

BOOKCINO

SUMMER 2025 READING GUIDE

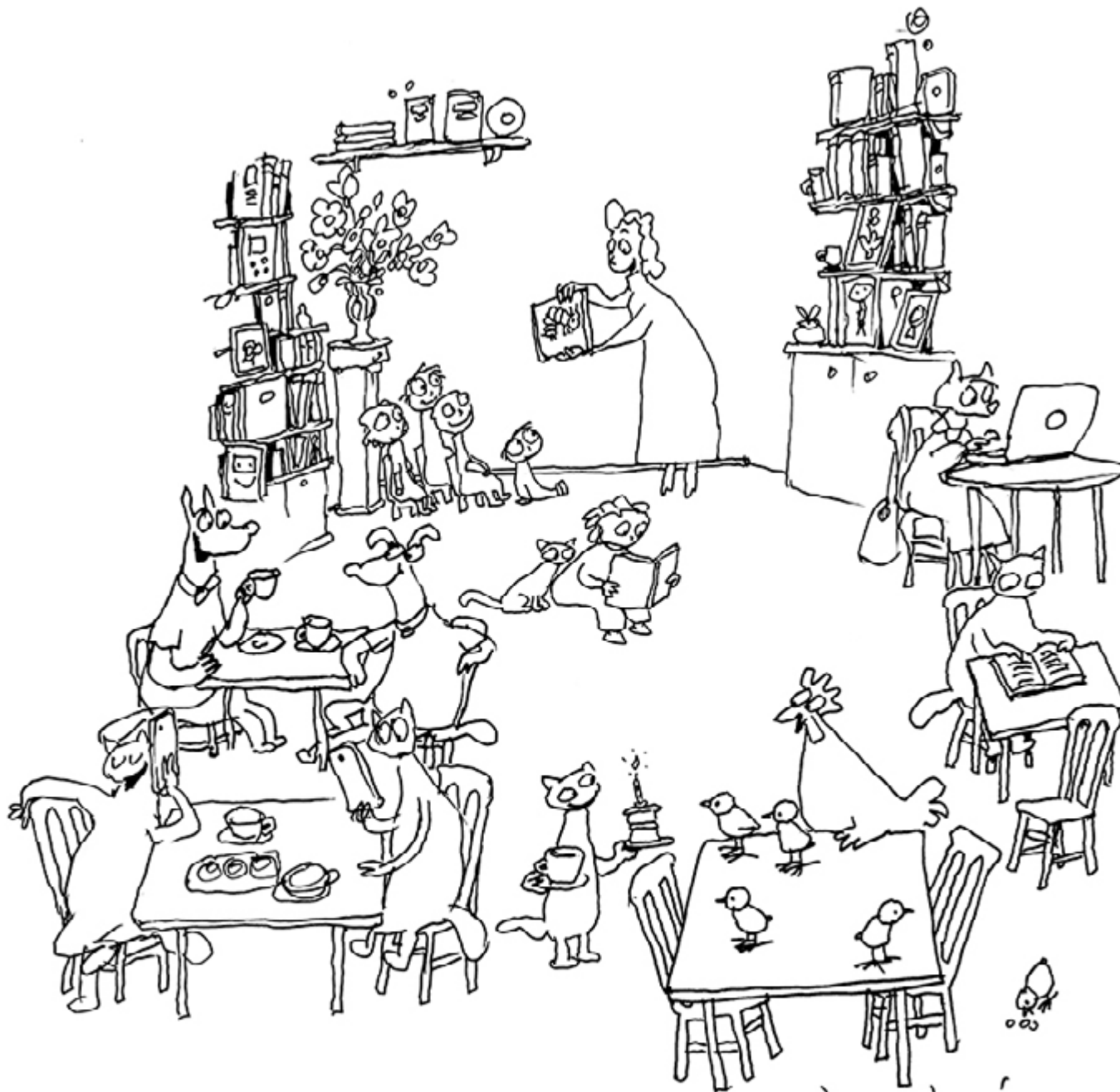
EDITION 8



FEATURE INTERVIEWS WITH SEBASTIAN SMEE, LINDSEY HILSUM, LUKE SCIBERRAS & ZANNI LOUISE — THE BEST SUMMER **READS** — OUR SUMMER **EVENTS** SCHEDULE

Art by *Gwyn Perkins*,
author and illustrator of *A Walk in the Bush*

THE BOOK SHOP



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THE LITERARY QUIZ

1. How many of Ernest Hemingway's ten novels were published posthumously?
2. Which of Shakespeare's plays features a sorcerer named Prospero?
3. Who's last words were "My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go."?
4. In *Pride and Prejudice* who does Jane Bennett marry?
5. In which year was George Orwell's book 1984 published?
6. Jacob Marley and Bob Cratchit are characters from which Dickens novel?
7. What does the JD in JD Salinger stand for?
8. Who wrote the novel *Moby Dick*?
9. Who famously left his wife his "second best bed"?
10. In which mythical land are the *Lord of the Rings* books set?
11. What is the best selling book of all time?
12. Who won the Booker Prize in 2024?

