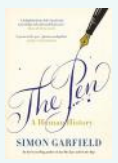
CASTLES
Dan Jones
Apollo PB
$36.99

Another work of highly accessible history by Dan Jones (*The Templars*), this time recounting the history of the world by focusing on iconic strongholds.



FATAL MONSTERS
Jane Draycott
Atlantic PB
$34.99

A reexamination of the tumultuous period in the first century BCE when Cleopatra and her sisters Berenike and Arsinoe took turns ruling Egypt.



THE PEN
Simon Garfield
Canongate PB
$39.99

A lively history of the object that has defined communication for thousands of years – one that offers a respite to our relentlessly digital world.



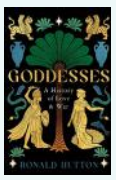
SHADOW BEFORE THE FLAME
Catherine Grace Katz
Atlantic PB
$34.99

This gripping history looks at the Hindenburg disaster, the rise of the Nazis and the road to WWII.



DARWIN AND THE QUEER ORIGINS OF LIFE
Ross Brooks
Yale HB
$51.95

This iconoclastic history of sex, gender and science argues that queerness was at the heart of evolutionists' thinking about the natural world in the 18th and 19th centuries.



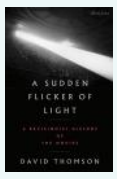
GODDESSES
Ronald Hutton
Yale HB
$51.95

Hutton traces the history of eight key goddesses of love and war in ancient societies and asks why this model of divine femininity has been so popular.



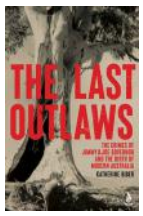
REDWOOD
Ben Macintyre
Viking PB
$36.99

The story of how in 1981 a mysterious double agent working with MI6 revealed a Kremlin plot to overthrow Iran's fledgling Islamist regime and potentially trigger a nuclear war.



A SUDDEN FLICKER OF LIGHT
David Thomson
Allen Lane HB
$59.99

A reassessment of the entire arc of movie history and a celebration of cinematic masterpieces from a respected critic and historian.



THE LAST OUTLAWS
Katherine Biber

Scribner PB
WAS $36.99
NOW $19.99

An historical true-crime book that has been meticulously researched, *The Last Outlaws* covers a 1900 massacre of nine settlers in New South Wales by Wiradjuri and Wonnarua men Jimmy and Joe Governor and their accomplice, Jacky Underwood. Drawing on extensive archival materials, law professor Katherine Biber explores the circumstances behind their deeds and looks at the victims targeted. Reconstructing the events of the time, including the manhunt and the political mood of the fledgling country, Biber considers both Indigenous and colonial violence, the skirmishes and reprisals. The most valuable aspect of the book is that while it does not excuse the crimes of the outlaws, it provides a nuanced context for their behaviour.

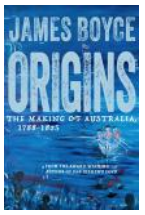


SPOOKY LADIES
Kaz Cooke

Scribner PB
$37.99

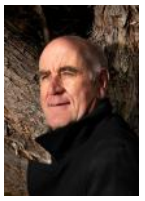
The latest book by writer and cartoonist Kaz Cooke (*Up The Duff; Girl Stuff*) is a celebration of a cast of female clairvoyants, mediums, mind-readers and magicians' assistants who have dazzled audiences, scandalised sceptics and carved out lives on the fringes of polite society. Subtitled 'Rebels, witches, mediums & magic', *Spooky Ladies* recounts astonishing true stories that reflect the blurred lines between performance, belief, feminism and deception. These were women who ignored convention, embraced mystery and lived gloriously unladylike lives. It's a funny and thought-provoking read enlivened by the inclusion of fascinating archival photographs.

Origins: The Making Of Australia, 1788–1825
James Boyce



Black Inc PB
$39.99

There have been many different origin stories put forward for Australia in the years since invasion. Many centre around the idea that First Nations people and convicts were hapless victims without agency. James Boyce carefully argues that the society that emerged after the First Fleet landed in 1788 was partly forged by convicts and the First Peoples, and the interactions between them. It was not only the ruling classes who had influence. And yet the entitlement of those classes, reflected in English property laws and personified by John Bigge, the Royal Commissioner sent out by a distant Parliament to report on the colony, had a huge impact on the lives of both convicts and Indigenous people. This is history writing at its best.



We asked James Boyce some questions about his book:

You're writing against previous versions of Australian history, but do you think your approach is similar to other recent historians? Or are you out there on your own?
I rely on the work of other historians, none more than Grace Karskens. But through documenting new connections across countries and cultures, I hope this book imagines a new origin story for the nation.

Why do you think we make so much of the 'fair go' being an Australian trait when it so clearly wasn't part of the nation's origin story?
It was part of the convict cultural heritage transported to Australia, and their struggle to be fully free, but this came with so many contradictions that you could write a whole book about it!

You don't believe there was a great silence about the violence towards First Nations people so much as a great stupor, where non-Indigenous people didn't really care about what had happened. What are we now?
The claim that we didn't know about frontier violence because we were not told is a comfortable myth. The deeper problem, a detachment from the suffering which occurred during the conquest of Australia, was sadly on full display during the Voice Referendum.

You write of the huge influence 'John Bigge's report on the young colony had on laws and attitudes – why doesn't Bigge loom larger in our history?
Bigge's radical recommendation that First Nations pasturelands should be rapidly enclosed on behalf of a small class of wealthy men was built on his prejudices against the established peasant society of former convicts. This bias has proved remarkably resilient.

You don't believe that Australia as it is today was an inevitability – how might things have been different without Bigge's report?
A just and peaceful conquest is of course impossible, but there could and should have been a dramatically slower and more controlled colonisation, which in turn would have ensured greater space for cultural adaptation and change.

You end by talking of us being in a 'dangerously isolated' present. What can reconnect our present to our past?
We need to move beyond seeing founders of Australia only as the immutable and monolithic representatives of a modern industrial nation that were unchanged and unchangeable by this country and its people. Understanding the richness of the premodern British and Irish inheritance, and the depth of the convict class's environmental and cultural encounter, is critical to connecting the contemporary search for belonging to the origins of our nation.

The Shortest Histories
Various Authors



Black Inc PB
$27.99 EACH

Currently numbering more than 30 titles, Black Inc's Shortest Histories series is a marvellous resource for readers, students and teachers. Offering clear and concise accounts of subjects as diverse as AI, innovation, music, democracy, war, continents and countries, the books are written by experts in their fields. Recent additions to the series include five city histories published in September 2026 (Delhi, Berlin, Dublin, Madrid and Rome). Covering the past, evoking the present and identifying challenges that the future may hold, these city profiles are as illuminating as they are enjoyable to read.

Gift Books



THE ALCHEMIST
Paulo Coelho
HarperCollins HB

WAS $29.99
NOW $14. 99

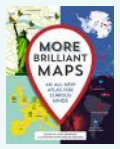
An inspiring allegory about dreams, destiny and self-discovery presented in a bargain-priced deluxe edition.



A GHOSTLY LITTLE BOOK
Various authors
Viking HB

$32.99

A collection of five frightening short stories from acclaimed writers Olga Ravn, Eliza Clark, Tom Crewe, Roddy Doyle and Helen Oyeyemi.



MORE BRILLIANT MAPS
John Grindrod (illustrated by Richard De Pesando)
Granta HB

$45.00

Subtitled 'An All-New Atlas for Curious Minds', this collection of 100 maps covers subjects including history, geography, sport, the arts, technology and space.



PARLOUR GAMES FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
Myfanwy Jones & Spiri Tsintziras
Scribe PB

$29.99

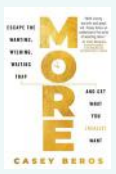
Including 130 indoor games – some familiar, some not – this is an invaluable resource for families wanting to put aside screens and have lots of fun.



ALL ABOUT LOVE
bell hooks
HarperCollins HB

WAS $36.99
NOW $14. 99

A deluxe collector's edition of the first volume in the bestselling Love Song to the Nation trilogy written by the late philosopher and feminist theorist, bell hooks.



MORE
Casey Beros
Wiley PB

$34.95

A self-help resource enabling the reader to assess their lives against five areas where many of us want more from life: health, success, connection, meaning and time.



ONE DAY A CAT CAME TO ME
Bokyeong Sunim
Profile PB

$34.99

Written by a Korean Buddhist monk, this is an inspiring meditation on companionship, coexistence and cats.

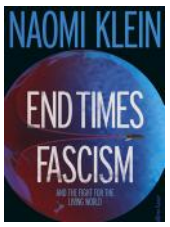


WHERE TO CHEAT ON YOUR CAT
Diana Helmuth with Eliza Washington
Lonely Planet HB

$27.99

A quirky guide to top spots around the world where you can see, pet and photograph cats.

End Times Fascism Naomi Klein & Astra Taylor



Allen Lane PB
$36.99

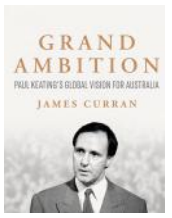
Ever get the feeling that we are buckling under the weight of the bad guys? The religious nuts who believe we need to bring about the apocalypse in order to be saved. Or the bloodless Silicon Valley billionaires who will spare nothing – not even God's green earth itself – in the race for AI superintelligence. Or the ethno-nationalists hoarding weapons, spreading hate and bunkering down in private fortresses. Climate chaos, mass unemployment, robot warfare … Were it not all entirely true, this careening towards a mass extinction event just to line the pockets of the few would seem almost cartoonish. And what of this few, these all-powerful folks across religion, technology and government, who seem to believe that they are above the laws of creation?

In this book, activists, documentarians, thinkers and award-winning writers Naomi Klein and Astra Taylor articulate the current state of the far right – chaotic, online, frenetic, optimised, exhaustive, sloppy and bot-infested – with rigour and precision. It's the fascism of what they call capitalism's gasping threat response – constantly shifting, propelled by raw terror, forever punching down on vulnerable people instead of considering the hateful systems and their greedy beneficiaries. Klein and Taylor suggest that it's time for us to update our frameworks. Trump and his frenemies are not climate deniers, but arsonists and traitors, 'knowingly allowing the world to burn, even as they stand ready and eager to blame the people their policies will uproot and dispossess'. It's a dirty business, but as this book investigates, it's the far right's weakness, too. Lacking a unifying purpose, the end times fascists stand for nothing more than nihilistic self-interest. They've overlooked the wonder, the beauty, the kindness and liveability of our shared world. And herein lies our key to breaking the doom loop.

Taylor and Klein make a compelling case for what they call Hereness: an ideology of listening, of collaboration, of investment in a shared future for all.
This is exemplified by the grassroots and community-based campaigning of New York's Democratic Socialist mayor Zohran Mamdani. By the organised, witty and targeted 'No Space for Bezos' initiative led by Venetian locals in the lead-up to his nuptials in the city. By the indefatigable charisma and integrity of Francsesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. And ultimately, by each of us.

'We didn't choose to be born into a fight so fateful, but we have reached a choice point', conclude Taylor and Klein in the book's galvanising final paragraph. 'We can either follow end times fascists into oblivion, or we can commit to building the unruly, boundary-crossing movement they so deeply fear. One that wrests away their weapons, holds them accountable for their crimes, and defends the paradise of here.'

