

# Readings Monthly

FREE | AUGUST 2026

**Check out an  
extract from  
*Hardcore: 50 Years  
of Skateboarding  
in Australia***

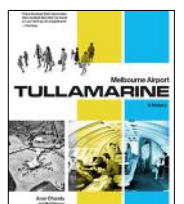
pages 10–11

**Gingersnaps  
for all! A sneak  
peek from  
Natalie Paull**

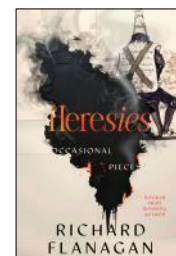
pages 18–19



**JORDAN  
PROSSER**  
page 5



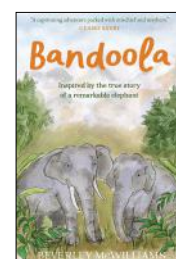
**ARUN  
CHANDU &  
MATT HARVEY**  
page 13



**RICHARD  
FLANAGAN**  
page 14



**SONYA  
HARTNETT  
& LUCIA  
MASCIULLO**  
page 20



**BEVERLEY  
MCWILLIAMS**  
page 20

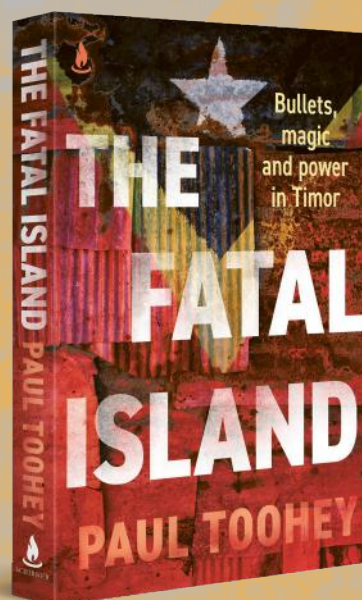
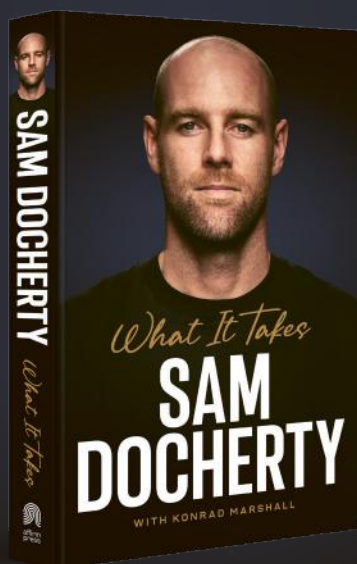


**SUZY ZAIL**  
page 20



*'You can't just sit back and wait for things to happen – you've gotta make them happen.'*

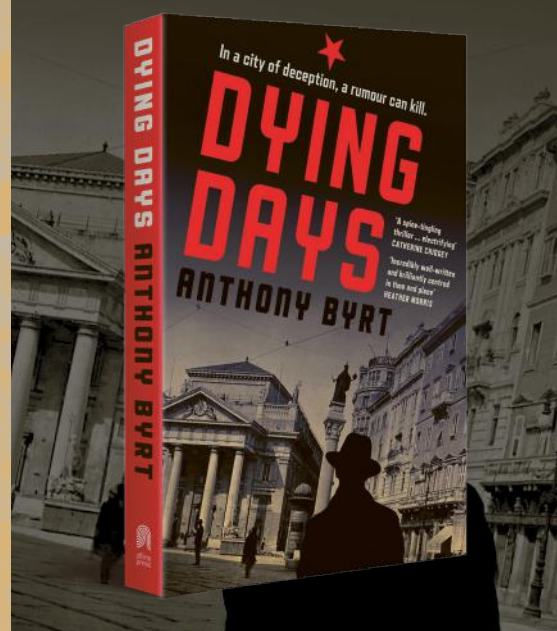
**SAM DOCHERTY**



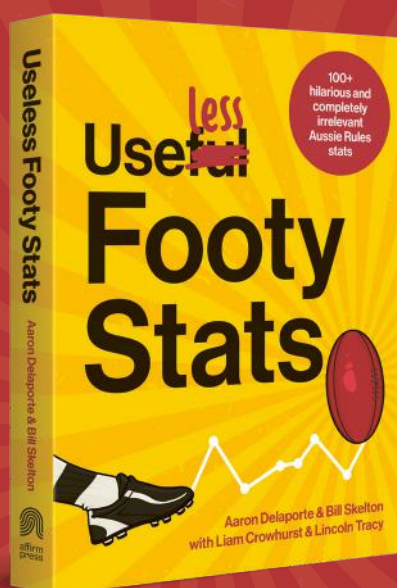
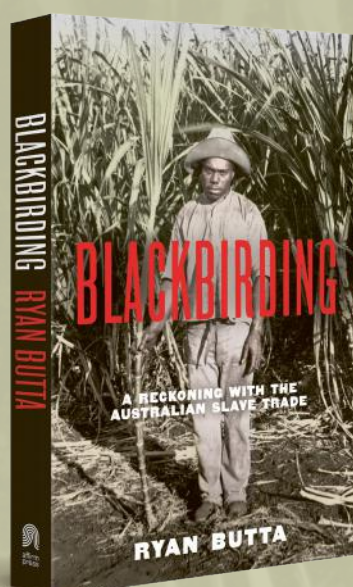
**A gripping, fast-paced and razor-sharp expose on East Timor.**

**'Incredibly well written ... A wonderful retelling.'**

**HEATHER MORRIS**

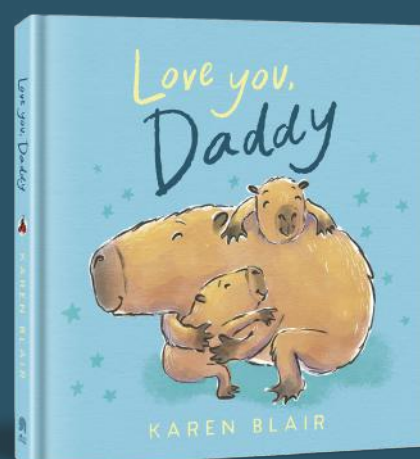


**An important reckoning with Australia's unspoken history of slavery.**



**The stats that really matter for every diehard footy fan.**

**This sturdy lift-the flap book celebrates all the ways dads make every day special.**





News

Father's Day

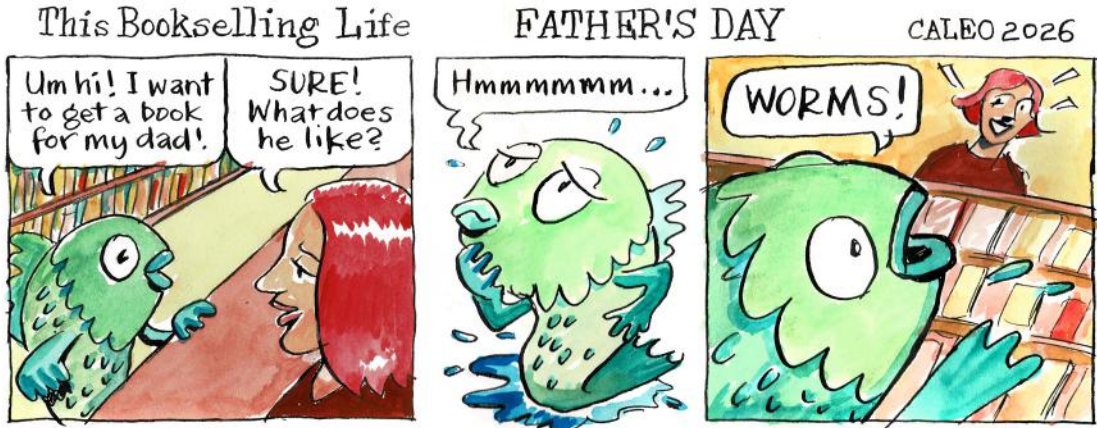
Father's Day is coming up on Sunday 6 September. We've included some handy gift ideas in this issue to help you find the perfect bookish present. You'll also find plenty of ideas in our nine shops. Please note that our online shipping deadline is Wednesday 26 August: any orders placed after this date will not be guaranteed to arrive in time for Father's Day.

Melbourne International Film Festival

The Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) is this month! Running from 6 to 23 August, MIFF offers eye-opening cinema to meet anticipation, to offer discovery, and to provide a celebration of the creativity of filmmaking. Browse the program and book your tickets at [miff.com.au](http://miff.com.au)

Emerging Writers' Festival

The Emerging Writers' Festival (EWF) is back for 2026. Running from 10 to 18 September, EWF brings together writers, artists and audiences across generations and practices, and remains a vital space for emerging voices, creative experimentation and literary community. The program launches on Wednesday 5 August. To find out more, head to [emergingwritersfestival.org.au](http://emergingwritersfestival.org.au)



Welcome Bernard Caleo

We'd like to give a delighted welcome to Bernard Caleo, an accomplished comic book artist (with a freshly minted PhD on the subject!) and Readings team member of long standing. Bernard is now combining these callings in our new *Readings Monthly* cartoon, *This Bookselling Life*.

Promos

3 for 2 picture book favourites

We have a great offer on a range of picture and board books, perfect for the last month of winter. Purchase two books and choose a third title in the range (of equal or lesser value) for free! This offer is available in Readings shops (except Readings Carlton) until 31 August 2026. Not available online. Offer valid on stickered, in-stock items only, while stocks last. Not valid with any other offer.

Events

As winter enters its final month, our events program is here to keep you warm. Our incredible line-up includes political discussions, workshops, lively debates, poetry, and many celebrations for all the wonderful books being published. Looking further ahead, keep an eye out for some exciting Readings A Day in Carlton news, which we'll be sharing in the weeks to come.

Look for the event symbol throughout this issue to discover more upcoming events.



For our full events calendar, the latest events information and to book tickets, scan the QR code or visit [readings.com.au/events](http://readings.com.au/events)

Robbie Swan & Fiona Patten in conversation

Monday 10 August at 6pm  
Readings Carlton, 309 Lygon St, Carlton  
*Free, but bookings are essential*

We are delighted to have Robbie Swan and MP Fiona Patten discuss their book, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Sex Party*, with Jacinta Parsons.

Picture book workshop with Gabrielle Wang

Sunday 16 August at 10am  
Readings Hawthorn, 687 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn  
*Tickets are \$75 per person*

Join Gabrielle Wang to learn the fundamentals of writing picture books in this workshop for adults. Perfect for beginners and emerging children's book writers.

More Fool Me by Richard Denniss

Tuesday 25 August at 6pm  
Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton  
*Tickets are \$20 per person and each includes a copy of More Fool Me*

We are delighted to invite you to hear Richard Denniss talk about his essay, *More Fool Me*, with Emma Shortis.

A Readings Kids event with ABC Radio

National's Top 100 Books  
Tuesday 1 September at 5pm  
The Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St, Carlton  
*Free, but bookings are essential*

Join ABC Radio National host Natasha Mitchell (Big Ideas), Andy Griffiths, Hilary Rogers and Tamuz Ellazam for a lively panel to consider their favourite Australian books for kids, and to debate whether children's books have become too didactic.

READINGS MONTHLY

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

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FRONT COVER

The August *Readings Monthly* cover features beautiful artwork by Seba Cestaro, created for our Father's Day windows. See more of Seba's work at [sebacestaro.com](http://sebacestaro.com)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

PRICES AND AVAILABILITY

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

Readings donates 10% of its profits each year to the Readings Foundation. Learn more about the foundation at [readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation](http://readings.com.au/the-readings-foundation)

SHOP INFORMATION

See shop opening hours, browse and buy online at [readings.com.au](http://readings.com.au). Australian online, mail and phone orders have \$9 flat rate shipping, with free shipping on orders \$100 and over.

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

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

- Review
- Events
- Special price

# Dear Reader

with Alison Huber



You may have noticed that we at Readings love to have authors come in and sign their books. Sometimes they drop by and sign them in our shops, sometimes they come into our head office in West Melbourne and sign their books in bulk ahead

of publication date (and the books are then distributed to our shops in time for the on-sale date by our drivers, who do the rounds of all our shops every weekday). Even though we manage a lot of these kinds of signings, I don't think we've had anything like the epic event that was undertaken by the creators of *Hardcore: 50 Years of Skateboarding in Australia*.

This was a serious commitment involving many, many books of some considerable weight that had to be unboxed, unboxed again (the books were in a box within a box!), and then taken out of shrink-wrap (shrink-wrapped within a box within a box!), then signed by two of the contributors on one day, and two of the contributors on another day in another week entirely, and then re-boxed, and re-boxed again to wait on their pallets until they could be sent around to our shops. I'm tired just thinking about all of that work, but a huge thanks to the Globe team and Thames & Hudson Australia for making this happen, and a very special mention to our unstoppable events and marketing coordinator Lucie Dess for overseeing the whole process from start to finish and keeping everyone smiling for the duration!

I've seen a lot of books in my time, but it's a rare one that attracts the degree of passion that this one has: everyone who has seen it has leafed through it for way longer than they meant to. It's an amazing thing, so much so that I don't know if we'll have any signed copies left by the time you are reading this, but we did have some, signed by writer Jason Boulter and all three of the Hill brothers! Turn to pages 10–11 for a taste of this extraordinary visual record of the history of skateboarding in Australia.

Mark, Joe and I had a very special invitation recently to attend the launch of a new series of books, the Penguin Modern Australian Classics. It was a lovely event held

at the Mint in Sydney, attended by fellow booksellers and publishing people, as well as three of the authors whose works feature in the first group of books: Richard Flanagan, Anna Funder and Steve Toltz. The authors gave a great panel presentation reflecting on their books in the series, among other things, and both the chats I had at the event and the fact of the publishing program itself affirmed some of the things I've been thinking about in relation to Australian writing and how it is remembered. Whether we acknowledge it or not, the memory of our literary past is part of the work (and outcomes of the work) of the Australian books and publishing industry. Endeavours like this one offer a material contribution to that history and give visibility to Australian content in the growing classics market. There are six books out in the series already that are so famous I won't even list their authors so you can prep for your next trivia night (*Cloudstreet*, *Stasiland*, *The Yield*, *Holding the Man*, *Looking for Alibrandi*, and *Hating Alison Ashley*) and six more due out in September (*A Fraction of the Whole*, *Playing Beatie Bow*, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, *The Light Between Oceans*, *True History of the Kelly Gang*, and *Once*). I love that there are titles from fiction, nonfiction, and children's categories, and am really keen to see what Penguin brings into the range in the next round of releases, which continues into 2027.

Meanwhile, I'm finding it hard to believe that it's August, which means we are now well into the second half of the publishing year, and hurtling towards the gifting and summer reading season (officially beginning this year in September – I'm calling it!). I am aware that people in retail and adjacent industries talk about 'Christmas' a lot – anticipating it, planning for it, enduring it, and recovering from it, only to realise it's on the calendar again the following year. So when August comes around, we're already knee-deep in planning November (the years go quickly in this churn), so I'm going to pause for a moment and acknowledge the books in our shops this August. Live in the now, dear Reader. Richard Flanagan's *Heresies* is one to look for (obviously!), a collection of wide-ranging nonfiction writing including essays, articles and speeches characterised by his sharp humour and brilliantly

thoughtful approach to all things. We have wonderful staff reviews for Lucianne Tonti's *Good Witch*, Michael Dulaney's *Sentinels*, Tom Griffiths' *Alice's dreaming*, and Anna Heyward's *Living with Freddie*. Xiao Hai's *Adrift in the South* is a poetic account of working in China's factories this century that will interest readers of Joseph Ponthus's *On the Line* and Heike Geissler's *Seasonal Associate*. George Megalogenis's *Three Shocks* is a position piece that makes a case for three defining moments in the nation's identity, and it joins other nonfiction highlights from Amy Remeikis, Bernard Keane, Cory Doctorow, Richard Denniss, and Jon Ronson.

Jordan Prosser's *Big Time* was an acclaimed local debut of the 2024 publishing year, and his second novel is great too: *Blue Giant* suggests a long career ahead. *Sorrow and Bliss* was a breakout book for Meg Mason and she is back this year with *Sophie, Standing There*. Jaclyn Moriarty will be known to many for her writing for children and young adults, but this month she publishes her first book for adults, *Time Travel for Beginners*, and our reviewer tells us it has magical powers that helped her recover from ill health, such is its strength: that's quite something! There's so much in international fiction to discover too: my love affair with the writing of Willy Vlautin continues with *The Left and the Lucky*; Jay McInerney finishes the journey with the characters he introduced in *Brightness Falls* (1992) with *See You on the Other Side*; Jem Calder's *I Want You to Be Happy* is garnering a lot of praise, including from our reviewer, who says that it is 'a strong contender for my favourite book this year' (noted!); fans of Danny McBride will be excited to learn he has written a book of short stories; I'm intrigued by Riikka Pulkkinen's *Enchantment*, which entranced our reviewer from its first page.

And finally, dear Reader, you know how I said we have to live in the now? Well, let's forget I ever suggested that, because we also have a great extract from a forthcoming *September* cookbook that you can't buy yet, but it's such a big deal sort of a thing, you'll be very happy that we decided to ignore my earlier advice. Turn to pages 18–19 for a sneak peek recipe from Natalie 'Beatrix Bakes' Paull's *Sweet Heart*. You can pre-order your copy now.

## Comments and Note

with Kim Gruschow



Recently, in a single, enjoyable sitting, I read Mac Barnett's new book *Make Believe: On Telling Stories to Children*. Barnett is the author of many books for young readers, and he is currently the National Ambassador for Young

People's Literature in the United States. Eager to elevate the massively devalued craft that is creating books for children, Barnett champions the potential of young readers, and *Make Believe* is a loose collection of ideas about how those making books for kids might best serve their audiences.

The book has sparked some debate. Barnett suggests that kids' books are more likely to be didactic and moralising because they are 'made by people (adults) who are not members of the intended audience (kids)'. It's true that gulfs exist between what kids want and what adults want for kids. Education and wellbeing are important considerations, but great books do so much more than teach lessons. Above all, reading should be enjoyable, and the capacities of young readers should not be underestimated. I love Barnett's proposition that kids might be 'the ideal readers of literary fiction'. I'm inclined to agree. Kids are open to experimental form and ideas. As an adult reader, I've found that thinking about the way I approached reading when I was younger has made me a better, more engaged reader, and reading has become more rewarding. It's useful to try to read without the assumption that everything can be understood immediately, or ever.