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WELCOME



Dear Friends of Bookoccino, near and far,

Welcome to your Summer Reading Guide, the sixth since we became the owners of this iconic bookstore. Bookoccino has a truly remarkable literary history, going back to 1992, the golden days of publishing, when

authors flew in by sea plane and Avalon was a sleepy surfing village. What a journey it has been. "You're the intellectual and cultural centre of the Northern Beaches", a customer told us recently. You should be called "The Vibes", suggested another. Books. Stimulating events. Live music. Wine. Always abuzz with coffee drinkers and intelligent discussion. Find a bookstore that offers more. Our team of 16 happy baristas and booksellers is like family. Find them at another bookstore.

In these pages you'll discover their reading recommendations. Plus Sally's interview with the Pulitzer-winning art critic Sebastian Smee (*Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism*); a feature from *I Brought the War With Me: Stories and Poems from the Front Line*, a moving collection of poetry and reflections by Lindsey Hilsum, one of the greatest war correspondents of her generation (and a friend of Ray's since they met as journalists during the Rwanda genocide). And for

your young ones, an interview on being a writer with Zanni Louise, author of *Hazel's Treehouse*, a book which takes its cue from *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Our striking cover art is by Australian artist Luke Sciberras, who shares recommendations and news from his studio in Hill End.

If you're undecided about what book to get for a friend, you'll find recommendations from a range of renowned writers.

It's been an EVENTful year for Bookoccino. From Viet Thanh Nguyen signing copies of his memoir *A Man of Two Faces*; to a packed theatre for Julia Baird (*Bright Shining*, discussing grace and kindness with Juanita Phillips. We hosted Bruce Pascoe (*Dark Emu*) and Lyn Harwood discussing *Black Duck: A Year at Yumburra*; and we launched *The Good Farm Cookbook* with Scott Gooding and Matilda Brown. We took a walk in nature with Richard Unsworth (*The Natural Gardener*) and sat captivated, as Richard Fidler and Paul Ham spoke eloquently about *The Soul*. Pulitzer winning New York Times correspondents David Sanger and Jane Perlez probed what *The New Cold War* means for Australia. Our biggest event of 2024 was a discussion about the US election, with Nick Bryant (*The Forever War*) and Don Watson (*High Noon: Trump, Harris and America on the Brink*).

If you missed any of our events because they were sold out (most are) or just want to re-engage with the evening, podcasts are available on our website.

Australia will be having a federal election, probably in May. As we did before the last election we will host a series of Sunday afternoon debates at the bookstore.

As we look to 2025, perhaps nothing gives us a greater thrill than to announce that Geraldine Brooks, a loyal friend of Bookoccino from the day we bought it, will be with us in February to talk about her new book, *Memorial Days*, a deeply moving memoir about the death of her husband, Tony Horwitz.

Judging from your reaction, our best addition in 2024 was Trivia Night. A great time out with friends, it is moderated by the talented and charming Amanda Maple Brown with music and unbeatable atmosphere by DJ Darren Todd. It is always sold out; you can book on our website.

If there has been one consistent joy over the last six years, it is seeing your children rushing to the back of the store, finding a book on the shelf, curling up on the floor and reading. It brings a smile to our faces every time. Don't tell us books won't survive the iPhone. Tuesday morning remains reserved for StoryTime.

Truly independent bookstores are a rare and special thing. You have kept Bookoccino alive and vibrant by spending your reading dollars with a community independent. We are greatly appreciative.

Who knows what surprises 2025 will bring,
Sally and Ray



BOOKOCCINO

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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday – 8am to 5pm
Fri – 8am to 8pm
Saturday – 8am to 5pm
Sunday – 8am to 4pm

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Our Summer 2025
Reading Guide is
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{ 2024 }

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. **The Bee Sting** – Paul Murray ●
2. **Lola in the Mirror** – Trent Dalton ●●
3. **The Covenant of Water** – Abraham Verghese
4. **Table for Two** – Amor Towles
5. **Intermezzo** – Sally Rooney
6. **Long Island** – Colm Toibin
7. **The Women** – Kristin Hannah
8. **James** – Percival Everett ●
9. **Here One Moment** – Liane Moriarty ●
10. **Blue Sisters** – Coco Mellors

