

# Readings Monthly

FREE | OCTOBER 2025

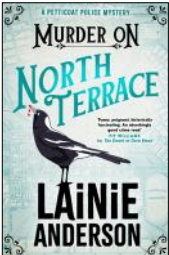
## A Day in Carlton is back!

See the full 2025 program inside

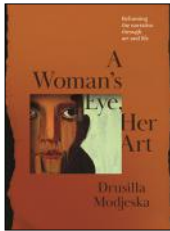
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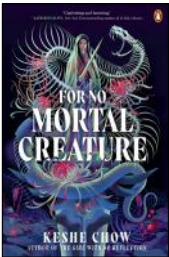
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LAINIE ANDERSON  
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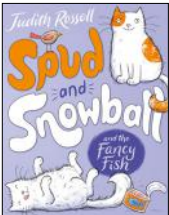
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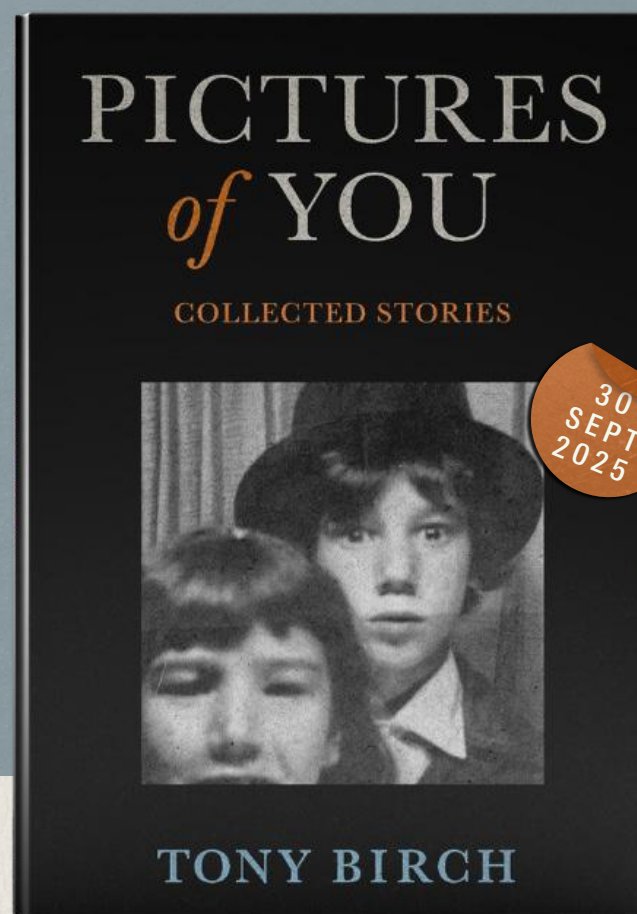


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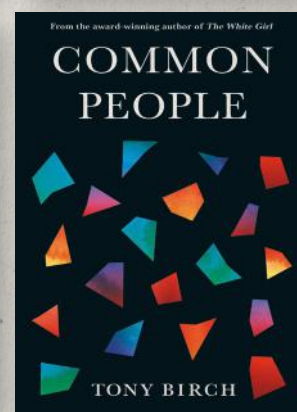
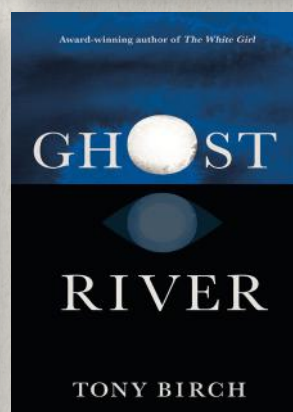
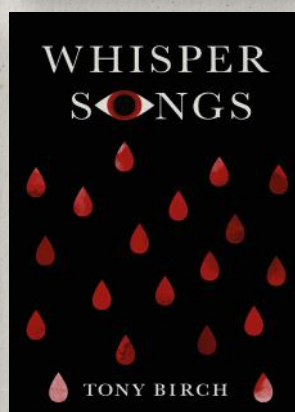
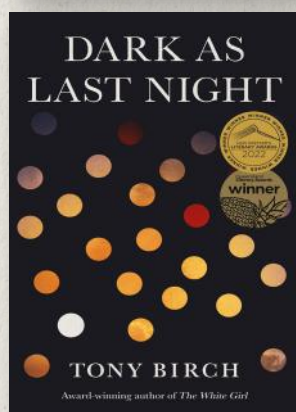
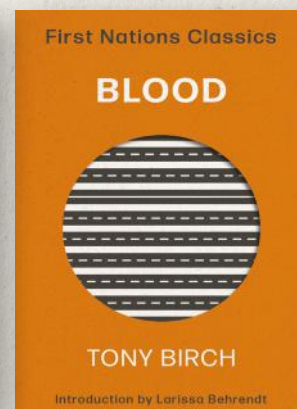
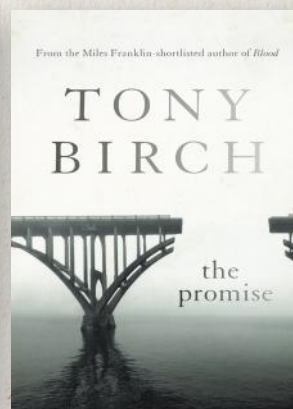
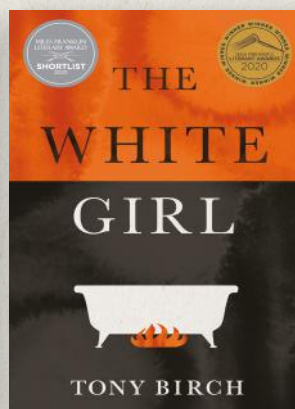
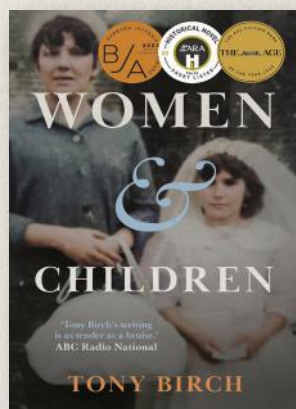


JUDITH ROSSELL  
page 22





## AUSTRALIA'S MASTER STORYTELLER



UQP

2025 Australian  
Small Publisher  
of the Year



News

Readings Monthly update

Please note that this issue of the *Readings Monthly* will run for an extra two weeks. The November issue will be released in shops and online on Saturday 15 November at A Day in Carlton.

A Day in Carlton 2025

After its huge success in 2024, A Day in Carlton is back this year and is even bigger and better. Taking place on 14 and 15 November, it's a 24-hour celebration of books, culture and community. To discover the lineup and find out more, head to pages 5–7.

Love Your Bookshop Day 2025

Saturday 11 October is Love Your Bookshop Day (LYBD), an annual celebration of everything that makes local bookshops special. This year's theme is 'Discover the magic. Discover you.' Visit your local Readings and help us celebrate LYBD!

Readings Subscriber Shopping Day

The biggest day of the year is just around the corner ... Readings Shopping Day! Mark your calendars for Thursday 13 November! For more details, sign up to the Readings e-news before 1 November at [readings.com.au/e-news](https://readings.com.au/e-news)

Promos

Iron Maiden giveaway

To celebrate 50 years of Iron Maiden, purchase a copy of *Iron Maiden: Infinite Dreams* in shops or online, and you could win one of two epic prize packs including: a signed card by the members of Iron Maiden; a Sony LX-310 turntable with Bluetooth; and a copy of *Nights of the Dead* (Black 3LP). To enter the draw, simply email your receipt to [competitions@readings.com.au](mailto:competitions@readings.com.au) by 31 October 2025. Winners must collect the prize from their closest Readings shop. For T&Cs, head to [readings.com.au/competition-terms-and-conditions](https://readings.com.au/competition-terms-and-conditions)

20% off Lonely Planet for kids

Throughout October we are offering 20% off a great range of Lonely Planet titles for kids, including lift-the-flaps, language learning, activity books, atlases and more. This offer is available online and at all Readings shops (except Readings Carlton) until 31 October 2025. Offer valid on stickered, in-stock items only, while stocks last. Not valid with any other offer.

A celebration of the Booker Prize

To celebrate the Booker Prize, we are offering a great promotion on a range of past Booker Prize winners! Take 20% off when you buy two or more titles from a range of Booker Prize winners. This offer is available at Readings Carlton, Hawthorn, Malvern and Emporium shops until 31 October 2025. Not available online. Offer valid on stickered, in-stock items only, while stocks last. Not valid with any other offer.

Defiance by Bob Brown

For every copy sold of Bob Brown's *Defiance*, Readings and Black Inc. will each donate \$2.50 to the Bob Brown Foundation. All purchases sold online or in our shops are eligible. This means every copy bought through Readings before 31 October 2025 will provide a \$5 donation to the Bob Brown Foundation!



"This conversation may be recorded, and repeated ad nauseum, for quality assurance and training purposes. Please let me know if you want me to shoo him away."

Events

with Chris Gordon



On your marks, get set, GO! October's Readings program is a joyful excuse to immerse yourself in the new works of many beloved local and interstate authors. I have been fortunate to read advance copies of many of these books and you are in

for a treat. Honestly, just when you think the entire world has lost its mind, here come the authors, saving the day with stories of love, hope, resistance and resolutions. Of course, A Day in Carlton is also happening next month! You can find the full program on pages 5–7.

Omar Musa in conversation

Friday 10 October, 6.30pm

Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St, Carlton

Free, but bookings are essential

Join us to hear Omar Musa in conversation with Sophie Cunningham about his globe-spanning epic of power and family secrets, *Fierceland*.

Bri Lee in conversation

Tuesday 14 October, 6.15pm

Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton

Tickets are \$10, redeemable off *Seed on the night*

Join us to hear Bri Lee in conversation about her original and almost unbearably suspenseful new novel, *Seed*.

Heather Rose in conversation

Thursday 16 October, 6.15pm

Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton

Tickets are \$10 per person

We are thrilled to have Toni Jordan in conversation with Heather Rose to discuss *A Great Act of Love*.

Chris Hammer in conversation

Friday 17 October, 6.00pm

Church of All Nations, 180 Palmerston St, Carlton

Tickets are \$35 per person, includes one signed copy of *Legacy*, or \$10 per person, no book included

Join us to hear Chris Hammer in conversation about his new Martin Scarsden book, *Legacy*.

Hugh Mackay in conversation

Thursday 30 October, 6.00pm

Readings Chadstone, 1341 Dandenong Rd, Malvern East

Free, but bookings are essential

We are honoured to have Australia's leading social psychologist Hugh Mackay joining us to discuss his latest book, *Just Saying*.

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](https://readings.com.au/events)

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](https://readings.com.au/readings-monthly)

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FRONT COVER

The October *Readings Monthly* cover features a photograph by Lian Hingee of Chris Gordon and Mark Rubbo at Readings Carlton. Find out more on pages 5–7 about why they are looking forward to A Day in Carlton.

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

SHOP INFORMATION


See shop opening hours, browse and buy online at [readings.com.au](https://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



SCREENING FROM  
OCTOBER 25  
AT CINEMA NOVA

## National Theatre Live



## IMELDA STAUNTON MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION

BY BERNARD SHAW DIRECTED BY DOMINIC COOKE  
WITH BESSIE CARTER



380 LYGON ST, CARLTON  
CINEMANOVA.COM.AU

## Foreword

with Joe Rubbo



At Readings we're very excited to launch our second year of A Day in Carlton. It has grown significantly in size and ambition. Once again, it is based solely in Carlton, within walking distance of Readings Carlton, but this year we have expanded our footprint to include four new venues – La Mama, the Carlton Courthouse, the University of Melbourne and CO.AS.IT. The number of events has more than tripled from last year, going from 8 to over 30. We have around 70 authors participating throughout the festival, including Trent Dalton, Sofie Laguna, Maxine Beneba Clarke, Don Watson, Barry Jones, Jessica Au and many more. There are kids' events, walking tours and even a cheesemaking workshop with the author of *Burrata* (and owner of That's Amore) Giorgio Linguanti. We will also be announcing The Readings Prize winners in a special ceremony at La Mama and all are welcome to come and toast their achievements. I could keep going

on, but I recommend you delve into the program on pages 5–7. Events are already starting to fill up, so I suggest going online to book your tickets with haste.

I wish I could take the credit for this extravaganza, but A Day in Carlton is the handiwork of our community engagement and programming manager Christine Gordon and Readings chairman Mark Rubbo. They're the ones vaulting through the Readings Carlton door on the front cover of this *Readings Monthly*.

Earlier this year we opened a Readings shop in the new Market Pavilion precinct in Chadstone Shopping Centre. A key feature of the shop is an enormous lantern that runs down its length. Designed by Kerstin Thompson Architects and artist Ed Linacre, the lantern is constructed with recycled books. It has just been shortlisted in both the Design Anthology and the Australian Design Review Awards. We're very lucky to have such a beautiful piece gracing our shop and for anyone interested in design and sustainability it is well worth a look.

## Dear Reader

with Alison Huber



October is here, and with it so many novels you've been waiting for: Trent Dalton, Bri Lee, Sofie Laguna, Jane Harper, Garry Disher, Chris Hammer, Lily King, Kiran Desai, Patricia Lockwood, Richard Osman, Bora Chung ... I mean, even Thomas Pynchon is publishing a new book! Our Fiction Book of the Month for October is Heather Rose's *A Great Act of Love*. Rose never writes the same book twice and this historical novel is sure to capture many imaginations with its tale of personal reinvention and champagne in the fraught early days of colonial Australia. Lainie Anderson follows up her hit debut *The Death of Dora Black* with *Murder on the North Terrace*, our Crime Book of the Month, with the historical figure police officer Kate Cocks again at the helm, returning us to the streets of early 20th-century Adelaide.

One of Melbourne's stalwart independent publishers, Scribe, brings us the incredible Chris Kraus's new novel this month, *The Four Spent the Day Together*. Don't miss this book! Those of us on staff who have read it can't stop talking about it. Also for the radar – and a book for every Melbourne literature-loving home – is Tony Birch's career retrospective story collection, *Pictures of You*. Tony has kindly signed all our stock, so whether you've never read Tony's stories or have read them all, this is a gorgeous thing to have: as our reviewer puts it, 'the best stories from across the career of one of Australia's best working writers ... a treasure trove'.

I was slightly freaked out to learn that it is 10 years since the publication of Max Porter's brilliant debut, *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*. Ten whole years, where did they go?! But also, it feels like a book I've always known, so it's unsurprising in another way, and there's a beautiful new anniversary edition being published to mark the occasion. I loved Lily King's *Heart the Lover*, and found myself unexpectedly weeping on the tram as I read the last chapter ... but in a good way! Georgian author Nino Haratischwili, author of the blockbusting *The Eighth Life (for Brilka)*, has a new novel this month, *The Lack of Light*. Megha Majumdar wrote a wonderful debut, *A Burning*, and her book *A Guardian and a Thief* is a similarly tense and tightly written multi-perspectival work set in a near future of famine and climate emergency ... a future that doesn't feel at all futuristic at this stage of proceedings.

Our Nonfiction Book of the Month is Drusilla Modjeska's *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*, with a special guest review by the writer Andrea Goldsmith, who happens to be in conversation with Modjeska at an event at the Church of All Nations on Friday 3 October. It has taken

a long time, but there is at last a lot of energy in art criticism and book publishing at this moment around the lives of women artists, previously overlooked or dismissed or written out of Art History (capitals intended). This book is another important contribution to the endeavour, which Goldsmith calls a 'wonderful experience' and 'a pleasure to read'.

Readings loves books about its fair city, and Robyn Annear's *Shutter City* is the next to illuminate Melbourne's forgotten past, complete with Annear's trademark style that brings the stories to life. We love our city's food heroes, too, and this month you can read about the unique life of Lune's visionary founder, Kate Reid, in her memoir, *Destination Moon*. Bob Brown has led a very different kind of influential life, and his memoir also appears this month, *Defiance: Stories from Nature and Its Defenders* (and for the month of October Readings will match publisher Black Inc.'s commitment to donate \$2.50 from each sale of *Defiance* to the Bob Brown Foundation).

Iron Maiden is releasing a visual celebration of the band to mark its 50th year, and we have an amazing competition running, with prizes including a turntable, vinyl, and a card signed by all the members of the band. Excellent! Evan Dando has written the book no one thought he would, *Rumours of My Demise*. Cookbooks start causing logistical problems in our shops this month as they arrive in big deliveries: Helen Goh and *Baking and the Meaning of Life*, I'm looking at you. And there are new books by Yanis Varoufakis, Serhii Plokhy, Ilan Pappé, Tim Curry, Mariana Enriquez, and so, so many more.

And finally, dear Reader, the winner of the Booker Prize is announced on Monday 10 November. This is always a highlight of the literary year, so to lean into the build-up I thought it might be interesting to see if we could display all the winning books together. As always, these great ideas turn into practical stock-related investigations, and one finds that even winning the Booker Prize doesn't guarantee that a book remains readily available to us always and for all time. There are some gaps in availability, some stock in transit, some stock only available to import: it was an interesting exercise, to see what has fallen out of buying favour or view. But I've put together the full list which you can access on our website if you're interested in seeing the current editions, and our shops at Carlton, Emporium, Hawthorn, and Malvern will be displaying a selection of the titles (as well as the last 10 years of winners of the International Booker Prize, and if you buy two or more from the in-shop display you will receive 20% off the books). **R**

Friday 14 —→ Saturday 15 November



# A DAY in CARLTON



## The full 2025 program

### About this year's A Day in Carlton

A Day in Carlton is back for 2025 and this year it's even bigger and better!

We're bringing you (just over) 24 hours packed full of literary goodness! Carlton already holds many lifetimes of stories: friendships formed here have changed language, food, politics and culture. A Day in Carlton celebrates Carlton's past and its right now.

'Working with Mark Rubbo and the entire team at Readings to pull together a program that celebrates ideas and imagination is a joy. I hope our program makes YOU want to join in.'

Chris Gordon, Readings community engagement and programming manager



### Ticketing information

\$ full priced | \$ under 30s

Some events show two pricing tiers: full priced tickets, followed by under 30s pricing in orange.

To book tickets or find out more about any A Day in Carlton event, scan the QR code or visit [readings.com.au/a-day-in-carlton](https://readings.com.au/a-day-in-carlton)



### Good things to know

Keep an eye on our socials for local deals on the day!

#### Pop-up Readings shops

Pop-up Readings shops at La Mama, Carlton Courthouse and Church of All Nations

#### The Readings Church Bar

Fri 5.00pm-10.00pm, Sat 1.00pm-7.00pm

#### For kids, big and small!

Watch out for a giant pigeon causing mayhem on Lygon Street, Sat 10.30-11.00am

### Program streams

We have curated the A Day in Carlton program to varied interests – from politics to romance, food to poetry, global affairs to walks through history, and on to language and passion, music and art, and, last but far from least, giant pigeons and wombats.

#### Book launches and signings

Kate Mildenhall: The Hiding Place  
Michael Burge: Country Crimes  
James Islington: The Strength of the Few

#### For the kids

Andy Griffiths: Morning Madness  
Mo Willems' Pigeon Mayhem  
Julia Busuttil Nishimura:  
Sundays Under the Lemon Tree  
Little Wombat Storytime

#### In the mood for food

TOAST! Dinner-Party Confessions  
Coffee & Sweet Treats  
Workshop: Cheesemaking with That's Amore!

#### Romance never dies

The Great YA Debate: Fantasy v Romance  
Happy Birthday Jane Austen

#### Music, art & poetry

Whitefella Yella Tree  
Floor Talk at The Torch  
Big Verse: The Readings Poetry Gala  
Art Appreciation  
A Tribute to Archie Roach & Ruby Hunter  
Fire Moves Faster: What a City Can Overcome

#### Politics: here and over there

Democracy: What, When and How?  
Politics: A Lifetime of Chatter  
The USA: Has It Ruined Democracy Forever?

#### Walk the talk

Mark Brandt Tours the Melbourne General Cemetery  
Sean Reynolds Tours Ghost Signs  
Robyn Annear Tours Carlton

### Venues

There'll be over thirty events at this year's A Day in Carlton so we've added more beloved Carlton venues as well as returning to our old favourites.

Carlton Courthouse	345-349 Drummond Street
Carrillo Gantner Theatre	Room B02, University of Melbourne Sidney Myer Asia Centre, 761 Swanston Street, Parkville
Church of All Nations	180 Palmerston Street
Cinema Nova	380 Lygon Street
CO.AS.IT.	189-199 Faraday Street
Upstairs at Jimmy Watson's	333 Lygon Street
La Mama	205 Faraday Street
Readings Carlton	309 Lygon Street
Readings Kids	315 Lygon Street
The Torch Gallery	146 Elgin Street
Union Theatre	Level 1, University of Melbourne Arts and Cultural Building, 15 Monash Road, Parkville

You'll find accessibility information about our A Day in Carlton venues on the individual events listings online.