I also adored the chapter about *Goodnight Moon*, wherein Barnett describes how Margaret Wise Brown drops us into the void with the blank 'Goodnight nobody' page and then pulls us back with 'Goodnight mush', a funny word. 'We Exist! We are alive! We eat food! What a relief!' he writes. I was moved by Barnett's thoughtful descriptions of Brown's pathway to children's books. He uses reports from her time as a teacher to highlight her underappreciated talents and the differences between educating and storytelling. He also champions the work of legendary editor Ursula Nordstrom, who was responsible for an astounding selection of the 20th-century's most-loved classics. *Make Believe* is a short, impassioned read and I've thought of it often since reading it. When I am asked what I think makes a good children's book, my answer has always matched Barnett's; respect for the reader is crucial.

It was a joy and a privilege to witness author Li Chen speaking to her many fans recently at the Melbourne launch of *Detective Beans and the Map of Mystery*, held at Readings Emporium. A number of the kids in attendance dressed up as Detective Beans for the occasion; many had drawn pictures, made bookmarks, and written notes for Li Chen. One young reader had made a Detective Beans hand puppet. They were so excited to meet Li Chen that they were jumping up and down by the time they made it to the front of the long signing line.

News about kids and reading is often negative, but when the books are good, kids are the most engaged, enthusiastic and open-minded readers! **R**



# Fiction

## Australian Fiction

### Six Days

Amanda Curtin

Upswell. PB. \$32.99

Available 4 August



Daniel, an expatriate Australian who has lived in Paris for more than 40 years, is trying to atone for his life and become the 'good man' his friend Marcelline believes him to be. But Marcelline is

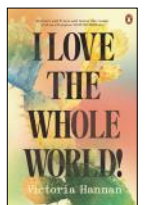
missing, and Daniel makes an error of judgment that places everything he values at risk. Set over six days in Paris's Latin Quarter in 2012, this novel weaves lifetimes, and personal and political histories through Daniel's story, exploring fractured families, loss, grief, addiction, and resilience. Throughout, Daniel and his old dog walk the streets of Paris.

### I Love the Whole World!

Victoria Hannan

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



 Leslie McDonald is a newly single, middle-aged mother who is also dependable, steadfast, and a little broken. Life has moved on without her, but then she wins an

all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas, baby! Roll out that red carpet, Leslie McDonald is going overseas – and she is utterly terrified. Leslie plans every moment and every outfit. She follows the set timetable until she spends time in the desert, where she basks in the enormity of it all, meets old friends, and marvels at art, magic shows, plates of food, and other people. Finally, she remembers who she is, and realises who she can be – a solo adventurer.

This third novel by local author Victoria Hannan is a warm hug of joy and inspiration. Hannan gives us moments of humour and despair, along with empathetic kindness and an insight into the bizarre Las Vegas scene. As a reader, you too become a tourist in this land of neon lights, red dirt, scrappy shops, and large households. We get to see America as it is now, and for all its faults, there is the possibility of grace and the optimism of human connection around each corner. It is these contacts – these friendships – that allow Leslie McDonald to let go of regret and become the heroine all worn-out women need.

Readers who understand that the domestic lives of everyday people give a broader portrait of contemporary society will enjoy this story of one woman finding her feet in a surreal environment. Those who enjoy the writing of Toni Jordan or Alice Munro will love this novel for its use of pathos and humour. Gift this wonderful book to the friend who is grumbling about what to do next now that their kids have grown up. Let Leslie be a guide.

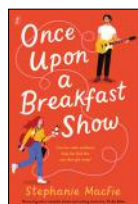
Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

### Once Upon a Breakfast Show

Stephanie MacFie

Text. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Breakfast show host Emily Blake has built a career out of turning her messy life into radio gold. But when an on-air stunt spirals out of control, she finds herself crowdsourcing her next date and unearthing

a long-buried romance. Thirteen years ago, Blake spent an unforgettable week with a man who then vanished. With her daughter starting high school and asking questions about the dad she never knew, Blake asks her listeners to help. What starts as ratings bait quickly becomes something more personal.

### Quite the Pair

Tobias Madden

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



Austin and Sydney have been best friends since sharing a small apartment in New York City over a decade ago. Now in their 30s with long-term partners and successful careers, everything is

perfect. But when both their relationships implode on the same night, they move back in together and make a pact to break their toxic habits over the next year. But it's not long before they slip into old patterns, raising the question: can people truly change, or are these soulmates doomed to repeat the same mistakes?

### Sophie, Standing There

Meg Mason

Fourth Estate. PB. \$34.99

Available now



 Meg Mason previously wrote the bestseller *Sorrow and Bliss*. Mason is funny, no doubt about it, and whip-smart. She has a wry humour which shines through her books. Her latest is the

story of Sophie, who has just suffered a marriage break-up. Sophie is lonely. She works as a sound technician for literary festivals, and she is painfully kind and 'nice'. Sophie reads a lot and finds solace in her books. She rediscovers an author and quickly develops an obsession with her – reading everything she's ever written, listening to every podcast she's ever been on and every interview she has ever given. This author and her thoughts overshadow every moment of Sophie's days and nights.

Mason is brilliant at writing about women's torment. She hits an emotional level that has me in tears one moment and laughing out loud the next. She really captures the loneliness Sophie is experiencing. She explores connection and love, as well as mocking the notion of celebrity in the current social media climate and our belief that we 'know' people through these mediums, when we really do not.

The whole novel is set in and around books and authors, so there is a lot to

love if that's your vibe. Mason's real-life bestie is Ann Patchett, so of course she makes a little cameo appearance, which is wholly enjoyable.

If you liked *Sorrow and Bliss*, enjoy books about books, or the writing of authors such as Jacqueline Maley or even Sally Rooney (but with more humour), then this is the book for you. Expect to see it everywhere – Mason is well loved around the world and *Sophie, Standing There* is definitely worth your time.

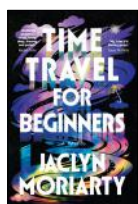
Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

### Time Travel for Beginners

Jaclyn Moriarty

Ultimo. PB. \$34.99

Available now



 I read this delightful novel

when I was sick in bed, and its miraculous properties rapidly restored me to good health! Jaclyn Moriarty is well known for her award-winning books

for children and young adults, and this novel for adults has the same charm, gentle humour and utterly loveable characters that populate all her stories.

A quirky scientist has invented time travel, but instead of making millions by selling her invention to the highest bidder, she sets up an innocuous shopfront in Sydney and calls it The Time Travel Agency, attracting passersby. You can travel only to the past and you cannot change anything that happens in the future, as any changes to the past timeline will result in a new timeline. Most people don't believe this, of course, but some are curious enough to step through the doors and meet the staff.

The two main female protagonists are Anna and Jade, who each narrate part of the story. Anna has a 13-year-old daughter and a delightful sister, and when she loses her job, a recommendation spurs a new role at The Time Travel Agency. Jade also has a 13-year-old daughter but lost her sister in a tragic accident and still feels the pain and guilt of that loss. She meets a writing mentor upstairs from the Agency. The third narrator is Teddy, who has just discovered that his wife of six months has left him for his brother. Teddy wants The Time Travel Agency (even though he doesn't believe it can) to help him work out where it all went wrong.

Something quite magical happens between these three characters that cannot be revealed here but is utterly worth reading. Despite its charming premise, this is also a novel about our connections with families and friends, the strong bonds between sisters, and how to overcome grief and move on.

Fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* will love this quirky novel, but anyone who loves a heartwarming story (with or without time travel!) will adore the warmth and humour which will have you turning the pages in complete delight. As a bonus, the gorgeous cover and beautiful sprayed edges also make this a highly collectible first edition that will look incredible on your shelves!

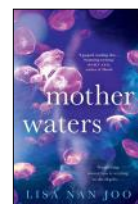
Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

### Mother Waters

Lisa Nan Joo

Affirm. PB. \$34.99

Available now



On the morning of her wedding anniversary, Charlie leaves her marriage and returns to her love of marine biology, determined to re-establish her career. A specialist in bioacoustics, she studies

the sounds of the ocean, but what she yearns to hear most is the voice of her father, who died at sea when she was a child. Charlie joins a deep-sea expedition funded by billionaire heir Dexter, hoping to uncover the truth about her father. As each seeks to reconcile their fathers' legacies, something is waiting for them below the surface of the ocean.

### Blue Giant

Jordan Prosser

UQP. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



 *Blue Giant* is a bang-on-time critique of the whole mess we're in right now. Whichever way you look at it, the mess is diabolical, but in Jordan Prosser's very capable hands we

might as well have a hell of a good time as the ship goes down.

Meet Abby, the kind of extremely together antihero the times require: previously a very important emerging fashion designer/wunderkind, currently a binge-drinking kidult living off the last of her breakout collection's royalties, she is deep in her newsfeed, desperately trying to work out what her purpose in life should be before the cash runs out. She lives in Melbourne with her long-suffering bestie and photographer on the upswing, Niki: they went to school together and Niki is the kind of friend who knows where all the bodies are buried (and who can call Abby on her BS).

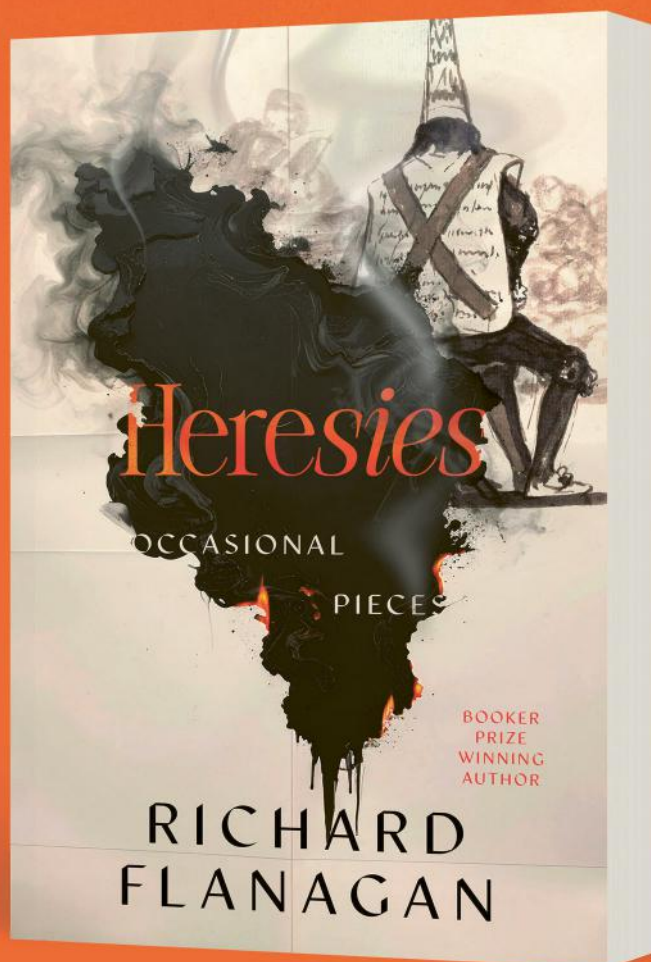
Enter Tor Skovgaard, your average megalomaniacal billionaire, and his MarsNow project seeking applicants to join the first off-Earth colonial project. This one-way trip is Abby's real life's work, right? Before she has a moment to scrutinise that question and its answer too closely, she's officially All In, and sets to work completing a submission video to secure her spot on the one-way mission, gets in training and starts to divest herself of the last of the relationships that might ground her mission, though manages to pick up a new one by mistake along the way.

This is a very funny book that nails the chaotic and nihilistic mood of the moment, with perfect comic pacing, tightly written set pieces and a lot of terrific snarky dialogue that made me laugh out loud on a number of occasions. While Prosser's satire is scathing, his characters are real and really conflicted, and there is a genuine warmth and sadness here: you can't help but barrack for Abby, in all her narcissism, shallowness and hypocrisy. She is of her time, and she's doing her best – as we all are – but can any of it ever be enough, at this late stage?

Alison Huber is the head of buying



# FROM BOOKER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR RICHARD FLANAGAN



A dazzling collection of writing, essays, articles and speeches that speaks to the heart of our troubled times now.



## Eye of the Needle

Christopher Raja

Text. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



**R** *Eye of the Needle* tracks two immigrants' journeys into a dark-hearted Australia. Christopher Raja constructs a split narrative: half of the short sections tell the third-person story of 21-year-old Kadir from Afghanistan, a cameleer who arrives by ship at Port Augusta in 1882 with six camels, hoping to find work with expeditions into the interior. These sections alternate with sections delivering the first-person narrative of 21-year-old Kris, originally from India, who has been in Australia for nine years, and whose father has drowned in mysterious circumstances. The Kris sections begin in 1996, with a trip to St Kilda to meet up with friends at a share house prior to them going off to see a Beastie Boys gig. Although he is writing his honours thesis at university, Kris is lost, grieving, and flailing; he desperately seeks escape in sex and drugs. His relationship with Orla hinges on him joining her in an addiction to smack, and he is soon running with her on a heroin treadmill of theft, scoring, hitting up, delight, self-disgust and rehab.

Meanwhile, in 1882, after some time in a quarantine camp, Kadir and his camels join a scientific expedition into the Australian inland. The harsh landscape and the harsher people conspire against Kadir, even while his abilities as a healer gain him notoriety.

Raja creates palpable tension across both these storylines, as the ambitious 19th-century Kadir and the hapless 20th-century Kris make decisions and take actions which lead them deeper and deeper into dangerous territory. This is a novel which shows us characters groping forward into the unknown, and makes the reader fear for the fates awaiting Kadir and Kris.

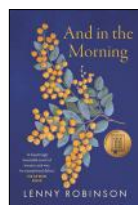
Bernard Caleo is from Readings Carlton

## And in the Morning

Lenny Robinson

UQP. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Winter 1919: Lily and her three-year-old son, Ted, rush through the streets of Melbourne to welcome home Lily's husband, Bert, who has spent the last four years fighting with the Light Horse in the Middle East. Twenty-three years later, as the same city awaits a Japanese invasion, Frankie, a servicewoman on a night's leave, meets an airman, Ed, at a dance. Almost three decades on, as Melbourne convulses with anti-war protests, single mother Fran prepares a funeral for her only son, a young conscript killed in Vietnam.

## Lying Is My Love Language

Olivia Simons

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Jamie Hayes lies to keep things light and casual. It's a foolproof formula full of strong cocktails and even stronger exit strategies. Until, at an outback wedding, she meets the handsome Luke, who

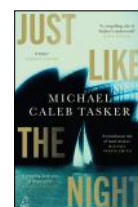
doesn't believe a word she says. Completely immune to her city charm, they end up in bed together. Twice. Their connection is electric, but it's only a game. At least, that's what she tells herself, until they crash back into each other's lives and she's forced to confront the one thing she's always avoided: the truth.

## Just Like the Night

Michael Caleb Tasker

A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



On parole after serving over eight years in prison, Sera Olin can't shake her past. Travelling America as a child, her father introduced her to a life of crime, easy cons and fixed card games, before they escaped to Australia to go straight. As she tries to settle into an honest life in Sydney, all she wants is to see her estranged daughter, Lena. But Lena is involved with people far worse than Sera understands, and as she is drawn into Lena's life, Sera is forced to confront the possibility that a mother's sacrifice might not be enough.

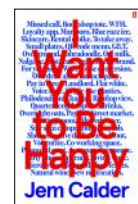
## International Fiction

### I Want You to Be Happy

Jem Calder

Faber. PB. \$32.99

Available 18 August



**R** Jem Calder's debut novel, *I Want You to Be Happy*, centres on a semi-unconventional relationship between 35-year-old Cal and 23-year-old Josephine/Joey. The pair form a bond after meeting one night at a bar and from there a May–December (significant age-gap) relationship is unleashed.

Calder's debut is full of witty narration, dark humour and precise prose that is not afraid to pack a punch. One of my favourite kinds of story to read is that written by a writer who can encapsulate something in a single, short sentence. Calder delivers this in spades – think Elizabeth Strout and Helen Garner's writing styles with a Sally Rooney plot. It's all here and it's engrossing, to say the least.

There is such an interesting exploration of age-gap relationships and what that power dynamic can look like. Sometimes when people fall for someone, they can be oblivious to red flags. It's not until long after the honeymoon period that they (or we!) realise that maybe things weren't as good as they seemed.

The dual point of view in this novel gives such a great insight into both characters. Being able to see what each is thinking and feeling for the other, and all the things that are left unsaid between them, made their relationship so much more compelling and the book so hard to put down!

This is a strong contender for my favourite book this year. I can't recommend *I Want You to Be Happy* highly enough. It's the perfect weekend read – one you could easily take away with you and finish in a couple of days. Once you begin this book, it demands to be read.

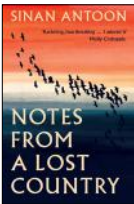


I look forward to discussing it with friends and colleagues – there is a lot to unpack in this gorgeous and uniquely strange story.

Thomas Busse is from Readings Doncaster

**Notes from a Lost Country**  
Sinan Antoon

Saqi. PB. \$34.99  
Available 1 August



Sami, a retired doctor, lives with his son and grandchildren in Brooklyn. Every day he sinks deeper into dementia and memories of life in Iraq before the war. Omar arrives in the US with a fake identity and no friends or family. He has been branded a deserter by the Iraqi army and his ear brutally cut off. Omar refuses to talk about the past and dreams of getting his ear and his dignity back. When their paths cross, at least one of them knows they have met before – if only he could remember where.

**A Real Animal**  
Emeline Atwood

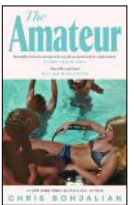
Scribe. PB. \$32.99  
Available 4 August



As a senior in college struggling with the effects of a sexual assault, Lucy gets a glimpse into a different plane of existence. She moves away from home, breaks up with her boyfriend, stops speaking to her mother, and starts dating a man with a terrifying violent streak. Meanwhile, an otherworldly existential force thrums in the back of her mind. After a decade, she's on the edge of her 20s and must come to terms with the fear that being human might mean feeling alone, wild, and unknowable.

**The Amateur**  
Chris Bohjalian

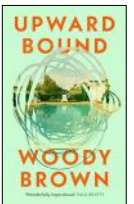
Hutchinson Heinemann. PB. \$34.99  
Available 18 August



New York, 1978. Eighteen-year-old Mira spends her summer perfecting her golf swing at her parents' country club and continuing an affair with a married man twice her age. When a freak accident kills Mira's classmate Kenny, the days and years following the event become inextricably tied to the choices she has made, with devastating consequences, affecting family, friends, neighbours and herself. Mira is forced to ask: what happens when one small moment changes the course of an entire life?

**Upward Bound**  
Woody Brown

Jonathan Cape. HB. \$34.99  
Available 11 August



Among the clients and staff at a Los Angeles daycare centre for the disabled are Carlos, a charismatic aide, and Jorge, who is gentle, nonspeaking and prone to escape. There is also Tom, a beautiful young man with cerebral palsy, and Dave, the centre's director who wanted to be an actor but finds himself on a very different path. At the heart of *Upward Bound* is Walter, a

recent college student returning after a family tragedy. Around him, a story unfolds of friendships forged, connections missed and the dreams that shape us.