GRAND AMBITION James Curran



Scribner HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $39.99

In the past, Paul Keating has described his quest to find and strengthen Australia's place in Asia as 'a magnificent obsession'. In this time of Trumpian tariffs and what many Australians consider to be a deeply flawed and poorly conceptualised security arrangement in the form of AUKUS, an evaluation of his prime ministerial legacy when it comes to Australia's strategic priorities and place on the global stage is perfectly timed. To do this, historian James Curran drew on Keating's meticulously compiled personal collection of political papers as well as extensive interviews with the man himself. Curran details how Keating's messaging regarding the importance of Australia building and maintaining national sovereignty, engaging meaningfully with the Asia-Pacific, prioritising independence and self-reliance in defence planning and never losing sight of the big picture has been consistent throughout his political and post-parliamentary life.



We asked James Curran some questions about his book:

In his 1994 memoir, Bob Hawke wrote that Keating was a 'late convert to the significance of Asia'. Do you think this is true?
Not at all – that's spiteful Hawke at his very best. The book shows Keating in the late 1970s regularly saying that Australia needed to make its future in Southeast Asia.

Would you say that Keating's pivotal role in the creation of APEC was his greatest achievement in foreign policy?
Yes, Keating's elevation of the summit from Hawke's creation of it put Australia at a bigger regional table. The APEC leaders summit was really making a statement about where Australia saw its geographic destiny.

Is it fair to say that the AUKUS agreement is a total repudiation of Keating's vision?
It sure is. AUKUS above all represents an Australian cultural instinct: when a great Asian power is on the rise, Australia falls automatically back into the protective bosom of its old great and powerful friends. But will that work this time? It's unlikely.

Do you think Keating sees any benefits in the Australia-US Alliance?
He does – and wants the US to stay in Asia but as the balancing power, not the strategic guarantor. That essentially means that Washington has to accept China's rise as legitimate, as well as accept that the Chinese have a leadership role in Asia.

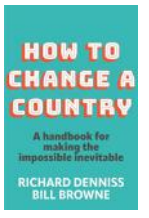
Would you say that Keating had a greater focus on and interest in foreign policy than any other Australian prime minister?
What's different about Keating is the conceptual unity in his world view – a republican Australia reconciled with its Indigenous peoples and engaged in Asia. No prime minister before him brought these facets of identity, culture and history together, fusing them with Australian foreign and defence policy.



UQP PB
$36.99

FINDING JUSTICE
Larissa Behrendt

Where is real justice to be found? Not in the Western legal tradition argues academic, novelist and filmmaker, Larissa Behrendt. In an approachable narrative style that incorporates personal stories, Behrendt writes about the development of her own ideas about justice. From a position of trust in the colonial institutions that are supposed to uphold justice, she came to recognise their failures. Now she is looking to Indigenous perspectives, most of all the principles of First Nations practices of sovereignty, exploring practically and theoretically how we can use these to work towards change. With an acute understanding of where we are as a nation right now, Behrendt gives us a clear, concrete explanation of our history to argue for a different future.



Australia Institute PB
$36.99

HOW TO CHANGE A COUNTRY
Richard Denniss & Bill Browne

After years working at the frontlines of the Australia Institute, Richard Denniss and Bill Browne reckon they have a pretty good understanding of how to effect meaningful and positive political change in Australia. Their new book draws on their vast experience and provides a set of tools to both inspire and guide those wanting to make change. While having a great idea is a good starting point, there are many more ingredients that go into making that idea a concrete reality, including building unlikely alliances and having a great strategy. *How to Change a Country* is highly engaging and written in a way to attract readers across a diverse spectrum of ages, careers and ideologies. *Note: December release.*



Scribe PB
$36.99

ALL THE PRESIDENTS' WARS
Peter Bergen

This is a history of bad decisions and stupidity. Of ignoring evidence that was there, and inventing evidence that wasn't. Of cherry picking which expert advice to heed and which to dismiss. Of failing to plan, but planning – usually baselessly – to succeed. Peter Bergen pulls zero punches in his account of America's wars since 9/11 and few people emerge well from the telling. Based on Bergen's long career as a journalist, academic and commentator, which has included interviewing more than 500 people on all sides of these wars (including Osama Bin Laden), this a scrupulously detailed and balanced account of the ongoing but ever-morphing 'war on terror' through four presidents. Bergen offers a counter to misinformation and disinformation, with a clear eye on the cost of war.



Black Inc PB
$39.99

GOING DIGITAL
Margaret Simons

Walkley Award–winning journalist Margaret Simons has been writing about the changing face of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for many years. In her latest book, she draws on candid interviews with key players to tell the tumultuous story of how the broadcaster has changed itself for the digital age, revealing the controversial decisions made along the way. The ABC's transformation has been remarkable, but unanswered questions remain. Has broader coverage come at the expense of depth? Have politicians learnt anything from their attempts to intervene? Who really pulls the strings in our public broadcasters? *Going Digital* is a gripping, behind-the-scenes look at one of our most beloved public institutions.

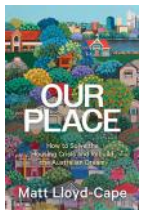


Miegunyah PB
$34.99

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES
Samuel Curkpatrick, Dolly Kikon, Marcia Langton & Aaron Corn (eds)

Sharing reflections on governance, education, language endangerment and revitalisation, cross-cultural collaboration, environmental sustainability and the critical importance of storytelling for vulnerable communities, the robust essays in this collection provide insight into the resilience and ingenuity of Indigenous knowledge. The diversity of the contributors is testament to their distinct identities and many varied histories and homes. Significant lessons are here for those in leadership roles.

Our Place Matt Lloyd-Cape



La Trobe PB
$36.99

This book should be required reading for anyone who wants to participate in the debate over Australia's housing crisis. And participate we should. As social researcher and social policy expert Matt Lloyd-Cape points out, affordable housing is the key to a good life, a better society and a fairer economy. While he spurns the idea that any single solution can sort this hot-button issue out, Lloyd-Cape clearly sets out what's gone wrong and gives us (and politicians) a way to reframe the debate. He also suggests short- and long-term strategies that could be employed. And he truly does believe that we as a society can sort it – Australia currently has the money, we're just spending it badly.



We asked Matt Lloyd-Cape some questions about his book:

Despite the 'wickedness' of this problem, you seem optimistic. Where does this optimism come from?
Learning how Australia overcame the post-WWII housing crisis is incredibly inspiring. That story leaves me extremely optimistic about our chances of radically transforming the country through housing policy.

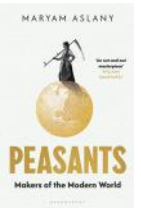
You say that politicians believe the long-term solutions to the housing crisis are not electorally feasible. Why are they wrong? Is a 3-year electoral cycle part of the problem?
Australia's had 3-year cycles since Federation, so they aren't inherent limitations. The speed of the media cycle, combined with 40 years of technocratic managerial politics, have conspired to kill off long-term debate.

Your figures show that we have shifted from focusing federal spending on low-income households to funding high-income households. Why doesn't this get talked about more in the debate?
Because we lack a Department of Housing, housing expenditures are scattered through multiple departments. The most expensive are 'shadow policies' hidden within the tax system. Our morals have also shifted – punitive beliefs about welfare recipients, the well-off seen as deserving 'wealth-creators' etc.

You argue that leaving housing to the free market was more radical than having a national coordinating approach. Are there signs that we may be easing back on neoliberalism?
Absolutely. The Albanese government has made important steps. But despite changes to investor tax breaks, discussion of national urban planning and rental standards, we lack a coherent agenda. The 2026 Homes for Australia plan was a wasted opportunity.

You acknowledge that the consequences of the 2026 federal budget reforms to negative gearing and the CGT discount may have become clearer now than when you finished writing. What consequences are we seeing now?
Investor mortgage applications are down 20% or more. House prices have fallen by 4%. Forecasts are that they will keep falling. Watch this space.

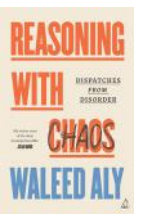
If you had a time machine, what is one thing you'd go back and do or undo?
I'd stop the deregulation of mortgage finance. Replacing not-for-profit lenders with big banks, removing assistance to first-time buyers, encouraging people to borrow excessively … totally disastrous!



Bloomsbury PB
$36.99

PEASANTS
Maryam Aslany

Contemporary nomenclature may mean they're no longer known as peasants, but in this book, economic sociologist Maryam Aslany argues that there are two billion people in the world (roughly a quarter of humanity) who would still be classified as such. They're also the under-recognised, ill-exploited engines of our societies and economies. Aslany travels from Peru and Ghana to Cambodia and India to meet the farmers and migrant labourers who deliver the world's most vital commodities. Accessible, engaging and brimming with a love for humanity, *Peasants* points to the folly of relegating the countryside and its workers ('the most enduring class of humanity') to the edges of our collective imaginations.



Allen & Unwin PB
$34.99

REASONING WITH CHAOS
Waleed Aly

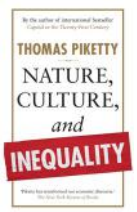
The old order is collapsing and the new one has not yet been born. That breach is the chaos Waleed Aly reasons with here. Today's news erupts without warning and exits society's memory almost as fast. Aly writes to discover what he thinks – columns from late 2024 to early 2026 gather those moments before they vanish, grouped from the revolution of the left-behind, to the breakup of the coalition. Trump is woven throughout, as are Gaza, terrorism, free speech, AI and populism. Heavier pieces on Bondi sit beside lighter columns on football quirks. The result is a judicious attempt to hold onto the shape of events while they are unfolding. Aly concludes that politics can't explain everything: morality and human dignity run deeper than political debate itself.



Black Inc PB
$36.99

THE LAST BEST PLACE ON THE INTERNET
Richard Cooke

Wikipedia, says journalist Richard Cooke, 'is *sui generis*, one of the strangest and most outlandish successes of its time, quite unlike what came before it, or anything set to succeed it'. Now in its third decade, the so-called 'people's encyclopedia' is the largest repository of human knowledge ever made, a not-for-profit endeavour consulted trillions of times and read by billions of people. Cooke looks at Wikipedia's fabled creation, its working model, its extraordinary success, its struggles and its future as a human-authored resource in the age of AI. He offers the reader a fascinating and entertaining tribute to one of the most vital – and most endangered – cultural achievements of our time.



Scribe HB
WAS $27.99
NOW$12.99

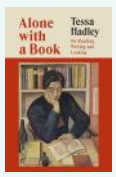
NATURE, CULTURE, AND INEQUALITY
Thomas Piketty

French economist Thomas Piketty packs a lot into this 82-page exploration of social inequality. Unlike his whopping 700-page bestseller *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, this condensed, to-the-point examination reveals how history, culture and politics shape whether a country will lean towards being equal or unequal. Using Sweden as a prime example of a country where a political swing resulted in it becoming (in just a few decades) not only one of the most equal, but also one of the wealthiest, countries in the world, he highlights education as one of the great drivers towards equality. Beyond education, Piketty tackles subjects including tax, inheritance, gender gaps, and how environmental decay and the climate catastrophe link directly to economic inequality.

6. What spice was used in ancient embalming rituals?



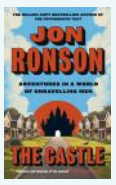
Highly Recommended



$45

ALONE WITH A BOOK
Tessa Hadley
Jonathan Cape HB

From a much-admired novelist and short-story writer comes this glorious celebration of reading deeply and seeing the world and ourselves reflected back to us in art.



$36.99

THE CASTLE
Jon Ronson
Viking PB

Ronson *(The Psychopath Test)* delivers a darkly comic true-life story about our rapidly changing world and the men caught in the middle.



$36.99

HERESIES
Richard Flanagan
Penguin PB

Drawing from two decades of Richard Flanagan's writing, essays, articles and speeches, this collection speaks to the heart of our current times.