See the full program —→



## Thursday 13 → Saturday 15 November

### Whitefella Yella Tree

Thu and Fri 7.30pm, Sat 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
\$25–\$68

UNION THEATRE

COMMUNITY EVENTS • MUSIC, ART & POETRY

See the acclaimed *Whitefella Yella Tree*, written by multi-award-winning playwright Dylan Van Den Berg and directed by Declan Greene and Amy Sole.

Presented by University of Melbourne Arts and Culture (UMAC)

## Thursday 13 November

6.15pm →

### Trent Dalton in Conversation with Michael Williams

Thu 6.15pm–7.15pm \$30 | \$20 without a book or \$60 | \$50 with a signed copy of *Gravity Let Me Go*

CARRILLO GANTNER THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENT

Join us to hear Trent Dalton in conversation with Michael Williams about *Gravity Let Me Go*, Dalton's gritty and hilarious new novel.

Presented by Readings in partnership with The Wheeler Centre and UMAC

## Friday 14 November

5.30pm →

### The Readings Prize Announcement

Fri 5.30pm–7.00pm Free, bookings essential

LA MAMA COURTYARD

Join us as we raise our glasses to the winners of The Readings Prizes for Children, Young Adult and New Australian Fiction, as well as the announcement of The Gab Williams Prize winner for 2025.

6.00pm →

### TOAST! Dinner-Party Confessions

Fri 6.00pm–7.00pm \$25 | \$20

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

IN THE MOOD FOR FOOD

We invite you to a night of tales from restaurant tables with Kate Reid, Gerald Diffey and Besha Rodell. Hosted by Readings' own Christine Gordon.

8.00pm →

### Big Verse: The Readings Poetry Gala

Fri 8.00pm–9.30pm \$10

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

MUSIC, ART & POETRY

We invite you to a night of big verse with an all-star line-up of poets including Evelyn Araluen, Andy Jackson, Toby Fitch, and Ender Başkan, along with poetry and music collaboration Lotus Threads. Hosted by Tim Loveday.

## Saturday 15 November

9.30am →

### Coffee & Sweet Treats

Sat 9.30am–12.30pm Cash preferred

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMUNITY EVENTS • IN THE MOOD FOR FOOD

Perk yourself up before a day of literary fun with delicious Eritrean coffee and sweet treats, in support of local migrant and refugee women and their families.

10.00am →

### Andy Griffiths: Morning Madness

Sat 10.00am–11.00am \$5 per person

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

FOR THE KIDS

To celebrate the *You & Me* series, grab the kids and join us for a morning full of madness and fun with the one and only Andy Griffiths.

11.00am →

### Floor Talk at The Torch

Sat 11.00am–12.00pm Free, bookings essential

THE TORCH GALLERY

COMMUNITY EVENTS • MUSIC, ART & POETRY

Hear directly from a First Nations artist with lived experience of incarceration and take a tour of The Torch's exhibition, *Future Dreaming*.

### Mark Brandi Tours the Melbourne General Cemetery

Sat 11.00am–12.00pm \$25

MEET AT CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

WALK THE TALK

Join Mark Brandi for a tour around the setting of his latest novel, *Eden*.

### James Islington: The Strength of the Few

Sat 11.00am–12.00pm Free, no need to book!

READINGS CARLTON

BOOK LAUNCHES AND SIGNINGS

We are delighted to have bestselling fantasy author James Islington signing *The Strength of the Few* (*Hierarchy*, Book 2).

Books must first be purchased inside at Readings Carlton before you join the signing queue.

### The Great YA Debate: Fantasy v Romance

Sat 11.00am–12.30pm \$20 | \$15

CINEMA NOVA

ROMANCE NEVER DIES

Join us to hear a lively debate between your favourite Australian YA authors as they battle it out to prove which genre is better: Fantasy or Contemporary Romance!

### La Mama Salon

Sat from 11.00am, each session runs for 45 minutes \$20 per session

LA MAMA THEATRE

Join us for a series of intimate conversations at La Mama theatre. Seating only 30 people, it's a space designed for confessions and creations.

### 11.00am When We Talk Friendship

*The Buried Life* with Andrea Goldsmith and friend.

### 12.00pm When We Talk Migration

*The Immigrants* with Moreno Giovannoni and Arnold Zable.

### 1.00pm When We Talk Impact

Twenty years of *Dead Europe* with Christos Tsiolkas and Declan Fry.

### 2.00pm When We Talk Bullshit

*The Confidence Woman* with Sophie Quick and Bec Kavanagh.

### 3.00pm When We Talk Winning

The winner of The Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction 2025 with Joe Rubbo.

### Sundays Under the Lemon Tree

Sat 11.30am–12.00pm Free, bookings essential

READINGS KIDS

FOR THE KIDS

Join us to celebrate the launch of Julia Busuttil Nishimura's new picture book, *Sundays Under the Lemon Tree*.



12.00pm →

Country Crimes at Carlton Courthouse

Sat 12.00pm–1.00pm Free, bookings essential

CARLTON COURTHOUSE

BOOK LAUNCHES AND SIGNINGS

Join us as crime author R.W.R. McDonald launches Michael Burge's new novel, *Dirt Trap*.

Democracy: What, When and How?

Sat 12.00pm–1.00pm \$30 | \$20

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

POLITICS: HERE AND OVER THERE

Join economist Richard Denniss and author and editor Esther Anatolitis as they discuss democracy and republican hope with Sally Warhaft in this special edition of *The Fifth Estate*.

Presented in partnership with The Wheeler Centre

Sean Reynolds Tours Ghost Signs

Sat 12.00pm–1.00pm \$25

MEET AT READINGS CARLTON

WALK THE TALK

Follow Sean Reynolds through Carlton to discover ghostly signs and their stories.

1.00pm →

Happy Birthday Jane Austen

Sat 1.00pm–2.30pm \$20 | \$15

CINEMA NOVA

ROMANCE NEVER DIES

Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday with Dr Kate Cuthbert, Steph Vizard and Sharmini Kumar. Prizes for best dressed!

2.00pm →

Art Appreciation

Sat 2.00pm–3.00pm \$20 | \$15

CARLTON COURTHOUSE

MUSIC, ART & POETRY

Join us to hear Erik Jensen in conversation with Quentin Sprague about *What Artists See*.

When the Personal Becomes the Story

Sat 2.00pm–3.00pm \$30 | \$20

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

Join us to hear Trent Dalton and Sofie Laguna in conversation with Toni Jordan about weaving personal experiences into fiction.

Robyn Annear Tours Carlton

Sat 2.00pm–3.00pm \$25

MEET AT READINGS CARLTON

WALK THE TALK

Take an afternoon stroll around Carlton with local historian and author Robyn Annear.

Workshop: Cheesemaking with That's Amore!

Sat 2.00pm–4.00pm \$200

CO.AS.IT.

IN THE MOOD FOR FOOD

Learn to make mozzarella in this fun, hands-on workshop with the creator of That's Amore Cheese, Giorgio Linguanti. Everyone will take home a copy of *Burrata* by Giorgio Linguanti, an apron and, of course, cheese!

A Tribute to Archie Roach & Ruby Hunter

Sat 2.00pm–3.00pm \$20 | \$15

CO.AS.IT.

MUSIC, ART & POETRY

Join contributors to new anthology *Rivers Flow* for a celebration of two beloved singer-songwriters, Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter.

Little Wombat Storytime

Sat 2.30pm–3.00pm Free, no need to book!

READINGS KIDS

FOR THE KIDS

Calling all wombat fans! Meet Charles Fuge's Little Wombat and join us for a story time dedicated to our favourite marsupial.

3.00pm →

Uncompromising: The Power of Language

Sat 3.00pm–4.30pm \$20 | \$15

CINEMA NOVA

Join Grace Yee, Jessica Au and Lisa Gorton as they chat with Giramondo publisher Ivor Indyk about the way language can move and even change us.

The Cities of Literature Book Club

Sat 3.30pm–4.30pm \$10

CARLTON COURTHOUSE

Join Cher Tan and Kate Larsen for a conversation chaired by Madison Griffiths about Victoria Amelina and the other extraordinary women in the Ukrainian resistance.

4.00pm →

Politics: A Lifetime of Chatter

Sat 4.00pm–5.00pm \$30 | \$20

CO.AS.IT.

POLITICS: HERE AND OVER THERE

Join the Honourable Barry Jones and James Button with Sally Warhaft as they reminisce about a lifetime of political talk and ask the big question: *Does anyone listen?*

5.00pm →

Fire Moves Faster: What a City Can Overcome

Sat 5.00pm–6.00pm \$40 | \$30

CARLTON COURTHOUSE

MUSIC, ART & POETRY

Join us to hear *Fire Moves Faster*, a performance that blends the words of renowned poet Maxine Beneba Clarke with original music by musician Amaya Laucirica. Hosted by Readings' own Christine Gordon.

Kate Mildenhall: The Hiding Place

Sat 5.00pm–7.00pm Free, bookings essential

CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

BOOK LAUNCHES AND SIGNINGS

Join Sally Hepworth as she launches Kate Mildenhall's highly anticipated new novel, *The Hiding Place*. Stick around for a BBQ and beers.

6.00pm →

The USA: Has It Ruined Democracy Forever?

Sat 6.00pm–7.00pm \$30 | \$20

CO.AS.IT.

POLITICS: HERE AND OVER THERE

Join us to hear Don Watson and Dr. Emma Shortis discuss the United States of America. To be introduced by Readings' own Sean O'Beirne.

8.30pm →

Jimmy Watson's Bedtime Stories

Sat 8.30pm–10.00pm \$30

UPSTAIRS AT JIMMY WATSON'S

Grab a drink from the bar and get cosy as your favourite authors, Sophie Cunningham, Trent Dalton, Christos Tsiolkas and Toni Jordan, read you bedtime stories. R

# Fiction

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### Australian Fiction



#### A Great Act of Love

Heather Rose

A&U. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Available now

**R** A young woman boards a ship bound for a colony on the far side of the earth. To those on board she is a pious, grieving widow, someone with enough coin to invest in the goods the captain carries, but who keeps to herself and shares little of her past. The other passengers cannot know that Caroline is following her convict father, that she has made her money from nefarious schemes, nor that she has a family connection to French royalty.

When she arrives in Van Diemen's Land, she is no longer alone, having taken on a young ship's boy as her ward. The pair find themselves accommodation and Caroline begins work as governess to the younger children of Captain Swanston, soon to be her landlord. Their new home includes a vineyard, a twist surely put into play by the gods of fate, as Caroline's father once made champagne. After the French revolution, he ran an apothecary, and educated his daughters in various sciences, now enabling this determined young woman to bring these vines back to life. As she creates a new beginning for herself and the adopted family around her, amid the beauty and harshness of colonial Australia, Caroline finds her place, a home, and, finally, happiness.

Heather Rose says at the start of this novel that it is one based on several true stories, and knowing that someone as brave, determined, and brilliant as Caroline really did exist makes her narrative even more moving. Rose has always been just as brave and determined and brilliant in her writing, moving easily from literary award winner *The*

*Museum of Modern Love* to the political thriller *Bruny* and now to the past, with all of its complexity and absences. This is a heroic tale from one of my very favourite authors.

Kate McIntosh is the manager of Readings Emporium

## Anthologies

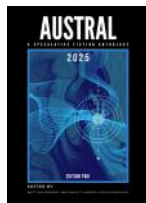
### Austral 2025:

#### A Speculative Fiction Anthology

Matt Richardson, Michaela T. Harden & Ciar Fhearchair (eds)

Meridian. PB. \$25.99

Available 23 October



**R** *Austral 2025* features bold new voices and award-winning authors from across the continent, interrogating the politics of identity, belief, and survival with startling

originality. Here, grief walks in synthetic skin, memory haunts war-torn temples, and the cost of love is counted in claw and coin. Whether speculative, surreal, or sharply satirical, these stories crackle with electric prose and unflinching imagination. From forlorn war stories to psychedelic techno-nightmares, this collection dives into the strange, the uncanny, and the deeply human.

## Australian Fiction

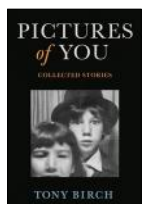
### Pictures of You: Collected Stories

Tony Birch

UQP. HB. Was \$45

**\$39.99**

Available now



**R** If I had to pitch Tony Birch's newest book with a single phrase, I'd just say it's the best of the best: the best stories from across the career of one of Australia's best working

writers. Spanning three decades of publication, *Pictures of You* is a treasure trove of tales, filled to bursting with skilful prose, compelling characters and quiet moments of release.

Framed, in many ways, by the sombre title story – the most recent contribution included – the collection's depth and breadth invites a reflective tone, as each individual story builds towards an understanding of Birch himself and his long-held preoccupations. Family is always central, whether it takes the form of deep sibling bonds, fierce maternal figures or, most strikingly, fathers who are drunken tyrants, fragile ghosts in old age or simply absent. In each case, Birch's stories capture his characters at their most volatile, caught at crossroads and filled with potential: a boy watches as his neighbourhood – and by extension his father's history – is demolished around him; a brothel owner risks her world for an abandoned child; or a police officer picks up a wandering Aboriginal man on the outskirts of town and spends a long day with him.

This is a book that will find an easy place on many a bedside table. It's perfect for dipping into for the occasional morsel of beautiful narrative to end a long day, but it also works well when taken as a feast. Reading it cover to cover draws Birch's favourite themes into clear relief – family, as mentioned above, but also dichotomies of faith and vice, violence and peace – while also celebrating the variety of his oeuvre, from the linked stories of *Shadowboxing* to the rare moments of magic amid his realist sensibilities. Whether you're a nibbler or feaster, a newcomer or long-time Birch fan, *Pictures of You* is a book worth having.

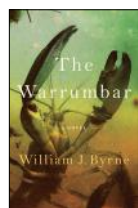
Joe Murray is from Readings Kids

### The Warrumbar

William J. Byrne

UWA. PB. \$34.99

Available now



On the day man walks on the moon, 13-year-old Robbie meets Moses, an old man camped by the roadside. Over the following months, Robbie discovers Moses' past is entwined with his own.

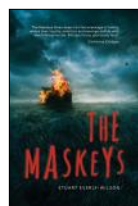
When he learns the truth about his family and his Aboriginal heritage, his life is changed forever. At home, Robbie navigates the anger of his sometimes-violent father. But when he witnesses a tragic event at the dam, Robbie faces a choice: speak the truth and risk everything, or stay silent and carry the burden forever.

### The Maskeys

Stuart Everly-Wilson

Transit Lounge. PB. \$34.99

Available 1 October



In a small Australian town the Maskey family is infamous, especially the patriarch, George, who is blamed for family and local catastrophes. When Rodney, George Maskey's quiet and love-starved

right-hand man, is kidnapped by Gayle Reynolds who sees this as an opportunity to learn the whereabouts of her missing son, the Maskey family will change forever. Captivity turns Rodney's life upside down. He meets Leanne who brings him his meals and in her sees a person he could risk everything for.

### Gravity Let Me Go

Trent Dalton

Fourth Estate. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Available now



**R** Trent Dalton's latest glorious novel could come with a warning: life does not stop just because you are reading. There is work to do and family to tend to, and exercises that must be done – and have you called your parents? Noah, the narrator of this story, is a true-crime journalist, and he has been handed the story of a lifetime. The first clue was left in his letterbox, and he followed more until he uncovered the body, but not the killer. It did not stop him from writing it all up, but that is not all this novel is about. Describing it is almost impossible, but here is my attempt.

Take Noah's world and wrap it tightly in a marriage set in Jubilee, Brisbane. Add in show tunes and mosh pits, nods to Dorothy on the yellow brick road, and skeletons both real and imagined – and then drive in the knife with a scary yet equal amount of ambition and dread. You will fall in love with Noah's daughters and the love of his life, Rita, and you will wish that Noah would just slow down and enjoy all the good that Brisbane has to offer: that sky, those neighbours ... Truly, in this novel, we need Noah to unravel.

I could pick Dalton's writing from a mile away. It's revealed in the kindness of the detail, the musical references (this novel comes with a playlist), and the ode to the Australian climate. It is about the pace of the writing, and the desire for each word to mean more in company than on its own.

Trent Dalton's storytelling is vivid, rapid, and soaring. It reminds me of the track by Green Day called 'Jesus of Suburbia'.

Note: there are more clues in that song about this crime novel than there are in this review. (And there are many clues in this review!)

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager



Trent Dalton will be at A Day in Carlton. See the program on pages 5–7 for details.

### One Story

Pip Finkemeyer

Ultimo. PB. \$34.99

Available now



**R** In 2010s Silicon Valley, among the renowned names of Jobs, Wozniak, and Zuckerberg, a woman has stepped onto the scene. Dot Van Jensen is CEO of One Story, a news outlet whose algorithm

caters to the user's personal preferences. When a devastating scandal and betrayal in the company leads to Dot becoming a fugitive, she hides in the remote corners of Indonesia. In this novel of an investigation by a documentary crew, *One Story* is an amalgamation of interviews, emails, and text messages exploring the genesis of One Story and its downfall.

Pip Finkemeyer captures with electric zeal the ambition, chaos and idealism of the tech industry. Exploring the perspectives of Dot, her co-founders (her son Jon and her partner Rae), and the thousands of employees whose lives were upended, we see how far the ripples of a scandal within a major corporation affect those from the very top to those presiding on the other side of the world.

Finkemeyer balances the promise and the perils of this industry, celebrating Dot's rise as a young, queer woman in a male-dominated field, to her immediate villainisation and the ensuing witch-hunt. In an ever-technologically advancing world, we are constantly questioning and fearing the misuse of technology and how it shapes our perception of reality. From fake news, AI manipulation, and invasion of privacy, *One Story* explores the intersection between technology and politics, touching on democratic systems and narrative control, begging us to question how much say we really have. As the story unravels, with different perspectives offering different insights, the lines between hero and villain, truth or falsehood, are blurred for the price of progress and profit. History is told by many people, but whose version do we choose to believe?

*One Story* is an inventive novel about ambition, power, media, and the construction of truth.

Aurelia Orr is from Readings Kids

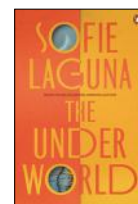
### The Underworld

Sofie Laguna

Penguin. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Available 28 October



**R** Sofie Laguna's power as a writer is her ability to recall that time in all of our lives – those teenage years – when you hover between certainty and loss. For young women, this



hovering time is also when we realise that men, overall, do not experience the world like we do. What we do with that knowledge, what we do with *all* knowledge, is determined by our surrounds, and by that, I mean, our own network of friends and family. The story in *The Underworld* centres on 14-year-old Martha as she scrutinises herself in response to her newfound knowledge about life.

To do so, she refers often to her learnings from ancient history – one that includes the Roman underworld and all the Roman gods that warned of consequences. It is a bewitching formula. To compare oneself and one's responses to the reactions of a god makes sense for a teenager, because life is dramatic and there are potholes along the road.

The story opens with Martha (studious and shy) and her mother (aloof and fancy) on a weekend away, far from Martha's boarding school where boundaries create a safeguard and her friends provide a connection to the here and now. Without these friends, would Martha be in free fall, or is she already? Her hormones are racing and all options about who she is are up for consideration.

This novel is a wild journey of being 14 and so it should be. Personally, I am very relieved that part of my life is over, but this novel brought back the painful parts – those insidious parts – of being young and untethered. At times, it made uncomfortable reading. However, this ambitious novel also reminded me to listen closely to our young people, and provide support.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager



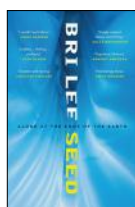
Sofie Laguna will be at A Day in Carlton. See the program on pages 5–7 for details.

### Seed

Bri Lee  
S&S/Summit. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Available now



**R** Antarctica is having something of a moment under the midnight sun this year, with writers of all stripes turning their pens south for inspiration. Two local examples

include Charlotte McConaghy's *Wild Dark Shore*, which in March drew audiences the world over into its Macquarie Island-inspired swell, and, this month, Bri Lee's latest offering, *Seed*, is part locked-door mystery, part ecological dirge, and wholly unique from her previous work.