LIFESTYLE

1. **The Good Farm Cookbook** – Scott Gooding and Matilda Brown ●●
2. **Paul Bangay: A life in garden design** – Paul Bangay ●●
3. **Galah: Stories of life outside the city** – Annabelle Hickson ●●
4. **RecipeTin Eats: Dinner** – Nagi Maehashi ●●
5. **Recipes for a Lifetime of Beautiful Cooking** – Danielle Alvarez ●●
6. **Love Crumbs** – Nadine Ingram ●●
7. **Ottolenghi COMFORT** – Yotam Ottolenghi
8. **RecipeTin Eats: Tonight** – Nagi Maehashi ●
9. **Ocean Pools: 75 pools across Australia for saltwater swimmers** – Chris Chen ●
10. **Good Cooking Every Day** – Julia Busuttil Nishimura ●

NON-FICTION

1. **Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life** – Anna Funder ●●
2. **Outlive** – Peter Attia ●
3. **Ikigai: The Japanese secret to a long and happy life** – Hector Garcia
4. **New Cold Wars** – David Sanger ●
5. **Hidden Potential** – Adam Grant
6. **Black Duck: A Year at Yumburra** – Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood ●●
7. **The Creative Act** – Rick Rubin
8. **The Forest Wars** – David Lindenmayer ●●
9. **The Way We Are** – Hugh McKay ●
10. **The Soul** – Paul Ham ●●

KIDS/YOUNG ADULT

1. **The Forbidden Journal of Rufus Rumble** – Nick Long ●●
2. **Taylor Swift (Little People, Big Dreams)** – Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
3. **ABC Disability** – Sarah Rose ●●
4. **Runt** – Craig Silvey ●●
5. **Mr Chicken Goes to Mars** – Leigh Hobbs ●
6. **The Blunders** – David Walliams
7. **Lottie Brooks's Totally Disastrous School-Trip** – Katie Kirby
8. **Influencers (Cat Kid Comic Club #5)** – Dav Pilkey
9. **Impossible Creatures** – Katherine Rundell ●
10. **The Black Cockatoo with One Feather Blue** – Jodie McLeod ●●



Interview by Sally Tabner; Images courtesy of Luke Sciberras



{ DISCOVER MORE ABOUT LUKE SCIBERRAS }

instagram. @luke__sciberras
 website. lukesciberras.com
 representative. kingstreetgallery.com.au

Side of the Sky

Luke Sciberras

Hayman Design – \$120.00

LUKE SCIBERRAS

Artist Luke Sciberras is inspired by being on country, living in relationship to the people and creatures of new and familiar landscapes.

Luke's striking artwork adorns our cover, and his beautiful book *Side of the Sky* is always on Bookoccino's shelves. We spoke to him at the end of a productive day in his Hill End studio. – Sally

Hi Luke, I love the goanna. What a striking creature! You've got a sizeable archive of animal portraits, all imbued with great feeling for the animal. Why do you like to work with animals?

Animals are the inhabitants of the landscapes I've grown to know very well, and their anatomy and design are perfect indicators of the lives they live there. The stunning beauty and liveliness of even a freshly dead animal or bird is to embed a drawing with a kind of prayer, a salute to the life of perfect

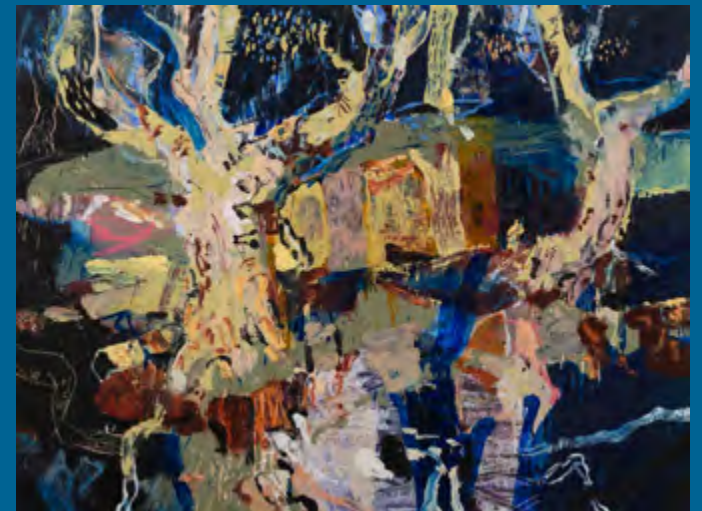
adaption, seamless oneness with their environment and of course infinite graphic appeal.

You've been spending a lot of time in the distant outback lately. What are you up to out there? Are you working on a series?

Having purchased a property on the Darling/Barka I now have the opportunity to hone my eye towards a specific locale, a tone all its own, and so my next body of work is a somewhat intimate view, almost domestic. A series to be exhibited at the newly formed Nulla Nulla regional gallery at Kempsey.