**Everything Happened at Once**  
Choi Jin-young & Soje (trans.)

Brazen. PB. \$29.99  
Available now



A mutant virus has swept half of the world's population overnight. The known world has collapsed. The new world is a lawless place where children's livers are believed to provide immunity. In one apartment block, an unlikely pack breaks out of quarantine in a stolen lorry and brave an achingly empty world once teeming with colour. The desolate reaches of Eurasia are signposted with fellow defectors and found family. How do you find a way forward in a world turned upside down?

**into the wreck**  
Susannah Dickey

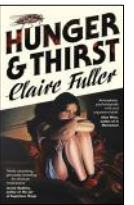
Bloomsbury Circus. PB. \$32.99  
Available 4 August



How do you mourn someone you never really knew? Three siblings will have to work that out quickly. Monday is the day of their gentle, but distant, father's funeral, and for the first time in a long while they are under one roof with their imperious mother, awaiting the arrival of their aunt, an award-winning poet. Yet, as the funeral looms, their everyday concerns refuse to diminish. Told from five perspectives, *into the wreck* worries at the knotty complexities of one family's bonds with empathy and wit.

**Hunger and Thirst**  
Claire Fuller

Fig Tree. PB. \$34.99  
Available 25 August



1987: After a childhood trauma and years in and out of the care system, 16-year-old Ursula finds friendship and belonging among a group of squatters at The Underwood. Desperate for love and acceptance, she agrees to a dare that will haunt her for decades. Thirty-six years later, Ursula is a renowned, reclusive sculptor living under a pseudonym. When her identity is exposed by a filmmaker who is digging into an unsolved disappearance, she is forced to confront the secrets and monsters of her past.

**The Good Eye: Stories**  
Jess Gibson

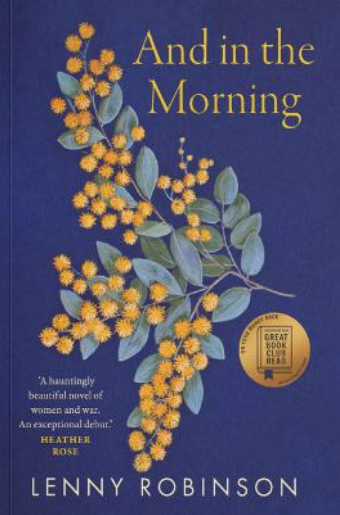
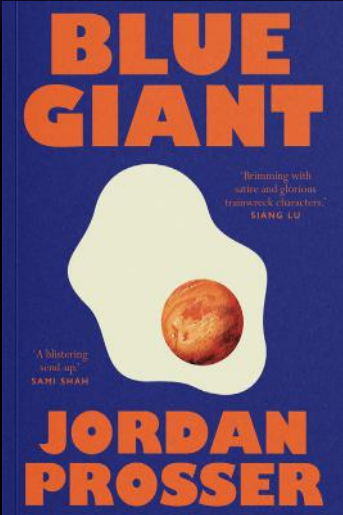
Jonathan Cape. HB. \$34.99  
Available 18 August



A stone appears in a woman's pocket like a charm only to end up lodged in someone's throat. A psychic harnesses her talent for animal communication to extract a perfect revenge. While staying in a beautiful home, an art appraiser falls for her hosts but suspects their collection is fake. A condescending artist throws a dinner party, where he discovers a painful and consequential

'Brimming with satire and glorious trainwreck characters.'

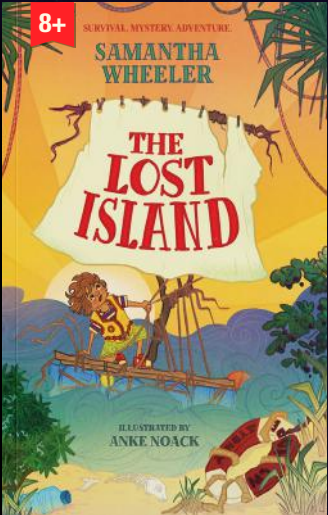
SIANG LU



'A hauntingly beautiful novel of women and war.'

HEATHER ROSE

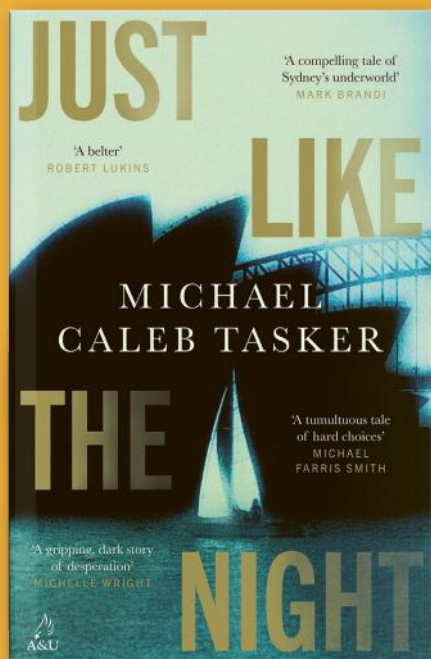
This bilingual picture book is a spectacular celebration of family, cultural traditions and wintertime splendour.



Bestselling author Samantha Wheeler returns with this thrilling desert island adventure.



## When is it time to run?



'A propulsive, searing portrayal of one woman's desperate attempt to turn her life around. Tasker writes with an honest, unwavering eye and razor-sharp prose in this compelling tale.'

MARK BRANDT

**ALLEN&UNWIN**

AUSTRALIAN. INDEPENDENT. FOR READERS.

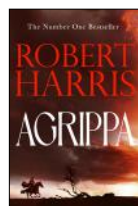
truth. In these 12 stories Jess Gibson's characters betray, provoke and charm, confronting what they see with their good eye – and their bad.

### Agrippa

Robert Harris

Hutchinson Heinemann. PB. \$34.99

Available 18 August



After Julius Caesar's death, his heir Octavius and Octavius's closest friend, Agrippa, fight the giant figures of the Roman Empire to claim the inheritance, and win. Octavius becomes the

Emperor Augustus, and for 20 years they rule the world together. Decades later, ailing and alone, Agrippa begins to write his memoir. From the epic conflict with Mark Antony and Cleopatra to the endless wars to expand the empire, he describes how one man has dominated his life: the cunning, ruthless, unknowable Octavius.

### Hello Baby

Kim Eui-kyung & Sora Kim-Russell (trans.)

Fourth Estate. PB. \$34.99

Available now



In a group chat called 'Hello Baby', six women share the anxieties and absurdities of undergoing IVF. They first met at an elite fertility clinic in Seoul. They know it is unlikely they will all get their happy

ending, but while messaging, anything seems possible. When 46-year-old Jeong-hyo announces she has stopped treatment and goes silent, it rocks them all. One year later, Jeong-hyo announces the birth of her daughter. A gripping and intimate portrait of motherhood, fertility and womanhood today.

### Café. Waiting. Love.

Giddens Ko & Shanna Tan (trans.)

Wildfire. PB. \$32.99

Available 25 August



In a small café in Hsinchu, Taiwan, everyone is waiting for something: love, second chances or something greater. Si-ying, a young woman working at the café, has a crush on a regular customer; however,

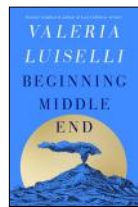
her life takes a turn when she befriends the quirky and earnest Ah Tuo. He takes her on adventures and introduces her to an eclectic mix of people who aren't what they seem to be. As lives converge within the café's walls, Si-ying makes her most significant journey: the one of self-discovery.

### Beginning Middle End

Valeria Luiselli

Fourth Estate. PB. \$32.99

Available now



A mother and a daughter take off on a road trip after the collapse of a marriage. Beginning in Sicily during summer, their trip soon becomes a quest for origins, not just of family but of a mythical and

geological past. With her daughter approaching adulthood and her mother beginning to show signs of dementia, the

narrator finds herself at a crossroads. A wondrous novel about family, time and starting over, and an exhilarating testament to the power of the stories and the loves we hold most dear.

### Thrilling Tales of Modern Men

Danny McBride

Ebury Spotlight. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Danny McBride, creator and star of *The Righteous Gemstones* and *Eastbound & Down*, has been writing short fiction since he was young. The hilarious, razor-sharp, unexpectedly emotional stories in his debut collection, *Thrilling Tales of Modern Men*, are full of wild twists and turns. And yet, they have one thing in common – they each probe the fragile masculinity that's become inherent to modern American culture. In this audacious and unforgettable collection, McBride redefines the tale of the modern man.

### See You on the Other Side

Jay McInerney

Bloomsbury. PB. \$32.99

Available 4 August



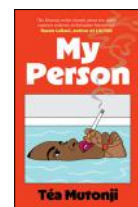
It's early 2020 in New York, and the threat of a global pandemic begins to unsettle the gilded lives of Manhattan's literary and social elite. Now in their sixties, Russell and Corrine Calloway are navigating a new chapter: downsizing, grief and the anxieties of ageing. Their daughter, Storey, prepares to launch her dream restaurant just as the city starts to shut down and Russell is pulled between domestic stability and the temptation of an affair with a younger writer. A dazzling finale to the bestselling Calloway series.

### My Person

Téa Mutorji

Brazen. PB. \$32.99

Available 11 August



Tania and Margot, best friends for over 20 years, are preparing to host their monthly dinner party when Tania tells Margot this isn't working for her anymore. But how do you extricate yourself from

someone whose family owns your apartment, who has taken you in as their own, even claims you as their 'person'? During a tense will-they-won't-they break-up, Tania and Margot are forced to reckon with where it all went wrong – or whether they were simply wrong for each other to begin with.

### Sunrise

Téa Obrecht

W&N. PB. \$34.99

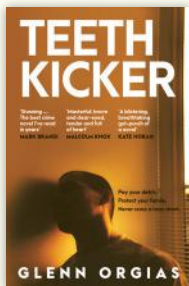
Available 11 August



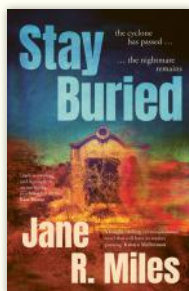
2024: After her small plane crashes into a lake, Nina stumbles upon an abandoned but strangely well-maintained frontier town, Sunrise. 2003: Coll is about to start rehearsals for Sunrise's annual historical reenactment when he is linked with a scandalous incident at a local bar. 1902: town founder, gunslinger



From the award-winning, bestselling author of *Sorrow and Bliss* comes an achingly tender, poignant, funny and bittersweet story of love, loneliness and finding connection in the most unlikely of places.



This blisteringly original debut novel set on the vicious, bent and drug-laden streets of Newcastle is the most exciting crime thriller you'll read this year



The claustrophobia of *Room* meets the camaraderie of *Yellowjackets* with a touch of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* in this dark, immersive, psychological thriller debut with a speculative/lite-horror edge.



The electrifying new tale of greed, corruption, and betrayal from #1 *New York Times* bestselling novelist Daniel Silva

Out now





and adventure-novel hero Anton Vargas returns to Sunrise and helps the search for a missing boy. Three strangers separated by time. But Sunrise has secrets which lie in waiting like gunpowder: quiet, until they encounter a spark.

### Children of the Wild

Kevin Powers

Atlantic. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



**R** Deep in the winter of 1916, the United States is edging closer to joining the Great War. Few Virginian men are more eager to serve than Roy Young, who sees the future ahead of him as

clear as the valley at his doorstep: a war to prove his mettle, marriage to his childhood friend Samantha (whether she wants to be wed to him or not), and the complete industrialisation of the land he's set to inherit. Roy's vision is irrevocably changed, however, when rumours of an orphaned boy wandering the mountains are proven true and Ennis Duke, the half-wild stranger, comes to find a place in Roy's home – and Samantha's heart.

From battlegrounds to the home front, *Children of the Wild* traces the course of this love triangle as their innocence unravels in the face of an unfamiliar new world. Author Kevin Powers, whose military experience informed his debut *The Yellow Birds*, writes frankly about the psychological ripples that war imparts, particularly for those left behind. While this is most thoroughly examined in the bond forged between Roy and Ennis in the trenches of France, Powers' attention to Samantha and the Youngs' estate manager as they grapple with the one-two punch of labour shortages and the influenza pandemic is an understated yet crucial piece of the narrative.

Forthright, uncompromising and at times tender, *Children of the Wild* is the *Lonesome Dove* series by way of Sebastian Barry: a chronicle of the American mythos straining to contain new iterations of violence and its attendant aftershocks. Though it is slow to gather steam, the bombastic second half of Powers' sophomore novel ensures that it slips seamlessly into the roster of American war literature and adds a distinct Virginian twang to its chorus.

Gene Pinter is from Readings Chadstone

### Enchantment

Riikka Pulkkinen & Tabatha Leggett (trans.)

Scribe. PB. \$32.99

Available 4 August



**R** *Enchantment* put a spell on me from the very first page. It's an engaging and thrilling literary mystery that masterfully weaves multiple points of view together into one

intriguing investigation of identity and perception.

Seventeen-year-old Philippa Laakso was found dead in front of her home, with no obvious cause of death. This novel is made up of interview reports from the homicide unit, video recordings Philippa left on her Olympus PEN camera, and 'Once upon a time' stories. We peer into the consciousness of an ex-boyfriend, her closest friend, her mother, neighbours,

and multiple men she had matched with and met on 'Flame' (a dating app on which she claimed to be 21). Each person has a different idea of who Philippa was, but one trait they can all agree on is that she was a storyteller, a player in her own game of reality. Who is the real self? Who is the performative self? Which one is true?

Mostly told in third person, with a little bit of second person, the chapters are unsettling, funny, sad, and heartbreaking, depending on the perspective from which they are told. Despite there being so many characters to follow, it did not at any point feel overwhelming or confusing. I was fully invested and able to connect with each character and their relationship with Philippa. I was especially immersed in the complicated relationship between Saga and Philippa. It delves into the uneasy terrain of girlhood, and the effect of social media use while growing up. Philippa's relationship with Alina showcases motherhood, and how women are taught to suppress themselves once they've grown up.

With poetic prose that makes one want to dissect every phrase, *Enchantment* questions which parts of ourselves are left behind when we die, and explores how grief manifests in different ways and is affected by how the person who has died is perceived. Exquisite from start to finish, this novel is well-crafted, poignant, and sublime.

Jacinta Richards is from

Readings Chadstone

### Where are the Kings

Donal Ryan

Doubleday. HB. \$34.99

Available 18 August



Something terrible has happened to Jack but no one seems to want to talk about it. His uncles can tell him about quantum physics or hunting deer but avoid mentioning their own sister, why Jack doesn't feel sad for her, or why Grandad tries to shoot Jack's dad. Still, there's work to be done in the wonderland of his uncles' garage, his beautiful aunt Rose, and his loving grandparents. But with so many questions, in a family with secrets, it is difficult for Jack to understand the person he is becoming.

### Nerve Damage

Annakeara Stinson

Scribner. PB. \$29.99

Available now



**R** *Nerve Damage* is a train wreck of a tale that I could not rip myself away from. Told in two timelines, Annakeara Stinson gave me whiplash with her darkly funny, conversational quips and devastating, lyrical prose about the complicated and ugly sides of trauma and healing.

The novel follows Clarice's descent into paranoia after she thinks she has spotted her stalker ex in a bar. Her obsession with uncovering the truth of his identity is fraught with tension and is juxtaposed against the story of their volcanic relationship in the past, then their break-up, the harassment, and the court trials to obtain a restraining order. The stalked literally becomes the stalker in the pursuit of some semblance of peace. I could not

make up my mind about whether the man Clarice saw in the bar really was her ex (or not) until the very end.

Clarice's fear kept me pinned to the pages; I did not want to be like the people around her who didn't believe her. The decline in her mental and physical health as the hunt goes on really shows how easy it is to slip back into old habits. For Clarice, it becomes clear that it doesn't matter if she sounds a little crazy, anything is better than slipping back into being the hunted once again. Her emotions are visceral, the panic is real, and the idea that something is fundamentally broken works itself into every chapter.

Clarice's relationships with her family, friends, and strangers often feel uncomfortable to witness. The interactions are doused with self-hatred, but also annoyance, and dislike for the other parties. It's both relatable and pitiable. The barely-there relationship between Clarice and 'Screaming Bird Girl', who lives in her building, is especially interesting to witness, as it provides Clarice a mirror to look into. Her complex emotions about not wanting to be a bystander but not wanting to involve herself in a possibly dangerous relationship, and seeing herself reflected in the situation, reveals much of her character. The calling-out of society for turning a blind eye to such situations in real life, yet also the acknowledgement of how terrifying it would be to do so, had me reckoning with myself.

Overall, this is a short, dark, and compulsive read that explores very real, and very complex, themes of abuse, mental health, and generational trauma.

Jacinta Richards is from

Readings Chadstone

### The Girl with the Seven Lives

Vikas Swarup

Apollo. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Devi is a fighter. Growing up in the slums of Delhi, she has learnt that survival comes at a cost. Now she's being held captive, her life up for sale in an online auction, where the highest bidder will determine her fate. With her existence hanging in the balance, Devi proceeds to give her captor 'a confession to beat all confessions' – as over the course of a single night, Devi unveils the secrets of her seven extraordinary lives. Devi is the ultimate survivor, but will she survive the longest night of her life?

### The Runner

Scarlett Thomas

Scribner. PB. \$34.99

Available now



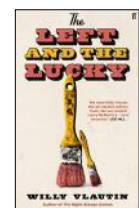
Jay has been hunted since he was 20 years old. A contract on his life has been traded like a commodity, rising and falling with Bitcoin. On the run once again, with no passport, and air miles as his only currency, Jay will have to choose between love and survival and run for his life! Darkly funny, sexy, exciting, philosophical and thrilling, *The Runner* is a high-concept literary thriller featuring high finance, con artists, the Book of Jonah, ultramarathons and how falling in love can change everything.

### The Left and the Lucky

Willy Vlautin

Faber. PB. \$32.99

Available 4 August



Eddie Wilkens runs his own house-painting business. Forty-something and living alone, he just wants to take life one day at a time. When his eight-year-old neighbour, Russell, starts hanging around, Eddie sees that this small kid – with his single mother working nights and his violent older brother – is struggling to keep his head above water, and so tries to help. A large-hearted story of a young boy in danger of slipping through society's cracks and the unlikely father figure who takes him under his wing.