Miles from any other outpost, scientists Mitchell and Frances are entering their final summer as custodians of a highly secretive seed vault, a vanguard against rapidly accelerating climate change. But unlike their idle dog days of years past, this summer's sojourn is cloaked in secrets – from Mitchell, Frances, and the ice itself. A series of bizarre events strain their fragile relationship and drive Mitchell to the edge of reason as the past casts a long shadow over their increasingly perilous present. Is someone – or something – watching them, as Frances begins to suspect? Or is it the consequences of their own actions stalking them across the valley, waiting for the right moment to swallow them whole?

From McMurdo Station to the Dry Valleys, Lee's descriptions of Antarctic landscapes are simultaneously intimate and isolating, propelling the novel's twisting plot even when its protagonist's personality may repel. In a shade over 300 pages, *Seed* tackles an ambitious number of climate fiction's most polarising questions, offering a polemical meditation on collective greed, reproductive futures, and what we owe to each other and the planet. Written with her signature candour, fans of Bri Lee are certain to find themselves hooked on this tale till the final jaw-dropping page.

Gene Pinter is from Readings Chadstone

### Secrets

Judi Morison  
S&S Bundyi. PB. \$34.99  
Available 28 October



Ruth, the widowed matriarch of a grown family, has only months to live – and a secret she's kept for 60 years. Now she must put things right before she dies. But as she has learned, the longer something is kept hidden, the harder it is to bring out of the shadows. With her grandson in gaol and her family fractured, Ruth must address the past, present and future. She must reveal her secret, reconcile her family, and find a way to keep her beloved homestead. Cora, in the family – and her family in Cora.

### The Worst Thing I've Ever Done

Clare Stephens  
Atlantic. PB. \$32.99

Available now

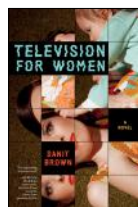


**R** Ruby Williams' name starts trending online after she uploads an interview that has outraged journalist Felicity Cartwright, a social media personality known for policing women's opinions. Ruby becomes the target of a brutal public shaming and trying to explain herself only makes matters worse. The vitriol pouring in through her phone cracks open a visceral, personal shame from her past that she's refused to face. Because the worst thing Ruby's ever done is not defined by this interview, but by a single, chilling scream.

## International Fiction

### Television for Women

Danit Brown  
Melville House. PB. \$32.99  
Available now



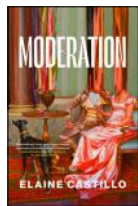
Estie isn't sure she likes being pregnant. She's not even sure she likes her husband, who hid he's been fired from his job. Bloated and alone, even her best friend is ignoring her after being told about the baby. When Estie gives birth, she realises all the stories about motherhood might not be true – it does not complete her and she's still waiting for that

mythical connection with her baby. *Television for Women* explores the realities of life postpartum and the demands children make on women's identities and relationships.

### Moderation

Elaine Castillo  
Atlantic. PB. \$34.99

Available now



**R** Thirty-something year old 'Girlie' works behind a desk at Reeden, a global social media content-moderation office. She's a first-generation eldest daughter, a survivor, and numb to the horrors she is subjected to as a Subject Matter Specialist of truly awful things – things she herself has survived. By day, Girlie works behind a mask of her own making, with only her sardonic running commentary for company – hiding behind a pseudonym, detached from her colleagues, family and community. By night, she lifts weights and hides away in the house she shares with six members of her family, all victims of the subprime mortgage crisis. The Filipino diaspora isn't just a major part of Girlie's self-identity, but a current running through her relationships with family and those familiar only through shared heritage.

Girlie takes great pleasure in being a sharp judge of character, observant, savvy and street-wise, able to predict people's actions and motivations. But her predictable – if not comfortable – life changes when Reeden acquires a booming virtual reality business, whose fully rendered environments are said to provide both entertainment and therapeutic benefits. They want only the best moderators, capable of reacting in a split second while maintaining cover. The money isn't just good, it's almost unbelievable, and best of all, Girlie won't have to participate in so many tokenistic 'wellness' initiatives – just 'therapeutic offset' sessions, a kind of VR cool-down, totally optional. But of course, there's a catch: William, her handsome, inscrutable, English-accented manager, who throws Girlie off her previously even keel.

What may sound like the setup for a fairly standard romance is merely enjoyable window dressing on a complex, speculative story of corporate misdeeds, the seductive nature of self-isolation, and the healing power of playing pretend. Elaine Castillo's prose is lush and sizzles with wit, and the sensory immersion of VR leaps off the page.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

### The Midnight Timetable

Bora Chung & Anton Hur (trans.)  
Scribe. PB. \$29.99

Available now



**R** This is the perfect bite-sized horror book: a collection of haunting ghost stories easily consumed in one sitting. Through vivid imagery and biting rhythm, Bora Chung creates a vicious atmosphere, critiquing society and the selfish and stupid actions people take for fame, money, and their own comfort.

Framed as the tales exchanged between a night guard at The Institute and their sunbae (senior), we get a glimpse of humanity and its violence through the things they guard from the outside world. Interconnected in a way that creates a steady flow, we're given tiny stories that can be applied to the real world: sheep that can give correct fortunes, a 'beloved' handkerchief, and an unfortunate cat; these objects and animals all have a story of how they came to be at The Institute. Tragedies often cause people to 'leave things behind', whether that's anger, guilt, or pain, both humans and animals feel a need to right a wrong. Exploring themes of animal cruelty, conversion therapy, family dysfunction, and much more, Chung deftly and sharply unsettles the reader, making them turn the page before they know it. We begin to wonder if the hauntings are the ones that need protection from humans.

As with all collections of short stories, some stood out more than others. My personal favourites are 'Why Does The Cat' and 'Blue Bird', but none of these stories fell short of engaging. They all had their own delightfully unique twists and ends.

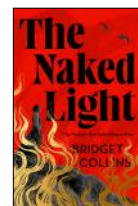
It is a gift and a curse that we only know so much of the world these stories take place in. The unknowable, as Chung describes it, is what makes a ghost story frightening, and she has done a superb job of writing something both chilling, and beautiful in its entirety. Both horror fanatics and newcomers to the genre will devour this powerful and witty collection.

Jacinta Richards is from Readings Chadstone

### The Naked Light

Bridget Collins  
Hemlock. PB. \$34.99

Available now



Watching over the village of Haltington is an ancient carving in the ground, first etched into the chalk when lives were ruled by superstition and stories. Known as the Face, it has been tended for centuries

by the inhabitants of Bone Cottage but since the Great War, the Face stands neglected. When outsider Kit moves into the cottage the locals are suspicious of her ways. The vicar's unmarried sister-in-law Florence finds herself drawn to Kit, and their friendship grows. But the Face calls things to it, and now Florence and Kit are in its path.

### Songs of No Provenance

Lydia Conklin  
C&W. HB. \$34.99  
Available 21 October



*Songs of No Provenance* tells the story of Joan Vole, an indie folk singer forever teetering on the edge of fame, who flees New York after committing a shocking sexual act onstage. With the threat of an internet storm looming over her, Joan seeks refuge at a writing camp for teenagers in rural Virginia, where she's forced to question her own toxic relationship to artmaking – and her complicated history with a friend and mentee – while finding new hope in her students and a deepening intimacy with a nonbinary artist and fellow camp staff member.

## One of Us

### Elizabeth Day

Fourth Estate. PB. \$34.99  
Available 14 October

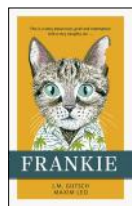


Martin and Ben were friends for decades until a terrible event at Ben's 40th tore them apart. After years of silence, Martin is surprised by an invitation back into the powerful Fitzmaurice family and can't resist his chance for revenge. Ben has risen through the ranks and is touted as the next Prime Minister, but there are cracks in his family's facade. With everyone watching, the stage is set for a reckoning. A story of betrayal, old bonds and buried scandals, the consequences of privilege and the true cost of power.

## Frankie

J.M. Gutsch, Maxim Leo & Christine Bredenkamp (trans.)

Michael Joseph. HB. \$34.99  
Available 7 October



Meet Frankie the cat. He's a stray who belongs to no one, and that's just how he likes it. Until one day, everything changes. He crosses paths with Richard. Richard isn't doing so well. Grieving the loss of his wife, he's turned his back on hope and is ready to end it all. But his plans are halted when Frankie the cat is injured on his doorstep. Frankie needs help. But then, so does Richard. What Richard doesn't know is that Frankie is no ordinary cat. It's an unlikely partnership. But it might be exactly what they both need.

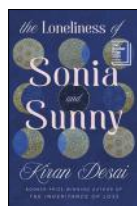
## The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny

### Kiran Desai

Hamish Hamilton. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Available now



**R** Following a 19-year wait since her Booker Prize-winning *The Inheritance of Loss*, Kiran Desai returns with *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* – an ambitious novel that more than

justifies the long wait. Shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize, this epic intercontinental story explores love, family, belonging, and the restless search for identity in a rapidly globalising world.

At its heart, the novel follows the two titular characters, whose lives circle one another but never quite align. Sonia, a homesick Indian student in Vermont, turns to an older artist for intimacy and inspiration, an encounter that casts a lingering shadow over her life. Sunny, a Delhi-born journalist struggling in Brooklyn, is equally adrift, torn between his girlfriend, his ambitions, and his desire to find his place in America.

Spanning the mid-1990s to the early 2000s and moving across India, the United States, Italy, and Mexico, the novel is both intimate and expansive. It interrogates the fractures of migration, the weight of cultural expectation, and the pull of familial history. The prose is rich and lyrical – sometimes meandering, sometimes surreal, yet consistently engrossing. Desai brings families, lovers, and even entire cities to life with striking clarity. The narrative threads are as much about ideas as they are about events,

touching on colonialism, globalisation, art, storytelling, and the legacies of trauma. Like the best family sagas, it reveals how individuals are shaped not only by their personal choices but also by the histories and forces that precede them.

This is at once a love story, a comedy, a tragedy, and a meditation on identity. Above all, it is a novel meant to be discussed, mulled over, and shared. *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* is a triumph: bold, thoughtful, and beautifully written.

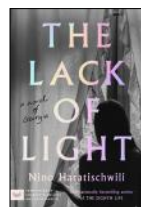
Nicole Vasilev is from Readings Emporium

## The Lack of Light:

### A Novel of Georgia

Nino Haratischwili, Charlotte Collins & Ruth Martin (trans)

HarperCollins. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



Inseparable since childhood Nene, Ira, Dina and Keto grow up in an old Tbilisi courtyard in Georgia during the collapse of the Soviet Union. Each experiences love, hope and loss as mob violence and civil war threatens their worlds. Then an unforgivable betrayal and a tragic death shatter their bond. Decades later, Nene, Ira and Keto reunite at a retrospective of their late friend Dina's photography. Confronted by the photos, they relive their loss, but as their grief resurfaces so does the possibility of forgiveness. Like the International Booker Prize nominated *The Eighth Life* before it, *The Lack of Light* is an emotionally bold, decades-spanning epic.

## Heap Earth Upon It

Chloe Michelle Howarth

Verve. PB. \$32.99

Available 30 October



1965. The orphaned O'Leary siblings – Tom, Jack, Anna and Peggy – arrive in the village of Ballycrea, tight-lipped about their troubled past and desperate for a fresh start. After being met with

suspicion from most of the locals, the family are thrilled when they're taken under the wing of their well-respected neighbours, Bill and Betty Nevan. But for one of the O'Learys, this new friendship sparks an intense attachment that makes the dynamic dangerous for all. It's difficult to bury secrets, but almost impossible to bury feelings.

## Dwelling

Emily Hunt Kivel

Farrar Straus Giroux. PB. \$34.99

Available now



The world is ending. Evie's mother and father have died, her sister is institutionalised and New York City is crumbling around her. Then every renter is evicted en masse and Evie has nothing and no-one except a distant cousin in Gulluck, Texas, where nothing is as it seems. So, in the surreal, dislodged landscape, beyond the known world, a place governed by mysterious logic and perhaps even miracles, Evie sets out in search of a home. Madcap and magical, hilarious and existential, *Dwelling* holds a funhouse mirror to our moment.

## The Sisters

Jonas Hassen Khemiri

Sceptre. PB. \$36.99

Available 21 October



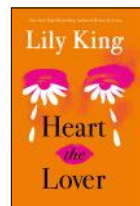
Meet the Mikkola sisters: Ina, Evelyn, and Anastasia. Their mother is Tunisian, their father a Swede who left them when they were young. Following the sisters from afar is Jonas, the son of a Swedish mother and a Tunisian father. Over the course of three decades his life intersects with theirs. When Evelyn disappears, Jonas tracks her down and helps her to break the curse that has been looming over the Mikkolas for decades. In the process, a shocking revelation changes everything about who they think they are.

## Heart the Lover

Lily King

Canongate. PB. \$32.99

Available 14 October



Our narrator understands good love stories – their secrets, their highs and free falls. But her greatest love story, the one she lived, never followed the rules. She was in her senior year of college when star students Sam and Yash swept her into an intoxicating world of academic fervour, friendship, passion, and first love. Decades later, she is a successful writer with a family, when a surprise visit brings the past crashing into the present, forcing her to confront the decisions and deceptions of her youth.

## The Four Spent the Day Together

Chris Kraus

Scribe. PB. Was \$35

**\$29.99**

Available now



**R** Breaking news: Chris Kraus, the author of *I Love Dick* (among other things) is not a writer. She's a landlord. At least, that's according to the trolls – online and IRL – who haunt both the real

Kraus, and her avatar in this exceptional novel. On the upside, if success is the best revenge, Kraus absolutely owns her critics with *The Four Spent the Day Together*.

One of Kraus's distinguishing features as a writer – and one of the great pleasures of reading her – is the extent to which she is not a stylist. Her prose is magnificently plain in a way that heightens rather than dulls whatever else is going on – and keeps us focused on what she's trying to say – while her nuance, sophistication and extraordinary technical skills are an absolute joy to behold.

This book is in three parts, with each revealing something surprising and important (including the fact that this is autofiction). We begin with the reflections of a young woman in the 1960s, growing up in rural Connecticut. We meet the same woman, older and an established writer (and landlord), in the second. And in the third part ... well ... everything both comes together, and falls apart. Kraus never does anything as obvious as showing us 'the point'. Instead, she delivers us to a place where (a) the title finally makes sense and (b) the quietly entertaining first third is both mirrored

and upended by the events of the chaotic conclusion.

It's hard to overstate what Kraus has achieved in this ripping read: an excoriating essay on the devolution of American society in the 21st century; an elegant refutation of cancel culture; an examination of addiction that's equal parts forensic and heartbreaking; and an emotional gut punch that will leave you stunned. Not a bad effort for a landlord.

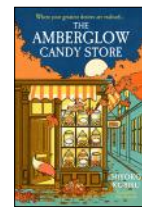
Melinda Houston is from Readings Carlton

## The Amberglow Candy Store

Hiyoko Kurisu & Matt Treyvaud (trans.)

Michael Joseph. HB. \$34.99

Available now



*The Amberglow Candy Store* introduces the reader to half-fox shopkeeper Kogetsu, whose magical wagashi sweets from his shop on Gloaming Lane promise to change his customers' lives for the

better. We follow an array of characters from various walks of life through their encounters with Kogetsu, who himself learns some major life lessons along the way, and reveals his own backstory in the process. A charming book of linked stories with a sprinkling of cosy fantasy and a fable-like touch.

## Will There Ever Be Another You

Patricia Lockwood

Bloomsbury. PB. \$32.99

Available now



**R** Patricia Lockwood has one of the most recognisable voices in contemporary literature; you could tear the cover off any one of her books and still know immediately who had written it. Her exquisite grasp of the pathos and absurdity of modern life is utterly unmistakable, as is the brilliance with which she wields language. The description of the soft drink Irm Bru as 'a pink electrocution of the tongue' and 'RIP to those mice, but I'm different' can only have come from someone who developed their voice in 140 characters.

*Will There Ever Be Another You* is a companion to Lockwood's 2021 novel, *No One Is Talking About This*, which was shortlisted for both the Booker and Women's Prizes. Drawn from fragments written down while Lockwood was suffering extreme psychological after-effects of Covid, the author has said she 'wrote it insane, and edited it sane'. It makes for a wild ride: a fragmented work of autofiction that takes the reader from the Fairy Pools of Scotland where the narrator – unnamed, though her mother calls her Patricia – is grieving the loss of her sister's child; to London, where she converses with an author named Susanna about taking 10 years to write a book about a man in a maze; to a house on an island, where she experiments with hallucinogenic mushrooms. There's an extended chapter on *Anna Karenina* and a tender section about teaching literature to her niece. The protagonist's illness – the fallibility of her body and her mind – permeates throughout, as does her ability to look sideways at the world and notice the oddities that make life ridiculous. At one point the narrator is being interviewed, 'I am supposed to be talking about fiction,' she says. 'Instead [...] I am



talking about the real.' I can't think of a better way to describe *Will There Ever Be Another You*.

Lian Hingee is the digital marketing manager

**A Guardian and a Thief**

Megha Majumdar

Scribner. PB. \$29.99

Available 14 October



In a near-future Kolkata ravaged by climate change and food scarcity, Ma, her young daughter, and her elderly father are leaving the city to join Ma's husband in Michigan. Their bags are packed after

procuring long-awaited visas but the following morning they discover their immigration documents have been stolen. Set over the course of a week this is the story of two family's love and hope: Ma's search for the thief while keeping hunger at bay, and that of the thief's desperation to care for his family.

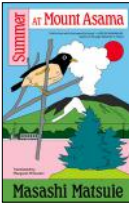
**Summer at Mount Asama**

Masashi Matsuie &

Margaret Mitsutani (trans.)

The Indigo Press. PB. \$29.99

Available 1 October



In 1980s Japan, newly graduated architect Toru Sakanishi joins a prestigious firm founded by a former student of Frank Lloyd Wright. As the summer months approach the team

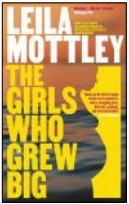
migrates to the beautiful rural surroundings of Mount Asama. Amid the summer heat Sakanishi meets four remarkable women who change the course of his life. A prize-winning novel that explores love, art and life as a group of architects competes to design the new National Library of Modern Literature in Tokyo.

**The Girls Who Grew Big**

Leila Mottley

Fig Tree. PB. \$34.99

Available 14 October



When Adela falls pregnant, her parents send her to Padua Beach, Florida, to stay with her grandmother. The intention is to leave her baby and return to suburban life nine months later. But Adela's plans

soon change. She meets Emory, returning to high school with her baby, and Simone, the ringleader of a group of young mothers raising their children and themselves. But as they navigate the miracle of motherhood and girlhood Adela, Emory and Simone find themselves on a collision course with one another.

**Wreck**

Catherine Newman

Doubleday. PB. \$34.99

Available 28 October



**R** Catherine Newman's latest novel was a relief to read. (*At last*) *I am seen*, cries the privileged woman. Ohh, but to not be the only 55-year-old woman flummoxed and delighted by life. Rocky,

the narrator of this excellent book, is (also) a 55-year-old mother/partner/friend/worker with all this fear and love inside that is tearing her up, making her feel anxious. It is even giving her a rash, a physically disgusting, all-over body rash that means she is now engaging with the medical system. An acquaintance of her adult children dies in a terrible train/car accident. She deep dives on all the reasons this could happen and ponders grief and loss. Her kids are making their way away from her. And although she is grateful for her lot, she knows it could end. Because life does.

If this all sounds melodramatic or too small-home dreary – please, it is not. Newman is funny in a Nora Ephron manner. She quips these perfect one-liners in a similar mode to Jenny Offill. And she is astute in her considerations in a Sigrid Nunez way. Her inner dialogue is ferocious, funny, and utterly tremendous. You do not need to be a middle-aged woman to enjoy reading this novel, nor do you have to have read her other two novels with the same characters. You can simply pick this one up and devour it immediately. No background information needed on this close-knit family.

I promise you, though, that there is something special about this quiet, friendly novel: it makes you look around a little. It makes you realise that everyone's life is full, busy and in constant motion. And that many, many 55-year-old women have an inner dialogue that would blow your mind.

Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

**Bog Queen**

Anna North

W&N. PB. \$32.99

Available 14 October



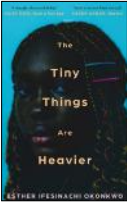
In 2018, forensic scientist Agnes identifies a body found in a moss-layered bog in the North of England. Unlike any she has seen before, its bones, almost completely preserved, prove it was buried over 2,000 years ago. It draws a lot of attention from groups with competing interests: archaeologists, land developers, neo-pagans, and the land itself. *Bog Queen* connects across time two young women learning to harness their strange strengths in a rich, raw landscape more mysterious than either can imagine.