$29.99

ANOTHER COUNTRY: THE RISE AND RISE OF ONE NATION
John Birmingham
Quarterly Essay PB

In QE104, Birmingham maps One Nation's Australia and explores where our politics goes from here.



$36.99

BEST AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL CARTOONS 2026
Russ Radcliffe (ed)
Scribe PB

The year in politics as observed by Australia's funniest and most perceptive political cartoonists.



$29.99

THE CULTURE WARS
Tim Dunlop
MUP PB

An unflinching but hopeful account of how culture wars work, how they damage democratic life and how they might yet be defused.



$39.99

PROFITS, PROPHETS, COACHES AND KINGS
Jared Diamond
Allen Lane PB

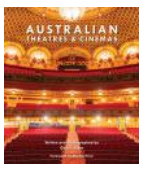
A fascinating exploration of the influence of leaders in politics, business, sport and religion showing how effectiveness is determined by a range of complex interrelated factors.



$36.99

THREE SHOCKS
George Megalogenis
Penguin PB

One of our most respected political commentators looks at Australia's current demographic patterns and the economics and politics of immigration.



AUSTRALIAN THEATRES & CINEMAS

Gavin John

Woodslane HB
$59.99

In her foreword to this book, actress and singer Marina Prior describes theatres as 'palaces of storytelling and escape'. They're also often places of architectural wonder and distinction. Author and photographer Gavin John profiles 65 buildings that fit this criteria, showcasing design styles as diverse as Renaissance Revival, Baroque, Spanish Mission, Art Nouveau and Modernism. Perhaps the most spectacular of all are the neon-laden Art Deco picture palaces that were built across the country during the 1930s, which are particularly well represented here. The author's criteria for a building's inclusion were fourfold: cultural and historical significance, singularity, architectural distinction or place in the national imagination. Jones' magnificent photographs, historical facts and entertaining stories give these wonderful buildings the attention they so richly deserve.

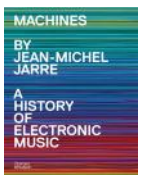


DEFINITIVE DUPAIN

SLNSW HB
WAS $79.99
NOW $69.99

Max Dupain's legacy as one of Australia's greatest art and architectural photographers is celebrated in this splendid new volume from the State Library of New South Wales. In 2026, as part of its bicentenary celebration, the library mounted a major retrospective exhibition of Dupain's work, fully utilising the rich archival holdings of images and negatives in its collection. From his early works to the quintessentially Australian beach scenes, landscapes and architectural photography he became known for, Dupain's images capture the light and vast space of the continent, and its evolving national identity. As well as demonstrating Dupain's commitment to naturalism and rejection of colour photography, the reproductions here also convey the beautiful forms and textures he strived to achieve throughout his career.





MACHINES: A HISTORY OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC

Jean-Michel Jarre

Thames & Hudson HB
WAS $110
NOW $85

French musician, composer and producer Jean-Michel Jarre believes that electronic music has, in his words, 'established a new sonic grammar, giving rise to what could be called the classical music of the twenty-first century'. An illustrated history of electronic sound from WWI to the AI-enabled future, *Machines* showcases more than 80 electronic and electroacoustic instruments from his personal collection, ranging from a theremin (1913) to a Fraknoise Melancholythron (2025). Detailed descriptions and photographs of the instruments are accompanied by text explaining approaches, trends and significant events in the history of the electronic genre.



MARGARET PRESTON

Thames & Hudson HB
WAS $79.99
NOW $69.99

Published alongside the current retrospective exhibition showing at the National Gallery of Victoria, this book traces Margaret Preston's clearly articulated ambition to create a distinct Australiana and reveals the contradictions at play in both her art practice and legacy. Beginning with a full colour reproduction of her 1927 article 'From eggs to Electrolux', originally published in *Art in Australia*, this publication moves between an exploration of the inspiration she sought from wildflowers and Japanese *ukiyo-e* prints, and analyses from curators and academics studying her colonial engagement with, and appropriation of, Indigenous imagery. Whether you are a long-time admirer of Preston's bold, painterly textures or need an entry point into the history of Australian art, this book offers a colourful and thought-provoking introduction.



NGARN WA'NGAL

Alisa Bunbury & Sophie Gerhard (eds)

Miegunyah HB
WAS $69.99
NOW $59.99

Published in conjunction with the 2026 exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne, *Ngarn Wa'ngal: Art of the Gum Tree* brings together writing and artwork by a diverse array of leading thinkers, artists, historians, curators, poets and academics. Interrogating the pervasiveness of the gum tree, the writing in this publication celebrates the towering eucalypts that are woven into the fabric of Australia's cultural identity. With a foreword by Uncle Bill Nicholson, a Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elder, alongside a variety of First Nations art from the University's Grimwade Collection, Indigenous perspectives are integral to this publication. If you have ever been mesmerised by the gum tree in your backyard, delve deeper into the eucalypt's importance within this richly illustrated publication.



SLEEPING BEAUTIES

David Byrne

Canongate HB
$55

For the last five decades David Byrne has explored the world of music, cinema, art and the written word with a recognisably idiosyncratic style that has endeared him to audiences worldwide. In *Sleeping Beauties*, Byrne reevaluates ideas, inventions, works of art, literature and scientific discoveries that somehow didn't quite gel with the zeitgeist of their day – they metaphorically fell asleep, only to be awoken, rediscovered and celebrated at a much later date (think Caravaggio or concrete, the atom or the submarine). In his breezy, insightful and entertaining retelling of the background to these sleeping beauties, Byrne posits the idea that when we look at the world through a different lens, we can discover riches unknown, forgotten or lost in time.
Note: December release.



WHERE THEY LIVE: JAPAN

Paul Barbera & Kirsty Munro

Thames & Hudson PB
$59.99

The homes in this inspirational book range from compact city apartments to expansive rural houses, from rigorously modern concrete structures to deeply traditional wooden dwellings shaped by generations of use. What connects them, says writer Kirsty Munro, is 'a way of thinking about space, time and the rhythms of the seasons, with a shared belief that the acts of living and creating are inseparable'. Many of the projects embrace the very Japanese concepts of *wabi-sabi* (an appreciation of imperfection, patina and revealing the passage of time rather than resisting it) and *mono no aware* (an awareness of transience and the gentle poignancy that comes with it).



WOMEN IN ART

Alix Paré

Tra HB
$42.99

Women appear in many guises in art: they can be heroines, femmes fatales, muses, myths and beauties. In this book, Alix Paré guides us through a history of female representation in painting and sculpture, exploring how women have been imagined, idealised and transformed by artists over time. The book looks beyond familiar images to carefully consider each female figure, considering myth, biography and artistic interpretation. It weaves deftly from Salomé's well-known reputation as a fatal heroine and Lady Godiva's representation as innocent and 'pure' to Rosa Parks' powerful legacy that has inspired vivid and hopeful imagery. *Women In Art* is the perfect compendium for anyone interested in how historical images continue to illuminate and reshape the stories women create and inherit.

Highly Recommended



ART MANIA

Kitty Hauser
Giramondo PB
$39.95

Written as a dialogue between text and images, this biography takes as its subject Geoffrey Bardon, a white teacher who effectively invented the origin story of Aboriginal painting with himself as chronicler, hero and martyr.



HOW TO START AN ART COLLECTION

Georgia Spray
Thames & Hudson HB
$69.99

Set against the backdrop of artists' studios and real homes, this book provides clear, practical guidance on discovering your taste, buying with confidence and living with art.



PUSH THE WALL

Frank Miller
Canongate HB
$55

A look inside the mind and art of the hugely influential comic-book writer and artist who created *Sin City*, *Daredevil: Born Again* and *The Dark Knight Returns*.



SPLIT ENZ

Noel Crombie & Michael Dwyer
Allen & Unwin HB
$59.99

A photographic celebration of the unique costumes, makeup and record covers of the New Zealand band.



BIG IDEAS FROM ART

School of Art
School of Art HB
$42.99

Geared towards children aged 9–11, this book shows how art connects to our feelings, helps us understand ourselves, and can bring comfort, excitement and joy.



LIFE/STYLE

Aki & Koichi
Epic Ink HB
$45

A photographic profile of the septuagenarian Japanese-American fashion icons celebrated in akiandkoichi, a popular OOTD (Outfit of the Day) Instagram feed.



SHAPING SPACES

Claudia Lambert
Smith Street HB
$69.99

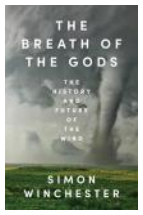
An interior designer uses examples of her work to illustrate five elements to consider when transforming your home: shape, colour, materials, art and layering.



THIS CREATIVE LIFE

Robyn Lea
Thames & Hudson HB
WAS $79.99
NOW $34.99

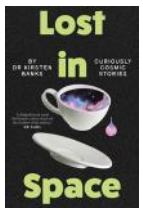
The homes of 21 fashion-world professionals around the globe documented in magnificent colour.



THE BREATH OF THE GODS
Simon Winchester

British-American author and journalist Simon Winchester has won himself a dedicated fan base through his bestselling narrative histories. This example displays Winchester's adventurous spirit and insatiable curiosity, as he presents a history of wind and demonstrates its vital importance in our human world. Defined as 'air in motion', this invisible force has powered our machines, inspired religious fervour, caused mass destruction, and much more. Winchester writes evocatively as he skilfully moves between subjects to create a masterful mosaic portrait. Driven by the question of our changing atmosphere and how this is impacting winds around the world, *The Breath of the Gods* will educate and entertain readers.

4th Estate PB
WAS $37.99
NOW $16.99



LOST IN SPACE
Dr Kirsten Banks

The dizzying depths of our universe are illuminated in this pop-science primer by Dr Kirsten Banks, an astrophysicist and Wiradjuri woman with a focus on storytelling. Across short, snappy chapters, Banks covers everything from the search of extraterrestrial life to how astronauts make tea in space. She also singles out other women in astronomy and puts an Australian spin on anecdotes about constellations, telescopes and auroras. Interspersed with comic panels illustrated by Bill Hope, this warm, kid-friendly introduction to astronomy should especially appeal to fans of Dr Karl. *Lost in Space* is ultimately an ode to human curiosity, with Banks sharing a contagious atmosphere of wonder and play alongside her quirky sense of humour.

Macmillan PB
$36.99



ON THE EQUALITY OF ALL THINGS
Carlo Rovelli

The latest book by theoretical physicist and bestselling science writer Carlo Rovelli is a philosophical reflection on the implications of what he calls 'the current scientific revolution'. Rovelli begins with scientists' history of calling into question 'established' facts (the glass is not empty but full of air; we feel still, yet we occupy a galaxy hurtling through the universe). He leads into understandings of quanta, space, time and the network of relations that make up a reality that, he insists, we can only observe from within. There are some technical discussions of quantum phenomena – readers may pause, pondering the meaning of a sentence or paragraph. But Rovelli has been called 'the poet of physics' and this book is also imbued with a poet's sense of wonder as he unfolds his 'vertiginous sources of amazement'.

Allen Lane HB
WAS $45
NOW $39.99



VIBE
Adam Grant

The word 'vibe' suggests something that can't be studied, analysed or created. But Adam Grant, organisational psychologist and self-declared introvert, argues that while the vibe between people can't be predicted, it can certainly be cultivated. And there is research behind how to do this. Divided into three parts – how to forge connections, how to maintain them, and how to make them work at scale – *Vibe* is a readable mix of stories and science. Along the way, some old clichés are broken down. Yes, opposites might attract, but they're just as likely to clash. Yes, you can bond with someone straight away, but it's not a pre-requisite for closeness. *Vibe* is not a self-help book, but it includes a list of 40 'takeaways' to help you build connections.