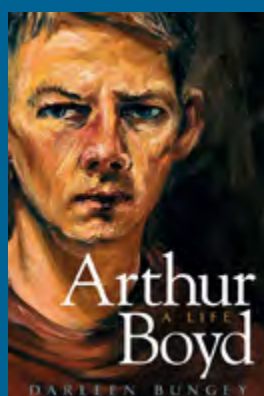
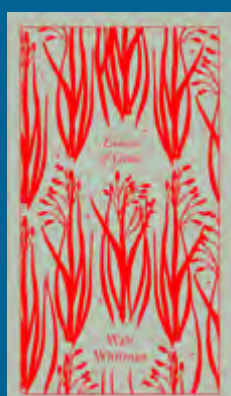
Your work is very much about a spirit of place. What does the landscape of Wilcannia and the Darling/Barka mean to you?

Wilcannia has held an enchantment for me for over fifteen years, over which time I've produced countless drawings, paintings and entire exhibitions of the outback paradise. As the grand Darling/Barka river wends its way through Western NSW it irrigates and drains a vast part of Australia bringing life to what seems like an otherwise uneventful land. The people who've inhabited it since the dawn of time have showed me much kindness, friendship and knowledge which helps to illuminate my view.



top. **Murray River Camp (Mildura)**, 2020, oil on board, 120x160cm
 bottom. **Out from the Ash, Kimberley coast**, 2019, oil on board, 120x160cm

Books Luke loves ...



{ DISCOVER LUKE'S FAVOURITES TODAY }

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OUR FAVOURITE READS

Ray loves ...

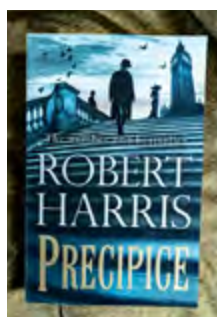


Rebellion: How Antiliberalism is Tearing America Apart Robert Kagan

W.H. Allan – \$45.00

The next time someone asks me to 'explain America' -- how can Trump be so popular; why is the country so politically polarised; is democracy in peril -- I will give them this book. The political divisions of America today

are rooted in the liberal democracy that was created in the 18th Century. The Founding Fathers fought about the limited role of government, about religion, about race. It was a radical experiment -- still being tested 250 years later.

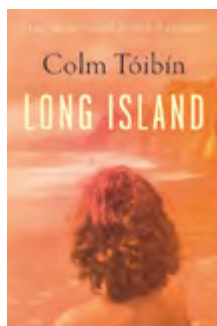


Precipice Robert Harris

Hutchinson Heinemann – \$34.99

Brilliant, captivating historical fiction. From over 500 letters that British Prime Minister, H.H. Asquith, 61, wrote to his mistress, 26-year old Venetia Stanley, during WWI (all factual), Harris has woven a mesmerising tale. No spoilers as to what eventuated. Was she

“a useful safety valve for Asquith or a dangerous distraction”?



Long Island Colm Tóibín

Picador – \$34.99

Immigrants, family, love, Irish, Italian and middle-class, suburban America. Eilis Lacey, in her 40s, has two teenagers, and a husband who fathers a child with a neighbour, sending Eilis back to her village in Ireland, where her high school love has never married, though now engaged to her best friend.

A sequel to *Brooklyn*. Read them both – in whatever order.



Judgment at Tokyo: World War II on Trial and the Making of Modern Asia Gary J. Bass

Picador – \$39.99

A rich history of wars and politics in Asia leading up WWII, and a highly-readable, comprehensive account of the trial of Japanese leaders who waged

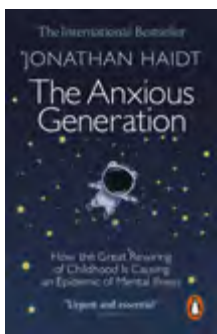
the war. Far less known than 'Judgment at Nuremberg', the proceeding at Tokyo had considerable consequences, laying the foundation for the prosperous democracy that Japan has become. The tribunal's chief judge was a hot-tempered Queenslander. The issues raised at Tokyo – what is a war crime; and is waging war a crime – have relevance today. Will there be a Judgment at Moscow? Gaza? Jerusalem?



James Percival Everett

Mantle – \$34.99

A masterpiece, a classic as sure as Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, on which it is based. This time, the story is told by James, the runaway slave on the raft in the Mississippi River. You'll smile. You'll laugh. You'll be horrified.



The Anxious Generation Jonathan Haidt

Allen Lane – \$36.99

What social media and the 'smart' phone have done to childhood. Must be read by every parent, every educator, indeed by everyone of us, to understand “the largest uncontrolled experiment humanity has ever performed on its own children”.

Sally loves ...