**The Tiny Things Are Heavier**

Esther Ifesinachi Okonkwo

Manilla. PB. \$34.99

Available 14 October



Two weeks after her brother attempts suicide Sommy, a Nigerian woman, comes to the United States for graduate school. Plagued by guilt for leaving her brother behind, Sommy struggles to fit in, feeling lonely and homesick. After an entanglement with her roommate, she falls for Bryan, a biracial American with an estranged Nigerian father. As their relationship develops they travel to Lagos, Sommy to seek reconciliation with her brother and Bryan a connection with his father, but a shocking event throws their lives into disarray.



Trent Dalton, Australia's #1 bestselling author, returns with the astonishing *Gravity Let Me Go* – a story you won't ever forget.



In this compulsive story of betrayal, old bonds and buried scandals, one British establishment family comes face to face with the consequences of privilege and the true cost of power.



A hilarious tale of two cheeky cats, from bestselling creator Judith Russell.



A joyful nativity story from award-winning creators Katrina Nannestad and Freya Blackwood.

OUT NOW



FROM THE AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE MUSEUM OF MODERN LOVE* AND *BRUNY* COMES AN ENTHRALLING TALE OF LEGACY, LOVE AND THE MAKING OF CHAMPAGNE.

'Heather Rose has a remarkable ability to cut through to the heart of things, to examine what it means to be human, to suffer, to live in joy.'

HANNAH KENT, author of *Devotion*



FROM THE AUTHOR OF *REASONS NOT TO WORRY* COMES A STORY ABOUT HOW STOIC PRINCIPLES CAN HELP US NAVIGATE OUR WAY THROUGH OUR INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE WORLD.

'Brigid has the most incredible gift of taking seemingly complex and esoteric concepts and explaining them to the reader in a way that is generous and clear, but above all, relatable.'

BEN LEE, musician and actor





ALLEN & UNWIN

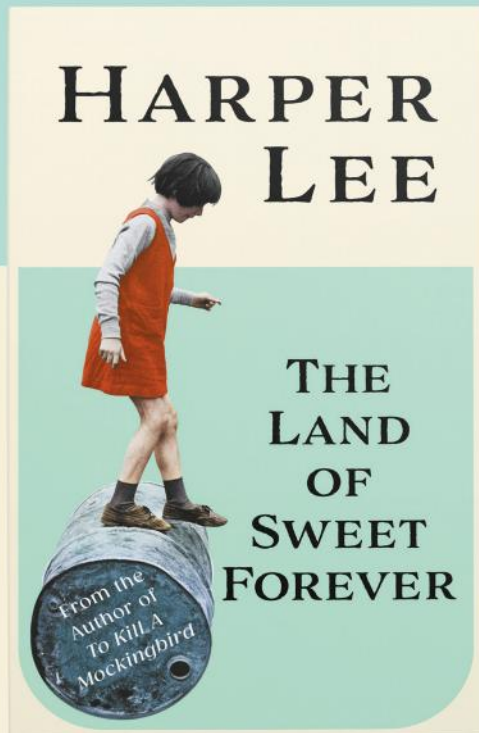
AUSTRALIAN. INDEPENDENT. FOR READERS.



One of literature's  
greatest enigmas.



21 October



The bold, brilliant  
voice of Harper Lee.

### Grief Is the Thing with Feathers Max Porter

Faber. HB. \$26.99

Available 21 October



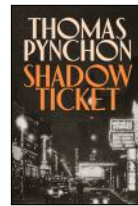
In a London flat, two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death. Their father, a Ted Hughes scholar and scruffy romantic, imagines a future of well-meaning visitors and emptiness. In this moment of despair, they are visited by Crow – antagonist, trickster, healer, babysitter. As weeks turn to months and the pain of loss gives way to memories, the little unit of three starts to heal.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of a contemporary classic, this edition features unseen artwork and a cover based on a facsimile of the author's own first edition.

### Shadow Ticket Thomas Pynchon

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$34.99

Available 7 October



Milwaukee, 1932. Hicks McTaggart, a onetime strikebreaker turned private eye, thinks he's found job security until a routine case, retrieving the heiress of a Wisconsin cheese fortune, finds him in Hungary. By the time Hicks catches up with the heiress, he is entangled with Nazis, Soviet agents, British spies and swing musicians, unable to see his way around, in or out of the country. In this Big Band era, can he find his way home?

### Buckeye Patrick Ryan

Bloomsbury. PB. \$32.99

Available now



Patrick Ryan is a new author to me (though he has written a number of short-story collections and some literature for young adults), but *Buckeye* is already a well-loved book among early readers, with compelling endorsements from the likes of Ann Patchett and Richard Russo. It's a gorgeous reading experience which fits right alongside the work of these authors: ordinary lives lived with extraordinary meaning against the backdrop of history; family stories and secrets; love and marriage and complicated relationships; births and deaths in war and peace; all brought together with beautiful writing that urges the reader confidently on through a complex story.

Set in the fictional town of Bonhomie in Ohio in the American Midwest, *Buckeye* spans the immense social, political, and historical change of the mid-20th century. Cal and Margaret are the novel's central characters, and the story arc follows their marriages and the lives of their children, and as the plot unfolds, so too does a building sense of how small encounters connect us all, determine our paths, seal our fate. While there is a feeling here of the expansiveness of time and the characters' brief experience of it on Earth, there is also the claustrophobia of surveillance and tension created by the small-town setting, where privacy is a privilege and its lack can stifle the self.

I have no doubt that *Buckeye* is the kind of book you'll want to pass around among your friends, urge them to take

on holidays when an immersive and involving reading experience is the order of the day, and whose characters you'll think about as part of your reading life's repertoire of friends and family.

Alison Huber is the head book buyer

### Long Distance Ayşegül Savaş

Scribner. PB. \$34.99

Available now



This acute and tender first short story collection from Ayşegül Savaş, the acclaimed author of *The Anthropologists*, explores the distances we keep, and those we try to close, in the age of connectivity. *Long*

*Distance* showcases Savaş's devastating talent. Her shrewd encapsulations of contemporary life often centre on characters displaced more by choice than circumstance, characters both determined to install themselves in new lives and preoccupied with those they've left behind.

### The Slip: A Novel Lucas Schaefer

S&S. PB. \$34.99

Available now

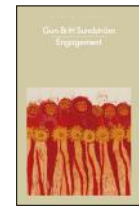


Austin, Texas, summer 1998: sixteen-year-old Nathaniel Rothstein is gaining confidence under the guidance of ex-fighter David Dalice at Terry Tucker's Boxing Gym. Then, one night, he vanishes. Across the city a teen called X is undergoing his own transformation, seeking acceptance through his mother's phone-sex hotline. Years later, Nathaniel's uncle Bob receives a tip-off which leads him on a search into his nephew's disappearance.

### Engagement Gun-Britt Sundström & Kathy Saranpa (trans.)

Penguin. PB. \$42.99

Available 7 October



Martina and Gustav, students in 1970s Stockholm, meet and fall immediately into coupledness. But what does coupledness mean? Unwilling to marry, Martina finds herself in a state of permanent engagement while her friends settle down to marriage and children. Uncertain of the world's future, she attends demos, sit-ins and philosophy seminars in her quest for a new blueprint for joy.

### Minor Black Figures Brandon Taylor

Jonathan Cape. PB. \$34.99

Available 14 October

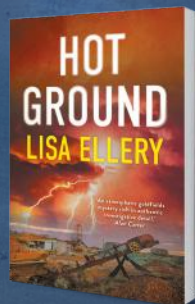


Young Black painter Wyeth is trying to find his place in the Manhattan art scene. He shares a studio, earns money working for a gallery, and as an art restorer, but is struggling to capture the life of his subjects. Then he meets Keating, a white former priest struggling with his faith who shows Wyeth how to see the world anew. But as the men grow closer, Wyeth and Keating must decide what they are willing to risk – for art and for love. **R**

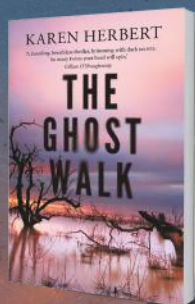
## NEW CRIME READS



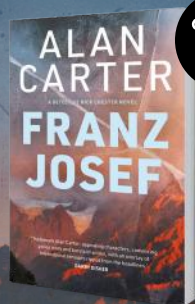
'A hair-raising ride through Australia's criminal underworld.'  
Chris Hammer



'Jessy Parkin is a tenacious sleuth, a heroine for these twisted, troubled times.'  
Alan Carter



'Gives you the ultimate armchair detective experience.'  
Chris Gordon, Readings



'Trademark Alan Carter: appealing characters, convincing police work and bursts of action.'  
Garry Disher

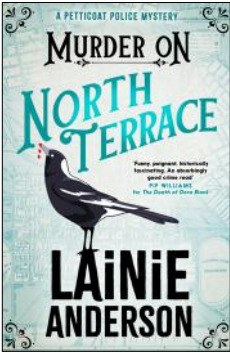
COMING SOON



# Crime

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

Crime

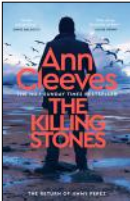


**Murder on North Terrace**  
(A Petticoat Police Mystery, Book 2)  
Lainie Anderson  
Hachette. PB. \$32.99  
Available now

**R** Historian Lainie Anderson’s debut crime novel, *The Death of Dora Black*, not only spun readers back in time to Adelaide during the First World War, but also introduced the pioneering female police officer Kate Cocks. In her real life, as a Jujitsu practitioner, and a teetotaler, Cocks was also astute, and had plenty of empathy to boot. In novel form, Anderson is able to expand on her own knowledge of Cocks and bring this formidable woman to life in these whodunnits. Whodunnits, plural – because the second instalment is here. As they were in the first book, Anderson’s descriptions of central Adelaide in 1916 are vivid. You can almost hear the hustle and bustle of people going about their day, and the clatter of the trams as they trundled throughout the city and into the suburbs. (Yes, Adelaide was full of them back then!) Set some six months after the solving of the Dora Black case, this new book sees Kate and her equally capable offsider, Ethel, delving into a murder at the Art Gallery. The body is found at the base of a particularly controversial painting – controversial for the artist’s depiction of a naked woman and the derision it casts towards the UK establishment. This time, Ethel’s family connections thrust her into the ‘point’ position of the investigation, while Kate is pulled into a dark plot involving the poster bloke for the war movement. It’s so refreshing having these women cast as the lead characters. Anderson does a terrific job keeping the plots propulsive and engaging, leaving you to absorb by osmosis the historical facts peppered throughout. These books are such fun, and perfect for anyone who loved Sulari Gentill’s *Rowland Sinclair* series, or Robert Gott’s *William Power* and *Titus Lambert* books.

Julia Jackson is from Readings Carlton

**The Killing Stones**  
Ann Cleeves  
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$29.99**  
Available now

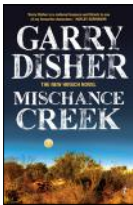


**R** When I sat down to read this book, it was a dark and stormy night outside – a very fitting match for the latest novel by Queen Cleeves! Can you imagine that terrible crimes happen on an island, far from a major city, with only a small population? Would you believe that there in Orkney (not Shetland, this time), precious Neolithic stones bearing ancient inscriptions are being used as tools of destruction? And, to top it off, would you be shocked to learn that the first of these dastardly crimes is the murder of one of Detective Jimmy Perez’s oldest friends? (And did I mention this all takes place shortly before Christmas?) Ann Cleeves does this: she makes you truly fall for a rollicking tale set in the midst of a windswept environment and with time running out. There are academics, drama teachers, artists and, of course, good old pragmatic Jimmy and his partner, Willow, who are desperately trying to make sense of it all. (And did I mention that Willow is heavily pregnant?)

The pace picks up even further midway through the novel and, by that time totally confused about who might be dashing stones on people’s heads, I had no choice but to read through the night. She had me hooked, Queen Cleeves, with all her careful clues and missed meetings, carol services and cosy cafes – I was out in the cold with no idea where it would all end. I’m not sure how she does it, but here, yet again, is another superb novel that highlights humanity’s greed, ambition and, yes, kindness. (And did I mention this is at least the 45th novel by Ann Cleeves?)

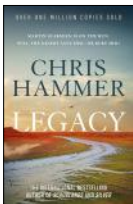
I fell in love, a little bit, with Jimmy Perez back when I first encountered him in *Raven Black*. I’m glad his adventures are not over and I get to spend more time with him and all his reticence and sorrow. (And did I mention that the ending of this novel absolutely surprised me, but, of course, makes perfect sense?!) Hail the Queen. Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

**Mischance Creek**  
Garry Disher  
Text. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$29.99**  
Available now



Hirsch is auditing the police firearms: the drought is hitting hard and he’s responsible for the welfare of his scattered community. With services stretched, Hirsch is called out when a tourist runs into a ditch near Mischance Creek. But Annika Nordrum is searching for the body of her mother, who went missing seven years ago. Hirsch feels he owes it to Annika to help – doesn’t he?

**Legacy**  
Chris Hammer  
A&U. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$29.99**  
Available now



**Someone is targeting** Martin Scarsden. They bomb his book launch and shoot up his hometown. Fleeing for his life, he learns that nowhere is safe, not even the outback. The killers are closing in, and it’s all he can do to

survive. But who wants to kill him and why? Can he discover their deadly motives and turn the tables? In a dramatic finale, Martin finds his fate linked to the disgraced ex-wife of a football icon, a fugitive wanted for a decades-old murder, and two 19th-century explorers from a legendary expedition.

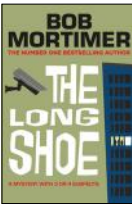
**Last One Out**  
Jane Harper  
Pan Mac. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$29.99**  
Available 14 October



**R** Jane Harper’s latest novel is a heartbreaker. There is no ruggedly handsome detective trying to make sense of his own frailties while solving a murder. *Last One Out* does something different to Harper’s previous works. The story concentrates on a family with a son, Sam, who disappeared five years prior to the book’s beginning. The novel’s focus remains on the mother, Ro, a doctor who fled her marriage and the community after the initial trauma. Yet she returns each year to the failing town to acknowledge her loss and to connect with the friends and family who remain. And here lies the other tragic component of the novel: the entire story is set in Carralon Ridge – an isolated rural town that has run out of steam and has been purchased for mining. The residents who haven’t left are bitter – defeated, even – and certainly nostalgic for times that now do not exist. The men seem to cower from change, while the women support everyone, clean, and hide their pain. Harper does an excellent job of working into the narrative the relentless nature of the dust, the noise of the mining, and the heat. This is not a town for tourists. This is a town that screams resentment and frustration. And this time, Ro’s annual visit uncovers the past – and her son’s murderer.

Harper has written a wonderful literary exposé of a disappearing town. The metaphors she uses are damning of the environmental damage caused by mining. She perfectly captures the limbo in which the dispirited locals are trapped, along with the social fractures and fear the uncertainty causes. This is a universal story of decline. Readers of Harper’s previous crime novels – and this is another – will delight in her steady pace and astute character observations. I found this novel painfully affecting: our rural past is swept up in the dust with more than one victim. Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager

**The Long Shoe**  
Bob Mortimer  
Gallery. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$29.99**  
Available 14 October



**R** In his third novel, *The Long Shoe*, we return to UK comedian Bob Mortimer’s curious and comically touching imagination. Matt thinks everything in his life is going perfectly well, until he is suddenly fired from his job and his girlfriend, Harriet, fails to return home, ghosting him. As suddenly as his

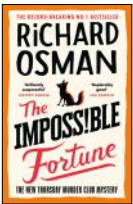
life has been tipped upside down, he is unexpectedly approached by a real estate agent offering him an apartment at the luxurious Satsuma Heights, along with a new job. Matt, desperate to do anything to get Harriet’s attention again, takes the deal, knowing it’s always been her dream to live in Satsuma Heights. Little does he know, Harriet has actually been kidnapped and is being held hostage, unaware of where she is, who has taken her, or what they want from her. With the oblivious Matt as her only chance of rescue, will Harriet make it out alive?

Beyond the mysteries of how Matt can sort out his life and how Harriet might survive a kidnapping, Mortimer’s novel is unexpectedly lonely and introspective. *The Long Shoe* tackles the dangers of co-dependency, as Matt grows increasingly unhinged in Harriet’s absence and is forced to reckon with being by himself for the first time. Harriet, dwelling on her relationship during her solitude, is also left to question how satisfied she was in her life and to catalogue not only the different ways she misses Matt, but also the many annoying things she doesn’t miss anymore.

In this bizarre upending of their ordinary lives, Matt and Harriet must survive against those who wish them harm, but also tackle the parts of themselves that are hurting them and their relationship. However, as we can expect from Mortimer, this book balances these difficult themes with a lighthearted, humorous ease that is both fitting and uplifting, making it the ultimate cosy crime caper from a well-loved talent.

Aurelia Orr is from Readings Kids

**The Impossible Fortune (The Thursday Murder Club, Book 5)**  
Richard Osman  
Viking. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$27.99**  
Available now



Who’s got time to think about murder when there’s a wedding to plan? It’s been a quiet year for the Thursday Murder Club. Joyce is busy with table plans and first dances. Elizabeth is grieving. Ron is dealing with family troubles, and Ibrahim is still providing therapy to his favourite criminal. But when Elizabeth meets a wedding guest who fears for their life, the thrill of the chase is ignited once again.

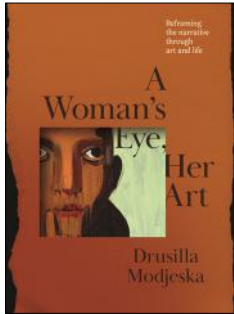
**Everyone In This Bank Is a Thief**  
Benjamin Stevenson  
Penguin. PB. Was \$34.99  
**\$ \$27.99**  
Available now



**Ten suspects. Ten heists. A puzzle only** Ernest Cunningham can solve. But a bank heist is a new one, even for Cunningham, who has never been a hostage before. The doors are chained shut. No one in or out. Which means that when someone in the bank is murdered, hostages become suspects. Turns out, more than one person planned to rob the bank today. And you can steal more from a bank than just money. Who is stealing what? And are they willing to kill for it? **R**

# Nonfiction

## BOOK OF THE MONTH Visual Arts



**A Woman's Eye, Her Art: Reframing the Narrative Through Art and Life**  
Drusilla Modjeska  
Penguin. HB. Was \$55

**\$49.99**

Available now

**R** I've known about Drusilla Modjeska's new book from its beginnings. I travelled to Germany with the author while she did research, I read early drafts, I'm one of the dedicatees. I thought I knew this book, but reading the published version has been an entirely new and wonderful experience for me. There's an intimacy to *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*. Drusilla Modjeska takes the reader with her, on her journey of discovery, as she brings to life several of the long-neglected women artists of the first half of the 20th century.

**Drusilla Modjeska** takes the reader with her, on her journey of discovery, as she brings to life several of the long-neglected women artists of the first half of the 20th century.

The art of that time was defined in masculine terms and valued through a masculine gaze; indeed, creativity itself was considered to be the domain of men. We all know the names: Picasso, Man Ray, Breton, Rilke, Kandinsky. However, until recently, the women artists in *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*, if they were mentioned at all, were as muses/appendages to their famous male partners. There's Dora Maar (Picasso), Lee Miller (Man Ray), Clara Westhoff (Rilke),

Gabriele Münter (Kandinsky), just to name a few of the artists in *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*. Modjeska 'reframe[s] the narrative through [the] art and life' of these women and, in addition, by drawing on the work of contemporary artists like Julie Rrap and Chantal Joffe reveals their radicalism, significance and their enduring influence.

There's a novelistic feel to *A Woman's Eye, Her Art* as Modjeska takes us into the places where the women worked, to erotically charged summer holidays in the south of France, as she portrays the problems of being an artist/mother/wife. We see the horrors of Buchenwald and Dachau through the eyes and camera of Lee Miller, and marvel at the queerness – such queerness! – of Claude Cahun. And then there's the sumptuous production itself: gorgeous paper, wide margins and an abundance of illustrations. In every respect, Drusilla Modjeska's *A Woman's Eye, Her Art* is a pleasure to read.

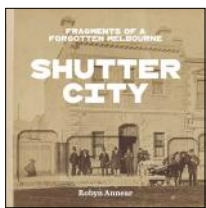
Andrea Goldsmith is a friend of Readings



Andrea Goldsmith will be at A Day in Carlton. See the program on pages 5–7 for details.