### Can Nothing Save Us?

Irvine Welsh

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



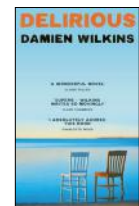
Molly and George Warburton have lived life their own way. She was an actress; he was her lawyer. As the couple are facing up to their failures and final years, they announce that their grandson Luke will inherit their millions. It is sudden news that leaves their daughter Gina intent on revenge. Yet Luke's good fortune won't last. When a newcomer to their Las Vegas neighbourhood insinuates himself into the Warburtons' world, it is the beginning of a chain of events that could split the family forever and put their lives at risk.

### Delirious

Damien Wilkins

Sceptre. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



It's time. Mary, an ex-cop, and her husband Pete, a former librarian, have decided to move into a retirement village. Selling their beloved house should be a clean break, but the past, it seems, has other ideas. A detective calls with new information about the case of their son, Will, who died in an accident forty years earlier. Mary finds herself returning to the last months of her sister's shortened life. And Pete is haunted by memories of his late mother, who developed delirium and never recovered.

### Kitten

Stacey Yu

Sceptre. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Katie hasn't spoken to her mother in a year when her boyfriend James introduces her to his cat, Silver. Fresh out of college, Katie is desperate to skip the demands of adult life. Luckily, she has James: self-assured, seemingly happy to make decisions for them both. During a holiday at James's family seaside home, Katie's attachment to Silver grows. But as their bond intensifies, Katie's other relationships reach tipping points. Soon, Katie must come to terms with what she really wants, and what she's willing to risk to get it. **R**



# Hardcore

With the  
publication of *Hardcore*:

*50 Years of Skateboarding in Australia*

this month, our receiving and warehouse manager **David Crossley** reflects on growing up in the Melbourne skateboarding scene and how everyone in it was, in some way, connected to the local business that started with primary school kids building a ramp in a Malvern backyard before it ultimately went global.

Growing up as a teen in the '90s, skateboarding was everything. We lived in grainy rewinds of 411VM VHS tapes, in dog-eared copies of *Slam* and *Thrasher*. It was the unpolished energy of a scene still finding its voice. Back then, you didn't realise you were watching history take shape. We were just part of it.

At the centre of it all in Melbourne was Hardcore, driven by three local lads, brothers Stephen, Peter, and Matt Hill. They weren't just running a brand; they were building a culture. Through events, competitions, and relentless support of local talent, Hardcore helped define the Australian skate scene, putting names on the map and unknowingly documenting a movement as it unfolded.

This book captures 50 years of that story, from Sparx to Hardcore to Globe and beyond. The streets, skaters, boards, shoes, gear, and a scene that grew from the margins into something iconic. It hits with a deep sense of nostalgia, reminding you not just of where Australian skateboarding has been, but also how it felt to be there when it mattered most.



**Hardcore: 50 Years of Skateboarding in Australia**

Jason Boulter

T&H. HB. Was \$90

**\$80**

Available 4 August

## How it all began

From 'Chapter One: Sparx 1972–1985', page 5 of *Hardcore*.

Three Melbourne-born brothers – Stephen, Peter and Matt Hill – grew up in Malvern in the early 1970s. Hanging around their neighbour's garage in 1972, Stephen and Peter, then aged 9 and 8, saw their first skateboards – old toys left over from the previous decade's skateboard craze. Later that year, for his 10th birthday, Stephen was given a second-hand wooden skateboard by his aunty. Stephen and Peter shared that old chalk-wheeled skateboard, riding it for hours around their driveway and a nearby car park.

Stephen's and Peter's new-found passion for skateboarding grew, coinciding with a renewed boom in skateboarding's popularity. By 1974, watched on by their younger brother, Matt, they began building their own backyard skate ramps, skateboarded further around their local neighbourhood with friends, and sourced hard-to-get skateboard parts through local stores and by mail order from overseas. The young skate-besotted Hills witnessed the growing surfboarding culture of the era and were impressed by what they saw in terms of surf-obsessed people who were carving out a lifestyle around their own passions and interests. They reasoned if surfers could do that with surfing, why couldn't they do the same with skateboarding?

As teenagers, Stephen and Peter were soon travelling beyond their own suburb by train. They headed into the city and on to more far-flung skate spots around Melbourne and beyond, searching for new and exciting concreted areas to skate, including empty swimming pools, large stormwater drains and basins, and even Melbourne's underground City Loop rail tunnels that were then under construction.

Into their high-school years, Stephen and Peter continued to build their own skate ramps and first displayed their entrepreneurial skills by securing early

sponsorships to pay for bigger and better ramps. By early 1978 they had founded the Sparx skateboard team with their friends and had run their first paid skate demos at local shopping centres.

As the 1980s approached, skateboarding's popularity all but evaporated from mainstream culture. But Stephen and Peter continued skating as part of a tiny underground skate subculture, hanging out in obscure skate spots, travelling to Sydney, Newcastle and Adelaide. It was during this period that they convinced the owner of a local rollerskate rink to install a custom skateboard ramp in the mezzanine of an old cinema, creating Collingwood's own Skate City. Finishing high school by the end of the decade, Stephen and Peter were ready and keen to leave home.

Half-heartedly commencing university, Stephen and Peter worked casually for Mel Mollison, an importer of sheepskin products in Fitzroy, who became an early business mentor. In 1983, they travelled to Europe for six months and came back determined to be in control of their own destiny. Perceiving themselves as 'unemployable' in terms of the traditional career opportunities available to them at the time, the brothers dropped out of university and moved into a dilapidated share house on Parkhill Road, Kew. There they built a backyard 'super ramp', leading to disputes with neighbours and the local council that attracted significant media attention.

When Powell Peralta's legendary *Bones Brigade* video came out in 1984, the Hills, along with many other Australians, were fired up on skateboarding again. It was here at Parkhill Road that Stephen and Peter began their first real business efforts, customising and selling skate shoes at local markets. Soon they would be ready to enter the skateboard industry for real.



**Moomba 86 Ramp Jam**



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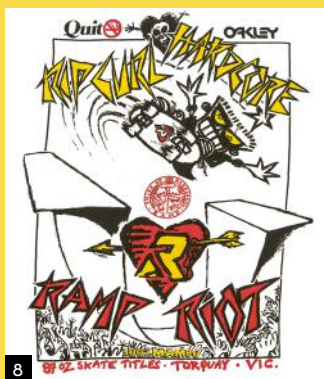
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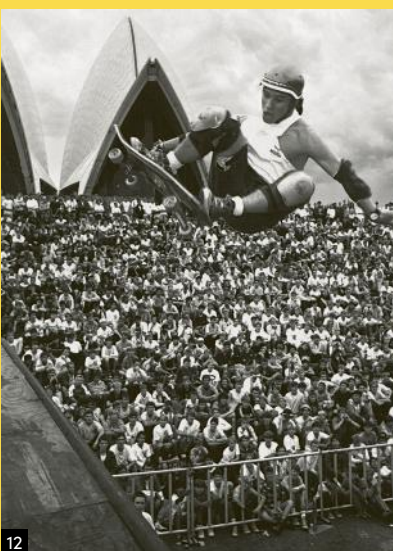
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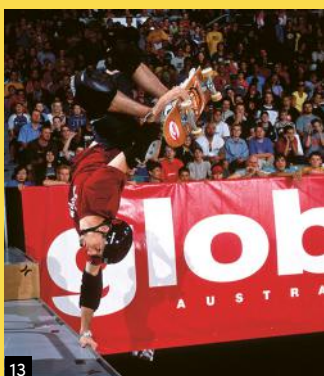
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'I think the passion for really having the equipment to do skateboarding at a higher level drove a strong entrepreneurial spirit in my boys. ... They had to have a ramp and a means to get there and someone to pay for it. I don't know how they did it. They were getting past the minders and in to see the CEO at Bata Shoes. And to me, I simply don't know how they did that.'

David Hill

## The core of it all

From 'The core of it all', page 460 of *Hardcore*.

There's a through-line stretching back over 50 years to Stephen and Peter's first car-park jumps and homemade ramps, pushing a 4-year-old Matt off on his own (down a steep neighbourhood driveway), rounding up their mates to skateboard whenever they all could, learning the ropes of hustling, promotion and business, and then growing a tiny startup based out of a sheepskin warehouse into a publicly listed international corporation. The Hills and their Hardcore avatar have always savoured the inherent and basic joy produced by skateboarding. And not just for themselves. They have been forever trying to spread that feeling further, among others who share the passion. They've done this by organising shopping centre demos themselves, running competitions on kids' early morning television, writing magazines and books, making videos, sourcing and selling the best possible product, and creating events that remain touchstones for each and subsequent generations of skaters. They have determinedly sought out the best skateboarders from everywhere to show Australians what was – and is – possible, and then to help develop the home-grown talent that was inspired by such examples and events.

The Hills have been pioneers, innovators, promoters, retailers, wholesalers and makers who pushed the development of Australian skateboarding and its associated cultural aspects. Anecdotal, it's said that there isn't an Australian skater alive who's rolled on a ramp or a park, slapped on a skate sticker, attended a comp or demo (whether in a quiet supermarket car park or at a capital city stadium), watched a skate video (or knocked off a beer) that wasn't connected to Hardcore at some point. And that extends to over a thousand Australians and others who have skated and/or worked with a brand or division that grew out of the original Hardcore skateboarding business. Now that skateboarding itself has evolved and changed out of sight from its earliest days, the legacy of Hardcore is such that, whatever the future holds, to quote from the 1986 preface of *Blast!* – the Hills first skateboarding book: 'the hard-cores will always be somewhere, perhaps unseen but shredding heavily.'

**Image captions** | <sup>1</sup> Peter Hill (top), Stephen Hill (bottom) and Christo Vandergriff (behind) building Darling Road ramp, Malvern, 1976; <sup>2</sup> Skating the dunny roofs, Nunawading, 1977; <sup>3</sup> Peter Hill boardsliding, Richmond, 1986; <sup>4</sup> Ramp Jam lineup featured in *Skate On* zine, 1986; <sup>5</sup> L-R Stephen Hill, Tony Hallam, Hugh McCaig, Matt Hill, Peter Hill, Tasmania demo, 1986; <sup>6</sup> Rob 'Wedge' Francis, Waverley Gazette, 1975; <sup>7</sup> Globe sticker; <sup>8</sup> Ramp Riot poster, 1987; <sup>9</sup> Lee Ralph, Ramp Riot, Torquay, 1987; <sup>10</sup> Jason Ellis, Flockhart Street ramp, Abbotsford, 2000; <sup>11</sup> Eddie Martin, Ben Harris, Greg Stewart, Melbourne, c. 1995; <sup>12</sup> Christian Hosoi, Resurrection Easter Tour, Sydney, 1988; <sup>13</sup> Tony Hawk, Globe World Cup, Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, 2002; <sup>14</sup> Tas Pappas, Prahran, Easter Tour, 1997; <sup>15</sup> Globe International's ASX float making news, *Herald Sun*, 2000; <sup>16</sup> Ruby Lilley, Feral Fest, Fennell Street, Port Melbourne, 2024; <sup>17</sup> L-R Tom Schaar, Soya Inomata, JD Sanchez (winner), Arisa Trew (winner), Mizuho Hasegawa, Mia Kretzer, Globe Australia Pro, Williamstown Road ramp, Port Melbourne, 2024 R



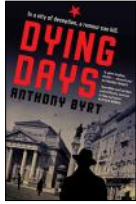
# Crime

## Dying Days

Anthony Byrt

Affirm. PB. \$34.99

Available now



**R** The battle for control of the Italian port city of Trieste at the end of the Second World War in 1945 was brutal, bitter, and futile. Is there such a thing as an effective war? During the five-week conflict, crimes

were committed and soldiers from New Zealand, among many others, lost their lives. This is the kind of novel you can imagine becoming a film, perhaps with Josh O'Connor as a British intelligence officer and Russell Crowe as a spy for New Zealand. There would be no leading women in that film, just as there are none in the novel, though there is a love interest. Like most recorded war stories, this tale is largely about men with suspicious and frightened minds trying to discover who did what to whom. That is not to diminish this novel; it is particularly good and moves at a brisk pace. I did have to return to earlier passages a few times to keep track of the plot, though sharper readers may not need to.

Anthony Byrt, also from New Zealand, has written an expressive espionage novel that gives voice to the murdered while portraying the negotiations that unfolded far from the poor city of Trieste, amid endless paperwork and on the battlefields themselves. It is a compelling and successful portrait of mistakes and mistaken identities. Readers of history and spy fiction will enjoy a novel closer in style John le Carré's work than Ian Fleming's: there are no audacious heroes here, only battle-weary survivors. *Dying Days* is a smart and complex novel grounded in fact. For that reason, it may break your heart.

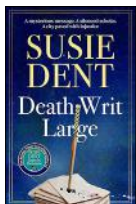
Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

## Death Writ Large

Susie Dent

Bonnier. PB. \$34.99

Available 25 August



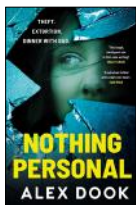
When mysterious graffiti appears around Oxford, lexicographer Martha Thornhill recognises the symbols from a runic alphabet created by a deceased fantasy writer whose papers she once worked on. When more graffiti is found near the body of a university lecturer, the police assume suicide, but Martha's suspicions deepen. Called in to lend their expertise, Martha and her colleagues unearth a tragedy that extends beyond the university's walls. As new messages portend more death, a vengeful force seems to be stalking the city.

## Nothing Personal

Alex Dook

Echo. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Stuck in a dead-end job and paying off her dad's debts, Lola never wanted to steal from her dodgy boss. But when she sees an unattended bag of cash at work, Lola decides to make life a little easier.

However, the next day her boss is missing, presumed dead, and she becomes a suspect. Hidden in the bag is a mysterious USB drive wanted by both police and criminals. Unsure if it's a curse or an opportunity, all Lola must do is figure out a way to sell it to the highest bidder without revealing her identity.

## Cold River

Margaret Hickey

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Senior Constable Sally White knows how easily hikers can go missing in Victoria's High Country, but Louis Taylor's disappearance feels different. The aspiring journalist was researching the illegal tobacco trade, and the last person he interviewed is now dead. As the search for Louis winds down, Sally is forced to accept he died in a tragic accident, until she learns of a similar unsolved case involving a young lawyer who vanished two years earlier. Were they simply lost, or did they both stumble onto something they shouldn't have?

## Bad Neighbours

Joanna Jenkins

A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Ruth Dawson has found her ideal home in The Lumen, an Art Deco building in Potts Point. It's a short walk from work, with parquet flooring, Harbour Bridge views and a wall of books – perfect! Until Ben, the homeless man living under the iron lean-to in the garden, is found dead. The residents do little to hide their relief, so they're not happy when Ruth brings in a detective. She's certain Ben was poisoned, and one of her neighbours knows it too.

## Stay Buried

Jane R. Miles

HQ Fiction. PB. \$32.99

Available now



**R** Warning: reading this novel was like acknowledging my worst nightmare. Let me explain.

Set primarily in 1974 as Cyclone Tracy rips through Darwin, four young women who are on a camping trip find refuge from the storm in an outback bunker. Damage from the storm – rocks falling over the entrance – locks them in this underground, concrete, inescapable space. This is their story. And my nightmare: being trapped underground without hope.

To counterbalance this horrific scenario, the story swings from the bunker in 1974 to 30 years later when the young women's families are still trying to find answers about their disappearance. The girls are known as The Darwin Angels, and their status as missing persons is acknowledged by the police as an unsolved crime. Yet they were not the only girls to go missing around that time. Was there a predator at work in the region? One of the other

missing girls was a young mother, and her now-grown-up daughter is hell-bent on finding answers. Then a woman appears claiming to be one of the original missing girls. Is she though? What happened? How can anyone believe anything, let alone the daughter who has kept vigil for 30 years?

This is a compelling read, gripping in its portrayal of the bunker, the girls' lives, and their families. It is a story that will (sadly for my partner) stay with me. The opening page notes that it is inspired by true events; I would add that it also springs from a fierce imagination. Jane R. Miles has you riveted before you can count to 10 and wake up. This is her first novel, but surely she is already writing another campfire horror story that will keep readers wide awake.

My advice is to read this on a sunny beach surrounded by huge blue skies and to never, *ever* read this while travelling the Stuart Highway to Darwin.

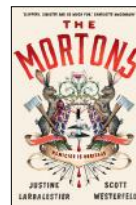
Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

## The Mortons

Justine Larbalestier & Scott Westerfeld

Penguin. PB. \$34.99

Available now



The Mortons are a modern-day, old-money dynasty with impeccable taste, from their exquisitely crafted cocktails to their expertly tailored vintage garments. They are also stone-cold killers. They, along with the other crime families, send their progeny to Helshire College, where legacy students learn to exercise control over their wealthy peers. Jessica Morton has always excelled at Helshire, the prodigy of her generation. Now, having committed her first kill, it should be Jessica's moment. But that kill has set in motion a series of consequences from which there is no turning back.

## Teeth Kicker

Glenn Orgias

HarperCollins. PB. \$34.99

Available now



**R** This is a not a work of cosy crime fiction. I do not relate to the characters in Glenn Orgias's debut novel, but I do understand the landscape he has created. Set in Newcastle, back in the 1990s, this is the grim story of Vincent Silk, who has got himself into a bit of a mess. He has done time, battled addiction, and he owes money to criminals. To pay off his debts, he is forced into the role of a 'teeth kicker': someone who collects debts by force. It has never been a comfortable ride for poor old Vincent. His one true love, Henrietta, and his brother, Ray, are also in the shit heap. Each move Vincent makes comes with a nasty consequence. He could take matters into his own hands, though; he could take the penalties of his poor choices for the benefit of those he loves.

This gritty story is not for the faint of heart. It is a brutal portrait of desperation, and the pace does not let up for a single moment. Each character is impelled into desperate acts that are a long way from perusing bookshelves at your favourite

local independent bookshop. These characters do not have time to ponder, or to marvel at art. They are living day to day, stuck in a terrible quandary that is ruthless and relentless.

Readers of Mick Herron or Michael Connelly will delight in having an Australian city as the backdrop to the goings-on of criminal types. Vincent Silk's descent is troubling, unforgiving, and hugely entertaining, if this scene is your poison of choice. I imagine we will be seeing more works by Orgias: he has nailed a new voice full of the reality of living with crime.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

## Children of Wolves

Lawrence Osborne

C&W. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



At the Mexican border, Diana ditches her car and jumps on a bus. Adam walks out of his Athens hotel with just his passport and credit cards, while Marco abandons his life in London, leaving no note.

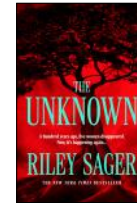
Their friend Chana is waiting for them on the Turkish Riviera. Also waiting is a private investigator sent to find a billionaire's missing daughter. As their paths meet, a chain of events unfold that will test the young friends' theory that a handful of collaborators can tilt the axis of the world through a single, striking act.