The Mighty Red Louise Erdrich

Corsair – \$34.99

One of those books you can't wait to get home to. Funny and tragic in equal measure *The Mighty Red* features a memorable cast: a cross-dressing bank robber; a day-dreaming, sex addled teenage bookseller and the sensationally named female lead,

Kismet Poe. Set in rural America, a sugar-beet town, where the landscape is not the only thing driven to wrack and ruin, this novel touches on many sore points in the story of modern America without feeling heavy.

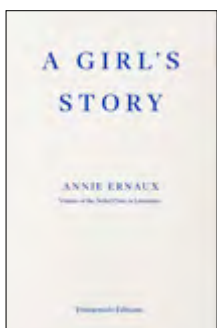


The Son's Story Marie-Helene Lafon

Mountain Leopard Press – \$22.99

This is the story of a family and the secret that lies at its heart. Andre is the son, raised by his aunt in the French countryside. His mother Gabrielle, beautiful but distant, lives in Paris. Surrounded by his cousins, far from the noise of the city, Andre's childhood is a happy one. No-one questions the

absence of his mother, or dares voice the name of his father. But beneath the quiet joy of the everyday lies a tragedy, passed down through the generations. Over time, the truth will come to the surface, whether the son desires it or not.



A Girl's Story Annie Ernaux

Fitzcarraldo – \$24.99 ●

Could this have been written by an Australian or American woman? We puzzled this question at a recent book club. The verdict? Probably not. Without shame, varnish or judgement the Nobel prize winning French author recounts her first sexual encounter at a holiday summer camp. It is

uncomfortable; revelatory; ultimately rather inspiring.



Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism Sebastian Smee

Text – \$34.99

A sweeping tour de force by the Pulitzer-winning art critic. *Paris in Ruins* chronicles the life of Edouard Manet and Berthe Morisot, living through the 'terrible year' of 1870, when

Paris was under siege and revolutionary fervour was quashed by extraordinary violence. Not only a portrait of that time and place, but a tender enquiry into the nature of the relationship between fellow artists.



Time of the Child Niall Williams

Bloomsbury – \$32.99

Exquisite. Very few writers master pace and deliver resolution like Niall Williams, who you'll remember for *This is Happiness* (one of the great novels of the century). This impeccably written book is completely natural in tone, its gentle, life-affirming story imbued with a lyricism and wit

so particular to the Irish. In the close-knit community of county Faha, Doctor Troy is an outsider – one who knows too much and must therefore be told little. One night a young man arrives on his door with something unexpected and life changing. Its a perfect book, I guarantee you'll love it.



Love Crumbs Nadine Ingram

Simon and Schuster – \$54.99 ●

In these harried times baking can feel like a small, private revolution. In this beautiful book the Flour and Stone founder builds layers of meaning and story into her creations, paying homage to John Olsen with a pistachio

and rhubarb cake inspired by his *Coopers Creek in Flood*, or to the mythology of the Siren with a bewitchingly sensual chocolate mousse cake accented with sour cherry. Step out of the ordinary and find beauty, care and grace in *Love Crumbs*.

Annie loves ...



Intermezzo Sally Rooney

Faber – \$39.99

Rooney holds a microscope to the relationship of two wildly different brothers, considering love, grief, and their various compositions. Rooney characteristically probes modern complexities, questioning how we bring our social and economic positions into

our relationships and asking what makes a good person. An exquisite character study, her prose shape-shifts between narrators, from the methodical, structured inner dialogue of Ivan to the stream-of-consciousness, unravelling voice of Peter. A tender and brilliant novel, this is Rooney at her best.

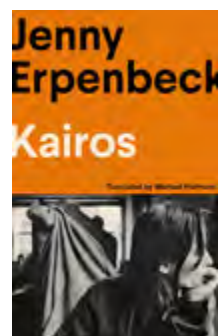


There are Rivers in the Sky Elif Shafak

Viking – \$34.99

The story of three characters, centred around a lost ancient poem and a single drop of water. Shafak's hypnotic writing transports us across time and space, from Victorian London to modern Iraq. As the stories weave together, she

explores themes of migration, family and belonging, touching on climate and water crises, as well as ownership of cultural heritage. A meticulously researched fairytale, an easy but poignant read.



Kairos Jenny Erpenbeck

Granta – \$24.99

Kairos is a bleak but beautiful novel charting a tormented relationship in the dying years of East Germany. A former East German herself, Erpenbeck uses the relationship, a utopia destined to crumble, as an allegory for the GDRs deterioration. Through the themes

of fate, fortune, and timing alluded to by the titles reference to the Greek god of opportunity, Erpenbeck explores the ambivalence of German reunification, politics of remembering, and the muddled intersections of history, politics, and identity.