## Australian Studies

**Shutter City: Fragments of a Forgotten Melbourne**  
Robyn Annear  
MUP. HB. \$49.99  
Available 14 October



**R** Suppose you could travel back in time to a Melbourne city street from 150 years ago, or even longer. What might meet your eye that

has eluded history's gaze? *Shutter City* presents city street views spanning the hurly-burly decades of the 1850s to the 1870s, between the gold rushes and Marvellous Melbourne. Robyn Annear peers into every shadowy corner to reveal postcard streetscapes as miraculous time-capsules, packed with hidden-in-plain-sight historical detail. Let *Shutter City* be your time-machine and Robyn Annear your guide: her lively and insightful commentary weaves a vivid narrative of a near-forgotten Melbourne and the photographers who captured it.



Robyn Annear will be at A Day in Carlton. See the program on pages 5–7 for details.

## Biography

**Confessions of a Minor Poet**  
Phil Brown  
Transit Lounge. PB. \$32.99  
Available 1 October



**R** For any writer who has felt disillusioned or displaced, it may be a comfort to find Phil Brown baring it all in *Confessions of a Minor Poet*. He shows that writing poetry and crafting stories is never a matter of overnight success; on the contrary, it is a practice sustained long into the evening, after you've clocked off.

Brown is a journalist, poet and author, with his influences ranging from the likes of Leonard Cohen to renowned Australian poets Les Murray and Bruce Dawe, who acted as both advisors and friends to Brown as he took on the Australian literary landscape from the 1970s onwards.

This memoir captures the nomadic, hard-pressed life of a writer and poet. Brown takes us from his childhood in Hong Kong to surfing the waves of the Gold Coast, from a hospital by the sea to

scrawling poetry in country towns, and finally journeying into the world of journo.

While writing for a range of Australian publications throughout the years, *The Morning Bulletin* in Rockhampton to *The Courier-Mail* in Brisbane, poetry continued to gnaw at him, demanding his attention. Everything else was mere filler. Brown earnestly recalls the bleak, dreary days of rejections, but also his array of successes. Many of his short, poetic musings are featured throughout the book, gently placed to reflect the season in which they were written. As we follow along as Brown recounts his life and struggles, his yearning to write, observe and essentially find a spiritual equilibrium in his everyday is quietly inspiring.

There's an overarching sentiment throughout this memoir of never knowing when inspiration may strike as a writer, when poetry will occur right in front of you, and a sense that it's the writer's job to respond accordingly. No matter the circumstances, externally or internally, Brown has never stopped writing. He charges on even amid the uncertainty, and perhaps that will be his largest legacy.

Ocean Trimboli is from Readings Emporium

**Vagabond**

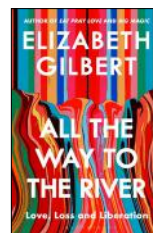
Tim Curry  
Century. HB. Was \$55  
**\$44.99**

Available 14 October



Actor, rock 'n' roll singer, the prince of Halloween, confusing sex symbol. Many labels have been given to Tim Curry over the years. All are true, and yet none are quite right. Here, for the first time, Curry reveals the true story of the man who has captivated audiences on stage and screen for over 50 years. From iconic roles as Frank-N-Furter and Pennywise the Clown, to brushes with the likes of Ian McKellen and Andy Warhol, *Vagabond* is a riotous portrait of one the most enigmatic performers of our time.

**All the Way to the River: Love, Loss and Liberation**  
Elizabeth Gilbert  
Bloomsbury. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



**R** Biographies and memoirs require balance – between honesty and respect, vulnerability and compassion, between the story of who a person is, and how they live. Elizabeth Gilbert's fourth memoir balances love, hurt, grief and hope, in memory of – and reckoning with – her late partner, lover and friend Rayya Elias. In an overflowing fount of earnestness, empathy and optimism, Gilbert brings love and eye-watering honesty to this account of their relationship, framed, as it was in life, by their addictions, and Elias's terminal diagnosis. Part biography, part memoir, Gilbert explores the highs, lows and heartbreaks of their lives together and beyond, and the perpetual process of finding and maintaining sobriety.

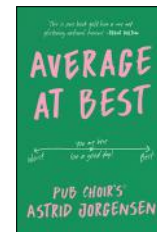
The title refers to Elias's framework for friendship – a geographic concept of closeness, walking from superficial 'Fifth Avenue' acquaintanceships, through the lifelong loves of Alphabet City, and, finally,

to the rawest intimacy: the one person who takes you *all the way to the river*. But, like the real East River, the journey of death and relapse can be hard to look at. Gilbert's story is no tasteful picture of sun glinting off clear water – it's a highly saturated close-up in sharp and unforgiving focus.

Whether or not you agree with Gilbert on faith, philosophy, love or addiction, this window into her internal processes and perspectives, her methods of healing and her great big hope, is a mesmerising peek into the classroom of her 'Earth School' – where she has learned her lessons. At no point does Gilbert command you to agree: but instead, she offers the opportunity to bear witness to her and Elias's lives, love, loss and recovery. Taking the reader into her notebooks, her camera roll and her innermost thoughts, Gilbert does what she has always done – shake off the shackles of shame and stand, raw and unafraid, in her truth.

Tamuz Ellazam is the manager of Readings Kids

**Average at Best**  
Astrid Jorgensen  
S&S. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



Astrid Jorgensen, creator of Pub Choir® – a global phenomenon that unites complete strangers to connect, laugh, and make beautiful music – wants everyone to sing without shame. In her funny and honest

memoir, Jorgensen shares the highs, middles and lows of her life. She has met celebrities, Prime Ministers, taught thousands to sing and work together, and performed around the world, all the while quietly becoming great at something. This joyful debut celebrates the beauty of mediocrity and the magic of showing up.

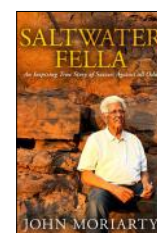
**Guts: A Memoir of Food, Failure and Taking Impossible Chances**  
Melissa Leong  
Murdoch. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



From Melissa Leong, food and style icon, comes an evocative, sharp, funny and often brutal account of what it's like to try, fail and scrape together the confidence to try again. She invites you to

consider your own self-limiting beliefs and give them the finger. Leong's memoir explores themes of abuse in the hospitality industry, racism, mental health and, for a light palate cleanser, the thrill of mouth-wateringly memorable food. Most of all, she inspires the courage to create a life you really, really want.

**Saltwater Fella: An Inspiring True Story of Success Against All Odds**  
John Moriarty  
MUP. HB. \$49.99  
Available 14 October



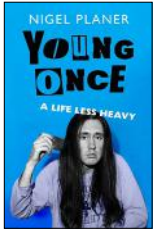
John Moriarty was born to his Yanyuwa mother Kathleen Murrmayibinya and Irish father John Moriarty in Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory. At the age of



four, as part of assimilationist policies, he was stolen from his family and placed in a children's home. *Saltwater Fella* is Moriarty's story of a childhood surviving harsh routines and poverty, hunger and racism in church institutions. It is about finding out who he is through his soccer skills and the start of a long career in advocacy for Aboriginal rights and self-determination.

### Young Once: A Life Less Heavy

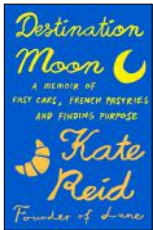
Nigel Planer  
John Murray. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



At 25, dressed as Che Guevara, Nigel Planer answered an ad for a room and his life changed for ever. *Young Once* is a memoir and love story following his journey from bell-ringer to stardom as a comedian, through bizarre events, tropical diseases, and fame as Neil the hippy. Revealed against a backdrop of squats, Glastonbury and roller discos, including wild tales involving Bob Geldof and Robin Williams and others, this is an entertaining and sideways glimpse into a remarkable life and career.

### Destination Moon: A Memoir of Fast Cars, French Pastries and Finding Purpose

Kate Reid  
S&S. HB. Was \$49.99  
\$39.99  
Available now



When you are eating a Lune croissant, it feels like everything you've ever wanted is somehow contained in a single mouthful. *Destination Moon* has this same effect: it is one package of kindness, hopefulness, creativity, and open-hearted revelations. I love Lune croissants and have lined up for close to an hour to purchase those flaky, buttery pastries. The question I must ask myself is: has my love of Reid's cooking marred my judgement of her memoir, *Destination Moon*? I do not think so, but yes, you should read it while eating one of the delicious concoctions from Lune.

This memoir holds all of Kate Reid's disappointments and joys. It is the story of growing up in Melbourne and wanting to fly to the moon. It is about studying hard and then working in an all-male environment and achieving enormous success working with Formula One engines. Reid shares stories of being in love, being ill with depression and anorexia, being heartbroken and lost, and then finding her way to baking. I particularly enjoyed the moments she shared with her father: watching car racing, travelling to far-flung places, and returning home to the tremendous support of her parents.

This is a skilfully crafted Melbourne story about a courageous, intelligent, and ambitious woman finding her feet. There is humour and pathos in her stories, and there is also a generosity to her storytelling and, most liberating of all, there is acceptance. It turns out Kate Reid can do anything she wants beautifully! We could all do with a Kate Reid in our lives. Fortunately, reading

*Destination Moon* alongside a Lune croissant makes you feel you do have Reid in your life. This is an inspirational and delightful read.

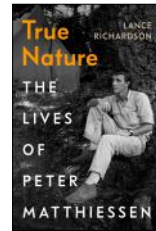
Chris Gordon is the community engagement and programming manager



Kate Reid will be at A Day in Carlton. See the program on pages 5–7 for details.

### True Nature: The Lives of Peter Matthiessen

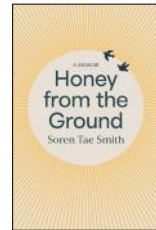
Lance Richardson  
C&W. PB. \$39.99  
Available 21 October



Author of *The Snow Leopard*, co-founder of the *Paris Review* and the only writer to have ever won the National Book Award for both fiction and nonfiction, Peter Matthiessen was a towering figure of 20th-century American literary culture. He was also a naturalist, activist, CIA agent and Zen master. Across these many lives, Matthiessen was always searching for his 'true nature'. Drawing on records and hundreds of interviews Lance Richardson pulls these threads together in this page-turning biography of a literary giant.

### Honey from the Ground: A Memoir

Soren Tae Smith  
MUP. PB. \$29.99  
Available 14 October

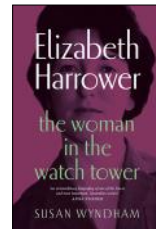


For Soren Tae Smith, the dead have always been mentors. Their deeds have ended, but their influence continues. But what does it mean when your child is suddenly closer to them than to you?

Written as a means of survival, *Honey from the Ground* is a meditation on parental grief and follows the rhythms of lived time and memory, accepting illness and limitation and seeking what can be saved and known. Those who die before us are not left behind; they are a step ahead. It is for us to navigate the path toward them.

### Elizabeth Harrower: The Woman in the Watch Tower

Susan Wyndham  
NewSouth. PB. \$39.99  
Available 1 October

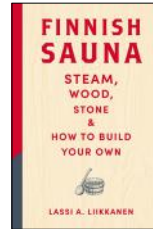


Elizabeth Harrower wrote some of the most intense, original and highly regarded novels of the 20th century. Then she abruptly stopped writing in the 1970s and became one of the most puzzling mysteries of Australian literature. Why didn't she continue? Harrower's answers were evasive, and only since her death in 2020 has a deeper search been possible. In this definitive biography, Susan Wyndham grapples with the elusive Harrower, drawing on time they spent together, immersing us in her family and friends, revealing analysis of her fiction and new research, and in so doing unmasking a literary legend.

## Craft

### Finnish Sauna: Steam, Wood, Stone and How to Build Your Own

Lassi A. Liikkanen  
MacLehose. HB. \$55  
Available now

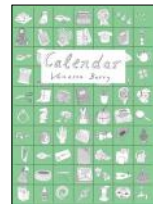


More and more people around the world are rediscovering the health benefits of sauna. By gently raising the heart rate and relaxing muscles, the magical steam that rises from the heated stones – what Finns call *loily* – has improved quality of life in the Nordic region for millennia. This practical guide describes how to plan, build and maintain a new sauna, and along the way, you will learn its traditions, history and science.

## Cultural Studies

### Calendar

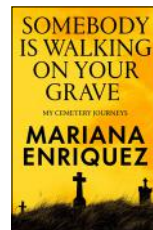
Vanessa Berry  
Upswell. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



Inspired by the 18th century French Republican calendar, in which every day was dedicated to an object, Vanessa Berry presents a year through 365 objects, collecting the everyday, familiar, curious, and unusual. Writing in real-time over a year she set about writing her own object calendar, waiting for an object to come to her attention and writing its story. *Calendar* is a book about tuning in to the lives of the things around us, and the powerful connections to time and memory that objects hold.

### Somebody Is Walking on Your Grave: My Cemetery Journeys

Mariana Enriquez & Megan McDowell (trans.)  
Granta. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



Here's a strange question: have you ever visited a graveyard for pleasure? Mariana Enriquez has – she's done so all over the world. From Genoa to Buenos Aires, from mass graves in Western Australia to the artfully arranged bones of the Paris catacombs, she has ventured into the halls of the dead and emerged with countless stories. Some of those stories are written on the gravestones – fascinating lives commemorated with grand monuments. Other stories are harder to find, tragedies of colonialism or political violence hidden beneath the surface. Others still are the stories Enriquez has brought with her, bands she has followed to the ends of the earth or fond memories of old friends. Each of these stories says something about death; each is endlessly fascinating.

I've made no secret of my excitement for this book – even becoming an avid cemetery tourist myself in anticipation – and I'm glad to report that it more than lived up to my expectations. Enriquez effortlessly combines personal memoir, travel writing

and history with a healthy dose of gothic atmosphere, and by approaching each place she visits with the same eye for the macabre that animates her fiction, she inevitably captures what makes cemeteries such powerful places. They are often peaceful, usually beautiful, and always a little creepy – with no shortage of hauntings in this book. Above all, though, they are human places that lay bare the one thing we are all guaranteed to experience. It is this persistent confrontation with mortality, together with Mariana Enriquez's magnetic personality, that allows this book to range so widely across tone and geography without ever feeling scattered. Yet Enriquez never seems anxious to convince you of this profundity – instead she lets each graveyard speak for itself, sharing the experiences that touched her and quietly inviting you to seek out your own among the dead.

Joe Murray is from Readings Kids

### Unfinished Revolution: The Feminist Fightback

Virginia Haussegger  
NewSouth. PB. \$36.99  
Available 1 October



1975 was the year the United Nations declared International Women's Year as a marker of progress and aspiration. Fifty years on, Virginia Haussegger shines a light on the feminist revolution in Australia, capturing its spirited momentum and a fatigued lag. With a focus on gender and power in politics and the media *Unfinished Revolution* tells a fresh story of feminist action in this country, from the largest women's protest rally in 2021 to the dynamic Australian Women's Liberation Movement of the 1970s.

### Crushmore: Essays on Love, Loss, and Coming-of-Age

Nava Kavelin, Penn Badgley & Sophie Ansari  
Headline. PB. \$34.99  
Available 14 October

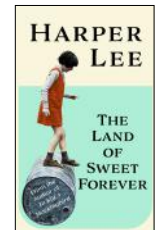


In their debut essay collection, Penn Badgley, Sophie Ansari, and Nava Kavelin flip the script on their hit *Podcrushed* podcast to share their own stories of heartbreak, anxiety, and self-discovery.

From first crushes to dreams realised or deferred, *Crushmore* dives into the joy and awkwardness of growing up. With humour, compassion, and insight they unravel their own coming of age, and highlight how we can find healing – and even inspiration – from our adolescent selves long after we thought we left them behind.

### The Land of Sweet Forever

Harper Lee  
Hutchinson Heinemann. HB. Was \$49.99  
\$39.99  
Available 21 October

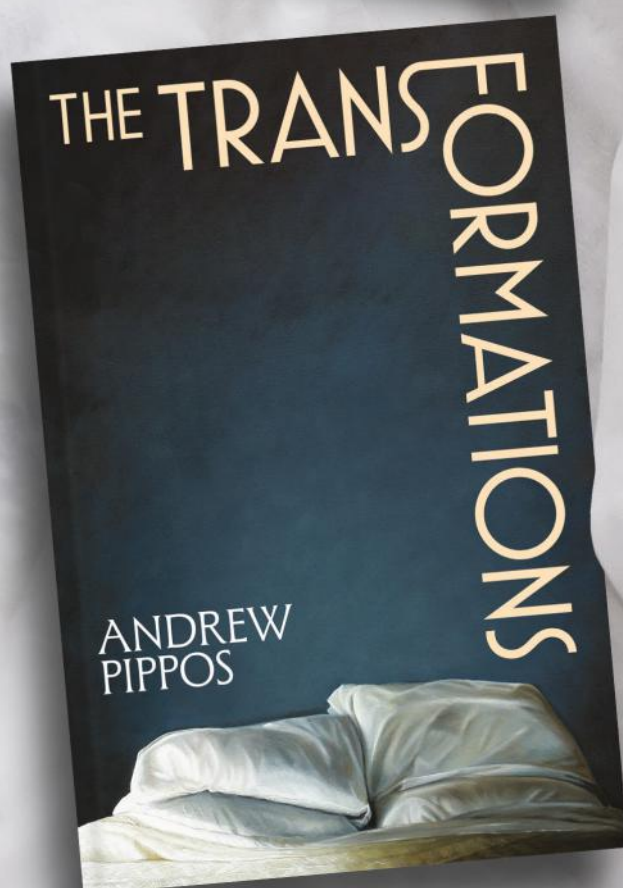
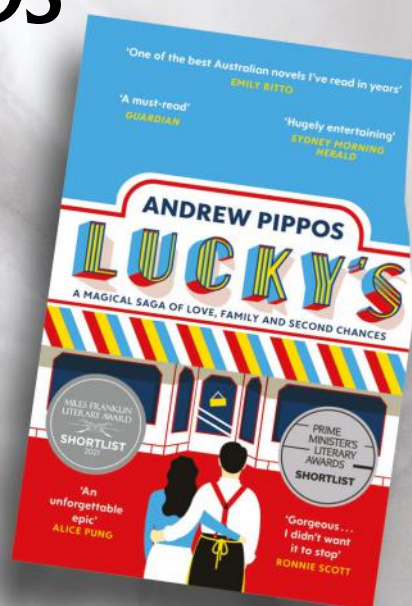


Harper Lee remains a landmark figure in the American canon – thanks to her Pulitzer-winning debut, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; as well as for the darker, recently rediscovered, *Go Set a Watchman*. Covering



From the  
award-winning  
author of *Lucky's*  
**ANDREW  
PIPPOS**

The  
**Readings**  
prize  
**2021**  
WINNER



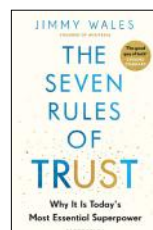
**PUBLISHING  
28 OCTOBER**

**PICADOR**

territory from the Alabama schoolyards of Lee's youth to the luncheonettes and movie houses of mid-century Manhattan, *The Land of Sweet Forever* combines never-before-seen short stories and published nonfiction in a volume which offers an unprecedented look at the development of her inimitable voice.

**The Seven Rules of Trust:  
Why It Is Today's Most  
Essential Superpower**

Jimmy Wales  
Bloomsbury. PB. \$36.99  
Available 28 October

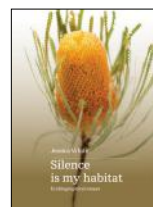


Trust is like water and electricity; our society can't function without it. It is a living thing which can be cultivated and grown. But this precious resource is increasingly under threat. In *The Seven Rules of Trust*

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales shares clear, actionable rules for building trust in business, leadership and life. It will help you to build deeper connections with others so you can be a better neighbour, a more understanding friend, even someone who can turn back the tide and inspire others to follow you.

**Silence is my Habitat:  
Ecobiographical Essays**

Jessica White  
Upswell. PB. \$29.99  
Available now



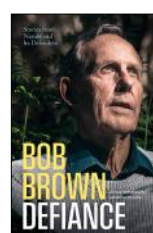
Jessica White, deaf since age four, explores through ecobiography, how deafness encouraged and moulded her relationship to the natural world. In these

essays she describes her responses to bodies of water, the university, the archive, the bush, and the pandemic's quiet. She writes of burnt trees amidst the devastating loss of her mother, and she finds a flock of deaf women writers who help her fly. White reveals that deafness, although it can bring fatigue and isolation, is also a portal to a rich, contemplative, and creative life.

**Environmental  
Studies**

**Defiance: Stories from Nature  
and Its Defenders**

Bob Brown  
Black Inc. PB. \$36.99  
Available now



he combats some of the common reasons that people don't join protests or get actively involved in politics and provides inspiration to take a stand for nature.