## The Unknown

Riley Sager

H&S. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



Struggling actress Marin Keane lands a role in a film about New Avalon, a Vermont island where five spiritual mediums mysteriously vanished in 1926. Sent to the island for research, Marin and her castmates soon encounter strange noises and puzzling symbols, realising all is not right. When they are stranded and the disappearances begin again, Marin turns to a diary left by one of the vanished, hoping it holds the key to what really happened and to stop the island's horrible history from repeating itself.

## Ransom

Daniel Silva

HarperCollins. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Dazzling socialite Alice Winter seems to have it all: wealth, status and millions of social media followers. But when she disappears while on holiday with three old friends from Cambridge, her real estate baron husband, Edward, turns to Gabriel Allon to find her. Gabriel soon discovers Alice is hiding secrets – and Edward has one too. One so dangerous that Gabriel will have no choice but to return to his old life. An enemy lurks there, waiting for him to make one misstep, and the perfect moment to exact vengeance. **R**



# Nonfiction

## Australian Studies

### Blackbirding: A Reckoning with the Australian Slave Trade

Ryan Butta

Affirm. PB. \$36.99

Available now



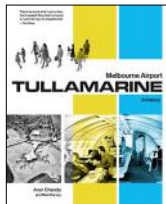
Between 1860 and 1906, more than 60,000 Pacific Islanders were taken from their homelands, through coercion, deception and abduction, to work in the Queensland sugarcane fields. Forced into contracts they could not read and unpaid until the end of their service, they endured brutal working conditions that led to the deaths of nearly 15,000 people. This book brings the deliberately hidden history of Australia's forgotten slave trade, known as blackbirding, into the light and reckons with its enduring legacy.

### Melbourne Airport Tullamarine: A History

Arun Chandu & Matt Harvey

NewSouth. PB. \$49.99

Available 1 August



Melbourne Airport was the first purpose-built Airport City in the world. Its facilities in 1970 were unsurpassed by any international airport and included a hotel, conference centre, art gallery, cinema, bars and a fine-dining restaurant. These facilities were built into Tullamarine's plan by principal planner Bill Bradfield, the son of John Bradfield, chief engineer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Today, Tullamarine remains cutting-edge. Discover its story, from planning and opening, to its status as a benchmark for all international Airport Cities.

### Alice's dreaming

Tom Griffiths

Black Inc. PB. \$36.99

Available 11 August



Once upon a time, in the first decades of the 20th century, a little white girl grew up on a sprawling sheep and cattle station in the Channel Country of south-west Queensland. Her father and eldest brother died, and then it was just her and her two sisters and her mother left in the family. Luckily for Alice Duncan, however, the local Aboriginal people took care of her and her sisters, helped her mother run Mooraberrie Station, and welcomed that young girl into their lives, culture and stories. When she grew up, Alice wrote down the stories and had them published.

Years later, one of those books, *Where Strange Paths Go Down*, made its way into a school library in Melbourne, and from there found itself in the hands of young Tom Griffiths. The vision that the book imparted – of a white girl learning about a living Country from Aboriginal people – stayed with Tom his whole life. He became a historian and, in the end (but there is no end), he found himself researching and

writing the story of Alice's encounter with the Mithaka people and the writing of her books. *Alice's dreaming* is a book about books about storytelling.

If this all sounds something like a fairytale, that is because Tom Griffiths leans squarely into Alice Duncan's mythopoetic project. As he says in his introduction: 'Alice's years of living with Mithaka people were the most wonderful thing that ever happened to her and she wrote about them for the rest of her life.' Referencing Lewis Carroll's playful children's classic, the first part of Tom's book is titled 'Alice in Wonderland'. This book presents us with generous and curious relations between settler families and the Mithaka people. *Alice's dreaming* is full of clear-eyed hope.

Bernard Caleo is from Readings Carlton

### More Fool Me: How the Gas Industry Tricked Australia (Vantage Point, Issue 6)

Richard Denniss

Australia Institute. PB. \$19.95

Available 4 August



Australia is one of the richest countries in the world, yet we no longer expect the high quality, freely available public schools and hospitals we used to have. But while we are told we can't afford to have good services, our governments give away billions of dollars' worth of gas, collecting little tax, to multinational companies every year. In this essay, Richard Denniss pulls back the curtain to show how the gas companies performed a long con in Australia, and outlines the steps we need to take to fix it.

### The Verandah: An Australian Way of Living

Simon Griffiths

T&H. HB. \$59.99

Available 4 August



The verandah is one of the most iconic and enduring elements of Australian architecture, serving as an interface between private space and public life. This symbol of Australian life is a cultural and climatic response to how we live and has evolved across diverse climates and varied historical periods. Photographer Simon Griffiths takes us on a journey across our continent to capture the beauty and charm of this Australian icon.

### Seize the Moment: Australia's Real Opportunities in an Unstable World

Bernard Keane

A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Australia is surviving the second coming of Trump, but our economy and our social cohesion are under pressure, and our political landscape is being reshaped. How do we turn this time of international crisis into a launchpad for success? Bernard Keane draws on his experience within government and as a political commentator to outline how Australia can

prosper in the next quarter century. He argues we have crucial advantages we can leverage – if we make smart decisions now.

### Three Shocks: Who We Are Becoming in the 21st Century

George Megalogenis

Penguin. PB. \$36.99

Available 18 August



For decades our politics has failed to keep up with a changing Australia. The federal elections of 2022 and 2025 were a wake-up call to three shocks that have reshaped our national identity: we have a population that's majority migrants and their children; professional women are now the largest segment of the workforce; on the world stage, both our allies and our key trade partners have proven unreliable. *Three Shocks* tells the inside story of how our leaders caught up to the times or were left behind.

### Screw Nice

Amy Remeikis

Hachette. PB. \$34.99

Available now



The imbalance between those in power and those who oppose injustice is growing. And yet, to stifle argument, those who hold all the power use demands for civility as weapons, to control discussion and negate the legitimacy of differing opinions. In *Screw Nice*, Amy Remeikis masterfully illuminates the personal and the public to hold a mirror up to our society, political systems, and treatment of those who don't hold political or financial power, to show us that the silencing has to stop – now.

### Truth Under Fire: Australia's Second World War Correspondents

Daniel Seaton

La Trobe. PB. \$36.99

Available 18 August



This is a biography of six of Australia's most notable Second World War correspondents, who were also significant cultural figures: Kenneth Slessor, Damien Parer, Chester Wilmot, George Johnston, Osmar White and George Silk. Daniel Seaton argues that to truly understand these journalists, we must consider them not just individually but as a network, connected by work, social relationships, artistic ambitions and their engagement with the Anzac legend. In this vivid, groundbreaking book, Seaton does just that.

### The Wanted and the Unwanted

Annabel Stafford

Miegunyah. PB. \$34.99

Available 11 August



*The Wanted and the Unwanted* is the story of the Wyndham Native Hospital, a Western Australian apartheid hospital. Built in 1936, three miles from a town that banned Aboriginal

people, men, women and children were imprisoned, left untreated, and subjected to experimental treatments (founded on Social Darwinism and eugenics) without their knowledge and against their will. This is also the story of those who resisted and survived to transform Three Mile into a place of hope from which a new Wyndham would emerge.

### Tech Bros

John Stensholt & Perry Williams

HarperCollins. PB. \$36.99

Available 11 August



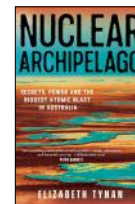
In a cramped Sydney share house, university classmates Mike Cannon-Brookes and Scott Farquhar created groundbreaking collaborative software which revolutionised the way the world works and became wildly popular globally. This is the extraordinary story of Atlassian, how its co-founders rose from startup to become a \$160 billion tech giant, and how, within 20 years, their success would bring them into conflict and destroy their friendship, just as the rise of AI threatened what they had created.

### Nuclear Archipelago: Secrets, Power and the Biggest Atomic Blast in Australia

Elizabeth Tynan

NewSouth. PB. \$39.99

Available 1 August



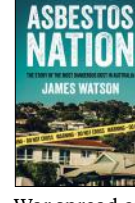
The final in a landmark trilogy on the history of British nuclear testing in Australia, *Nuclear Archipelago* uncovers the story of Britain's atomic weapons test series at Western Australia's Monte Bello Islands in 1952 and 1956. The three bombs sent radioactive fallout over vast areas, with the largest test, Mosaic G2, sparking panic of a nuclear accident. The book explores the politics, the secrecy and the controversies, the role Mosaic G2 played in the development of the British hydrogen bomb, the deliberate exposure of a British ship's crew to fallout and the lasting contamination of the islands' environment.

### Asbestos Nation: The Story of the Most Dangerous Dust in Australia

James Watson

Monash. PB. \$39.99

Available 1 August



Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos exposure and asbestos-related disease in the world, a legacy of 150 years. From the first asbestos mine in 1878 to the post-Second World War spread of fibro housing, asbestos, the 'magic mineral', was pushed hard for profit despite warnings. In *Asbestos Nation*, historian James Watson examines its complex story and the hard-fought battles by workers and activists. This is a timely and necessary reckoning with the immense industrial tragedy that's all around us.



EYE - OPENING - CINEMA



# Melbourne International Film Festival 2026

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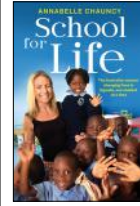
## Biography

### School for Life: The Australian Woman Changing Lives in Uganda, One Student at a Time

Annabelle Chauncy

Pan Mac. PB. \$36.99

Available now



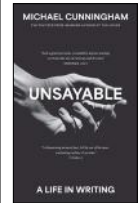
In 2008, Australian university student Annabelle Chauncy visited a school in Uganda. Shocked by the impact of poverty on the children's education, she decided to act. Eighteen years later, her foundation, School for Life, oversees three schools with a combined student capacity of 1700 and employs 150 Ugandans. The lives of thousands of students have changed, as have those of their parents and the communities in which they live, enabling them to use their education to help break the cycle of poverty.

### Unsayable: A Life in Writing

Michael Cunningham

Fourth Estate. PB. \$29.99

Available now



At the age of three, Michael Cunningham began obsessively collecting the names of things, kicking off a lifelong love affair with language, perhaps leading him to become a writer. Luminous, perceptive and powerful, *Unsayable* is an ode to literature, a meditation on craft and an intimate account of a life spent trying to put into words that which resists depiction. This, it turns out, is the lifeblood of the fiction writer: the impossibility of capturing the human experience, and the relentless desire to try.

### Juicy: How to Live a Life in the Wreckage of Expectations

Sheree Joseph

Pantera. PB. \$36.99

Available now



At 33, Sheree Joseph found herself grieving not only personal loss but the life she thought she'd have: marriage, motherhood, security. Amid a world in crisis, *Juicy* is a memoir of heartbreak, healing and rewriting the narrative. In the wake of grief, failed fertility treatments and fractured relationships, Joseph searches for meaning and repair: forging forever friendships, tracing her Lebanese Australian roots and journeying through Europe for a reckoning with the life she thought she'd lost.

### Alan Joyce: Riding the Jet Stream

Alan Joyce

Hardie Grant. HB. \$49.99

Available now



With a network spanning seven prime ministers and countless captains of industry, Alan Joyce, one of Australia's most consequential chief executives, provides a no-holds-barred account of some of the most important decisions taken during his career leading one of aviation's most respected brands, Qantas. Few chief executives have been tested as relentlessly, from Covid and industrial battles to the Global Financial Crisis; every decision has

had far-reaching consequences. In this candid memoir, Joyce shares his reflections.

### The Village on the Edge of the World: Writing and Surviving Ceaușescu's Romania

Herta Müller &

Kate McNaughton (trans.)

Granta. HB. \$36.99

Available 4 August



From her childhood in a small Romanian village, through to life in exile in Germany, Herta Müller's story unspools against the tumultuous history of Romania in the latter half of the 20th century. Müller reflects on cultural history, memory and trauma, and on what it was to live and write during Ceaușescu's brutal regime. A chronicle of life under both fascism and the Soviet Union, she charts the existential questions posed by these regimes of the 20th century – and how they remain with us in the 21st.

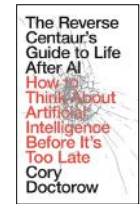
## Cultural Studies

### The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI

Cory Doctorow

Verso. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



Whether you want to kill, criticise, or use AI, you must get through the hype and uncover the real story. Cory Doctorow uses automation theory to compare a 'centaur', a person who uses technology to help them with human goals, to a 'reverse centaur', a person forced to serve machines at an inhuman pace. He argues that AI hype isn't for the workers but rather the bosses and investors. In this book, Doctorow details how we got here and how we can build a future where technology works for us, not the other way around.

### Heresies: Occasional Pieces

Richard Flanagan

Penguin. PB. \$36.99

Available 4 August



From award-winning author Richard Flanagan comes a dazzling collection of writing, essays, articles and speeches – a showcase of his heretical brilliance over 20 years. From Manus to MONA to birds to the Black Summer, from the destruction of our natural world to the hope offered by Indigenous Australia to the growing corrosion of democracy, from Salman Rushdie to the Segal Report, family and love, Flanagan's nonfiction writings carry his trademark elegance, subversive wit, and humanity.

### Adrift in the South

Xiao Hai & Tony Hao (trans.)

Granta. PB. \$29.99

Available 4 August



When Xiao Hai turned 15, his family paid a teacher 1,200 yuan to find him a factory job in Shenzhen. *Adrift in the South* is a memoir of his life as a migrant labourer in the 21st century, making



clothing and electronics. He reveals the alienation and tedium of factory life, the small indignities and indifference of the larger system. And he tells the story of how poetry led him somewhere unexpected: to join a small community of artists living, working, and studying together on the outskirts of Beijing.

### The Castle

Jon Ronson

Viking. PB. \$36.99

Available 25 August



When Jon Ronson receives disquieting texts from his son, who has been lured to a mysterious castle deep in the forests of New England, it sets him on an investigation into a world of disaffected men. As Ronson probes deeper into the castle and the wider 'man crisis', he uncovers a world drained of purpose and collapsing institutions where a new era of disinhibited behaviour has taken hold of our online and real-world selves. A shocking, darkly comic trip to the furthest reaches of the masculinity crisis.

### Good Witch: In Search of Our Lost Feminine Power

Lucianne Tonti

Summit. PB. \$36.99

Available now



This is a brilliant book!

Lucianne Tonti examines the history of witches and their persecution, showing how the mindset that led to their torture and killing still exists. She articulates

how women's connection to the natural world and knowledge of plants, herbs and animals was seen as a threat to men's power. Through themes like gardening, healing, and textile production, we learn the true stories of women (such as Rebecca Greensmith), who were persecuted in Connecticut, Salem, Scotland, Norway and beyond. We see men curtailing women's freedoms, controlling their bodies, fearful of their sociability, seeing them as wild and carnal while viewing themselves as sophisticated and intellectual.

Tonti's research contextualises the witch hunts, showing how they were linked to a change from communal living to an era of imperialism and the male-dominated scientific revolution which dismissed and excluded women. Women lost their standing with the introduction of individual property rights, as 'the commons', shared by all to grow food, were fenced off, denying women the ability to live off the land. Devaluation of women's labour happened alongside the exploitation of nature, which continues with the hyper-individualistic and hierarchical systems still in place today. Tonti questions the ubiquity of technology and capitalist production that reign supreme in our world: Botox, Ozempic and ultra-processed foods are a symptom of women's own indoctrination into the patriarchy, the internalisation of the ideals of youth and fertility, and our disconnection from the natural world. She examines the devaluing of care work and rightly admonishes the progressive side of politics for perpetuating a patriarchal society, too. Even modern architecture, which fails to allow for collective living, gets a mention.

Through telling these incredible stories, Tonti shows how violence against women sits alongside violence against the

natural world in an attitude that seeks to dominate both ('Drill, baby, drill'). She argues for a worldview that ends exploitation of resources like old-growth forests and envisages a restructuring of society that nurtures and respects the natural world and values women's work.

This is a magnificent book that I can't recommend highly enough.

Pauline Hopkins is the manager of Readings Hawthorn

## History

### The Fallen: The Magdalene Laundries & Ireland's Legacy of Silence

Louise Brangan

Bodley Head. PB. \$36.99

Available 11 August



For much of 20th-century Ireland, thousands of women and girls not conforming to the strict Catholic code – wayward, poor, disabled, abused – were sent to the Magdalene

Laundries. The 'fallen' were locked inside, their names erased, hair shorn, and they were put to work. Published to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the last Laundry's closure, this dark, forgotten story is told through the voices of the women who endured them, the nuns who presided over them and the communities that lived alongside them.

### Presence: A Hidden History of the Female Body

Erin Maglaque

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$36.99

Available now



Sex and abortion, pregnancy and birth, feeding and rocking and washing: these are embodied practices with a deep past. Yet the history of the female body remains largely unknown.

Combining memoir with archival research, fragments in medical texts, legal treatises, letters, diaries, and more, *Presence* reaches deeply into the shared history of women's lives. It is a bold new history of the female body – birthing, caring, working, desiring – with radical implications for how we understand our bodies today.

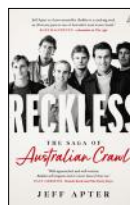
## Music

### Reckless: The Saga of Australian Crawl

Jeff Apter

A&U. PB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



When Australian Crawl first appeared on Countdown in 1979 performing 'Beautiful People', no one knew what to make of them. Far from a novelty act, this band of schoolmates went on to produce bestselling albums and a string of major hits, and to launch James Reyne's solo career. But behind the scenes, tensions over songwriting credits, direction and money frayed relationships and the death of guitarist Guy McDonough in 1984 proved devastating. *Reckless* is a poignant account of this legendary group.

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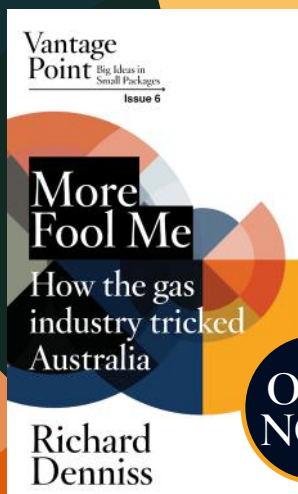


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talk about his new  
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*More Fool Me: How  
the gas industry  
tricked Australia* at  
Cinema Nova on  
Tuesday 25 August  
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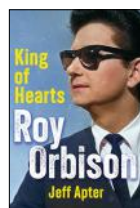
Australia  
Institute  
→ Press

### Roy Orbison: King of Hearts

Jeff Apter

Kensington. HB. \$55

Available now



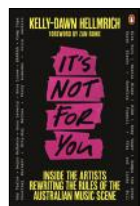
Roy Orbison is one of music history's most beloved, versatile and unforgettable icons. Clad in black with dark shades, he had a mystique, style, and voice that were unmistakable, standing apart from his peers. After experimenting with different styles, Orbison found a sound all his own, including chart-topping hits 'Only the Lonely', 'Crying' and 'Oh, Pretty Woman'. From incredible highs to tragic lows, and his comeback in the 1980s, this book celebrates a life and career that left an enduring mark on music.