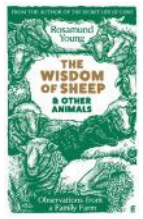
WH Allen PB
$36.99



WILD NEIGHBOURS
Ann Göth & Darryl Jones

The urban landscape is filled with wildlife that has adapted to our human ways. Some species, such as the magpie and possum, are so ubiquitous we barely even notice them unless they're swooping us in spring or taking up residence in the attic. *Wild Neighbours* is a roll call of the species that share our urban real estate, parks and gardens. Getting to know a bit more about these wild neighbours is a great way to learn and appreciate how they have survived and thrived in an alien landscape. Enlivened by the authors' neat turns of phrase, this guide to urban wildlife is packed with practical info and witty observations.

NewSouth PB
$34.99



THE WISDOM OF SHEEP
Rosamund Young

Following on from her surprise 2017 bestseller *The Secret Lives of Cows*, Rosamund Young's latest book is part diary and part reminiscence of her 40-plus years working Kite's Nest, the organic farm she runs with her partner. In fact, farming has been Young's life since childhood, and the vignettes, stories and observations she shares range over the decades. Episodic in nature, the rhythm of the book jumps from anecdotes highlighting the individual characteristics of the farm animals she has known, to the farm itself and the natural flora and fauna that have been part of her daily rural life. Throughout, the book highlights the benefits of organic farming practices and how those principles also nurture happy and healthy farm animals.

Faber HB
WAS $34.99
NOW $14.99

Inconvenient Animals Dave Witty



Monash PB
$32.99

When a Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon is spotted for the first time in more than 50 years, it feels miraculous – a 'Lazarus sighting'. Yet its appearance is also a problem, pausing the development of a housing estate intended to help combat Australia's ongoing housing crisis. Does the threat of extinction of one of our unique native species take priority over families being safely housed? In a world of competing disasters and limited resources, how do we decide what comes next?

In this absorbing, freewheeling work of nonfiction, Australian urban planner and writer David Witty (*What the Trees See*) urges us to seriously consider the interconnectedness of human lives with those of animals. His accounts of various environmental dramas that have played out across the nation make for gripping reading and raise vital questions about how to approach the future. Drawing from a wide range of sources, Witty reflects critically on the existing debates around such questions, weaving together philosophy, science, history and literature.

Witty's creativity and passion animate the book. He moves quickly across topics to reveal unexpected, sometimes provocative, connections. His insights into the ways in which colonisation informs our current attitudes towards nature are especially pertinent. The titular 'inconvenient animals' are described with humour and a genuine sense of wonder, with Witty regularly flipping the table on their so-called inconvenience by demonstrating their intrinsic value to the bigger picture.

Inconvenient Animals does not promote false hopes. Witty is clear-eyed about the perilous situation many native species face, yet avoids fatalism. He is open about his own struggles to balance realism with hope, sharing that this is never more difficult than when interacting with his daughter. His grief, he notes, is a collective one and endured by parents all over. This is science writing at its best – personal, interrogative and urgent.

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7. Who argues that the society that emerged after the First Fleet landed in 1788 was partly forged by convicts and the First Peoples, and the interactions between them?

Highly Recommended



THE BEST AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE WRITING 2026
Fiona McMillan-Webster (ed)
NewSouth PB

The new edition of this popular annual anthology showcases entertaining, poignant and fascinating science stories from Australian writers, poets and scientists.

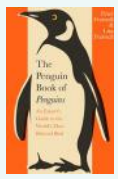
$34.99



GOD AI
Toby Walsh
La Trobe PB

Researcher and author Professor Toby Walsh explores and contextualises the existential risks posed by our accelerating efforts to realise an AI-powered future.

$36.99



THE PENGUIN BOOK OF PENGUINS
Peter Fretwell & Lisa Fretwell
Viking HB

A celebration of the creatures that Peter Fretwell, a scientist with the British Antarctic Survey, says 'have charm, charisma and a star quality beyond all other birds'.

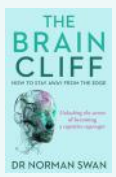
WAS $35
NOW $16.99



SIX MATHS ESSENTIALS
Terence Tao
Penguin Press HB

Tao shows how mathematics has evolved from counting and geometry into a flexible set of tools for understanding an increasingly complex world.

$49.99



THE BRAIN CLIFF
Dr Norman Swan
Hachette PB

Broadcaster Dr Norman Swan imparts tips on how to help our brains adapt, become resilient and maintain cognitive function.

$34.99



HOW ANIMALS HEAL US
Jay Griffiths
Penguin PB

An exploration of how animals can have a role in every level of healing, from the individual to the collective.

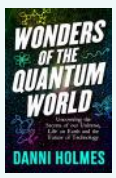
$27.99



REWILDING SUBURBIA
Mel Logozzo
S&S Affirm PB

This is a practical, beginner-friendly guide to rewilding patches of suburbia through native gardening, backyard biodiversity and wildlife-friendly projects.

$39.99

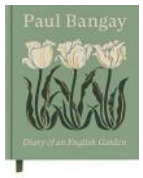


WONDERS OF THE QUANTUM WORLD
Danni Holmes
MUP PB

Discover the weird and wonderful behaviour of nature at its smallest dimensions in this field guide to spotting quantum in the wild.

$29.99

Gardening & Nature

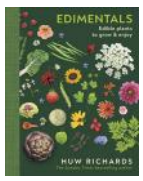


Thames & Hudson HB
$90

DIARY OF AN ENGLISH GARDEN

Paul Bangay

Australian landscape designer Paul Bangay says that he hates minimalism and loathes perfection. Instead, his heart and creative instinct lies with the gardens of England and Europe – their imperfect stone and wood, exuberant plantings and whimsical designs. In 2019, Bangay and his husband Barry purchased a 16th-century stone cottage with a garden in the Cotswolds and he was able to indulge a life-long ambition – to create and nurture a traditional English garden of his own. The book is divided into two main sections: the first, written in diary form, documents the restoration and reinvention of the house and garden; the second is a photographic celebration of the results, organised by season. A gorgeous book for the garden enthusiast.



Dorling Kindersley HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $44.99

EDIMENTALS

Huw Richards

Combine edible and ornamental and you get the portmanteau from which this book takes its title. Welsh gardening guru Huw Richards tells us how to create a garden that both looks and tastes good. As well as the necessary details on soil, sun, seed and suchlike, there's advice on where to plant something so it looks its best, and how to get the most of your harvest. As an added bonus, while this book may not be edible, it's certainly ornamental, featuring a handsome hardcover, a clean layout, and beautiful photos and illustrations. But there's more than just good looks at stake here – this is a serious but joyous attempt to encourage us to take steps towards a better world, one plant at a time.



Murdoch HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $19.99

FROM THE WILD

Heidi Merika

Naturopath and medical herbalist Heidi Merika's all-in-one guide to foraging, preparing and cooking with wild plants is a must-have for anyone with an interest in the healing benefits of Mother Nature. Of course, you have to be able to identify said wild plants first ... But worry not, as *From the Wild* has detailed information about every plant listed, including the identification, harvesting, medicinal and culinary uses of 30 of the planet's most commonly used edible wild plants. Recipes like cat's ear savoury pancakes, dock and cannellini bean soup, and nettle and blackberry forest cake sit alongside tried and tested medicinal home remedies covering drinks, creams and lotions. Thoughtfully and thoroughly compiled and illustrated, *From the Wild* is a great reference to have at hand if you want to add a bit of old-world knowledge to your kitchen and wellbeing adventures.



Phaidon HB
WAS $69.95
NOW $59.99

FUNGI

With millions of species worldwide, fungi and mushrooms are some of the most diverse living things on the planet. This beautifully illustrated book celebrates the role of mushrooms and fungi in visual culture. Readers will discover 200+ full-page images arranged into artful pairings: a pre-Columbian gold pendant next to a Tiffany Studios glass table lamp; a Hermès scarf across from a 16th-century botanical illustration; a Yayoi Kusama painting juxtaposed with a plastic figurine of the Nintendo character Toad. Work by Marc Chagall, Hilma af Klint, Andy Warhol and Takashi Murakami appear alongside ancient Roman frescoes, drawings by pioneering mycologists, iconic children's picture books, classic films and vintage ceramicware.

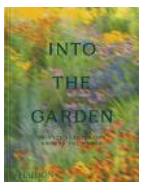


Miegunyah HB
WAS $79.99
NOW $69.99

GREAT GARDENS AUSTRALIA

Richard Allen & Kimbal Baker

The second verse of 'My Country' talks of sweeping plains and mountain ranges. But in the first verse of her famous poem, Dorothea Mackellar wrote of 'green and shaded lanes' and 'ordered woods and gardens'. She could have been writing about many of the colonial gardens featured in this handsome book – and some of the newer ones too. All 30 gardens, from right across Australia, are testament to the human effort that goes into cultivating nature. There's a mix of public and private properties (you may find yourself planning a trip to visit the public ones); exotic and native plants; geometric and organic designs; and dry, tropical and temperate climates. High production values make this a book to treasure.



Phaidon HB
WAS $69.95
NOW $59.99

INTO THE GARDEN

This book is a celebration of contemporary garden design, offering a once-in-a-lifetime journey through 41 gardens normally inaccessible to the public. Projects cover diverse styles, environments, scales and locations. Subjects include Umberto Pasti's intimate garden in Tangier, a Long Island oasis by British designer Arne Maynard, a romantic rose garden in Dorset created with Isabel and Julian Bannerman and a terraced Mediterranean garden in Ibiza designed by Juan Masedo. Organised alphabetically by designer/maker, the story of each garden is told through beautiful large-format photographs, each selected to convey the garden's sense of place and capturing its unique atmosphere. Expert garden writers explore the designs, key features and plantings.



Hachette PB
$36.99

THE LAST SNOW GUM

Anthony Sharwood & Anna Langford

For this book's authors, the snow gum is the 'jewel in the crown' of all the Eucalyptus species in Australia. In alternating chapters, Anthony Sharwood and Anna Langford champion the snow gum and the (underacknowledged) role it plays in Australian alpine and plains ecology. The chiming voices of these two accomplished writers demonstrate their enthusiasm for the tree. Throughout this approachable book, Sharwood and Langford implore readers to fully appreciate and befriend (when opportunity arises) these trees, which have unique bark patterns and what they call 'expression'. Snow gums in Australia are declining sharply due to climate change and this book is a timely and urgent call to protect and indeed save them. A fantastic read for nature lovers.



Thames & Hudson HB
WAS $59.99
NOW $29.99

THE NATURAL GARDENER

Richard Unsworth & Nicholas Watt

In the face of climate change and the decimation of native flora and fauna, planting with natives to create a more naturalistic and wildlife-attracting garden style makes a lot of sense. In *The Natural Gardener*, landscape designer and writer Richard Unsworth takes us on a tour of 14 gardens he has created in the Sydney area. From a coastal garden in Pittwater to a rural Blue Mountains retreat, Unsworth's designs showcase a controlled wildness – plants are laid out asymmetrically and are random in appearance, as though seeds have blown in and germinated where they fell. Fully illustrated with a guide to rewilding, bush restoration and plant choices, this is a book that will encourage gardeners to literally go wild in the garden.