In Memoriam
Alice Winn

Penguin – \$22.99

In Memoriam follows two English boarding school students in a vivid rendering of WWI. Winn’s prose makes the past feel viscerally alive, the characters and their stories bounding from the page with cinematic clarity. I felt what they felt and was equally reeled by how they changed. Both a meditation on war and a gripping love story, *In Memoriam* is simultaneously monumental and intimate. It is one of those rare books that you just can’t put down.

Julia loves ...



Entrances and Exits
Michael Richards

Permuted Press – \$34.99

Intimate revelations and reflections on identity and belonging from Seinfeld’s beloved Kramer, plus plenty of great stories along the way. Told in a confessional style, the narrative weaves together themes of love, loss, and self-discovery, revealing a character who grapples with himself even as he becomes one of TV’s most successful and beloved personalities.



Human Traces
Sebastian Faulks

Hutchinson Heinemann – \$22.99

A brilliant exploration of the intersection between psychology and human experience, set against the backdrop of WWI. The novel follows two pioneering doctors, from very different backgrounds, as they delve into the complexities of the human mind and the nature of mental illness. Faulks masterfully weaves rich historical detail with profound character development, inviting readers to reflect on the fragility of the human psyche. With a narrative both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant, this is quite simply a wonderful book.



A Prayer for Owen Meany
John Irving

Black Swan – \$24.99

Faith, fate, and friendship in a small New England town. *A Prayer for Owen Meany* follows the unlikely bond between John Wheelwright and his extraordinary friend, Owen Meany who, after a freak accident, comes to believe he is an instrument of God. Both funny and heartbreaking, the novel delves into complex questions about belief and purpose. Owen’s unique voice and unwavering conviction make him an unforgettable character.



Decline and Fall
Evelyn Waugh

Penguin – \$22.99

A hilarious satire and a scathing critique of the British social and educational systems of the early 20th century. Based on his own experiences as a teacher, told through the misfortunes of Paul Pennyfeather (expelled from Oxford for ‘indecent behaviour’), Waugh exposes the absurdities and moral decay within private schools and the upper classes, using his trademark wit to highlight the hypocrisy of a British society in steep decline.

the absurdities and moral decay within private schools and the upper classes, using his trademark wit to highlight the hypocrisy of a British society in steep decline.



The Coming Storm
Gabriel Gatehouse

BBC Books – \$36.99

Incisively examines the rise of conspiracy theories and disinformation, particularly in the context of the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the QAnon phenomenon. Through fascinating research and compelling storytelling, Gatehouse uncovers how disinformation spreads and takes root

in society, revealing the motivations behind those who embrace these narratives. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the intersection of belief and truth in the digital age.

Mary loves ...

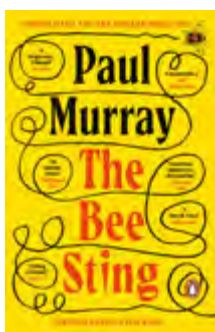


James
Percival Everett

Mantle – \$34.99

This is my first Percival Everett novel. Now I’m hooked and ready to start an earlier one – *The Trees*. This is the story of James, a runaway slave. Funny, adventurous, engaging and harrowing all at once. I flew through it and I remember smiling at the end

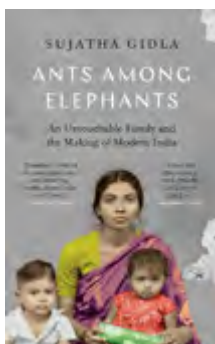
and saying out loud “that was awesome”. If you’re not sure what to read next, read this.



The Bee Sting
Paul Murray

Penguin – \$22.99 ●

A laugh out loud, irresistible story. I’m enjoying every page, the Irish-ness of it and the clever story telling that is taking me through all the emotions!



Ants Among Elephants
Sujatha Gidla

Daunt Books – \$24.99

This book shines a light on India’s caste system, how and why it was created and what it’s like to live the life of an Untouchable in modern day India, particularly for women. I had to continually remind myself that this is reality, not fiction! India fascinates me. I feel that this book needs to be on the shelf of every bookstore.

Jo loves ...



Creation Lake
Rachel Kushner

Jonathan Cape – \$34.99

Short-listed for the Man Booker Prize for her novel, *The Mars Room*, Kushner asks in this, her fourth and most recent novel, “what is it people encounter in their stark and solitary 4am self?”. Her protagonist Sadie is a cynical, hardened character

sent on assignment to investigate eco terrorism in the rural south of France. Kushner questions the utopian ideas of the leftist commune and how we organise our societies. I loved Kushner’s gritty language and existentialism. I can’t wait to start reading *The Mars Room* now that I have found her.