### It's Not For You: Inside the Artists Rewriting the Rules of the Australian Music Scene

Kelly-Dawn Hellmrich

Penguin. PB. \$36.99

Available 11 August



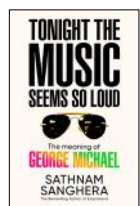
Trailblazing band Camp Cope changed the Australian music scene forever, from their It Takes One campaign to end sexual harassment at gigs to 'The Opener', which became an anthem for calling out industry sexism. In this book bassist Kelly-Dawn Hellmrich brings that same passion to conversations with artists who represent the firsts and future of Australian music. Going beyond the stage, it offers personal reflection, catharsis, camaraderie and inspiration for anyone who's been told they were too much or not enough.

### Tonight the Music Seems So Loud: The Meaning of George Michael

Sathnam Sanghera

Picador. PB. \$36.99

Available now



*Tonight the Music Seems So Loud* is at once a kaleidoscopic portrait of George Michael, one of Britain's most beloved musicians, and an account of a strange and turbulent period of British history. In this unconventional and enthralling book, Sathnam Sanghera explores the connection between music and politics, exposes what secrecy does to the soul, and reveals how fame rots the sense of self. Throughout, Sanghera captures, joyfully and poignantly, one of Britain's greatest artists in all his musical glory.

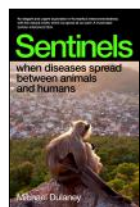
## Natural History & Science

### Sentinels: When Diseases Spread Between Animals and Humans

Michael Dulaney

Scribe. PB. \$36.99

Available 4 August



Zoonoses, pathogens that spread from animals to humans, such as Covid-19, HIV and rabies, to name but a few, threaten our way of life. These pathogens are spilling over at a higher

frequency than ever before – on average one new disease every eight months – and humans are to blame. Capitalism and our exploitation of humans, wildlife and the environment pour fuel on an already raging fire. Intimately tied to climate change, the spectre of infectious diseases does not exist in a vacuum – but neither do the solutions, some of which would also solve other pressing social, ecological and ethical concerns.

*Sentinels* doesn't just tell the story of the animals that pass diseases on to humans, or the animals that originate the diseases; it tells the story of the people, the scientists, working all over the planet in a striving, searching organism of hope, hard work and human creativity to understand and try to solve the problems we've caused. Densely researched and packed with information both delightful and disturbing, *Sentinels* isn't a grim tombstone-in-waiting outlining our failures past the point of no return. While it doesn't shy away from the real dangers present in our current economic, agricultural, environmental, carceral and housing systems and practices, it shines a light on the hidden pockets of conservation, research and resistance battling extinction.

*Sentinels* features an enormous animal cast: billions of domestic chickens, near-extinct Indonesian and Ecuadorian amphibians, Victorian bats and Alaskan voles, genetically modified pigs and fungal spores travelling in dust storms, each treated with the same curiosity and reverence as the pathogens they carry and the illnesses they induce. The judgement here is not on nature, but on what that most deadly of species, humanity, has done to extract capital by exploiting resources and each other. Compelling, concerning and ultimately hopeful, *Sentinels* may be hard to look at sometimes, but we as a species no longer have the luxury of ignoring what it has to tell us.

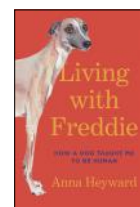
Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

### Living with Freddie: How a Dog Taught Me to Be Human

Anna Heyward

Hachette. PB. \$34.99

Available 18 August



This moving and heartbreaking story is part memoir, part animal-behaviour analysis, part philosophical reflection. When author Anna Heyward decides to adopt an eight-year-old Italian greyhound from a rescue shelter, she assumes that Freddie will ease into her life and learn 'the rules'. She expects to train Freddie to learn the difference between 'good' and 'bad' behaviour. However, Freddie hasn't read the rulebook and suffers from extreme separation anxiety. Anna's life literally turns upside down as she overhauls her whole routine to try and meet the needs of Freddie and understand what motivates his challenging behaviour.

Her admirable empathy towards this sweet yet terrified animal leads her to investigate the theories of biologists and animal behaviourists, from Skinner to Rogers, from Darwin to Lorenz, as she explores what drives particular behaviours in animals and asks what role feelings play. She rightly questions the culpability of humans, including in

## POTTER MUSEUM OF ART

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Ngarn  
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BREATHING FOR US

Art of  
the gum  
tree

Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne,  
Cnr Swanston St and Masson Rd, Parkville, Naarm  
Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 5pm

Wendy Hubert, *Wirlumarra (Ghost gum)*,  
Detail (cropped), 2024. © Wendy Hubert/Copyright Agency

University of  
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‘breed standards’, when characteristics are chosen that favour human preferences over what an animal needs or desires to live a good life.

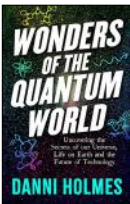
As she immerses herself in the care of this fragile creature, the gaps in understanding between her and her partner Aaron are magnified, as his casual indifference to Freddie’s distress and his disinclination to make the dog central to their lives drive a wedge between them. Anna, who herself was once considered a ‘problem’ child, finds she is more in tune with her dog and more out of love with her husband-to-be. Aaron becomes resentful of her devotion to Freddie, which he finds incomprehensible. Like the biologists, Anna and Aaron hold colliding worldviews.

Along this journey of discovery, Anna poses important questions, such as: how helpful is it to think of animals as being like us? She challenges the idea that punishment is necessary to improve animal behaviour and asks us to question our motivations in our relationships with animals: ‘It’s possible that some of the “saving” we do in rescue is, in fact, for ourselves, because it’s gratifying and makes us feel better.’

This is a poignant and important book. Although Anna herself flags it as ‘a book about failing’, it is a story of a woman and a dog and what love means, and how her whole life took a different path as a result of the time she spent with Freddie. (Note: tissues may be required.)

Pauline Hopkins is the manager of Readings Hawthorn

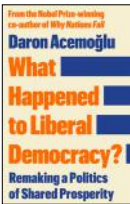
**Wonders of the Quantum World: Uncovering the Secrets of our Universe, Life on Earth and the Future of Technology**  
Danni Holmes  
MUP. PB. \$29.99  
Available 11 August



There is a secret world beyond our human senses in which things behave entirely differently from how they behave in the world we can see. In this quantum realm, particles tunnel through barriers and can exist in several places at once, rebelling against the laws of classical physics that govern our daily lives. Embark on a journey through scale from the familiar to the quantum, travel past the cells that make you ‘you’ to the atoms that make them and discover the weird and wonderful behaviour of nature at its smallest dimensions.

Politics

**What Happened to Liberal Democracy?: Remaking a Politics of Shared Prosperity**  
Daron Acemoğlu  
Profile. PB. \$36.99  
Available 11 August



Shared prosperity, equality, democratic values and the free pursuit of knowledge – liberalism promised much and even delivered on some of those promises. But once it became the dominant ideology, it faltered. It failed to adapt in a post-industrial world. And now the remaining

relics of establishment liberalism are being eroded by elitism, intolerance and rising autocracy. What went wrong? And what comes next? Nobel Prize-winning economist Daron Acemoğlu offers a new theory of liberalism, one that lays the groundwork for how we can, and must, rehabilitate liberal ideas and practices, now more than ever.

**Outlawed: Responding to the Global Rise of Sovereign Citizens and Legal Conspiracies**  
Harry Hobbs & Stephen Young  
Penguin. PB. \$36.99  
Available 18 August



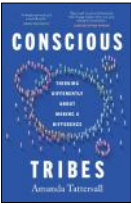
Across the world, people are falling for pseudolaw: a movement built on conspiracy theories and the belief that ordinary people can outsmart governments, banks and courts. Followers call themselves sovereign citizens or constitutional warriors. Critics call it a scam. Taking readers inside courtrooms and the worlds of online gurus and anti-government extremism, *Outlawed* traces pseudolaw’s history, and how it thrives in times of inequality, crisis and distrust. It argues that defeating pseudolaw means confronting the social, economic and legal failures that make it so seductive in the first place.

**Biological War: A Scenario**  
Annie Jacobsen  
Torva. PB. \$36.99  
Available 4 August



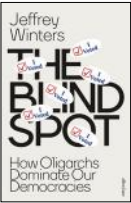
A lab accident, a bio-attack, a global pandemic – by the time you know you are a victim, an invisible weapon has turned you into a killer. Based on dozens of interviews with governmental, political, medical and military experts, Annie Jacobsen examines how this scenario could play out. In a matter of days, critical infrastructure would be battling to survive, resulting in mass death, societal breakdown, widespread insurrection, anarchy, and a plague-ravaged wasteland. Charting the hours, days, and weeks following the release of a biological agent, this book serves as essential, forward-looking journalism.

**Conscious Tribes: Thinking Differently About Making a Difference**  
Amanda Tattersall  
Pantera. PB. \$36.99  
Available now



Many of us feel that meaningful change is beyond our reach, whether due to global crises such as war and climate change or pressures closer to home. *Conscious Tribes* describes a way forward. Drawing on decades of work building organisations, movements and campaigns, and grounded in the stories of activists and unlikely agitators, GetUp co-founder Amanda Tattersall reveals how we build meaningful, lasting change, and how we can shape it with others. She offers an antidote to dark times, and insists we are more powerful than we think.

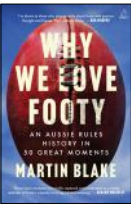
**The Blind Spot: How Oligarchs Dominate Our Democracies**  
Jeffrey Winters  
Allen Lane. HB. \$59.99  
Available 4 August



The wealthy and powerful few have dominated the many throughout most of human history. Today, the gulf between oligarchs and the average citizen is vastly larger than any gap that existed during European serfdom or Imperial Rome. We now exist in a world in which 99.99% of us participate openly and freely – democratically, even – in our own, ongoing economic exclusion. Why? Acclaimed political scientist Jeffrey Winters delivers an urgent, incisive account of how we reached this era of in-your-face oligarchy and introduces ideas for how we might shift the balance.

Sport

**Why We Love Footy: An Aussie Rules History in 50 Great Moments**  
Martin Blake  
A&U. PB. \$34.99  
Available 4 August



What are the unforgettable moments of Aussie Rules that fans remember? Those seemingly supernatural athletic achievements, changes in fortunes, and heroic acts that imprint in our memories and become the stuff of legends. Martin Blake has drawn on his decades of knowledge to craft a selection of the best 50 footy moments. This is a book for the true fan of the great game of Australian Rules football.

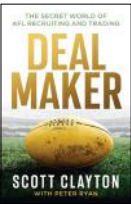
**Hardcore: 50 Years of Skateboarding in Australia**  
Jason Boulter  
T&H. HB. Was \$90  
\$80  
Available 4 August



In 1974, Peter, Stephen and Matt Hill began a journey that would lead to a lifelong obsession with and dedication to skateboarding – soon creating a skateboarding business, Hardcore Enterprises, which would eventually become Globe and an international, publicly listed company. From the brothers’ first DIY decks and warehouse ramps to shopping centre demos, ramp riots, Easter tours and stadium spectaculars, this book traces the pivotal impact of Hardcore on skateboarding in Australia and beyond.

See an extract from *Hardcore* on pages 12–13

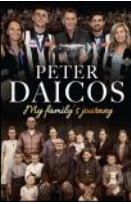
**Deal Maker: The Secret World of AFL Recruiting and Trading**  
Scott Clayton with Peter Ryan  
Hardie Grant. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



With more than 40 years in the AFL industry, including over 30 years as a recruiting manager, Scott Clayton takes readers behind the scenes to look at some of the AFL’s biggest trades and what it

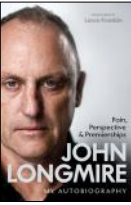
takes to find the right players. Having set up the Gold Coast Suns and recruited Gary Ablett to the Suns from Geelong, Clayton’s experience, along with that of journalist Peter Ryan, brings to life the trade period and draft and shows how AFL clubs refresh their lists with players from other clubs and young emerging stars.

**Peter Daicos: My Family’s Journey**  
Peter Daicos  
Hardie Grant. HB. Was \$49.99  
\$44.99  
Available 18 August



Peter Daicos’s parents arrived in Melbourne from Macedonia in the 1950s. They worked hard in their adopted country, and on Saturdays Peter and his dad would watch South Melbourne play Australian Rules football. Growing to love the game, Peter went on to play for Collingwood and become one of their greatest players, a passion he has passed onto his sons. This book explores Peter’s migrant heritage, his football career, his love of family, his enjoyment of the game and how that has shaped his family’s journey.

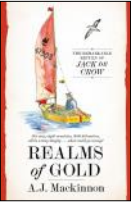
**John Longmire: Pain, Perspective & Premierships – My Autobiography**  
John Longmire  
Penguin. HB. Was \$49.99  
\$44.99  
Available 4 August



From the bush to becoming North Melbourne premiership player and then highly respected Sydney Swans premiership coach, John Longmire’s career spans extraordinary success, crushing setbacks and lessons in between. In this rare insight into what makes a modern-day coach tick, Longmire reflects on his career and what he’s learnt about leadership, culture, team building, talent development and strategy. His message is one of remaining open to possibility and making the most of the sliding-doors moments in life.

Travel Writing

**Realms of Gold: The Remarkable Return of Jack de Crow**  
A.J. Mackinnon  
Black Inc. PB. \$36.99  
Available 4 August



Decades after his adventures in the bestselling *The Unlikely Voyage of Jack de Crow*, A.J. ‘Sandy’ Mackinnon is firmly back on land, until a message from a stranger presents an opportunity too good to refuse. Sandy picks up where his first voyage left off, sailing and rowing single-handedly around the coast from Romania to Venice. From Istanbul to Ithaca, Mount Olympus to the ruins of Troy, he finds himself immersed in the legends of antiquity, plays chicken with mercurial border police, and is saved more than once by the kindness of strangers. Recounting it all with unbreakable enthusiasm and self-deprecating humour, Sandy takes the reader on another hilarious and unforgettable adventure. **R**





**Sweet Heart: Simply perfect recipes to satisfy every craving from the creator of *Beatrix Bakes***

Natalie Paull

Murdoch. HB. \$49.99

Available for pre-order now

Available in our shops on

1 September

Join us to hear Natalie Paull in conversation about *Sweet Heart* at 6pm on Wednesday 2 September, Lido Cinemas, Hawthorn. See [readings.com.au/events](http://readings.com.au/events) for further details.



Add something delicious to your day with this recipe for ginger snaps from Natalie 'Beatrix Bakes' Paull's forthcoming book, *Sweet Heart*.

# Sugar and spice and all things nice! Gingersnaps

Photos | Rochelle Eagle

This recipe for ginger snaps can be found on page 220 of *Sweet Heart*.

## Makes

Approx. 18 cookies

## Takes

20 minutes for the dough

Bake anytime from straight away to up to a week

170 g (6 oz) quality unsalted butter, cool and pliable (15°C/59°F)  
170 g (6 oz) caster (superfine) sugar  
80 g (2¾ oz) light muscovado sugar or brown sugar  
80 g (2¾ oz) treacle  
50 g (1¼ oz) egg, from approx. 1 egg  
220 g (7¾ oz) soft plain (all-purpose) flour (10% protein)  
2 teaspoons (6 g) ground ginger  
¼ teaspoon (1 g) freshly ground allspice  
1 teaspoon (2 g) freshly ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon (1 g) freshly ground white pepper  
1 teaspoon (6 g) bicarbonate of soda (baking soda)  
¼ teaspoon (2 g) fine sea salt  
cooking oil spray  
100 g (3½ oz) demerara sugar, for a pre-bake roll

Sometimes a little spicy, sweet smackerel is all you need to get through an afternoon. These snaps can be there for you – so crisp and so lingering in spices. I like to use treacle but if that is too dark and bitter for your 'snap palate, honey or golden syrup can step in to lighten the mood. I love to bake these to brittle precision, but you can bake less for a soft spiced heart.

**1 Make the dough** Place the butter, the caster and muscovado sugars and treacle in the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment. Beat on just above medium speed for around 8–10 minutes until slightly aerated and lighter in colour. Add the egg and beat until the base re-fluffs. Stop and scrape the bowl occasionally.

Place a sieve inside a small bowl and add the flour, then the spices, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Sift into the bowl until it is all through, forcing any stray bits of spice or bicarbonate of soda through. Reduce the mixer to low speed, add the spiced flour, mixing until only just incorporated.

Take the bowl off the stand mixer and give the dough a thorough and final mix with a stiff spatula to stop any butter seams that bake funny. You can bake straight away or portion and chill the dough to bake another day.

**2 Bake!** Preheat the oven to 130°C (250°F). Line a baking tray with baking paper (spray some cooking oil underneath to keep it from flapping). Scoop out heaped tablespoonfuls (40 g/1½ oz each) of the dough and roll into balls. Toss the balls in the demerara sugar. Arrange the dough balls on the sheet, around 3 cm (1¼ inches) apart in a staggered formation to allow for spreading (see TOP TRIX 1).

Bake for 35–40 minutes – until golden brown – the cookies will still be soft but will firm up on cooling. Bake a little longer if needed or wanting a crisper cookie; a little less time for a soft, chewier cookie.

**3 Keep and store** Refrigerate the raw dough for up to a week. Baked ginger snaps can be stored for a few weeks in an airtight container. If they soften over time, re-crisp at the bake temperature.

## Top Trix

**1** If you get severe overspread, reshape the cookies by swirling a cookie cutter around the still-warm cookies on the tray. If you declare cookie failure, surrender and crush them for a cheesecake crumb (add 50 g/1¾ oz melted butter).

## Adaptrix

- **Less spice** Dial back the spices.
- **Hardcore ginger lover?** Add 20 g (¾ oz) finely diced stem ginger and 2 teaspoons (10 g) grated fresh ginger after the egg – deliciously explosive!
- **Dried pear** Finely dice 100 g (3½ oz) squishy dried pears and fold through at the end. **R**







# Kids & Young Adult

## PICTURE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Picture Book

**There's a Chicken in the House**  
Sonya Hartnett & Lucia Masciullo (illus.)  
Puffin. HB. \$24.99  
Available 4 August



**R** Australian Sonya Hartnett has written many picture books, as well as books for kids and novels for adults. With *There's a Chicken in the House*, she's teamed up again with the wonderful Lucia Masciullo, who has also illustrated many a picture book and whose whimsical, sensitive style matches Hartnett's words so well.