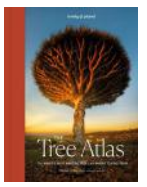


Murdoch HB
$65

THE PRODUCTIVE GARDEN COMPANION

Natasha Morgan

Landscape architect Natasha Morgan's considerable skill as a gardener became evident when she designed, planted and ran the five-acre productive garden Oak & Monkey Puzzle in Spargo Creek, Victoria. That experience serves her well in this wonderfully personal, inspirational and highly practical illustrated guide covering all the basics – from design through to planting, growing and harvesting. Case studies from a selection of like-minded gardeners highlight different aspects of the productive garden ethos and there's plenty of QR-linked content for further reading. *The Productive Garden Companion* also includes a detailed account of Morgan's time creating both the Oak & Monkey Puzzle garden and the garden at Little Cottage on a Hill, the much smaller property where she currently lives.



Lonely Planet HB
WAS $70
NOW $29.99

THE TREE ATLAS

Matthew Collins with Thomas Rutter

Keen to learn about the world's most amazing trees, and where to find them? Trusted travel publisher Lonely Planet can oblige. Covering trees in Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania, this atlas showcases 50 trees that are both familiar and rare. All have a story to tell. Some are quirky (take a bow, Southern Africa's quiver tree), some are associated with myths and legends (Yemen's dragon's blood tree) and some are majestic (California's giant sequoia and Australia's mountain ash). Sadly, many are vulnerable or endangered. Each tree is profiled in a multi-page spread with photographs, an illustration to assist in identifying the tree by its unique characteristics and a 'How to See' section with practical information.



Murdoch HB
$39.99

A TREE LOVER'S GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA

Inga Simpson

'Ironbarks are my heartwood', says Inga Simpson in her coverage of this tree. Inga isn't science-trained, but she has a lifelong connection with trees – from being a farmer's daughter on Wiradjuri Country to loving Tolkien's Ents to living amongst Yuin Country's spotted gums. This book is part love-letter, part guidebook, part travel diary. Filled with stunning photographs taken by the author, its chapters are tree-specific ('Boab') or habitat-specific ('Tasmanian Wilderness'). Each section briefly tells of the subject's biology and the history of how humans have both threatened and protected it. Simpson lists where to see, walk and stay amongst each tree and also suggests reading and watching materials inspired by or related to it.



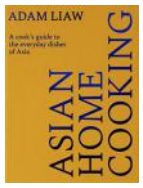
Murdoch PB
WAS $39.99
NOW $17.99

YOUR ASIAN VEGGIE PATCH

Connie Cao

Urban permaculture gardener Connie Cao has compiled this comprehensive, beginner-friendly guide to growing and cooking Asian vegetables, herbs and fruits at home. Cao guides us though a curated selection of more than 40 cool-season and warm-season annuals and perennials – from amaranth greens, bok choy and daikon to loofah, pandan and yuzu – meaning it's easy to find produce that will thrive in our gardens and climates. She also includes 50 recipes inspired by her Chinese heritage: think edamame and pickled mustard greens, stir-fried Shanghai rice cakes, pork and chive dumplings, Chinese pumpkin cakes and winter melon tea. Yum!

Asian Home Cooking
Adam Liaw



Hardie Grant HB
WAS $65
NOW $55

In this cookbook's introduction, Adam Liaw describes home cooking as 'a palimpsest'. It's an apt metaphor for the way recipes are passed across generations and transformed into everyday staples. Liaw's focus here is within Asian homes and his selection of 200+ recipes – arranged geographically and interspersed with vibrant full-page photographs – illustrates the creativity of the many cuisines contained within this diverse continent. Open these pages and discover how to make fermented Burmese fish dip, Sri Lankan milk toffee, Malaysian stir-fried water spinach, Japanese rice balls, Nepalese momos, Indian palak paneer and many other dishes. Liaw situates each new dish within its cultural heritage, sharing practical tips and ideas for experimentation.

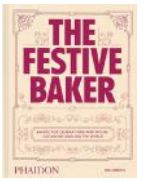




Hardie Grant HB
WAS $49.99
NOW $19.99

AGAK AGAK
Shu Han Lee

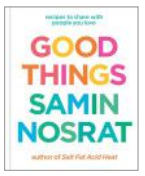
Remember when it was hard to find everyday Asian ingredients in most Western supermarkets? Shu Han Lee does, having moved from Singapore to London as an 18-year-old who had never really learned to cook but wanted to recreate the dishes of her homeland, and especially those her mother made. Improvising and practicing eventually led to the creation of this book, which is named to pay tribute to cooking with the senses, intuition and experience rather than by precise quantities. There are plenty of classics here (nasi goreng, chilli crab, Hainanese chicken and laksa) but as Lee points out, Singaporean food is always evolving. She gives us plenty of unexpected avenues to explore using ingredients that are now readily and widely available.



Phaidon HB
$59.95

THE FESTIVE BAKER
Ben Mervis

Food historian and writer Ben Mervis worked with more than 80 bakers around the world to compile this collection of sweet and savoury baking recipes. Organised chronologically by month, with a final chapter on year-round bakes, the book covers cakes, breads, pies, pastries, tarts, biscuits and buns made for festive events, celebrations and cultural traditions. Each recipe is accompanied by text providing historical background and serving suggestions. Clear directions and expert tips ensure the dishes are accessible to bakers of all skill levels.



Ebury HB
WAS $65
NOW $24.99

GOOD THINGS
Samin Nosrat

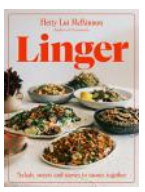
The first recipe collection by Samin Nosrat, author of the James Beard Award–winning *Salt Fat Acid Heat* (also a Netflix series), has been eagerly anticipated. Fortunately, *Good Things* doesn't disappoint. Focusing on home cooking, Nosrat shares what she describes as her 'most useful and beloved everyday recipes'. The first chapter is devoted to 'Rules of Thumb', including descriptions of essential ingredients and invaluable information: Did you know that olive oil should only be used up to 18 months after being produced? That the smaller the garlic clove, the more intense its flavour? That using a pressure cooker will improve the flavour of your chicken stock? Other chapters focus on dressings, store-cupboard staples, seasonally driven dishes and sweets.



Avery HB
WAS $75
NOW $24.99

THE KOREAN VEGAN: HOMEMADE
Joanne Lee Molinaro

Purists look away! Vegans rejoice! Joanne Lee Molinaro (dubbed the 'Korean Vegan' by her husband) creates recipes that contain the flavours and ingredients of her childhood food but are entirely plant based. Molinaro's previous book was an introduction to Korean cuisine – this book instead focuses on what she makes at home. As she says, she 'veganises Korean food' and 'Koreanises everything else'. So, for example, there's a vegan version of bibimbap as well as a Caesar salad with a home-made Korean inspired 'fishy sauce' you can make from mushrooms, soy and vinegars. Molinaro is very good at providing substitution ideas for allergens, and all the recipes come with difficulty ratings. Stories of her Korean-American childhood are interspersed throughout.



Plum PB
WAS $44.99
NOW $24.99

LINGER
Hetty Lui McKinnon

Devised to be shared, the salads that Hetty Lui McKinnon has built her celebrated food-writing career on are as healthy as they are delicious. In her sixth cookbook, Lui McKinnon delivers easy-to-achieve recipes for salads, as well as other vegetarian and vegan treats. Some dishes focus solely on vegetables, but others incorporate eggs, tofu, nuts, fruit, pasta, rice, noodles, couscous and legumes, making them perfect candidates for main meals. *Linger* opens with a few pages of 'salad rules' and goes on to feature 100-odd recipes perfect for entertaining year-round. These include clever twists (eggplant trifle), classics (beetroot and lentils with tahini yoghurt), out-of-left-field creations (potato chip salad) and homages to iconic ingredients.

8. Who was known for his quintessentially Australian beach scenes, landscapes and architectural photography?



Murdoch HB
$45

MADE SIMPLE
Danielle Alvarez

Celebrated chef, cookbook author and *Good Weekend* food columnist Danielle Alvarez devises seasonal recipes that feature brilliant flavours and are easy to execute. This collection includes 80 unfussy, ingredient-lite recipes that she has created for cooks who regularly stare into the fridge or pantry wondering what to make for dinner. Chapters are dedicated to soups, salad and veg, pasta and rice, fish and meat. Every recipe is accompanied by a colour photograph that looks refreshingly real rather than art-directed. The book includes a handy list of kitchen tips to save time and sanity, as well as lists of pantry staples and notes on shopping and produce.



Ebury HB
WAS $55
NOW $24.99

MEZCLA
Ixta Belfrage

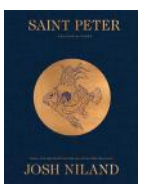
Yotam Ottolenghi has been an enormous influence on cooks in both professional and home kitchens. Ixta Belfrage is explicit about the debt she owes him, having worked in his restaurant Nopi and his test kitchen. The recipes here are characteristically Ottolenghi-ish in their emphasis on vegetables and enticing flavour combinations. Belfrage has also been influenced by her upbringing in Italy, Brazil and Mexico, hence calling her book *Mezcla*. The word means mix, mixture, blend or fusion in Spanish, and Belfrage unashamedly but respectfully embraces the idea of fusion in her cooking. *Mezcla* is helpfully divided into two main sections, Everyday and Entertaining. Each is divided further into vegetables, meat and fish. Its author offers achievable but exciting recipes for those wanting to extend their repertoire.



Harper by Design HB
$39.99

OSOZAI
Meg Tanaka

The recipes in this book are rooted in Japanese home cooking, the food that shapes the everyday life of author Meg Tanaka, owner of the popular Melbourne lifestyle store and eatery CIBI. Like dishes on the CIBI menu, the food showcased here is super-simple – driven by seasonal produce and the philosophy of building a meal from smaller plates that complement one another. Tanaka's snack-style bites are particularly enticing, with treats such as bite-size tonkatsu, honey-sesame chicken wings, gyoza and potato croquettes bound to be popular with families. There are also meat and fish mains, tempuras, soups, tofu dishes and salads including CIBI's delectable cabbage slaw with a yuzu mayo dressing.



Hardie Grant HB
WAS $80
NOW $70

SAINT PETER: CHAPTER & VERSE
Josh Niland

Globally acclaimed Sydney seafood restaurant Saint Peter celebrated its 10th birthday in 2026, inspiring its chef and owner Josh Niland to tell his restaurant's story in this publication. *Saint Peter: Chapter and Verse* features three essays and over 100 of Niland's career-defining recipes. The book moves between story and craft, tracing the evolution and mechanics of the restaurant and articulating Niland's revolutionary 'whole fish' approach with its singular philosophy: that every fish deserves to be treated with rigour, intelligence and respect. The high production values of this hefty and handsome book (including gilt edging, fold-out spreads, a ribbon bookmark and stunning photographs) make it a perfect Christmas gift for chefs, passionate foodies and serious home cooks.

Weeknights With Alice Alice Zaslavsky



Murdoch PB
WAS $45
NOW $39.99
$

Food writer and TV presenter Alice Zaslavsky creates easy-as, delicious vegetable dishes that have made her a household name. In *Weeknights with Alice*, she ups the ante with 80 quick-fire recipes that will get you from the kitchen to the dining table in record time without skimping on quality. These are dishes that zing with flavour and inventiveness. Veggies form the bricks and mortar of each nutritious recipe, and there's plenty of style and variety on offer to keep you from getting stuck in a one-cuisine rut. The full-page photography is splashy, bright and full of colour. Most importantly, the recipes are descriptive and easy-to-follow, as can be seen in the example below.

Capsicum & Cannellini Panzanella Tray Bake



Serves 4
Chop + stir: 15 minutes
Set + forget: 30 minutes

What you'll love about this tray bake, besides the 'set and forget' of it, is that you probably already have most of the ingredients in your pantry. It's a great one to whack on for visiting vegos – and you can make it vegan by crumbling planty cheese over the top instead of feta.