From chapters about his first campaign saving the Franklin River, when all appeared lost, to defying bad laws, and imparting the awareness that the actions of only 3.5% of the population are all it takes to change a bad government policy, there are numerous practical and useful tips for the budding activist.

Well-known protests, such as those against Adani and the fight to save native forests from logging, stand next to more personal anecdotes about his mother and father, lesser-known rebels including Eric Herbert and Rob Lord, as well as famous Australians such as high court judge Lionel Murphy and artist Emily Kam Kngwaray. These are stories of standing up to unbridled ego, abuses of power and the overreach of corporate capitalism, as well as a heartfelt love of the natural environment.

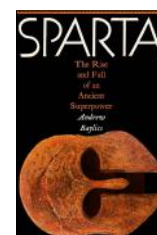
Always a passionate storyteller, Brown has given us an inspiring book of anecdotes that are perfect to dip into or read in one session. His level-headed, rational arguments are very convincing and will not only be enjoyed by hardcore environmentalists, but those with general concerns about overpopulation, government overreach and environmental destruction alike. *Defiance* is highly accessible and filled with wonderful advice on acts of protest and optimism small and large, from an environmentalist who has been on the front lines and in our parliament for well over 50 years and has learnt a few things about how to change the world in the process. What a treasure trove!

Angela Crocombe is The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator and a senior children's book buyer

**History**

**Sparta: The Rise and Fall of an  
Ancient Superpower**

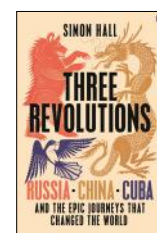
Andrew Bayliss  
Profile. PB. \$39.99  
Available now



Sparta – its legendary warriors and steadfast resilience are famous throughout the world as a model for toughness, justice and masculinity. The Spartans' reputation as fighters is matched only by their mythic code of honour. But who really were the Spartans? And what was the driving force behind the rise and fall of Sparta? *Sparta* traces the story of this iconic city-state, from its humble beginnings as a hamlet in the Peloponnese to its meteoric rise as the foremost military superpower of the Classical world.

**Three Revolutions: Russian, China,  
Cuba and the Epic Journeys That  
Changed the World**

Simon Hall  
Faber. PB. \$36.99  
Available 14 October



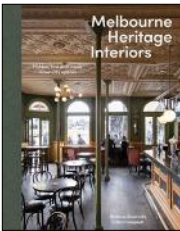
From the streets of Petrograd during Lenin's heady autumn of 1917, to Mao's stunning victory in October 1949, and Fidel's triumphant arrival in Havana, in January 1959, the history of the 20th century was



transformed by the Russian, Chinese, and Cuban revolutions. Told in tandem with these events are the corresponding journeys of journalists John Reed, Edgar Snow and Herbert L. Matthews. These epic journeys are brought to life and raise questions that remain of the utmost urgency today.

Interior Design

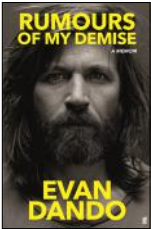
**Melbourne Heritage Interiors: Hidden, Lost and Iconic Inner-City Spaces**  
Kristine Slawinski & Phil Campbell  
Florian Lane. HB. \$99  
Available 1 October



Explore the exceptional interiors of central Melbourne, from the iconic to the hidden, some rarely accessible to the public. Encompassing Victorian, Moderne and Mid-century styles, this book is the first of its kind, examining Melbourne's remarkable history and rich culture through its built interiors. From long-standing private clubs to long-lost coffee palaces, *Melbourne Heritage Interiors* takes an in-depth look at these spaces and the architects, craftspeople and artists who created them.

Music

**Rumours of My Demise: A Memoir**  
Evan Dando  
Faber Music. PB. \$34.99  
Available 28 October



After Kurt Cobain's passing in 1994, everyone expected Evan Dando to be next. Rising to fame in the '90s as frontman of the Lemonheads, he was infamous for his decadent lifestyle. But despite the constant rumours he has lived to tell the tales. From the clubs, the drugs, and the ringing ears, to the fun, the fame, and the fall, *Rumours of My Demise* is a heady, candid trip into the grunge-filled '90s presenting a portrait of an artist who lives wholly for his music, and one that makes no apologies for doing so.

**Oasis: Trying to Find a Way Out of Nowhere 1994–2009/2025**  
Jill Furmanovsky & Noel Gallagher  
T&H. HB. \$110  
Available now



Jill Furmanovsky has been documenting Oasis since 1994, from the *Definitely Maybe* tour to a new beginning in 2025. With unprecedented access, Furmanovsky was able to capture strikingly emotive images, recording the band's raw energy, humour and vulnerability. Featuring more than 500 exceptional photographs from her archive, this book includes acclaimed and classic shots alongside swathes of candid,

behind-the-scenes images, many of which are published here for the first time.

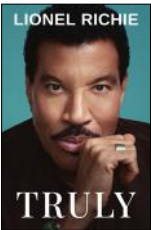
**Iron Maiden: Infinite Dreams**  
Steve Harris, Bruce Dickinson & Iron Maiden  
T&H. HB. \$100  
\$79.99  
Available 7 October



Iron Maiden is an institution. Hailed as pioneers of a new wave of British heavy metal in the '80s, the band has come to embody a spirit of fearless creative independence and ferocious dedication to their fans that has won them a huge following around the world and across the generations. Incorporating commentary by band members past and present, and never-before-seen photography from the Iron Maiden archives, this definitive legacy volume celebrates 50 years of heavy metal's most legendary band.

Purchase a copy of *Iron Maiden: Infinite Dreams* in one of our shops or online, and you could win one of two epic prize packs including: a card signed by the members of Iron Maiden; a Sony LX-310 turntable with Bluetooth; and a copy of *Nights of the Dead* (Black 3LP). To find out more, see page 3.

**Truly**  
Lionel Richie  
HarperCollins. PB. \$37.99  
Available now



Funny, warm and riveting Lionel Richie's candid memoir traces his journey from Tuskegee as a shy child to global music star. He recalls growing up during the Civil Rights movement, adventures as a member of The Commodores, coming-of-age in late 1960s Harlem, his big Motown breakthrough and meteoric solo career, including writing and recording 'We Are the World'. Richie's inspiring life reminds us that even through loss and near-calamity the power of love can elevate our own lives and our world.

Natural History

**(Be)wilder: Journeys in Nature**  
Darryl Jones  
NewSouth. PB. \$32.99  
Available 1 October



In *(Be)wilder*, acclaimed urban ecologist Darryl Jones explores how people around the world interact with wildlife. He spends time with bearded pigs in Borneo, rock ptarmigans in the Arctic, birdwatchers in Iowa and conservationist farmers in Australia's Snowy Mountains. Along the way, Jones asks whether our interactions with wildlife can help answer life's big questions such as: is it possible for farming and conservation to work together and how can urban landscapes be redesigned to enhance biodiversity?

By The New York Times bestselling co-author of *Nudge*

From the bestselling co-author of *Nudge*

**Manipulation**

What It Is, Why It's Bad, What To Do About It

Cass R. Sunstein

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

By an autistic author, for every workplace.

**Autistics at Work.**

A Practical Guide.

Sandra Thom-Jones

Melbourne University Publishing

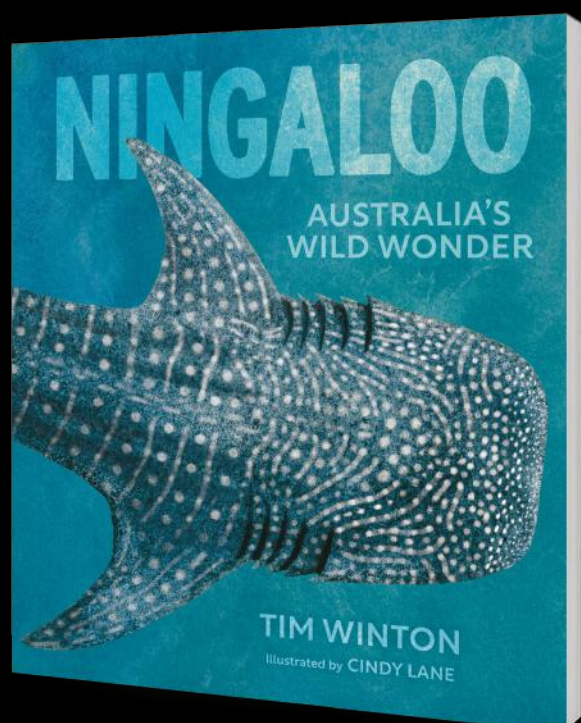
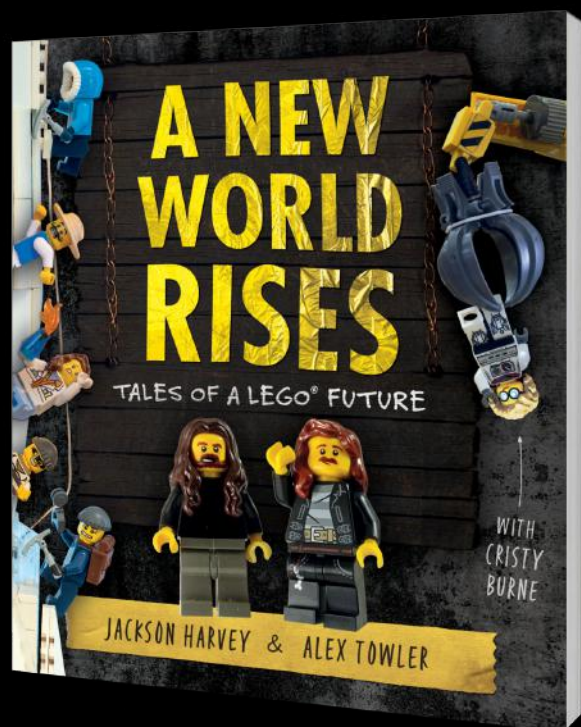
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## Politics

### Femonomics: What Data Tells Us About Women's Lives and How to Get the Most Out of Yours

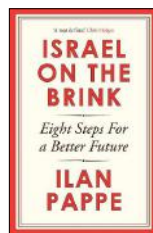
Corinne Low  
Hodder. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



To be a woman today is to be overwhelmed from every angle. The data proves that the odds are still stacked against us – biologically, culturally, economically. But that same data can empower us to make choices that will reclaim our time, energy and help us find joy. In *Femonomics*, economist Corinne Low explodes the myths about what makes women successful and happy. From career planning to family life, it gives you the tools to design the life you want and, ultimately, how to make the world work for you.

### Israel on the Brink: Eight Steps for a Better Future

Ilan Pappe  
Oneworld. PB. \$34.99  
Available now



The events of 7 October and the invasion of Gaza have laid bare the cracks in Israel's foundations and revealed a divided country losing global support. While its leaders justify catastrophic military actions, Israel risks becoming a pariah state. Its worst enemy is not Hamas, but itself. Ilan Pappe paves a path out of the Jewish state, rooted in restorative justice and decolonisation, including the return of refugees, the end of illegal settlements, and building bridges with the Arab world. The future can be one of reconciliation, not endless war.

### The Nuclear Age: An Epic Race for Arms, Power and Survival

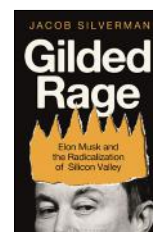
Serhii Plokhy  
Allen Lane. PB. \$39.99  
Available 28 October



In *The Nuclear Age*, acclaimed historian Serhii Plokhy paints a picture of a world governed by fear. While the threat of mutually assured destruction kept a lid on a simmering geopolitical landscape, events such as the Chernobyl disaster and near-misses like the Cuban Missile Crisis showed that total destruction was only ever one malfunction, mistake, or miscommunication away. From the first artificial splitting of the atom in 1917 and the race to create the first atomic bomb, through the arms race of the Cold War, to the imperialism, neocolonial motivation and wars being waged today, the threat posed by nuclear weapons is as pertinent as ever. As he examines the motivations of key players, Plokhy confronts the crucial question of our age: what can we learn from the first nuclear arms race that can help us to stop the new one?

### Gilded Rage: Elon Musk and the Radicalization of Silicon Valley

Jacob Silverman  
Continuum. PB. \$34.99  
Available now

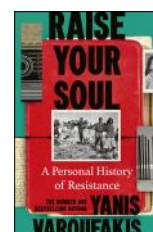


In *Gilded Rage* Jacob Silverman investigates the radicalisation of Silicon Valley and the billionaires who increasingly run our lives, shape the global economy, and support Donald Trump.

Revealing a network of tech and finance oligarchs using their wealth to exert an increasingly radical political program which is reshaping society, this is essential reading for anyone who wants to know what's happening to Silicon Valley and its profound relevance for us all.

### Raise Your Soul: A Personal History of Resistance

Yanis Varoufakis  
Bodley Head. PB. \$36.99  
Available now



When Yanis Varoufakis was eight, his uncle – in prison for resisting Greece's military dictatorship – made him a model plane with a secret message. *Raise Your Soul* is an extraordinary portrait of three generations caught up in Greece's tumultuous 20th century. At its heart are the women whose resilience, defiance and courage inspired Varoufakis most. Through their lives, he confronts the dark forces of authoritarianism that still haunt Europe and beyond, reigniting hope in all of us that we can rise once more.

## Science

### Brave New Wild: Can Technology Really Save the Planet?

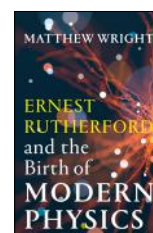
Richard King  
Monash University Publishing. PB. \$32.99  
Available 1 October



Today, faced with an environmental crisis, our leaders are responding in the spirit of the rulers in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Rather than building societies that respect the natural world, they are developing the means to remake nature itself. But this thinking is only deepening the crisis. We must challenge its assumptions and propose alternatives, examining our future with the natural world, learning from history, ancient traditions and more, and how they can guide us forward.

### Ernest Rutherford and the Birth of Modern Physics

Matthew Wright  
Scribe. PB. \$36.99  
Available now

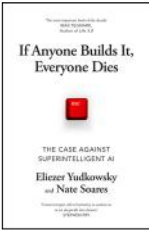


By the mid-19th century, physicists believed they had discovered the last secrets of the universe. Then a new world of waves, particles, and fundamental forces sparked a revolution. At the forefront of these



breakthroughs was New Zealander Ernest Rutherford. Known as the ‘father of the atom’, he mentored a new generation of physicists and helped shape much of the way we understand physics today, fuelling innovations from radio to x-rays. This book explores the revelation of that science through Rutherford’s life.

**If Anyone Builds It, Everyone Dies: The Case Against Superintelligent AI**  
Eliezer Yudkowsky & Nate Soares  
Bodley Head. PB. \$36.99  
Available now



AI is the greatest threat to our existence that we have ever faced. The scramble to create superhuman AI has put us on the path to extinction, and the world is devastatingly unprepared – but it’s not too late to change course. Researchers Eliezer Yudkowsky and Nate Soares explain why artificial superintelligence would be a global catastrophe and call for an immediate halt to its development. They explore the theory and the evidence, discussing what it would take for humanity to survive.

Visual Arts

**The Stars We Do Not See: Australian Indigenous Art**  
Leitha Assan, Tina Baum, Maxine Briggs, Daniel Browning & Myles Russell–Cook (ed.)  
NGV. HB. \$69.95  
Available 7 October



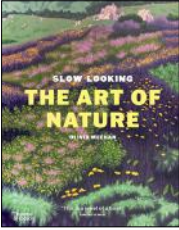
The Australian continent is home to the world’s oldest living culture: over 250 different groups, each with their own customs, language, and art. *The Stars We Do Not See* showcases this diversity bringing together major pieces from the National Gallery of Victoria’s collection of works by Indigenous artists in a presentation of First Nations Australian art and design. It traces the strength, creativity, and resistance of Indigenous peoples, as captured in the extraordinary breadth and depth of their artistic traditions.

**Lessons for Young Artists**  
David Gentleman  
Particular. HB. \$45  
Available 7 October



For over 90 years, David Gentleman has been drawing, painting, engraving and printing, rising to become one of Britain’s best-known and most loved artists. His watercolours have filled galleries; his iconic wood cuts are emblazoned across posters, book jackets and train stations; his stamps have made their way to the furthest corners of the world. Here, the great, polymathic artist and craftsman shares what he has learned over the course of a lifetime of making and thinking about art.

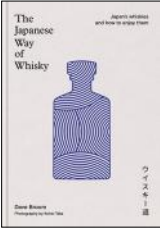
**Slow Looking: The Art of Nature**  
Olivia Meehan  
T&H. HB. Was \$85  
\$ \$69.99  
Available now



*Slow Looking: The Art of Nature* is a celebration of the relationship between art and nature across millennia. Eschewing a linear narrative of art, this inspirational collection of global artworks allows us to make connections between the nature that surrounds us and the vision of a dazzlingly wide range of artists. Readers will encounter motifs, colours and subjects that have mesmerised artists – and viewers – throughout history. In the process, readers will develop their own understanding of how they see the natural world.

At Home with Chris Gordon

**The Japanese Way of Whisky: Japan’s Whiskies and How to Enjoy Them**  
Dave Broom & Kohei Take (photog.)  
Mitchell Beazley. HB. \$55  
Available now



Dave Broom has the right idea about leading a good, honest life. He is a Glenfiddich Award-winning writer who has spent most of his working life in the drinks trade, from cellarman to bar manager. He has written numerous books on the subject, including this fabulous tome on whisky, Japanese style. This is more than a book about the drink itself, though: it explores distilleries and history, delves into recipes and the stories behind them, and considers the rhythms of seasonal change. All throughout, it is interwoven with beautiful pictures of the journey across Japan that Dave took with photographer Kohei Take, offering further insight into the country. This is a gift for anyone who spends their evenings musing with a dram or two.

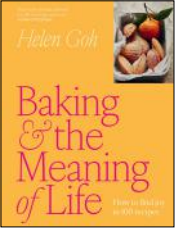
**Lankan Filling: Sri Lankan Soul, Australian Accent**  
O Tama Carey  
Hardie Grant. HB. Was \$55  
\$ \$49.99  
Available now



O Tama Carey first learned to cook the food of her Sri Lankan heritage at her mother and grandmother’s side, but began her cooking career quite by accident after landing a job in a restaurant kitchen in London’s Notting Hill. In 2018, she opened Lankan Filling Station in Sydney, and it very quickly became the place to be. (I’ve been and it’s brilliant). This is her second book celebrating this heady, aromatic cuisine after *Lanka Food: Serendipity & Spice*. It is a playful and joyful expanse of Sri Lankan cuisine and features recipes such as dhal and hot-butter jaffles, black-spiced brisket, and devilled chicken

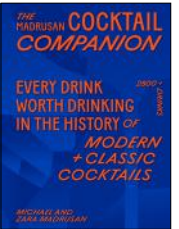
livers. This cookbook is all about being bold and is perfect for those who want to spice it up. Suitable for all home cooks and chefs needing a delicious bite of inspiration.

**Baking and the Meaning of Life: How to Find Joy in 100 Recipes**  
Helen Goh  
Murdoch. HB. Was \$55  
\$ \$49.99  
Available now



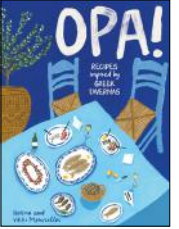
Helen Goh, a trained psychologist, is also an acclaimed baking columnist and cookbook writer who is renowned for her innovative recipes drawing on global inspirations. She worked as the chief pastry recipe developer for the Ottolenghi group, and she co-authored *Sweet with Yotam Ottolenghi* himself. This is her first solo book, and it is utterly wonderful. It is a celebration of community, connection and pleasure through baking and showcases recipes that are accessible, adaptable and delicious. Yes, there are savoury dishes included, and yes Helen’s Champagne and Blackcurrant Celebration Cake will become your new go-to for special occasions. But it is more than that – it is an ode to living well. Truly, could we ask for anything more?

**The Madrusan Cocktail Companion: Every Drink Worth Drinking in the History of Modern + Classic Cocktails**  
Michael Madrusan & Zara Madrusan  
Murdoch. HB. \$69.99  
Available now



I am gobsmacked by this encyclopedia of cocktails. This beautifully produced book contains close to 3,000 cocktail recipes! The authors, Michael and Zara Madrusan, tested all the recipes and drew on their own extensive library of books that date back to 1862 to present the stories behind each offering, alongside all the best variations, categorised by origin and by ingredient, and with an emphasis on readily available products and minimal preparation. I had no idea that martinis could be so complex and alluring. This is the guide for anyone who works in the industry or becomes a mixologist in their spare time!