A Field Guide to Getting Lost
Rebecca Solnit

Canongate – \$27.99

A book I keep coming back to. Solnit reflects on what it means for us to move beyond the familiar and embrace getting lost. In each essay she explores the relationship between desire and distance and how we treat desire as

a problem to be solved instead of embracing longing as an intrinsic part of the human condition. The colour blue to Solnit is the colour that gets lost, “the colour of there seen from here, the colour of where you are not”. This is a poetic offering for anyone who loves not always needing to know what lies on the other side of an open road.

Emerald loves ...



Winter in Sokcho
Elisa Shua Dusapin

Scribe – \$22.99

Set in a tourist town on the border between South and North Korea during the dead of winter, this novel follows an unexpected relationship that blossoms through routine encounters. Dusapin’s distinctive voice brings out the beauty in everyday moments, showing how even the ordinary can be

deeply meaningful. With its evocative atmosphere, the story offers a powerful reflection on shared identities, intimacy, and the desire to be truly seen in a divided world.



Slow Days, Fast Company
Eve Babitz

New York Review of Books – \$27.99

In this collection of stories, Babitz immerses you in the vibrant energy of 1960s Los Angeles. Her writing is both lyrical and candid, capturing the essence of a sun-soaked life filled with art, culture, and existential reflections. Babitz’s gossipy, playful prose offers

intimate glimpses into the city’s social scene, mixing sharp wit with sun-drenched nostalgia. Each page radiates Californian warmth, making you long for the golden days of LA.



Eileen
Ottessa Moshfegh

Viking – \$22.99

Eileen is a dark and unsettling psychological thriller that explores the complex mind of its protagonist. Set in 1960s New England, the novel follows Eileen, a lonely and confused young woman working at a boy’s prison, living a bleak and isolated existence. Her life changes when she befriends the

charismatic Rebecca, setting off a chain of events that lead to a shocking conclusion. Moshfegh’s *Eileen* is a gripping, can’t-put-down exploration of repression, desire, and moral ambiguity.

Soni loves ...



We are the Stars
Gina Chick

Summit Books – \$36.99 ●

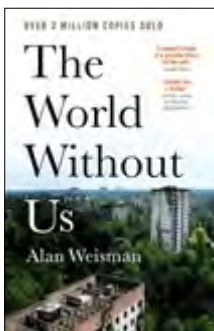
From the first paragraph I was hooked. Her words create a heartbeat of life, of wonder. A humorous, compelling, and refreshingly authentic memoir from the winner of *Alone Australia*.

OUR FAVOURITE READS



The Creative Act
Rick Rubin
Canongate – \$49.99

A wonderful read for all beings. Filled with brilliant takeaways on how to live creatively on every front, in every moment. Awesome stand alone short chapters to inspire us to live life to the fullest.



The World Without Us
Alan Weisman
Virgin – \$29.99

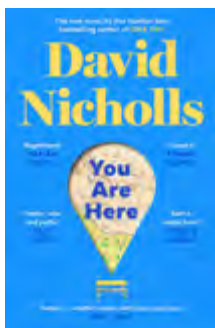
This highly informative book considers what the Earth might be like if and when humans cease to exist. It examines our impact on the environment and delves into the past to explore humanity's relationship to the environment. It is an amazing piece of work that reflects on our choices and how they will alter

the Earth even after we are gone, suggesting that we are just one of the many ecological disasters this world has seen.



Beyond Possible
Nimsdai Purja
Hodder – \$22.99

Nimsdai is one of the most inspiring humans. This gripping account of his unthinkable feat – he climbed 14 of the world's highest peaks in just over 6 months – puts the limits of what is humanly possible into perspective. Once you have picked this up, it will be hard to put back down. Each of his ascents makes you appreciate how inconceivable this feat is.



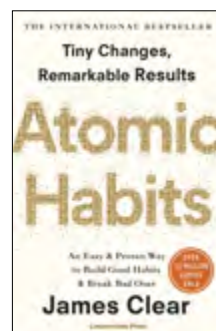
You Are Here
David Nicholls
Sceptre – \$32.99

Marnie (a bored, single, middle age copy editor) and Michael (a recently divorced geography teacher) are thrown together on a group walk through the English countryside. When things take an unexpected turn, they begin to consider that life might be offering them a second chance at connection. This is a surprisingly funny, gentle love story, filled with recognisable modern characters, and refreshingly free from embarrassing clichés.



Mina's Matchbox
Yoko Ogawa
Harvill Secker – \$34.99

This lovely book is not (as the blurb says) a depiction of a family on the edge of collapse, but rather a wonder-filled snapshot of the innocence and inherent magic of childhood. Twelve-year-old Tomoko faithfully narrates the wonder she encounters upon moving into the mansion of her cousin Mina. As the girls catch glimpses of their impending adulthood, they remain free to engage with the whimsy around them, including a beloved pet pygmy hippopotamus. Each of the characters is vividly drawn, and every tiny moment memorialised. This book is a sweet treat, best enjoyed slowly.