- 2 × 400 g (14 oz) tins cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 400 g (14 oz) tinned or fresh cherry tomatoes
- 1 small jar (about 200 g/7 oz) roasted red capsicums (peppers), cut into strips, liquor reserved
- 1 red onion, cut into 1 cm (1/2 in) wedges, keeping the base intact
- 6–8 garlic cloves, unpeeled, lightly bruised
- 1 teaspoon smoked or sweet paprika
- 1/2 heaped teaspoon salt flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- small drizzle of honey; optional but excellent
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 200 g (7 oz) creamy feta
- 150 g (51/2 oz) crusty bread
- 11/3 cups (50 g) rocket (arugula)
- ¼ bunch flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped from stem to leaf

Heat is on: Preheat your oven to 180°C (350°F) and line a baking tray with baking paper.

Prepare the tray: While the oven heats up, toss the cannellini beans, cherry tomatoes, capsicum, onion and garlic cloves together in a large mixing bowl. Sprinkle with the paprika, salt, pepper and honey, if using. Drizzle in half the olive oil and toss to coat. Tip the mixture onto the lined baking tray, holding space in the middle for the feta. Pop the feta block into your mixing bowl and coat in the leftover spicy schmutz, then nestle in the centre of your baking tray, keeping the schmutz bowl handy.

Get roasting: Slide the tray into the oven and bake for 20 minutes, until the beans start to burnish and the garlic softens.

Crunch time: Tear the bread into bits and add to the schmutzy bowl. Drizzle in the remaining olive oil, tossing about to coat with your hands. When your tray's ready to come out of the oven, grab your oven mitts, pull the tray out and tumble the bread chunks over the bake. Pop your mitts back on, return the tray to the oven and bake for another 10 minutes.

Finish strong: When the bread is golden brown and starting to burnish at the edges, remove from the oven and stir half the rocket and all the parsley through. Break up the feta, mixing it through the bake.

Bring it home: Scatter with the remaining rocket, and sprinkle with more salt flakes and freshly cracked pepper from a height. Serve hot or warm, with crusty bread, and lemon wedges on the side to squeeze over for extra tang

Home stretch: crusty bread, lemon wedge.



Quadrille HB
WAS $ 49.99
NOW $24.99
$

SOUR CHERRIES & SUNFLOWERS
Anastasia Zolotarev

Born in Belarus and having arrived in Brisbane aged six via Ukraine, this *MasterChef* alum embraces the cuisine of her homeland to bring Eastern European food into Australian homes. Presenting her family recipes, Anastasia Zolatarev finds a nice balance between the traditions of previous generations and more-modern interpretations. There are dozens of dumplings and plenty of pancakes. But lest you fall back on the assumption that Eastern European food means stodgy food, there are also bright salads, salty ferments and, of course, vinegary pickles. So get out your glass jars for the preserving, your stockpot for the borsch, your frying pan for the blini, and get cooking.



Murdoch HB
$49.99

SWEET HEART
Natalie Paull

What does your heart desire? For many of us, the answer is something deliciously sweet. Baker Nat Paull (*Beatrix Bakes*) has organised her latest book by flavour and texture, dedicating sections to profiles including dark, bitter & sticky; tart'n'tangy; and fluffy & flaky & full of air. There are some seriously delectable and attention-grabbing options, including raspberry jelly lamingtons, a malted devil's food cake dubbed 'The Darkness', a passionfruit & coconut Bombe Alaska, and Paull's famous featherlight sponge cake. Less complicated choices include gingersnaps and old-fashioned sour-cream scones. The handy 'Bake-tionary' at the back of the book is full of advice and tips.



Hardie Grant HB
WAS $45
NOW $19.99
$

TURKISH FLAVOURS
Sevtap Yüce

Turkish-Australian chef Sevtap Yüce operates a popular café in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales where she has built a devoted following for her contemporary Australian interpretations of classic Turkish dishes. This book is divided into five sections – breakfast, mezes and salads, main meals, desserts and basics – and its culinary hallmarks are simplicity and robust flavours. There's a lot to inspire the home cook here, including a good range of dips, vegetable mezes, mains and sweets. Though most readers will probably give the recipe for fried sheep's testicles a miss, we're prepared to bet that more than a few will give the kofte, zucchini fritters and baklava recipes a go.



Plum PB
WAS $44.99
NOW $39.99
$

SIMPLE PLEASURES
Julia Busuttil Nishimura

As always, this much-loved cookbook author focuses on the simple, delicious and everyday. *Simple Pleasures* includes many meals easily made on a weekday evening, as well as some more-luxurious options to make on a weekend. There are special sections on sandwiches, breakfasts and things to do with eggs and tinned fish, as well as some good chunky sections on sweet things. Julia Busuttil Nishimura reminds us of the importance of cooking with the seasons, so we have a spring *minestra*; a summer lasagna with zucchini; a fig, sugar snap pea and haloumi salad for autumn; and a fennel gratin for winter. The delightful mix of influences makes this truly Australian cooking.



Ebury HB
WAS $69.99
NOW $54.99
$

SIMPLE TOO
Yotam Ottolenghi & Verena Lochmuller

Just in time for summer comes the latest Ottolenghi cookbook, a follow-up to his global bestseller *Simple*. Like its predecessor, *Simple Too* is packed with brand-new recipes that are full of flavour and intensity. They also result in food that looks as good as it tastes. Covering breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert, each of the 135 dishes included can be made in under 30 minutes, cooked in one pot and prepped ahead. The author says that 'it's a noisy world out there, and simple cooking is our solution' – a philosophy that is sure to appeal to those with busy working and family lives.

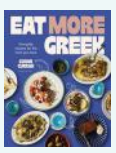
Highly Recommended



$36.99

COFFEE, FOR HERE
Morgan Eckroth
Murdoch HB

This handbook for at-home coffee enthusiasts explains every major brewing method (pour-over, cold brew, espresso etc) with clear instructions, illustrations, and QR-code video walkthroughs.



$45

EAT MORE GREEK
Conor Curran
Murdoch PB

A *MasterChef* alumnus demystifies traditional Greek recipes for local cooks, focusing on dishes that are approachable, affordable and achievable.



$49.99

THE HOLIDAY KITCHEN
Leigh Sales & Gwen Blake
Simon & Schuster PB

The subtitle of this cookbook says it all: 'Mouth-watering recipes that ease the mental load of cooking on holidays and at home.'



$59.99

JAPANESE BAKEHOUSE
Satoshi Narusawa
Smith Street HB

A guide to the art of shokupan, souzaipan and other classic Japanese delicacies from an Australia-based master baker.



$39.99

COZY BAKING LIFE
Michelle Lu
Murdoch HB

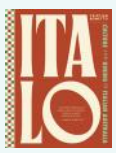
Recipes and inspiration from the baking devotee behind the mega-popular @sweet_essence_ Instagram feed, who is known for cake creations that taste as good as they look.



$60

GATHER: NATIVE AUSTRALIAN INGREDIENTS, MODERN AUSTRALIAN RECIPES
Eddie Bulatao
Fremantle HB

Modern recipes featuring native Australian foraged ingredients from a First Nations chef based in Western Australia.



$45

ITALO
Cristian Bonetto
Hardie Grant Explore HB

This beautifully designed book traces the impact of Italian migration on Australian life, including cuisine. Bonetto profiles communities, businesses and cultural institutions in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

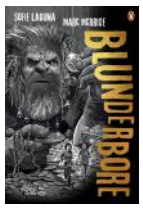


$49.99

PLANTS ON FIRE
Simon Toohey
Harper by Design HB

100+ recipes showcasing how to maximise flavour when cooking vegetables over flame.

Blunderbore
Sofie Laguna & Marc McBride

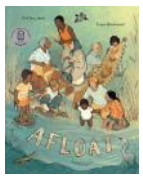


Penguin PB
WAS $29.99
NOW $24.99

Dedicated to 'Everyone Around the World Who Stands Up to Giants', this graphic novel is a retelling of the classic fairy tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. It opens with the story we all know – country boy Jack trades his family's last asset, a cow, for a handful of magic beans. The beans grow into a tall beanstalk that leads to a land above the clouds where a nasty giant lives. From this point Laguna and McBride's version goes in a different direction, introducing Gemma, a 12-year-old girl from a different world who finds herself in Jack's story when there is a mysterious slippage between her world and his. Jack and Gemma's adventures in the giant's lair while trying to escape are hair-raising, involving the grotesque giant Blunderbore (Those toenails! That pair of undies! That recipe book collection!) as well as his army of nasty super-sized rats. Will Jack and Gemma end up as the giant's dinner or can they convince the villagers who have been enslaved by the giant to revolt, free the many animals kept in cages and escape down the beanstalk with them? McBride's detailed black-and-white graphics are a triumph – sometimes moody, sometimes whimsical and often very funny. 8+







Hardie Grant Children's HB
WAS $24.99
NOW $12.99

AFLOAT
Kirli Saunders (illustrated by Freya Blackwood)

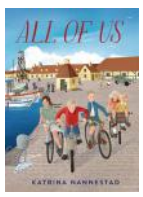
Weaving is used as a metaphor for resilience and unity in this story from Gunai author Kirli Saunders. Written for First Nations people across the world, the reader follows an elder and a child through an urban landscape that becomes increasingly industrial. As the elder teaches the child to weave, people from the community come to join them. With pared-back prose beautifully accompanied by Freya Blackwood's flowing illustrations, this story has a strong message of hope, survival and the importance of community. 2+



Hardie Grant Children's HB
WAS $32.99
NOW $14.99

ALL ABOUT MAGICAL CREATURES
Izzy Quinn

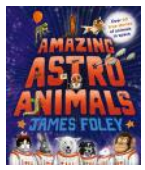
This treasury of (fictional) facts describes the biology, history and sociology of various magical creatures. We discover that some dragons are so small they can curl up in a teacup. There are sections about how fairy children learn to fly when they're about a year old, and how mermaids love to nap vertically in the water, face up to the sun. Each page is a beautiful artwork filled with sweet, cheeky, lovable mythical characters. 3+



ABC HB
$24.99

ALL OF US
Katrina Nannestad

The children's historical novels written by Katrina Nannestad have a nostalgic allure, being reminiscent of the acclaimed novels published by Oxford University Press' children's imprint in the 1970s and 1980s. Nannestad's novels set in Europe during WWII, which include the multi-award-winning *We Are Wolves*, are similarly excellent. Set in Demark during the Nazi occupation, *All of Us* follows the exciting adventures of a cheeky and courageous group of schoolchildren who work together to defy the Germans and save their Jewish friends and neighbours. 10+.