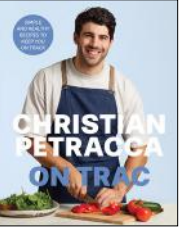
**OPA! Recipes Inspired by Greek Tavernas**  
Helena Moursellas & Vikki Moursellas  
Smith Street. HB. \$59.99  
Available now



*Opa*, meaning joy and delight, is the perfect description of this cookbook created by Helena and Vikki Moursellas. These identical twins, chefs, authors, and content creators have turned their love of Greek cuisine into a thriving career. Their glorious cookbook delivers traditional taverna dishes alongside innovative recipes – expect to feel like you’re sitting at a sun-drenched table as you read. Expect your mouth to water as you imagine frying cheese and seafood and breaking open warm bread at your

table. Expect to plan your next holiday as you meet the people behind the dishes and celebrate all the joy in the world.

**Christian Petracca On Trac: Simple and Healthy Recipes to Keep You On Track**  
Christian Petracca  
Hardie Grant. PB. \$45  
Available now



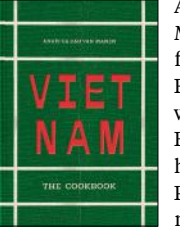
Christian Petracca is a professional Australian Rules footballer who plays for Melbourne (Football Club). He can play as a forward and a midfielder, both on the inside and outside. He can also blow our minds by creating recipes that are quick, healthy, and made with simple ingredients. Petracca was taught to cook by his Nonna, and it shows in these Italian-inspired dishes designed to sustain energy over a very long period of time. This is the perfect cookbook for those who just want to keep it simple: no fuss, just joy and good, solid sense.

**Thessaloniki: And the Many Kitchens of Northern Greece**  
Meni Valle  
Hardie Grant. HB. \$50  
Available now



Melbourne-based Meni Valle has created this beautifully produced cookbook to invite you into the kitchens of her friends who live in northern Greece. Thessaloniki is Greece’s second-largest city and a UNESCO-recognised epicentre of traditional culinary practice. Valle’s cookbook includes regional specialties and illustrates the historical influence that Sephardic Jewish people, the Ottoman Empire, and returning Greek émigrés have had on Northern Greek cuisine. Reading this book is like having a love affair with sunshine and beautiful vistas, alongside glorious dishes I had not heard of before. I am completely smitten.

**Vietnam: The Cookbook**  
Anaïs Ca Dao van Manen  
Phaidon. HB. Was \$74.95  
\$ \$59.99  
Available 14 October



Anaïs Ca Dao van Manen was just in town for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, where she cooked at Brico in Carlton. She has also cooked in Paris and London but now resides in Ho Chi Minh City, where she runs Yeshi Taiwanese Kitchen. This is her first cookbook, and it aims to take you from one end of Vietnam to the other, using techniques to illustrate the diversity of dishes in this tropical country. With more than 400 recipes, it is perfect for anyone who knows that pho is just a drop in a glorious ocean of Vietnamese flavours. Beautifully illustrated with photos taken throughout the country, this book is the perfect gift for anyone who wishes to bring a taste of the menu in their local Vietnamese café into their home. **R**

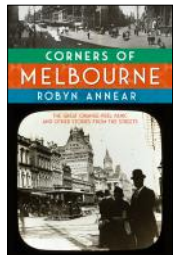


# Bargains

## Corners of Melbourne: The Great Orange-Peel Panic and Other Stories from the Streets

Robyn Annear

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

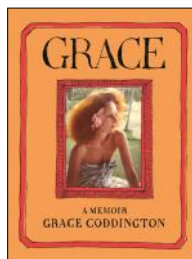


What better defines a city than its street corners? A corner gives you a starting point, a destination and a place to turn. It's furnished with pillar boxes, newsstands and tram stops, and lampposts for light and lounging. Where would you be most likely to find a pub? At the corner, of course. And who better than Robyn Annear to usher you around the corners of Melbourne, and reveal their bizarre, baroque and mostly forgotten stories? Annear will introduce you to a rogues' gallery of unruly women, incorrigible men and runaway horses, and, of course, the civic reprobates who discarded orange peel in the streets, to the endangerment of life and limb.

## Grace: A Memoir

Grace Coddington

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



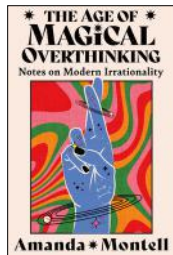
For decades, Grace Coddington's personal touch has steered wildly imaginative fashion spreads in *Vogue* magazine. When *The September Issue* documentary was released, she

became a fashion icon overnight. Witty and forthright, and illustrated throughout with vintage photographs and exclusive line-drawings, *Grace: A Memoir* shares the excitement and vision that go into producing so many unforgettable fashion images, and the designers, models, photographers, hairstylists, make-up artists and celebrities with whom she created her 'stories in pictures'. Naturally, this includes her professional partnership with Anna Wintour – with whom she has collaborated for over 20 years – which continues to have an astonishing influence on modern style.

## The Age of Magical Overthinking: Notes on Modern Irrationality

Amanda Montell

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



In the modern information age, our brain's coping mechanisms have been overloaded, and our irrationality turned up to 11. In *The Age of Magical Overthinking*, Amanda Montell blends cultural criticism and personal narrative to explore our modern cognitive biases and the power, disadvantages and highlights of magical overthinking. Montell's prevailing message is one of hope and forgiveness. If you have lost faith in our ability to reason through the noise of information overload, this book aims to make sense of the senseless.

## Mrs S

K. Patrick

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

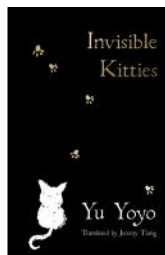


In an elite English boarding school, a young Australian woman arrives to take up the antiquated role of 'matron'. There she meets Mrs S, the headmaster's wife, a woman who is her opposite: sophisticated, assured, and a paragon of femininity. Over the course of a long, restless heatwave, the matron finds herself drawn ever closer into the older woman's world, with their unspoken desire blooming into an illicit affair of electric intensity. But, as the summer begins to fade, both know that a choice must finally be made.

## Invisible Kitties

Yu Yoyo & Jeremy Tiang (trans.)

PB. Was \$24.99 **Now \$12.99**



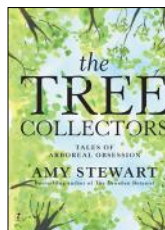
When a young couple accidentally come into possession of a playful kitten, their daily routine (and cramped apartment) is turned upside down. Soon they find their peaceful existence forever altered.

Charting the couple's ever-evolving relationship with cats – some they live with, others who exist only in their imagination – *Invisible Kitties* is a meditation on the quiet moments of everyday life and a celebration of cats in all their many magical, chaotic, extraordinary forms. This captivating, inventive debut is perfect for fans of *The Guest Cat* and *If Cats Disappeared from the World*.

## The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession

Amy Stewart

HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$19.99**



When Amy Stewart discovered a community of tree collectors, she expected to meet horticultural fanatics driven to plant every species of oak or maple. But she also found that the urge to collect trees springs from deeper, more profound motives, such as a longing for community, a vision for the future, or a path to healing and reconciliation. In this slyly humorous, informative and poignant volume, Stewart brings us 50 captivating stories of people who spend their lives in pursuit of rare and wonderful trees – and are transformed in the process. Vivian Keh has forged a connection to her Korean elders through her persimmon orchard. The former poet laureate W. S. Merwin planted a tree almost every day for more than three decades. And Joe Hamilton cultivates pines on land passed down to him by his once-enslaved great-grandfather, building a legacy for the future. Stewart populates this lively compendium with her own watercolour portraits of these extraordinary people and their trees, offering a stunning tribute to a devoted group of nature lovers making their lives – and the world – more beautiful, one tree at a time.

## The Glass Horse of Venice

Arnold Zable & Anita Lester (illus.)

HB. Was \$27.99 **Now \$16.99**

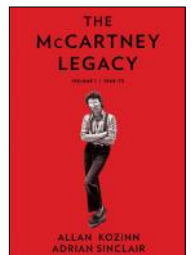


Each morning on her way to school Claudia passes the glassblower's workshop and admires the animals in the window, especially the winged horses, prancing, galloping, rearing in battle. One day the glassblower calls Claudia inside and gives her a damaged horse. It is beautiful, but its wings are broken. Claudia sees only its imperfection. When a terrible storm floods their home, the family must leave. The glass horse is packed away, forgotten. Until one night it comes to life, and takes Claudia flying through the night sky, back to her beloved Venice.

## The McCartney Legacy: Volume 1, 1969–73

Allan Kozinn & Adrian Sinclair

PB. Was \$36.99 **Now \$16.99**

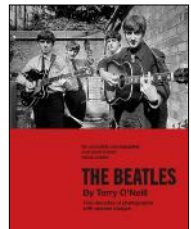


When Paul McCartney issued a press release in April 1970 announcing that the world's most beloved band, the Beatles, had broken up, no one could have predicted that McCartney himself would go on to have one of the most successful solo careers in music history. Yet, in the years after the Fab Four disbanded, McCartney became a legend in his own right. Now, journalist and world-renowned Beatles' historian Allan Kozinn and award-winning documentarian Adrian Sinclair chronicle McCartney's pivotal years from 1969 to 1973 in this first instalment of a groundbreaking multi-volume set, capturing a period in which McCartney recreated himself as both a man and a musician. Informed by hundreds of interviews, extensive ground-up research, and thousands of never-before-seen documents, this is an in-depth, revealing exploration of McCartney's creative and personal lives beyond the Beatles.

## The Beatles: Five Decades of Photographs, with Unseen Images

Terry O'Neill

HB. Was \$69.99 **Now \$29.99**

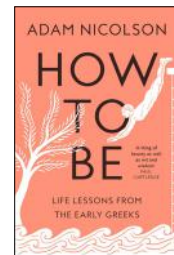


Iconic photographer Terry O'Neill worked with the Beatles over five decades, capturing the band at the beginning of their rise to the top and the solo years beyond. From recording sessions, rehearsals and larking around town at the height of Beatlemania, to intimate shots at weddings, at home and on tour in the solo years after the band had split, O'Neill captured countless photographs, many of which are being published for the very first time in this definitive collection. With more than 300 photographs and including quotes from O'Neill collecting his personal memories of working with the band, this is a unique visual portrait of the story of John, Paul, George, Ringo and the music they made.

## How to Be: Life Lessons from the Early Greeks

Adam Nicolson

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

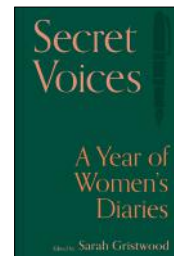


Before the Greeks, the idea of the world was dominated by god-kings and their priests. Until around 2,500 years ago, in small Mediterranean harbour-cities, this way of thinking began to change. Homer, Heraclitus, Xenophanes, Sappho, and Pythagoras cast off this mental subservience, asking, for the first time, questions about self, city and cosmos. Hugely formative ideas emerged: fluidity of mind, the search for coherence, a recognition of the mutability of things, and a belief in the reality of the ideal. Adam Nicolson travels through this transforming world and asks what light these ancient thinkers can throw on our deepest preconceptions now. Sparkling with maps, photographs and artwork, *How to Be* uncovers the origins of Western thought and the beginnings of philosophy as we know it today.

## Secret Voices: A Year of Women's Diaries

Sarah Gristwood (ed.)

HB. Was \$49.99 **Now \$19.99**



A captivating collection of extracts from women's diaries, *Secret Voices* looks back over four centuries to discover how women's experiences – of relationships and children, sex and shopping, work and the natural world – have changed down the years. And, of course, how they haven't. From Barbara Pym purchasing daring lingerie and Virginia Woolf relishing her new haircut to Sylvia Plath chronicling her ups and downs and a stoical Amelia Stewart Knight on the pioneer trail, this book contains a rich mix of incredibly well-known diarists and more obscure ones, and often the voices echoing down the centuries sound eerily familiar today.

## Welcome to the Universe in 3D: A Visual Tour

Neil deGrasse Tyson, Michael A. Strauss, J. Richard Gott III & Robert J. Vanderbei

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



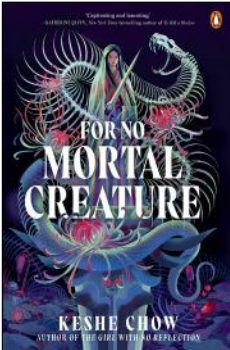
*Welcome to the Universe in 3D* takes you on a grand tour of the observable universe, guiding you through the most spectacular sights in the cosmos, revealing your cosmic environment as you have never seen it before. Astronomy is the story of how humankind's perception of the two-dimensional dome of the sky evolved into a far deeper comprehension of an expanding three-dimensional cosmos. This book invites you to take part in this story by exploring the universe in depth, from the moon to distant nebulae and beyond. You will never look up into the night sky the same way again. **R**



# Young Adult

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

Young Adult



**For No Mortal Creature**  
Keshe Chow  
Penguin. PB. \$27.99  
Available 7 October

**R** Jia Yi has always believed she's an Empty, someone without magical power. While searching for a cure to her grandmother's illness, Jia is stabbed through the heart by a soldier of her mortal enemy, Prince Essien Lancaster. She finds herself in the afterlife and face-to-face with the ghost of Lin, the childhood best friend who betrayed her. Desperate to escape him, she resurrects and discovers she has a power after all: the ability to move between the Living and Death Realms. Jia must use this power to find a legendary sword hidden in the afterlife to save her grandmother. But to survive the treacherous layers of the Death Realm, Jia must seek the help of Lin, and Prince Essien. As tensions between Jia, Lin and the Prince grow, she must confront the ghosts of her past, or risk becoming one herself.

After devouring Keshe Chow's first book, *The Girl with No Reflection*, I couldn't wait to read this one. It deserves to be crowned Young Adult Book of the Month, just based on the cover alone! I have read MANY young adult fantasies, but I've truly never read anything like this. It's fast-paced, funny and emotionally charged. It had me squealing and kicking my feet with delight. The character development is strong and the plot is well thought out. And the twists! Oh my!

Following Jia on her journey through the Death Realm felt like a fever dream, in the best way. The enemies-to-lovers trope has always been my favourite, but after reading this it's

been replaced by friends-to-lovers-to-enemies-to-lovers-to-... I won't give any spoilers!

Inspired by *Wuthering Heights*, and with an element of *Inception*, this haunting fantasy will stick with you long after you've read the final page. It's perfect for fans of love triangles, enemies-to-lovers tales and anyone aged 13+ who loves great romantasy.

Lucie Dess is the marketing and events coordinator

**Thorn Season**  
Kiera Azar  
HarperCollins. PB. \$22.99  
Available now



In the Kingdom of Daradon, Wielders can exert a physical power that extends beyond their visible body. Feared and mistrusted for this ability, they have always been Hunted. Alissa Paine, heiress to a noble Hunter family, is also a Wielder and has survived by hiding her gift. Summoned to the royal court for Rose Season, Alissa is plunged into danger. Trapped between a brutal prince and a beguiling ambassador, she knows that survival will depend on being the most vicious of the thorns.

**Catch**  
Sarah Brill  
A&U. PB. \$24.99  
Available now



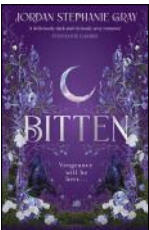
**R** Lots of things have changed in Grace's life over the summer. She's had a growth spurt and is now extremely tall; her sister is pregnant and is going to have the baby while finishing high school; her sister's best friend, the handsome Etienne, is suddenly attracted to Grace and has convinced her to join the basketball team; and, most importantly, Grace has discovered a special talent for catching people who fall from high places. When she gets a nauseating feeling in her stomach, she knows that someone nearby will fall soon. She is utterly compelled to

run to wherever her instincts tell her and catch that person, even if they don't want to be saved.

This surreal novel has such an unlikely premise, yet it is utterly believable and completely compelling. The author has crafted a narrative that generates empathy in the reader, especially towards Grace and the complications in her life. She has the normal challenges of navigating family, friendships and first romance in those tricky high school years. But then she also has her superpower of catching people, which she, her family and her friends must come to terms with. This is a beautiful novel that is a delight to read and keeps you thinking long after the last page is turned. It will be enjoyed by readers of romance and contemporary narratives aged 12+.

Angela Crocombe is a senior children's book buyer and The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

**Bitten**  
Jordan Stephanie Gray  
Hodderscape. PB. \$24.99  
Available 14 October



The night her best friend is slaughtered by werewolves, Vanessa Hart's life is changed forever. She faces the agonising transformation as she becomes one of them, as well as a deadly choice: swear her life to the Wolf Queen's Court, or suffer a lone wolf's death. At Court, she meets the mesmerising golden Prince Sinclair Severi and his cousin, Calix, whose smouldering gaze hides even darker secrets. But Vanessa cannot forget what has been taken from her, and she

may simply be a pawn in the Court's lethal game.

**Fake Skating**  
Lynn Painter  
S&S. PB. \$22.99  
Available now



Dani and Alec were inseparable as kids. Until Dani moved away. Years later, she's back in Minnesota, but teenage Alec is nothing like she remembers. He's the hockey star and worshipped as a god.

When one thing leads to another and Dani and Alec find themselves thrown together and playing the role of boyfriend and girlfriend, 'complicated' becomes an understatement. In this Minnesota town, hockey may rule, but romance is about to take its place.

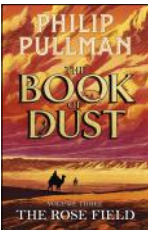
**The Rose Field**  
(The Book of Dust, Volume 3)  
Philip Pullman  
David Fickling. PB. Was \$34.99

**\$29.99**

Also available in HB. Was \$55

**\$44.99**

Available 23 October

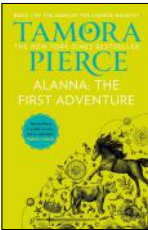


Marking 30 years since the world was first introduced to Philip Pullman's remarkable heroine Lyra Belacqua in *Northern Lights*, *The Rose Field* is the culmination of the cultural phenomenon of *The Book of Dust* and *His Dark Materials*. In *The Rose Field*, quests converge in the most dangerous and world-changing ways. Lyra, Pantalaimon and Malcolm must take help from spies and thieves, gryphons and witches, old friends and new, learning all the while the depth and surprising truths of the alethiometer. All around them, the world is aflame – made terrifying by fear, power and greed. As they move east, towards the red building that will reunite them and give them answers, so too does the Magisterium, at war against all that Lyra holds dear.

## Young Adult Classic of the Month

**Alanna: The First Adventure**  
(The Song of the Lioness Quartet, Book 1)  
Tamora Pierce  
Voyager. PB. \$24.99  
Available now

A conversation between Lucie Dess and Bella Mackey



**R** LUCIE: Bella and I both wanted to write the review for the Alanna series. It was actually my idea to pick it for the Young Adult Classic of the Month, but because I got to review the Kids Classic last month, it was suggested Bella should do it instead. I disagreed ... So, naturally the only way to settle the argument was

an arm-wrestle. Of course, I won! No need to applaud. But then Elke, our fearless *Readings Monthly* editor suggested we write the review together, and being the gracious winner that I am, I agreed.

**BELLA:** Thank goodness – it would have been a personal tragedy for me not to be able to share my love for Alanna and Tamora Pierce, but it was foolish of me to ever agree to an arm-wrestling match. Lucie destroyed me almost immediately ... But that doesn't matter now, because I still get to sing the praises of this timeless fantasy adventure!

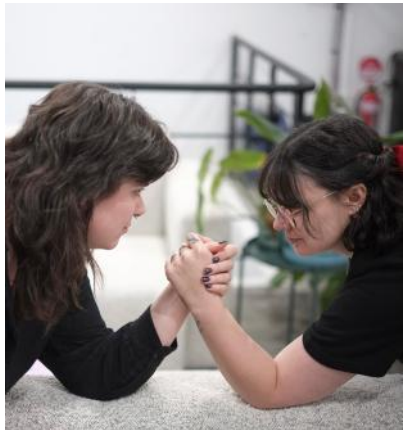
*Alanna: The First Adventure* follows Alanna, who swaps places with her twin brother and disguises herself as a boy so she can become a knight. She's got natural skill and a determination to prove herself, but Alanna soon finds herself up against gruelling training, mind-numbing lessons and relentless bullies. It's not until she makes friends that the years of training ahead start to feel possible ... as long as no one finds out about her secret identity.