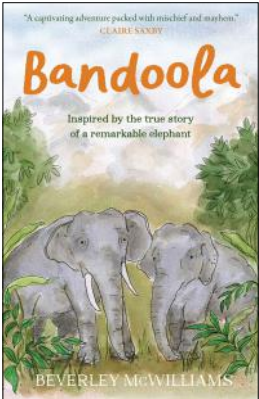
*There's a Chicken in the House* is a very simple and sweet story of a chicken who wanders into a family home. Only the youngest child seems to notice or care that there shouldn't be a chicken in the house! The chicken is curious and roams through each room as it explores, with the child following every move. The soft illustrations bring the words to life and will have children laughing hysterically about the antics and adventures of the chicken. Particularly likely to have the whole family in stitches as they read this book aloud together are the scenes in which the sister's bedroom is messed up and when the chicken does a poo in the bathroom. There is so much craft in this deceptively simple picture book that I predict it will become a firm favourite. For ages 2+.

Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

## KIDS BOOK OF THE MONTH

Middle Grade

**Bandoola**  
Beverley McWilliams  
UWA. PB. \$17.99  
Available now



**R** Bandoola is a spirited, adventurous elephant. He is as mischievous as he is intelligent and he can never resist a delicious treat. Born in 1897, Bandoola was a real elephant, cared for by his oozie (rider/trainer) Pol Toke. Bandoola worked in the logging industry in what was then known as Burma (now Myanmar). He was the first recruit of The Elephant Company, an Allied unit that assisted with transport and building during the Second World War. In 1944, the company was forced to evacuate and Bandoola led a large group of people and elephants, including a group of Gurkha refugees, over a perilous mountain to safety in India.

Beverley McWilliams' previous novel, *Spies in the Sky*, was a staff favourite at Readings. It was shortlisted for our Children's Prize in 2024 and was the winner of the ARA Historical Novel Prize in the same year. With *Bandoola*, McWilliams has crafted another wonderful book. Well-researched and perfectly pitched for young readers, *Bandoola* spotlights a remarkable animal and a fascinating historical event. The story is written from Bandoola's perspective, and his delightful personality and incredible story beautifully illustrate the magnificent capabilities of elephants.

This is a wonderful read, highly recommended for readers aged 9+.

Kim Gruschow is the children's book division manager

## YOUNG ADULT BOOK OF THE MONTH

Young Adult

**A New Kind of Beautiful**  
Suzy Zail  
Walker. PB. \$22.99  
Available 1 August



**R** I absolutely adored this novel about a young woman coming to terms with losing her sight to Stargardt disease.

Paige and her best friend, Jazz, are determined to make Year 10 their best year ever. Jazz posts to Paige's Instagram all the crazy things she gets up to, like jumping off buildings, kissing boys she barely knows, and mouthing off at school. Paige used to be an art nerd, but since she began losing her eyesight she is trying to make up for all the things she may never get to do or see again. Paige is the ultimate teen rebel, but she has good reason – it's not easy to go from being a 16-year-old who only has to worry about boys and homework to someone with a serious disability. And she's determined that no one at school should know, so only Jazz is aware of her difficulties, and Paige has been hiding how bad it is even from Jazz.

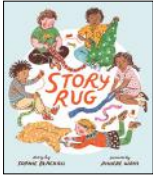
This is the story of how Stargardt disease slowly impacts Paige's relationships with her best friend and her family, as well as her chances for romance. Written with warmth and compassion, the reader can wholly empathise with Paige as she goes through this reluctant and often painful journey to find acceptance of her condition.

Suzy Zail has written well-known historical young adult books that have been shortlisted for many awards. This latest novel treads different ground, but it is equally compelling, well-researched and authentic. Readers aged 12+ who like contemporary stories and romance are going to devour it just like I did.

Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

# Picture Books

**Story Rug**  
Sophie Blackall & Phoebe Wahl (illus.)  
Lothian. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



**R** Sophie Blackall is becoming a powerhouse among picture book authors and illustrators. Her recent book *If We Were Dogs* is a Readings favourite, among customers and staff alike. This time she has teamed up with illustrator Phoebe Wahl, who is accomplished in her own right and has a distinctive illustration style that is so beautifully showcased in *Story Rug*. The book tells the story of a school class that is set a task to learn to braid. Noah has nothing to braid, unlike the other children, so his supportive teacher rips up a rag for him, and the journey begins.

Soon the whole class is involved in making something much bigger than Noah could create on his own. This story has a fantastic message at its core, showing children that working together can mean being able to make something much bigger than they could make on their own. The beauty of the result of their efforts and the happiness of the children is a stunning reminder that connecting with others can lead to much greater outcomes. This is another perfect picture book from Sophie Blackall that I would thoroughly recommend to all children and parents. For ages 3+.

Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

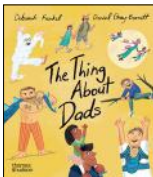
**The Festival of Ice and Snow**  
Angie Cui & Anna Wilson (illus.)  
UQP. HB. \$26.99  
Available 4 August



**R** Every year, Grandpa takes us to the Festival of Ice and Snow – and every year, I can't wait!

Based on the author's treasured childhood memories of attending the enchanting Harbin Ice and Snow Festival in China, this bilingual picture book is a spectacular celebration of family, cultural traditions and wintertime splendour.

**The Thing About Dads**  
Deborah Frenkel & Daniel Gray-Barnett (illus.)  
T&H. HB. \$24.99  
Available 4 August

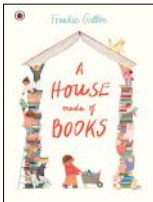


**R** Let us rejoice, for two creators we adore here at Readings have come together to bring us a heartfelt celebration of the many forms of fatherhood. Deborah Frenkel's writing is effortlessly rhythmic and is an absolute joy to read aloud. It's perfectly accompanied by Daniel Gray-Barnett's illustrations, which are explosions of colour and full of humorous images to make you giggle.

*The Thing About Dads* is a love letter to dads – the snorers, the bad-joke tellers, the monster tacklers, and the big huggers – for great dads never fail to make an average day extraordinary. If you haven't realised, Father's Day is fast approaching! If you're looking for a bookish gift for the father figure in your life, look no further! Perfect for all ages.

Lucie Dess is the marketing and events coordinator

**A House Made of Books**  
Frankie Gritton  
Ladybird. HB. \$29.99  
Available 4 August

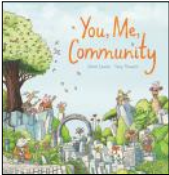


**R** Simon loves books, so he decides to build a house made of books. He stacks book after book, until he has the perfect cosy home. But when Simon's neighbours all want to borrow a book from him, the little house starts to wobble. When the house comes tumbling down, his friends and



neighbours come together to rebuild his home – bigger and stronger than ever before.

**You, Me, Community**  
Zanni Louise & Tony Flowers (illus.)  
Walker. HB. \$25.99  
Available 1 August



**R** Do you ever feel alone? Stranded like a washed-up stone? Look around and soon you'll see you're part of a community.

There are all sorts of communities – from school to soccer teams, from towns to the world of trees. They don't always look or think the same, but communities are connected by the things they share and the people they care about – including you!

**A Bigger Book**  
Hannah Sommerville  
Bright Light. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



Cora loves the smell of books. She loves the stories they contain and the worlds of imagination they open. But when it's time to read aloud in class, Cora gets stuck. Stuck on the first word. And on the second. The harder she concentrates, the foggy each word feels. And when her friends move on to bigger books, Cora is left behind and her love of stories starts to fade.

Junior Grade

**Talent Show & Fair Day Fun (Amira Swift, Books 1 & 2)**  
Sarah Ayoub & Niña Nill (illus.)  
HarperCollins. PB. \$15.99 each  
Available now



Amira Swift is a chatty, energetic seven-year-old who is in Grade 1 and loves to dance. In this new series celebrating friendship, family and Lebanese-Australian culture, Amira Swift must solve unexpected problems! In *Talent Show*, she and her BFFs can't wait to enter the talent show as a dance group, but soon the girls go from having fun to having fights.

In *Fair Day Fun*, all of her friends are bringing special foods that represent their cultures to sell and raise money at the school fair, but Amira comes from two cultures and doesn't know what to take. Whatever will Amira do?

**Sagittarius Rising**  
Maxine Beneba Clarke & Jade Goodwin (illus.)  
Hardie Grant. PB. \$17.99  
Available now



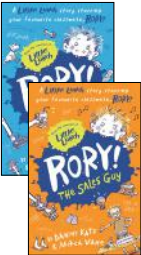
**R** Maxine Beneba Clarke is an absolute talent in Australian literature, and her latest foray into junior fiction does not disappoint! *Sagittarius Rising* is a wholesome story about the misadventures of a boy and his new puppy, the eponymous Sagittarius Rising. From finding a lost kid to sneaking away to school camp, Sagittarius Rising is a dog who truly gets up to all sorts of mischief!

Told in six short-story-like chapters, this unique book is written in verse. This makes it perfect for kids who know how to read but haven't quite made the transition to longer chapter books yet. The rhymes help kids to work out the words, and while sometimes the words might be a bit tricky, there is nothing a kid couldn't puzzle out with some help from an adult.

This humorous, pet-filled story, along with the lively illustrations by Jade Goodwin, will keep kids engaged, while having the added bonus of also demonstrating the responsibilities of being a pet owner. It's perfect for emerging readers aged 7+.

Alicia Guiney is from Readings Kids

**Rory! The Pretender & Rory! The Sales Guy (A Little Lunch Story, Books 1 & 2)**  
Danny Katz & Mitch Vane (illus.)  
Walker. PB. \$15.99 each  
Available 1 August



Little Lunch returns with fan-favourite Rory in a new spin-off series launching with two hilarious, highly illustrated stories. In *The Pretender*, Rory likes pretending to be different things. On Monday he's a crocodile, on Tuesday a giant spider crab, and on Wednesday a bowling ball. But when he keeps hurting his chin, Rory decides he'd better stop pretending and just be himself. The problem is, he isn't sure how! And in *The Sales Guy*, Tamara Noodle is selling her scrunchies to raise money for a new athletics uniform and Rory realises he can help by being a sales guy. He sells Battie three scrunchies for \$10 – but Battie doesn't have \$10. In fact, none of the kids have real money – but that doesn't stop Rory!

Middle Grade

**The Wave**  
Sarah Armstrong  
Hardie Grant. PB. \$18.99  
Available 18 August



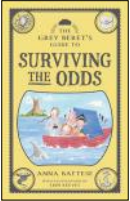
**R** Thirteen-year-old Max has already faced down a huge wave of change in his young life. It's been just months since his dad passed away, and now their landlord is selling their house. It isn't just Max's family who are getting priced out of the island they call home by investors wanting to set up Airbnbs – his best friend, Billy, had to move away too. His mum's working too hard at the hospital on the mainland, his uncle Ed won't stop being weird and awkward, and it feels like the only one left who understands Max is his dad's dog, Ralph, who is now Max's.

But when Max goes for his regular sunrise surf – a ritual he used to think would keep his surfboard-maker dad healthy – Ralph starts acting strangely. Within hours, the whole island and Max's entire life are completely underwater, and he's thrown together with two total strangers. He'll have to learn how to face his fears, see past his anger and believe in his own abilities if he's going to survive.

*The Wave* is so gripping and compellingly readable that this reviewer devoured it in less than a day. The engaging storytelling, drama and complex social and interpersonal dynamics will have fans of Sarah Armstrong's exceptional *Run* and the *I Survived* series completely hooked until the final page. For ages 10+.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

**The Grey Beret's Guide to Surviving the Odds**  
Anna Battese & Erin Reeves (illus.)  
S&S. HB. \$22.99  
Available now



**R** The world is full of wonders, but also potential for numerous calamities, so Odie Gusberry-Smith is determined to avoid any chance of misadventure by staying home, talking to no one, and having her homeschool assessments marked by pigeon-post. (The beauty of having two pet pigeons is that you don't have to talk to the postwoman.) When she receives a mystery package containing *The Grey Beret's Guide to Surviving the Odds*, it doesn't exactly calm her fears, but it does arm her with hundreds of tips on how to avoid disaster, and instructions for making a jumpsuit with 38 pockets for crucial supplies. All of which comes in very handy when her dad drags her along on a work trip that ends with Odie and a handful of other children shipwrecked by themselves in the middle of the Pacific Ocean! Armed with the wisdom of the survival guide, Odie takes on child-eating frogs, giant birds, exploding berries and even a baby with a dirty nappy!

This is a delightful adventure that's perfect for anxious kids, as it helps show the benefits of getting out of your

comfort zone. Odie is a sweet protagonist, coping with grief, loneliness and trying to find ways to manage her ever-present fear. The world Anna Battese has created is wild and whimsical, with all the imagination of Jules Verne while still feeling utterly contemporary, and it's brought beautifully to life through illustrations by Erin Reeves. I recommend this book to kids who love adventure, and to those who might think adventures are best avoided, thank you very much. For ages 7+.

Bella Mackey is the digital content lead

**Stuck in the Middle**  
Anton Clifford-Motopi  
A&U. PB. \$17.99  
Available 4 August



**R** *Stuck in the Middle* is a strong novel, delivering just as much humour and heart as Anton Clifford-Motopi's debut *To and Fro*. This book follows Leon, who is dealing with being the middle child of seven kids. To make matters worse, his best friend just moved to Alaska and none of his family supports him looking after his cat. When a new kid, Victor, arrives at his school, Leon manages to make a new friend, but things take a turn for the worse when Victor starts spending more time with Leon's family and Leon starts to feel like all his siblings like Victor more than they like him.

Leon's struggle to find time alone to recharge in a full house is a painful situation all introverts can relate to. This story felt very true to life and deals with a lot of tricky emotions common for kids, such as jealousy, loneliness and frustration. Ultimately though, this is a book about having compassion and kindness for others, while also learning to assert your own boundaries – both in terms of friendship and with family. It's perfect for kids aged 8+ who enjoy contemporary fiction.

Alicia Guiney is from Readings Kids

**You & Me and the Gigantic Knucklehead (You & Me, Book 3)**  
Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope (illus.)  
Pan Mac. PB. \$16.99  
Available now



Hey, you – yes, YOU! Remember when we accidentally became gigantic and got banished to the Land of Giants where we discovered that we were actually quite tiny, especially compared to the most gigantically gigantic knuckleheaded giant of them all? That was definitely one of our biggest adventures ever! What? You don't remember? Well, have I got a story for You!

**The Sinking Ruins (Oceanforged, Book 3)**  
Amelia Mellor  
Affirm. PB. \$16.99  
Available now



Cori, Tarn and Jem set sail to find the third part of legendary Oceanforged Armour in Halcyon, the secretive island once famed for its beauty. But now that the Prime Council knows of their quest, the journey is more dangerous than ever. In Halcyon, Cori and her friends discover the island's cruel and unpredictable leader forbids all magic in the region except his own. His word is law – and obeying the law has never been Cori's strong point.

**Get Lost (Neverlanders, Book 2)**  
Tom Taylor & Jon Sommariva (illus.)  
Penguin. PB. \$22.99  
Available 18 August



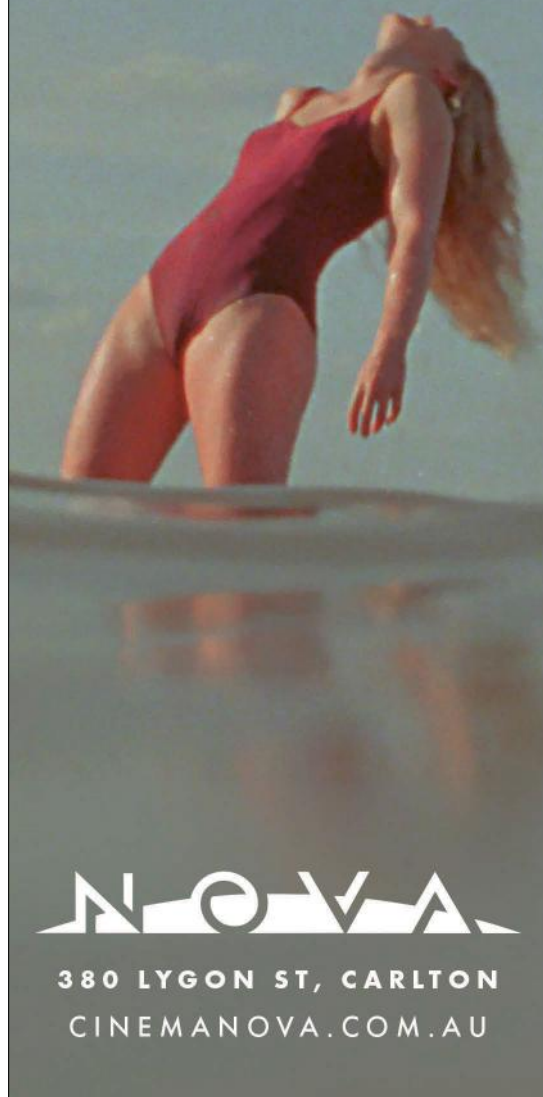
Neverland has a new problem: the magic tree, the source of Neverland's power, may be dying. And Justin, whose life was saved by the tree, has fallen ill. The Lost Ones set sail in none other than Hook's ship on a daring new quest to find a cure. With the fate of their newfound home on the line, this gang of perpetual youths might need more than faith, trust, and pixie dust to survive.



## COMMENCING AUGUST 20 EXCLUSIVELY AT CINEMA NOVA

Oscar-nominee Kristen Stewart makes her feature directorial debut with an unflinching portrait of womanhood, survival, and artistry, adapted from Lidia Yuknavitch's memoir.

## THE CHRONOLOGY OF WATER



**NOVA**  
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### The Lost Island

Samantha Wheeler & Anke Noack (illus.)

UQP. PB. \$17.99

Available 4 August



Theo is on a Pacific cruise with his dad, new stepmum and annoying stepsister, when he's thrown overboard during a storm and washes up on a desert island. As Theo tackles castaway life, he discovers the island is full of mysteries: spooky noises, possible ghosts and the strangest birds he's ever seen. To escape the island, Theo must unlock its secrets – and reckon with the power of nature.

## Graphic Narrative

### Being Eve: A Graphic Novel

Neurowild (Em Hammond)

Penguin. PB. \$19.99

Available 4 August



Some people fit together perfectly – just ask Eve and her best friend, Sasha. They know they can count on each other. But then a new friend, Zack (who is definitely not becoming more than a friend) changes everything. Why is it suddenly so hard to fit in? When did 'friends' stop being friends? And what are Eve and Sasha supposed to do when life just seems to get harder and harder?