Fremantle HB
$34.99

AMAZING ASTRO ANIMALS
James Foley

Did you know that Hawaiian Bobtail Squids went to live on the International Space Station? Or that domestic silkworms went to space for five days in 1987? This thoroughly researched book is about animals who really travelled to space. Each 'mission report' delivers information about a species, why people sent it to space, and what scientists discovered from the mission. The book has a great introduction explaining the perils of life in space, briefly explains the space race and even includes a primer on the animal kingdom. For space and animal enthusiasts alike. 9+



Phaidon HB
$29.95

ANIMALS OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC
Teresa Robeson (illustrated by Ping Zhu)

Are you a patient Ox, a brave Tiger, or a friendly Pig? This illustrated guide to the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac is a joyful celebration of cultural traditions featuring fun facts, vibrant illustrations and a choose your own adventure–style quiz to find your perfect zodiac match. A perfect gift book that brings an ancient tradition to life for a new generation. 6+



Walker PB
$17.99

BODDER FINN AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD
Phil Cummings

Strange things are afoot in the land of Alibon. Sky rumblings lead to sky falls, and three children find themselves sailing beyond the edge of the known world. Curious and adventurous Bodder Finn, his resourceful sister Ailie and his scared but brave-when-he-needs-to-be best friend Olo find out more about their world than they could have ever imagined. Their discovery is a fabulous twist for a young reader. This is a book about family and friendship, courage and curiosity. It's also about looking after our world. 8+

Highly Recommended



$32.99

BEFORE IT WAS CALLED SCIENCE
Corey Tutt (illustrated by Jaelyn Biumaiwai)
Allen & Unwin HB

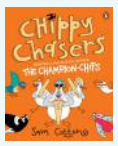
In this follow-up to *The First Scientists*, First Nations author Corey Tutt shares more incredible stories of how Australia's first peoples practised science long before it carried that name. 7+



$22.99

BETWEEN GHOSTS AND GODS
Ann Sei Lin
Walker PB

Kusu has sold her soul to a demon and hopes to achieve reincarnation. Arun, a prince from the mortal realm, is desperately searching for his mother. When Kasu agrees to help Arun with his search, the two become caught in an ever-tightening web of danger and deceit. Haunting dark fantasy for readers aged 14+.



$14.99

CHIPPY CHASERS: THE CHAMPION-CHIPS
Sam Cotton
Penguin PB

Will Team Seagull – Stacey, Stanley, Steve-o and Wormy – overcome all odds and win The Champion-Chips? A hilarious graphic novel for readers aged 6+.



$24.99

THE EVERYWHERE TRAIN
Deborah Frenkel & Danny Snell
Hardie Grant Children's HB

A story about trains and traditions, children and their grandparents, and the everlasting power of memory and imagination. 4+



$26.99

FOUND IN AUSTRALIA
Joanne O'Callaghan (illustrated by Kori Song)
Allen & Unwin HB

Celebrating iconic Australian places, animals and experiences, this counting adventure includes a map with First Nations placenames for all of the locations in the story.
Note: December release. 3+



WAS $26.99
NOW $21.99

MR BADGER AND THE BOUBLES GRAND HOTEL
Leigh Hobbs
Allen & Unwin HB

It's the 175th birthday of the Boubles Grand Hotel and Special Events Manager Mr Badger is in charge of the celebration. But things are going wrong – is something or someone trying to spoil the party? 5+



$24.99

MY WALK THROUGH THE SEASONS ON NGAANYATJARRA COUNTRY
Daisy Tjuparntarri Ward (various illustrators)
ILF HB

Published by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, this picture book tells the story of a little girl and her daily life amid the changing seasons on Ngaanyatjarra Country in Western Australia. 2+

9. What has been consulted trillions of times and read by billions of people?

Hometown Shaun Tan



Allen & Unwin HB
WAS $35
NOW $29.99

What's your hometown like? Is it beautiful and bewildering? Do you look like your friends and family? Do you feel like you belong? What if someone fell from the sky and they looked just like you? What if they told you your real home was somewhere far, far away? What would you do? Twenty years after the publication of Shaun Tan's acclaimed wordless graphic novel *The Arrival*, the globally celebrated illustrator is back with another tale of identity and belonging in a strange world. And it was absolutely worth the wait – *Hometown* is simply magnificent. The story is charming, playful and poignant but it's the illustrations that truly dazzle, whether in small panels bursting with personality or full-page spreads featuring some of Tan's most breathtaking compositions to date. This is a book to treasure. 10+



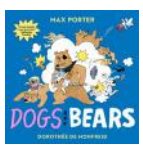




HarperCollins PB
$17.99

BUILDING 903
Lois Lowry

Tessa's genius twin brother Theo has disappeared, her elderly neighbour is suddenly taken away, and now Tessa is uncovering secrets about her own family. She lives in a totalitarian surveillance state run by an 'arrogant, selfish, angry man' with weirdly dyed hair. Marriage, pets and music are banned. So are books, because books have a wonderful power – they can transport you to another world ... which might have something to do with Theo's disappearance. From the author of the iconic Giver Quartet, this is high-quality speculative fiction for young adult readers. 11+



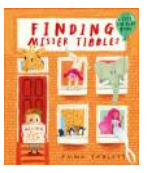
Faber HB
$24.99

DOGS AND BEARS
Max Porter & Dorothée de Monfreid

This is a story about brawling. Specifically, dogs and bears brawling. They fight because bears don't like dogs wearing berets or sunglasses or cloaks. But sometimes they fight just because they feel like it. What will get them to stop? And who is the mysterious narrator with so many opinions? This is the first children's book written by novelist Max Porter (*Grief is the Thing with Feathers*, *Lanny*) and it's a true delight – playful, silly and extremely funny. 3+



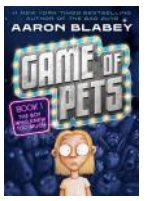
10. What is the professional mantra of Artemis Procter?



Walker HB
$19.99

FINDING MISTER TIBBLES
Emma Yarlett

Mr Tibbles is lost! His young owner embarks on a mission to find him, going door-to-door to ask his neighbours for help. There are plenty of surprises along the way but no Mr Tibbles ... Each spread in this lift-the-flap book is incredibly charming, full of intricate and amusing details. As the search progresses through a series of neighbourhood houses, interiors become increasingly elaborate and fantastical, until it all culminates in a funny twist ending. This is a book that rewards close viewing, perfect for a child who loves to pore over illustrations. 4+



Pan Macmillan PB
$16.99

GAME OF PETS: BOOK 1
Aaron Blabey

Aaron Blabey has been writing animals as bad guys since Pig the Pug first tormented sausage dog, Trevor. This time, the animals in question are actually pet-agents who are being controlled by aliens. Their mission? To destroy planet Earth in a millennia-long game show. *The Boy Who Knew Too Much*, the first in a planned seven-book series, is a wild bundle of chaos starring a lonely kid with allergies, an axolotl in a bottle and Carol, a muscly veteran wheelchair rider who drives a monster truck. It's an illustrated chapter book rather than a graphic novel, but has the same absurd, plot-propelling energy as Blabey's popular The Bad Guys books. 8+



S&S Affirm Kids HB
$24.99

THE GOOD DECISION
Jo Dabrowski & Cate James

As much as he tries, Albert can't seem to make good decisions. An example: Albert muses on how good trampolining is for the soul – perhaps his guinea pig would like to try trampolining too? After upsetting his entire family, his neighbours, his guinea pig and the family cat Albert finally makes his first good decision. Or does he? This is story about trying your best but finding that everything goes wrong anyway. There's a lovely interplay between the matter-of-fact text and the total chaos being unleashed in the illustrations. 3+



Macmillan HB
WAS $26.99
NOW $21.99

GRUFFALO GRANNY
Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

The Gruffalo is back after 20 years! And this time Granny is coming to stay. Before she arrives, the Gruffalo and his daughter need to gather ingredients for a tasty stew. They happen upon a familiar mouse – is he destined for the stew pot or will he make another heroic escape? This joyful riff on Scheherazade can be enjoyed by anyone, but will have particular meaning for Julia Donaldson's fans as it is full of references to her canon. A clever and funny addition to the world of the Gruffalo. 3+



What on Earth HB
$59.99

HOW TO DO (ALMOST) EVERYTHING
Becky Baines
(illustrated by Laurie Avon)

It's very hard to imagine a kid who wouldn't be extremely keen to try at least several of the 100+ 'how-tos' in this book. There's the whimsical (juggling or miming stair walking) and the scientific (identifying animals and calculating pi). There's the practical (tying knots and packing suitcases), the sporty (scoring a penalty goal or skateboarding) and the psychological (building confidence and conducting a negotiation). And then there's how to estimate the number of jelly beans in a jar to win the guessing game – and who hasn't wanted to do that? 10+



Thames & Hudson HB
WAS $26.99
NOW $21.99

I SEE RED
Maggie Hutchings & Sarah Zweck

A conflict between two siblings begins with a disagreement over crayons and spirals into a much bigger fight with much bigger emotions. The siblings stomp and shout, but after some quiet time they realise how much they mean to each other. Maggie Hutchings and Sarah Zweck previously worked together on *Here Come the Cousins* and they return here with a warm and lively story about sibling rivalry. Hutchings, a former family counsellor, wrote this story to show children that conflict is both normal and something that can be worked through. 2+



Hardie Grant Children's HB
WAS $24.99
NOW $19.99

IT'S A FIRE STATION CELEBRATION!
Davina Bell & Jenny Løvlie

The best-selling duo behind *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors* have returned with an energetic and exuberant story about Fergus McGee, a boy who passionately loves the fire station. Each week Fergus is bursting with questions no-one wants to answer until finally he asks the most important question of the day. Davina Bell's clever, unusual and amusing rhyming patterns are a pleasure to read aloud. The prose is beautifully complemented by Jenny Løvlie's spirited illustrations. Perfect for the child in your life who always asks 'Why?'. 3+



Pan PB
$18.99

LOTTIE, POG AND THE RUNAWAY GHOST
Sally Rippin

Lottie Baker is surrounded by love. There's her chaotic, warm, playful dad. And her cape-wearing bestie Morgan-Borgan with his sisters and two loving mums. And of course there's Pog-the-Dog. They all adore Lottie. But Lottie's mum lives far away and is busy being a famous singer. Then Martha the cheeky ghost appears in Lottie's bedroom. She starts telling Lottie about the dangers of stepmothers, and the importance of getting Lottie's mum back. Lottie has to decide what she really wants in this touching ghost story about chosen families and love from the 2024-2025 Australian Children's Laureate. 8+



Wild Dog HB
$26.99

POSSUM SKIN CLOAK
Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson
(illustrated by Leanne Jones)

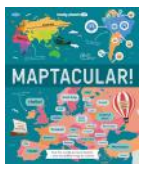
When you are born your mother and aunties wrap you in the warmth of belonging. So begins this poetic story, which explains the importance of possum skin cloaks to many First Nations people. When a baby is born it is wrapped in a possum skin cloak and as the child grows bigger, so does the cloak. It protects the child from the weather and keeps it warm. It is a connection to family and to Country, a canvas for sacred stories. Warm lyrical prose is complemented by Leanne Jones' lush and richly detailed illustrations. 5+



Hardie Grant Children's HB
WAS $24.99
NOW $9.99

A PRESENT FOR JUNKET
Mandy Wildsmith & Nancy Liu

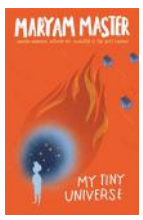
Gherkin the groodle is searching for the perfect present for her friend Junket. She combs through the neighbourhood, stopping along the way to enlist her friends' help. It seems as if Gherkin will never find the right present – until she suddenly has a genius idea! Mandy Wildsmith's gently humorous story with its underlying theme of anti-consumerism is complemented by Nancy Liu's watercolour illustrations, which perfectly capture the animated expressions of Gherkin and her friends. This is a sweet story with a repeated underlying theme of appreciating what you already have. 3+



Lonely Planet Kids HB
WAS $32.99
NOW $24.99

MAPTACULAR!
Laura Baker

Where in the world have dinosaurs been found? Which country has the most roller-coasters? Do we drive on the left or the right in Guyana? On each spread of this colourful book another map shows us a different framework of facts about the world – from understanding the Pangea puzzle, to the Roman Empire at its peak, to where today's countries source their electricity. A fascinating collection of information to be enjoyed by fact-finders of all ages. 8+