**LUCIE:** I first discovered *Alanna* in the school library. The book was tatty and the pages had yellowed. There were even a couple of pages missing, but that didn't matter. I devoured it and then the next three books in the series. Alanna's adventures are action-packed and utterly captivating. It has everything you could possibly want in a fantasy coming-of-age! There's strong friendships, evil sorcerers, handsome princes, charming thieves, love triangles and twists that you will not see coming! *The Song of the Lioness Quartet* is a series I've returned to many times over the years, and it never fails to warm my heart and give me butterflies.

**BELLA:** I was introduced to *Alanna* when I was in primary school, and it became pretty much my entire personality for the next few years. I absolutely fell in love with Alanna and her friends, and devoured the rest of the quartet (not to mention everything else Tamora Pierce had written). The fast-paced plots and magical world make her books incredibly engaging, while the wonderful characters will find a place in your heart and keep you coming back for more. Lucie and I are both proof that this book can inspire a lifelong passion! (and yes, we will now be re-reading the whole quartet, because it's all we can think about after re-reading the first book).

We both recommend this series for *any* fantasy lover aged 12+, especially those who love *Mulan* and girls who can wield a sword.

Bella Mackey (below, left) is the digital content lead and Lucie Dess (right) is the marketing and events coordinator



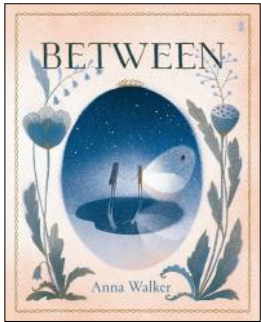
Pictured: A dramatic re-enactment of the aforementioned arm-wrestling contest **R**

# Kids

## PICTURE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Picture Book

**Between**  
Anna Walker  
Scribble. HB. Was \$27.99  
**\$22.99**  
Available now



**R** A gentle and beautiful new picture-book offering by well-loved Australian creator Anna Walker.

This is a beautiful book to share with any child in a quiet time before bed, inviting an understanding of connection, friendship and empathy.

Portrayed in stunning illustrations and sparse words, this picture book tells the tale of a meeting and developing friendship between a cabbage moth and a cricket. The gorgeous illustrations are thoroughly enthralling, rendered in spot colours that move along with poetic words. The stunning combination of watercolour, pencil and collage for which Walker is known creates an almost spray-paint effect that is subtle and gentle.

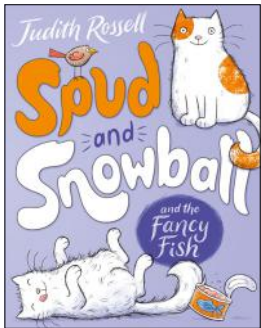
This is a beautiful book to share with any child in a quiet time before bed, inviting an understanding of connection, friendship and empathy. It would be a well-loved addition to any little library, in the style of a bestseller like *Baby Bedtime* by Mem Fox. It is perfect for ages 3+.

Melanie Barton is from Readings Carlton

## KIDS BOOK OF THE MONTH

Junior Grade

**Spud and Snowball and the Fancy Fish (Spud and Snowball, Book 1)**  
Judith Rossell  
ABC Books. PB. \$15.99  
Available now



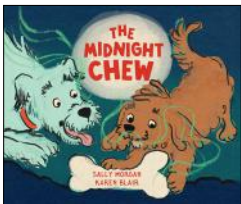
**R** Who hasn't been tempted by the promise of a new, amazing thing that you absolutely must have? In this wacky, highly illustrated chapter book, cats Spud and Snowball see an ad for delicious 'Fancy Fish' on television and immediately order it online. But what arrives is not the fancy fish they were hoping to devour. Not only does this fancy fish call itself Sir Mimsy Woffle-Poffle-Foffington, but the fish also wants Spud and Snowball to be its butlers. Hilarious mayhem ensues, of course, as the cats try to keep up with the increasingly ridiculous demands of their fancy fish.

With a nod to the Seussian humour of *The Cat in the Hat*, Judith Rossell, author of *The Midwatch*, has written and illustrated a future classic that will utterly delight many readers (and their butlers) aged 6+. More Spud and Snowball, please!

Angela Crocombe is a senior children's book buyer and The Readings Prize and The Readings Foundation coordinator

## Picture Books

**The Midnight Chew**  
Sally Morgan & Karen Blair (illus.)  
Fremantle. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



**R** *The Midnight Chew* is a cheeky and cheerful canine adventure about Skippy Gillespie and Boofa Boy Jones. When Skippy Gillespie creeps out at night for a bite of his favourite bone, Boofa Boy Jones just has to

have a bite too, resulting in a midnight chase for two. Through the darkened streets, the two playful dogs bound and bounce, racing across town to see who will end the night feasting on the delectable bone all alone.

The story is filled with energetic language that captures every paw-step and scurry, bringing Boofa and Skippy's nighttime antics to life. Written by beloved

Australian First Nations author Sally Morgan and beautifully illustrated by the talented Karen Blair, this story weaves together humour, warmth and a gentle message about sharing. A heartwarming story full of mischief and charm, *The Midnight Chew* is a delightful read for young readers and animal lovers alike. For ages 2+.

Vasilisa Nerouppos is from Readings Doncaster

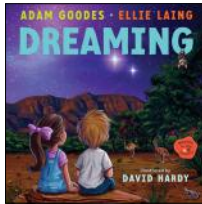
**Dropbear**  
Philip Bunting  
Walker. HB. \$25.99  
Available 1 October



They say Dropbear is mean, Dropbear is savage. But They are the gossips. Meet Dropbear, if you dare, and decide for yourself! Philip Bunting, the author-illustrator of the award-winning picture books *Mopoke* and *Not Cute*, now introduces the most enigmatic creature in the

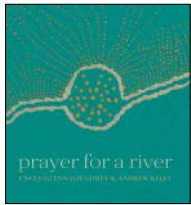
Australian bush.

**Dreaming: Welcome to Our Country**  
Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing & David Hardy (illus.)  
A&U. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



From Australian of the Year Adam Goodes, former journalist Ellie Laing and Barkindji illustrator David Hardy, *Dreaming* is a joyful and thought-provoking story in the bestselling and award-winning *Welcome to Our Country* series. Told in a child's voice, the story follows one young girl as she imagines what it might be like to be part of the Dreaming, past and present.

**Prayer for a River**  
Andrew Kelly & Uncle Glenn Loughrey (illus.)  
Wild Dog. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



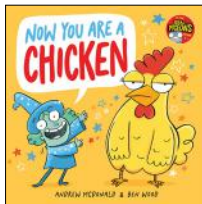
Water falls from the sky, joins the river and gives life to Country. *Prayer for a River* tells how waterways hold knowledge, memory and story. A simple, direct and moving acknowledgement of the life-giving role water plays.

**Neighbourhood Nest**  
Sarah Jane Lightfoot  
Affirm Kids. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



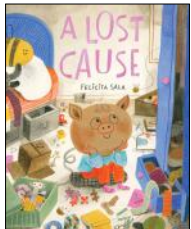
Maggie the magpie is very surprised when she finds an extra egg in her nest. Whose egg could it be? Does it belong to the kookaburras at the end of the path? Or the galahs by the oval? Or maybe the rainbow lorikeets in the gum trees? Maggie is on a mission to find the egg's family.

**Now You Are a Chicken**  
Andrew McDonald & Ben Wood (illus.)  
Little Hare. HB. \$22.99  
Available now



Beware, this book will turn you into a chicken! Readers young and old will be endlessly entertained by this fourth-wall-breaking, delightfully irreverent story from the creators of *Real Pigeons*. There's a surprise around every corner! Can the wizard REALLY turn you into a chicken just by saying the magic words? What if you don't believe in the spell? And who will lay an egg?

**A Lost Cause**  
Felicitia Sala  
Abrams. HB. Was \$29.99  
**\$24.99**  
Available 9 October



**R** Felicitia Sala's *A Lost Cause* is a gorgeous story for the kid who just can't seem to keep track of their things! Pablo is very forgetful, leaving his belongings behind wherever he goes. At first his parents help him find each missing object, but eventually they decide it's time for him to take

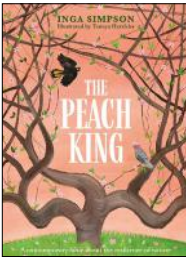
responsibility for his own stuff. But Pablo keeps losing his treasures, and without his parents' help, they seem to be gone for good. Luckily, just as he starts to get overwhelmed, Pablo finds a pet rock in his wardrobe who knows where to look for his stuff!

With adorable, full-colour illustrations, *A Lost Cause* is perfect for absent-minded kids who really do mean well! It encourages responsibility and taking care of your belongings, while staying kind and empathetic to the kids who can't help but lose things, no matter how hard they try (and they do try)! For ages 4+.

Harvey Weir is from Readings Doncaster



**The Peach King**  
Inga Simpson & Tannya Harricks (illus.)  
Lothian. HB. \$24.99  
Available now



As seasons pass, bringing cycles of change, Little Peach Tree grows and grows. But darker changes are stirring. Soon rain is scarce, the forests turn brown, animals flee and the sky turns red. To protect the orchard, the Peach King faces grave danger and Little Peach Tree must find their voice. A contemporary fable about the resilience of nature.

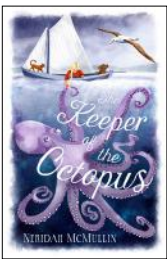
Middle Grade

**Dracula & Daughters**  
Emma Carroll  
Faber. PB. \$16.99  
Available now



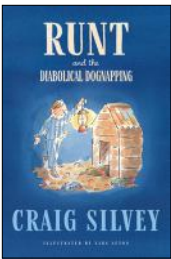
Strange happenings are afoot in Temstown and everyone is saying vampires are to blame. But Mina, Buffy and Bella, three unusual cousins, are about to discover a family secret. Could their connection to Dracula give them the powers to heal – not cull – vampires? Temstown is about to welcome its very first vampire-healing company, *Dracula & Daughters*, and their first case is certainly close to the heart!

**The Keeper of the Octopus**  
Neridah McMullin  
Walker. PB. \$17.99  
Available 1 October



Uncle Isaac is the only family Pippy has left. They spend their days fishing off the coast, until one day Pippy is knocked into the sea and rescued by a gentle, giant creature. That's when Uncle Isaac tells Pippy the truth: she is the descendent of a long line of Keepers of the Octopus. And when the Calamary Brothers come to Portablow, it's up to Pippy and her crew to rescue Octavia, the giant octopus who protects the fisherfolk.

**Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping**  
Craig Silvey & Sara Acton (illus.)  
A&U. HB. Was \$26.99  
\$22.99  
Available now



Annie and Runt are preparing to enter the Tournament of Champions when Runt mysteriously goes missing and a trail of suspicious clues surround his doghouse. Annie's worst fears are confirmed when she discovers a ransom note with a peculiar demand: she must win it all to see her friend again. It's up to Annie and her brother Max to rescue Runt before it's too late. A beautiful and moving sequel to *Runt*.

**Time Lions and the Chrono-Loop**  
Martin Seneviratne & Krystal Sutherland  
Penguin. PB. \$16.99  
Available 21 October



This a rollicking, fun debut following twin geniuses Patrick and Pearl Amarasinghe as they traverse the timeline. Pearl spends her time inventing never-before-seen technology and Patrick is an expert historian. This story begins as the twins are on the cusp of completing their craziest invention yet – a time machine. As they travel between past and present, their actions put them at odds with TIME, the secret organisation in charge of protecting the very

fragile timeline. Prepare to laugh at the outrageous time antics, while also digging into themes of personal identity and culture. Author duo Martin Seneviratne and Krystal Sutherland dive deep into the importance of history defining who we are, while also challenging the reader to think about where history falls short and how we can improve the future. Seneviratne is a debut author, but Krystal Sutherland already has quite a notable career in YA, having written titles such as *House of Hollow* and *The Invocations*. *Time Lions and the Chrono-Loop* is perfect for fans of adventure stories such as the Percy Jackson and Batthew Aromascent series. For ages 9+.

Alicia Guiney is from Readings Kids

**Scarlet Morning**  
N.D. Stevenson  
HarperCollins. PB. \$19.99  
Available 28 October



Viola and Wilmur have been waiting for their parents for 15 boring years in the colourless town of Caveat. When Captain Cadence Chase breaks down their door, they cut a deal: Chase can take their most prized possession, a mysterious book, but only if she takes them, too. Setting sail into the treacherous and beautiful world beyond Caveat, the two inseparable friends must uncover the facts behind legend, before the truth tears them apart.

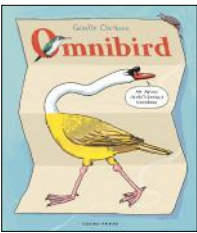
**Lost in a Book (113th Assistant Librarian, Book 2)**  
Stuart Wilson  
Penguin. HB. \$19.99  
Available now



Oliver has settled into his life as the 113th assistant librarian. But when he discovers a rare edition of a history book with unique wording, he realises the slightest misinterpretation could endanger the entire kingdom. Determined to solve this mystery, Oliver and his new friend Agatha set out to stop Annabel Clowritch, the esteemed Member for Upper-Lower Tumbledown Barrows, from using the text to her own advantage, and starting a war.

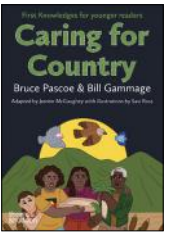
Kids Nonfiction

**Omnibird: An Avian Investigator's Handbook**  
Giselle Clarkson  
Gecko. HB. \$37.99  
Available 1 October



Have you seen a bird today? Did you truly look at the bird? Describing 12 common birds from habitats around the world, *Omnibird* is a highly illustrated, playful field guide to common international birds and brings the art of observology to the science of ornithology, showing the many ways these familiar creatures are remarkable if you take the time to look at them.

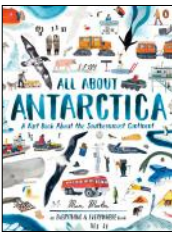
**Caring for Country (First Knowledges for Younger Readers)**  
Bill Gammage, Bruce Pascoe, Jasmine McGaughey & Savi Ross (illus.)  
T&H. PB. \$26.99  
Available now



What do you need to know to prosper as a people for 65,000 years or more? In *Caring for Country*, Bruce Pascoe and historian Bill Gammage generously share their knowledge about the amazing way that First Nations people have cared for Australia and how closely humans have been connected with nature for tens of thousands of years, providing children with the

building blocks to better understand our history and look to the future with fresh eyes.

**All About Antarctica: A Fact Book About the Southernmost Continent**  
Marc Martin  
Penguin. HB. \$24.99  
Available 14 October



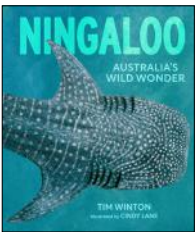
Antarctica is a fragile and fascinating world that most of us will never see, and it's disappearing. Learn all about it before it's too late. *All About Antarctica* is a thrilling, illustrated adventure that allows readers to get a deeper understanding of this unique place and learn about the global importance of the southernmost continent. From colossal squids and active volcanoes to research vessels and cricket matches, there's a lot more to the South Pole than just penguins and icebergs.

**The Story Writer's Handbook: Adventures in Creative Writing**  
Katrina Nannestad & Cheryl Orsini (illus.)  
ABC Books. PB. \$26.99  
Available now



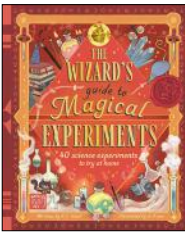
As award-winning Australian writer Katrina Nannestad explains, 'There is so much about writing that I love – playing with words, scribbling freely without a destination in mind, gathering ideas, daydreaming, planning, problem-solving and, of course, creating stories. Let's gambol, ramble, dabble and dance in storytelling. Just for fun.' This is a playful yet practical guide, beautifully illustrated by Cheryl Orsini, to creating your own stories.

**Ningaloo: Australia's Wild Wonder**  
Tim Winton & Cindy Lane (illus.)  
Fremantle. HB. Was \$29.99  
\$24.99  
Available now



In the north of Western Australia, where the desert meets the sea, lies one of the last great wild regions on earth. The First Peoples of the region call it Nyinggulu. The rest of the world knows it as Ningaloo. Award-winning author Tim Winton and watercolourist Cindy Lane dive into this incredible part of the world and share the wonder and awe with young readers.

**The Wizard's Guide to Magical Experiments: 40 Science Experiments to Try at Home**  
A.J. Wood & Jo Rioux (illus.)  
Magic Cat. HB. \$39.99  
Available 7 October

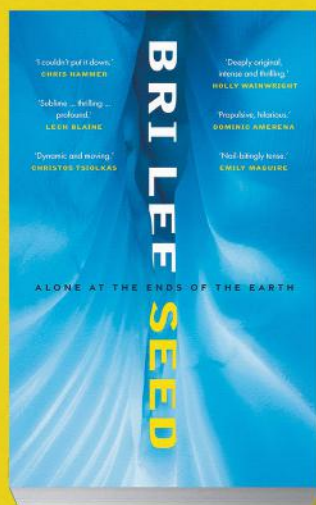


This stylish book of science experiments is presented as a guide for young wizards. The magical theme and enchanting detail throughout make for a hugely appealing and memorable introduction to science. Concepts like elements, the water cycle and energy are explored in 40 experiments. Materials used are everyday items like paper clips, tape and vinegar, but activities like 'growing crystals' and 'invisible ink' all have a certain supernatural flavour. There is even a section on my favourite scientific field: kitchen alchemy, which includes recipes for 'Reaction bread' and 'Moon batter'. It also includes a few timely and fun ideas for Halloween-themed activities.

There are beautiful big gems on the cover, warm illustrations, and lots of special details throughout such as potion guides and other small books to discover within the pages. This is a book that will be treasured and it will make a perfect present for curious and creative kids. It's suitable for kids aged 7–12 with some assistance from a grown-up.

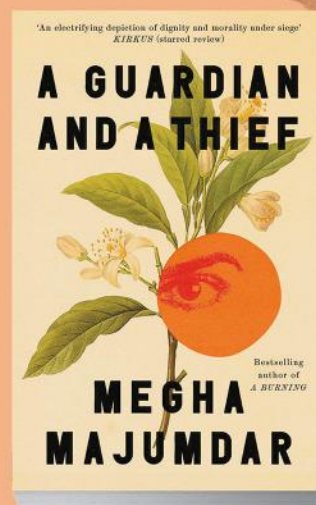
Kim Gruschow is a senior children's book buyer **R**



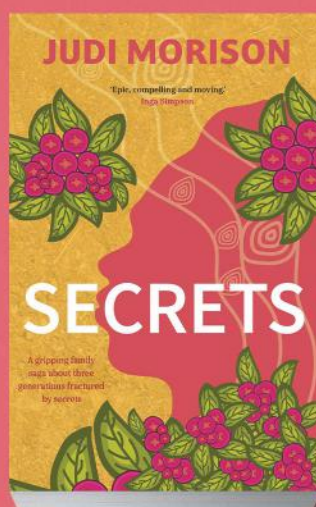


"The best of both worlds: a literary page turner. I couldn't put it down."

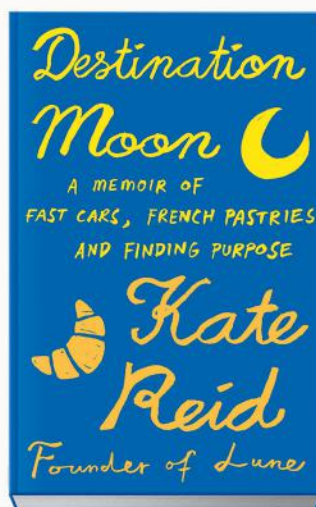
CHRIS HAMMER



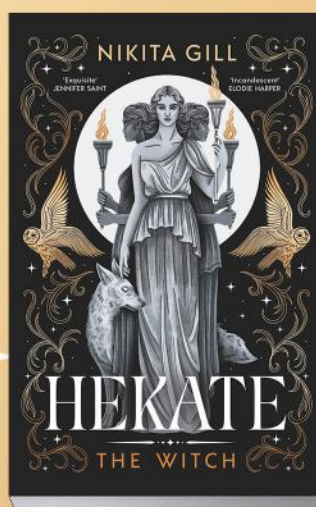
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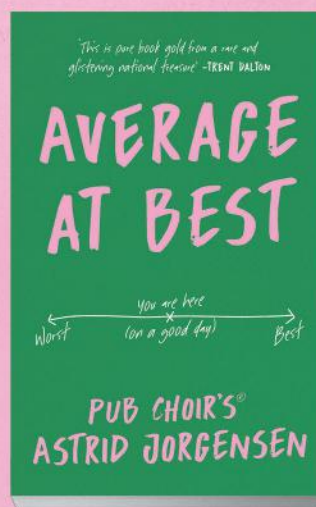
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