### Home Time: Twelve Days

Campbell Whyte

IDW. PB. Was \$75

**\$ \$65**

Available 18 August



Twins Lily and David don't agree on much, except that the last summer before high school is the perfect time for relaxing with friends. But their plans are thrown out the window when the whole gang falls into a river and wakes up in a village of fantastic creatures. Hailed as magical spirits and threatened by lizards, these kids must find their way home – if they don't throttle each other first.

## Nonfiction

### The Other Side

Philip Bunting

Walker. HB. \$26.99

Available 1 August



How are you enjoying your holiday here on Earth? It must be nice, being alive and all! Join the Grim Reaper on a whistle-stop tour of some of the ways different people have thought about what happens on 'the other side', from Valhalla to Vodou, Heaven to Hades' Underworld. Have a great trip – see you on the Other Side!

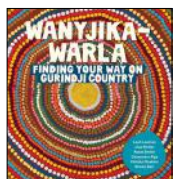
### Wanyjika-warla: Finding Your Way on Gurindji Country

Leah Leaman, Lisa Smiler, Rosie Smiler,

Cassandra Algy, Felicity Meakins & Briony Barr

Hardie Grant Explore. HB. \$29.99

Available now



**R** Gurindji language has 31 words for each compass point, meaning a total of 124 words for describing directions. These words are used widely: for navigating on Country, for locating objects, and referring to parts of the body. Through thousands of years of describing their home, Gurindji people have an extraordinarily strong sense of place, and some can sense the Earth's magnetic field.

Along with facts, photos and diagrams, this book uses a story of a grandmother taking kids fishing to show the

ways navigational terms are used by Gurindji people. *Wanyjika-warla*, meaning 'which way', is an introduction to compass points and the Earth's magnetic field, but it's also a fascinating look at the role of language in the relationship between people and place. Combining First Nations knowledge with Western science, the book was inspired by the intricacy of Gurindji language and a project researching whether humans can sense Earth's magnetic field.

There is stunning art throughout, which features work by 35 Gurindji artists. *Wanyjika-warla* follows the excellent, award-winning 2023 book *Tamarra: A Story of Termites on Gurindji Country*. The subject of each of these books is truly fascinating, and both are fantastic examples of collaborative publishing. They deserve a very wide audience. For ages 7+.

Kim Gruschow is the children's book division manager

### The Mystery of Colour and How We Solved It

David Coles & Margaux Samson-Abadie (illus.)

T&H. HB. \$34.99

Available 4 August



What's your favourite colour? Ever wondered how it got from nature into your paints? Long ago, brilliant blues, glittering greens and radical reds weren't easy to make. Artists had to crush beetles, burn bones and even drain sea snails to create colours.

Come on a journey through history, packed with amazing stories, dazzling illustrations and iconic artworks from around the world to discover how we solved the mystery of colour.

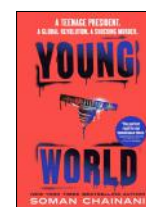
## Young Adult

### Young World

Soman Chainani

S&S. HB. \$29.99

Available now



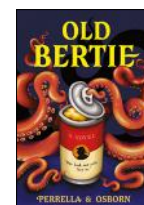
When 17-year-old Benton Young's video daring the world to elect him as US President goes viral, it ignites a national revolution, resulting in Benton becoming President. Inspired, young people from across the globe take to the streets, and soon eight of the world's most powerful nations are led by teenagers. But, on the eve of their first global summit, one of the leaders is murdered, and Benton is the only suspect. Now the world's future – and his own – is on the line.

### Old Bertie

Vincenzo Perrella & Dan Osborn

Fremantle. PB. \$24.99

Available 4 August



George Jones is stuck on an island with a bunch of judgmental jerks who all live in fearful deference to Old Bertie, a giant squid who devoured George's mother, leaving her father an emotional mess and George a social reject. But George's world changes when a mysterious stranger washes ashore and lives to tell the tale. If they were spared by Old Bertie, could her mum still be out there? Will George break her dad's heart finding out?

### This Moth Saw Brightness

A.A. Vacharat

Dutton. PB. \$26.99

Available 18 August



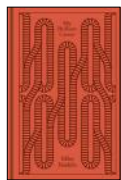
'Wayne Le, known as "Invisible-D 'Wayne" at school, has been invited to participate in a seemingly innocuous adolescent health study by a prestigious university. Participating in the study is an opportunity to make 'Wayne's immigrant father proud, but soon 'Wayne, his best friend Kermit, and Jane, another study participant, are sucked into a maze of conspiracies that might be entirely in their heads or might truly be a sinister government plot. **R**



# Bargains

## My Brilliant Career

Miles Franklin  
HB. Was \$35 **Now \$15.99**



Miles Franklin's beloved debut novel, *My Brilliant Career*, captures the spirit of Australia at the turn of the 20th century. The struggles of its fiery, precocious protagonist, Sybylla, shine a light on the emergent women's rights and suffrage movement during this period and evoke the intensity of youth. This Penguin Clothbound Classics edition is a wonderful addition to any collection.

## A Heide Harvest

Alice Crowe, Maximilian & Robyn Lea (photog.)  
HB. Was \$64.99 **Now \$29.99**



An ode to Sunday Reed's kitchen and garden and the continuing legacy of Heide Museum of Modern Art, this seasonal cookbook features 90 original recipes from leading Australian

chefs as they share their interpretations of and reflections on the Heide kitchen gardens. Alongside the recipes, each chapter delves into the history of the garden and charts its evolution from dairy farm to institution.

## Good Things

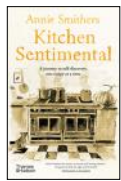
Samin Nosrat  
HB. Was \$65 **Now \$24.99**



Capturing her trademark blend of warmth and precision, and the essence of what makes cooking such an important source of comfort and delight, Samin Nosrat invites you to her table. Offering more than 125 soul-nourishing recipes for the things she most loves to cook, Nosrat also shares tips and techniques including when to splurge on the best ingredients and how to buy olive oil.

## Kitchen Sentimental

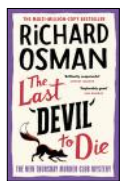
Annie Smithers  
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$15.99**



In *Kitchen Sentimental*, respected chef and paddock-to-plate pioneer Annie Smithers takes us on a journey through every significant kitchen in her life. With engaging honesty, she shares her personal development, her complex relationship with food, and the lessons she has learned along the way to finding her culinary niche at the famed du Fermier restaurant in country Victoria.

## The Last Devil to Die

(Thursday Murder Club, Book 4)  
Richard Osman  
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$12.99**



An old friend in the antiques business has been killed, and a dangerous package he was protecting has gone missing. As the gang springs into action, they encounter art forgers, online fraudsters and drug dealers, as well as heartache close to home. With the body count rising,

the package still missing and trouble on their tail, has their luck finally run out? And who will be the last devil to die?

## Hello Beautiful

Ann Napolitano  
PB. Was \$32.99 **Now \$12.99**



The four Padavano sisters bring loving chaos to their close-knit Italian American neighbourhood. When William Waters, whose childhood was shaped by tragedy, meets Julia Padavano, his world is lit up around him. But when darkness from William's past resurfaces, it is Sylvie, not Julia, who becomes his confidante, resulting in a tragic rift that leaves the family inhabiting two sides of a fault line.

## Mina's Matchbox

Yoko Ogawa & Stephen Snyder (trans.)  
PB. Was \$34.99 **Now \$14.99**



In 1970s Japan, 12-year-old Tomoko moves into her uncle's magnificent colonial mansion after the death of her father. Forming a close friendship with her cousin Mina, Tomoko is drawn into a world of secret crushes and elaborate storytelling. As the girls share confidences, and family mysteries and hardships come into focus, their eyes are opened to a complicated adult world.

## A Little Life

Hanya Yanagihara  
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$19.99**



JB, Jude, Malcolm and Willem: four young men move to New York broke, adrift and buoyed only by friendship and ambition. There is kind, handsome Willem; the sardonic painter, JB; Malcolm, a frustrated architect; and Jude, brilliant and enigmatic – their centre of gravity. This 10th anniversary edition of the epic bestseller features artwork by RF. Alvarez and Linus Borgo.

## The Einstein Vendetta

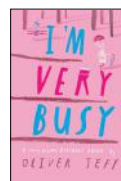
Thomas Harding  
PB. Was \$36.99 **Now \$14.99**



Italy, August 1944. A unit of German soldiers arrives at a villa near Florence. It is home to Robert Einstein, cousin to the most famous scientist in the world, Albert Einstein. Twelve hours after arriving, the soldiers have vanished, and a family is dead. *The Einstein Vendetta* recounts the story of this previously untold true crime, revealing Italy's brutal wartime history and a family's search for justice.

## I'm Very Busy

Oliver Jeffers  
HB. Was \$24.99 **Now \$9.99**



It's Bridget's birthday, and she thinks it would be fun to spend the day with friends. But Royal has places to go, Rodney has to see a man about a dog, Regis has to wash his hair, and Pearl has an urgent to-do list. Bridget's friends are all too busy to hang out! Will Bridget have to spend her birthday all alone?

## Decade: 1970–1980

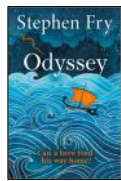
Rennie Ellis  
HB. Was \$69.99 **Now \$19.99**



Rennie Ellis was one of Australia's most important chroniclers of the 1970s. *Decade: 1970–1980* showcases Ellis's contribution to photography and social history. Exploring the cultures and subcultures of the 1970s, these iconic images were originally selected by Ellis for his own unpublished book and are supplemented by additions from archives and State Library Victoria's collection.

## Odyssey

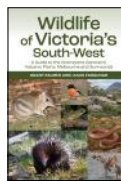
Stephen Fry  
HB. Was \$55 **Now \$19.99**



Troy has fallen, and after 10 years of war, Odysseus dreams of returning to his wife and son. But the sea god Poseidon curses him to wander the seas for 10 years, where Odysseus encounters cyclopes, monsters, storms, witches and goddesses. He is tempted and tormented beyond a man's endurance, but the lure of his wife and son draws him, step by step, ever closer to home and to his destiny.

## Wildlife of Victoria's South-West

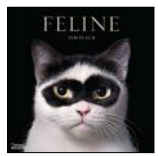
Grant Palmer & Jules Farquhar  
PB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$14.99**



Victoria's South-West supports remarkable wildlife, including some found only in the region, and is recognised as both nationally and globally significant for the conservation of biodiversity. This comprehensive photographic field guide covers all the mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs that occur in the region, on land and in the coastal marine environment, and includes a detailed taxa profile for each.

## Feline

Tim Flach  
HB. Was \$100 **Now \$49.99**



Featuring more than 180 photographs, *Feline* celebrates domestic cats and their wild counterparts. Showcasing extraordinary cats from show champions to internet icons, and pedigrees as well as the humble moggie, Tim Flach's images capture their personality, character, and spirit. *Feline* also tells the story of our long relationship with one of the most intriguing and beguiling animal companions.

## Wild Ocean: A Journey into the World's Last Wild Coasts

Peter Pickford & Beverly Pickford  
HB. Was \$100 **Now \$49.99**



In dynamic coastal habitats where oceans meet land, more than 90 per cent of marine life occurs, and most of the terrestrial life that thrives along the shore is also surrounded by the ocean. It is an intricate and complex web of natural life. With stunning photography exploring incredible ocean life around the globe, this is an epic study of some of our planet's most untouched marine habitats.

## On Freedom

Timothy Snyder  
PB. Was \$36.99 **Now \$13.99**



Freedom is the great Western commitment, but we have lost sight of what it means – and this is leading us into crisis. Drawing on the work of philosophers, political dissidents, conversations with contemporary thinkers, and his own experiences, Timothy Snyder's *On Freedom* is a brilliant exploration of freedom – what it is, how it's been misunderstood, and why it's our only chance for survival.

## Shot Ready

Stephen Curry  
HB. Was \$65 **Now \$24.99**



Stephen Curry has had a dream career – a true basketball champion. Widely recognised as the greatest shooter in history, he has revolutionised the sport of basketball and will leave behind a legacy as perhaps the greatest Golden State Warrior player of all time. In *Shot Ready*, Curry shares his remarkable career, telling stories and detailing lessons he has learned at different points throughout.

## Ultimate Australia Travel List

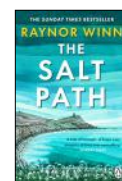
Lonely Planet  
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$14.99**



What's the number one travel experience in Australia? For the first time, Lonely Planet's experts have ranked the country's top 500 unmissable experiences and hidden gems to create this definitive travel wish list. With glorious photos, insightful commentary and details of how to visit each place, this is your essential guide to an Australian adventure.

## The Salt Path

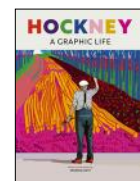
Raynor Winn  
PB. Was \$26.99 **Now \$12.99**



Just days after Raynor Winn learns her husband Moth is terminally ill, they lose their home and livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they impulsively decide to walk the 630-mile South West Coast Path. This is a much-discussed story of coming to terms with grief, and the healing power of the natural world. But also of how a sense of home can be lost, rebuilt and rediscovered in unexpected ways.

## Hockney: A Graphic Life

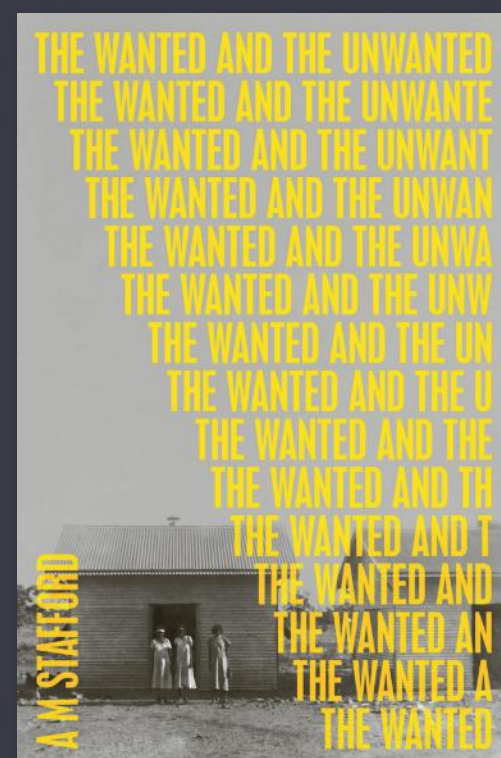
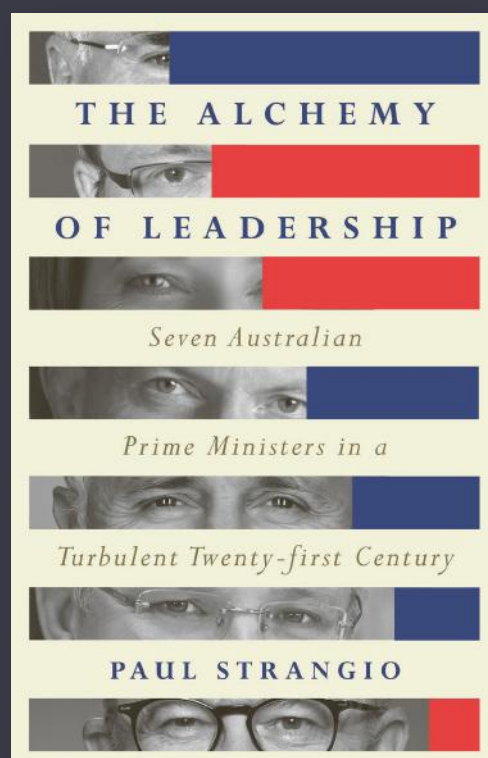
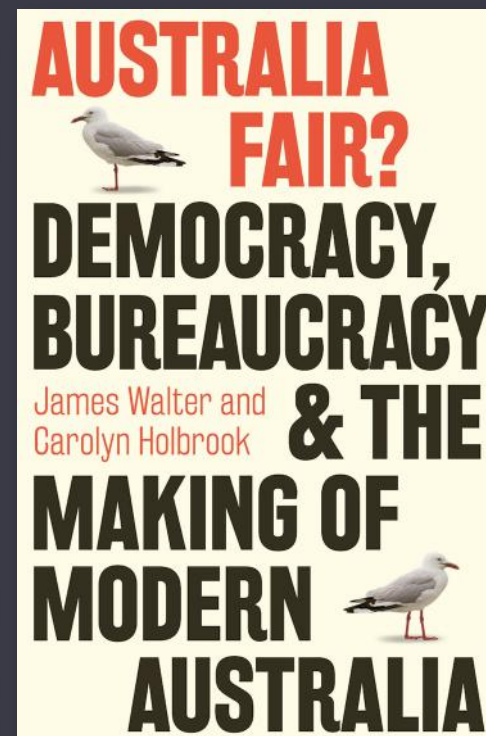
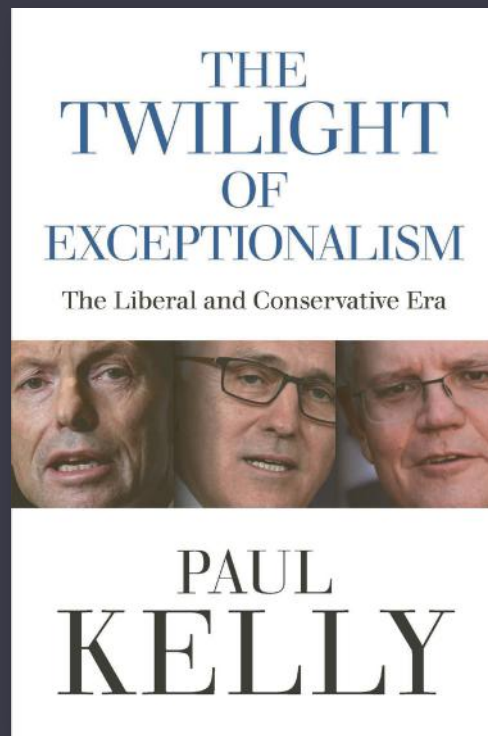
Simon Elliott  
HB. Was \$39.99 **Now \$19.99**



From his childhood in Bradford and early years making it as an artist, to his sun-drenched Los Angeles period, to his triumphal return to the UK and his iPad drawings, this charming biography traces the captivating life and times of David Hockney. Drawn entirely on an iPad, in a fun, fully illustrated style, this is a colourful, thought-provoking and joyous story of one of the world's most-loved artists. **R**



# Father's Day Reading



*The Twilight of Exceptionalism: The Liberal and Conservative Era* by Paul Kelly. *Australia Fair?: Democracy, Bureaucracy & the Making of Modern Australia* by James Walter and Carolyn Holbrook. *The Alchemy of Leadership: Seven Australian Prime Ministers in a Turbulent Twenty-first Century* by Paul Strangio. *The Wanted and the Unwanted* by A M Stafford.