Pan PB
$16.99

MY TINY UNIVERSE
Maryam Master

The children's books released by Iranian-Australian writer Maryam Master have been distinguished by their thoughtful explorations of topical themes. *My Tiny Universe* is no different, set in a dystopic future where the climate emergency has devastated both society and the landscape. Eleven-year-old science geek Leif has no friends but loads of phobias. He's also the first kid ever to be born with CIA (Climate Induced Anomalies), which means that he has lots of health problems. When Leif goes missing after an unfortunate incident at school, his family blame his friend, Albie. But truth is relative, and can be complicated. And Albie may not be what he seems ... 9+



Penguin PB
$17.99

NIGHTMARE LEAGUE
Reece Carter

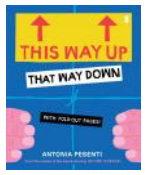
Maxwell Pidgeon knows monsters aren't real ... until he meets one intent on annihilating him. Now an agent-in-training with the Nightmare League, a top-secret organisation that keeps the world safe from otherworldly creatures, Max is soon facing off against disgusting, slimy beasts on a regular basis while also covertly working to uncover the secrets his superiors are keeping from him – secrets that relate to his missing investigative journalist father. This is a dryly funny, thrill-packed book that skilfully balances espionage with horror. 8+



Harper Fire PB
$29.99

THE SIXTH FACTION
Veronica Roth

It's time to celebrate, because blockbuster author Veronia Roth, master of the YA dystopian genre, has released the first book in a new Divergent series. Beatrice Prior stands on the brink of a decision every person in her world must make – five factions, five futures, five lives. She has a plan: she's going to make the bravest choice, and leave Abnegation behind to join Dauntless, even though it means leaving her family behind. But when tragedy strikes at her Choosing Ceremony, everything changes – her world, her plans, even Beatrice herself. 14+



Scribble BB
$22.99

THIS WAY UP THAT WAY DOWN
Antonia Pesenti

Reimaging everyday moments through unfolding sequences, this book uses vibrant illustrations and sturdy fold-out flaps to explore the difference between up and down. Infants and toddlers will enjoy identifying which is which in scenes and settings that will be familiar to them – the playground, dinner table, swimming pool and garden. Another delightful early-years picture book from the creator of the much-loved *Rhyme Cordial* and *Party Rhyme*. 0+



Simon & Schuster PB
$22.99

TRUST FALL
Lynn Painter

When Julia meets Damion at her new school, the prestigious Gardenwood Academy, she thinks he's a very attractive asshole. He's rich, he's tall, and he looks like a character from a vampirical dark romance novel. Julia and her family are from small-town Nebraska, worlds away from their new privileged life in New York's Upper West Side. Julia doesn't dress or look like her new classmates, and almost immediately becomes a target for bullying. But is Damion as insufferable as he initially appears? Sparks fly and the plot thickens in this *Gossip Girl*–like teen romance. 14+



Magic Cat HB
WAS $29.99
NOW $24.99

UNDER THE OLIVE MOON
Nour Ferwana, Raahat Kaduji & Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

'Even in Gaza, children are still children ... Their parents tell them stories to keep their hearts full of wonder.' So says the Palestinian teller of these ten short fables, a mother of two living in uncertainty in Gaza. These are fables in the true meaning of the word – each carries a little moral lesson, but they are gentle ones, usually about kindness or hope. For children these will be sweet stories, accompanied as they are by soft, comforting illustrations. For adults there will be an added poignancy. 4+



Allen & Unwin Children's HB
$24.99

THE WITCHES OF WINDERRY SPIRES
Karen Foxlee

It's been a long time since a new girl was invited to Winderry Spires, home of the Ticking Witch. But when Lucy is invited and arrives, the Witch has gone. Instead, Lucy meets a cast of creatures who are in turn grumpy, awkward, anxious or sweet. These include a water-dragon frightened of water, a pegasus who hates his wings, and an adorable, winged wolf puppy. But Lucy soon learns that 'magic is failing faster and faster' and these loveable creatures may disappear. A heartwarming adventure set in a beautifully crafted magical universe. 9+

Highly Recommended



$24.99

N IS FOR NONI
Alison Lester
Allen & Unwin Children's HB

A delightful rhyming alphabet book featuring a lovable pony who lives on a farm overlooking the sea and plays with her best friends, Dave Dog and Coco the Cat. 1+



$19.99

ON A BUSHWALK
Andrea Rowe & Hannah Sommerville
Hardie Grant Children's BB

Explore the hidden wonders of a bushwalk in this beautiful rhyming board book focusing on the world of colour. 1+



$18.99

PROTECTOR OF BEYOND
Shara Curlett
Penguin PB

The first volume in a new fantasy series featuring 12-year-old Elder Triss, who must navigate her way through the mysterious and dangerous world known as Beyond. 8+



$27.99

RISING THUNDER
Neal Shusterman
Walker PB

This dystopic sci-fi thriller featuring teenage protagonists and two powerful artificial intelligences is a prequel to Shusterman's bestselling *Scythe. Note: December release.* 14+



$24.99

SALTWATER BLOOD
Manuia Heinrich
Allen & Unwin Children's PB

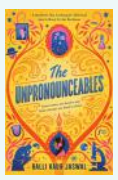
In this YA speculative thriller, a teen fights to clear her brother of a murder charge by embracing her gift of hearing the sea's prophetic thoughts. 13+



$16.99

S.I.G.M.A. 1: WEB OF SPIES
Tim Ayliffe
S&S Affirm Kids PB

Ollie Speed and his friends Ella and George investigate a murder and the potentially related disappearance of Ollie's father. This exciting debut title in a new adventure series will be enjoyed by readers aged 10+.



$19.99

THE UNPRONOUNCEABLES
Balli Kaur Jaswal
Allen & Unwin Children's PB

Indian-Australian teenager Navkiranjhot Ahloowalia (Navy) is struggling to balance her parents' expectations with her own dreams of the future in this YA story with a romantic sub-theme. 12+



$16.99

YOU & ME AND THE GIGANTIC KNUCKLEHEAD
(illustrated by Bill Hope)
Pan PB

The third book in Griffith's action-packed and hilarious You and Me series. 6+

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Competition Entry
Your chance to win a $1000 gift voucher!

To win a $1000 gift voucher:

- Pay close attention as you read the reviews in this guide
- Answer the questions scattered throughout the guide
- Fill in the form below with your answers
- Attach the form to a receipt from the purchase of an item from this guide (NB: your purchase must be from one of our shops)
- Return to one of our shops by 5pm on Thursday 28 January 2027

I'd like to enter the competition. My answers are:

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

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Entries are accepted from Sunday 8 November 2026 and must be received by 5pm on Thursday 28 January 2027. The prize will be drawn at Gleebooks at 5pm on Friday 5 February 2027. The winner will be notified by email or telephone and posted on the Gleebooks website. Employees of participating bookshops are not permitted to enter the competition. The winner has 14 days from the date of the notification being made to claim their prize; if unclaimed, a re-draw will take place at the same location on Monday 22 February 2027. Gift voucher valid at the store where the receipt was issued. Promoter: Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe NSW 2037. Tel: (02) 9660 2333.

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Readings

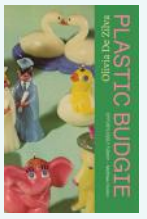
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SLV	285–321 Russell St 03 8664 7540
ST KILDA	112 Acland St 03 9525 3852

The Readings New Australian Fiction Prize 2026

The Readings Prize is unique in the Australian literary landscape, being the only prize currently run by an independent Melbourne bookshop and supporting emerging local voices. These six books were chosen by a panel of 15 Readings booksellers. The books are well written and speak to a diverse range of Australian experiences; each has something unique to offer readers.

WINNER



PLASTIC BUDGIE
Olivia De Zilva

This coming-of-age novel about growing up as a child of Asian immigrants in parochial Adelaide is razor sharp, nostalgic and laugh-out-loud funny. Olivia is raised not only by her parents, but also by her beloved grandparents, Poh Poh and Gong Gong. Questioning how our memories and our families make us who we are, this is auto-fiction at its absolute best – a joyous, delightful ride.

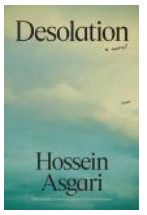
Pink Shorts Press PB
WAS $32.99
NOW $27.99



ARBORESCENCE
Rhett Davis

Bren's partner works online and has never met his co-workers. When his partner, Caelyn, discovers a group of people purporting to become trees as a response to the climate crisis, she starts investigating. This takes her on a journey away from Bren to become a high-profile international speaker. This is the story of a relationship and of a passionate response to a world in crisis.

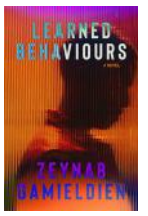
Hachette PB
$32.99



DESOLATION
Hossein Asgari

In 1980s Iran, Amin is a teenager. His brother is a mathematical genius who wants to make his fortune in America, but is randomly killed in the downing of Flight 655. As Amin grapples with his family's tragedy and attempts to make a new life for himself, his relationships expose him to new truths and dangers.

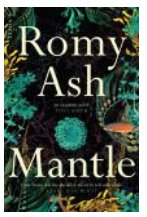
Ultimo PB
$34.99



LEARNED BEHAVIOURS
Zeynab Gamieldien

Zaid is climbing the ladder as a barrister in the staid corridors of his law office. It's a long way from his Western Sydney high school and the traumatic events of his final year, when his best friend, Hass, was arrested for murder. But then Zaid is pulled back to the world he left behind and starts to consider whether Hass might have been innocent.

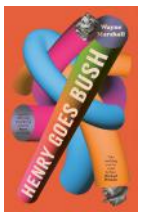
Ultimo Press PB
$34.99



MANTLE
Romy Ash

Ursula leaves her job to be with her dying mother on the coast of Tasmania, where a strange sickness is infecting everyone. As she grieves, Ursula takes up with a younger man from the pub and develops the sickness herself. *Mantle* is a strange, beautiful rumination on environmental decline, pandemics and grief.

Ultimo PB
$34.99



HENRY GOES BUSH
Wayne Marshall

In 1892, Henry Lawson is banished to Bourke by his publisher to discover the real bush and hopefully stem his alcoholism. Using a fascinating blend of fact and fiction, this is a hilarious and surreal story of how Lawson's life might have happened differently.

Pan Macmillan PB
$34.99

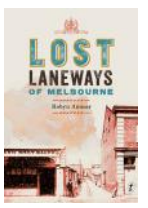
Very Melbourne Books To Discover



OLD VINTAGE MELBOURNE: A CULINARY CHRONICLE
Chris Macheras

A celebration of the restaurants, bars, cafes, 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.

Scribe HB
WAS 59.99
NOW $54.99



LOST LANEWAYS OF MELBOURNE
Robyn Annear

Robyn Annear has trawled historical records to trace the existence, over the years, of around 320 distinct Melbourne laneways. In this book she takes the reader on a series of guided walks around the modern city to discover the ghost city behind it, and the stories of the people who lived there.

Text PB
WAS 36.99
NOW $31.99

PROJECT MANAGER: Virginia Maxwell **REVIEWS:** Bronte Coates, Mel Fulton, Rose Gertsakis, Chris Gordon, Will Gourlay, Julia Jackson, Lorien Kaye, Rosie McClements, David McClymont, Virginia Maxwell, Will Maxwell, Joe Murray, Sonia Nair, Thuy On, Cordelia Rice, Doug Wallen, Ailsa Wild **EDITOR:** Virginia Maxwell **PROOFREADER:** Philippa Costigan **COVER ILLUSTRATOR:** Jeff the Peff **DESIGNER:** TRiC **PRINTER:** IVE Group