Atomic Habits
James Clear
Century – \$36.99

After receiving a cancer diagnosis in December 2023, I had to face the reality that much of my life needed to change. This was as overwhelming as you might imagine! Thankfully a friend gifted me this exceptional book. The author showcases the achievable simplicity of embracing small changes through positive habit stacking, and his down-to-earth approach has set me up for a win. Highly recommend!

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OUR FRIENDS' FAVOURITES



MALCOLM KNOX
Author and Journalist



Doppelganger
Naomi Klein
Penguin – \$24.99

It starts with an unpromising hook – do we really care if Naomi Klein is constantly mistaken for Naomi Wolf? – but it quickly develops into a synthesis as compelling and urgent as Klein's world-changing *No Logo* was in 1999. If you read one book that gets close to making sense of the cultural ferment we are living in now, *Doppelganger* is it.

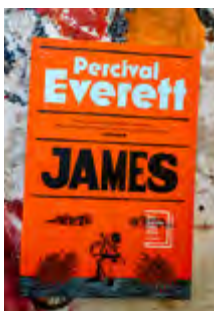


Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver
Faber – \$24.99 ●

There's a reason I'm so unoriginal in recommending this. Everyone else is right. It brings everything a novel should bring: memorable characters, social relevance, a page-turning story, laughter, tears, the lot. As a reader I was immersed; as a writer I am in awe.

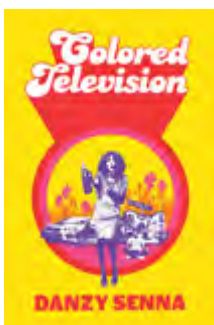


VIET THANH NGUYEN
Author



James Percival Everett
Mantle – \$34.99

A thrilling re-imagining of one of the most controversial American classics, Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, from the perspective of Jim.

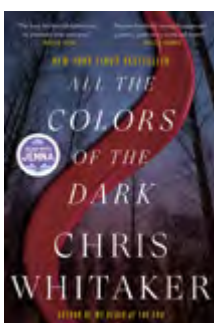


Colored Television
Danzy Senna
Dialogue Books – \$34.99

A funny, scathing account of literary ambition, Hollywood fantasies, and what it means to be "mulatto" in a world that only sees in black and white.

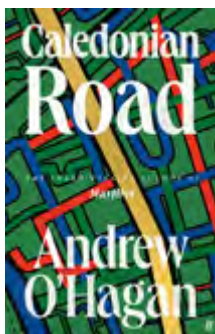


MICHAEL ROBOTHAM
Author



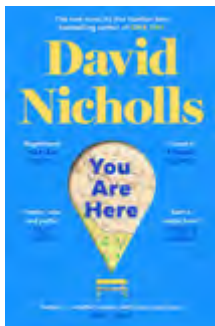
All the Colours of the Dark
Chris Whitaker
Orion – \$34.99

It is rare that a crime writer makes me care for characters the way that Chris Whitaker manages to do in this poignant, heart-breaking story about lost innocence, yearning and the mistakes that shape our lives.



Caledonian Road
Andrew O'Hagan
Penguin – \$22.99

This is a hugely ambitious, sprawling Victorian style melodrama about British class, politics and wealth. Written with humour, insight and biting wit, I immediately finished and began reading it again. It's that good.

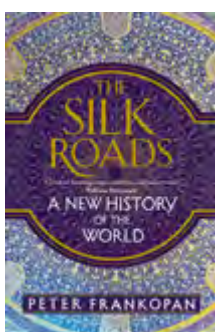


You Are Here
David Nicholls
Sceptre – \$32.99

I'm a sucker for bitter-sweet, lemon drop romcoms full of flawed, but likeable characters, clever observations and witty banter. With David Nicholls you can never be sure of a happy ending, but you hope that love can conquer all.



DR. TIMOTHY C. WINEGARD
Historian and Author



Silk Roads
Peter Frankopan
Bloomsbury – \$24.99

This book was a pertinent reminder of the prevailing yet misplaced, western-centric historical epicentre by realigning the map toward the East while providing a fresh, cosmopolitan perspective of our shared saga. Frankopan traverses the dynamic Eurasian Steppe and Silk Roads,

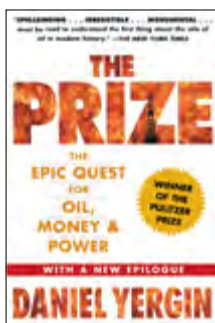
which, for millennia, have connected and coupled people, products, pathogens, economies, armies, inventions, and ideas that shaped our global village.



Why the Allies Won
Richard Overy
Pimlico – \$39.99

This remains one of my go-to texts for my World Wars class and is well-received by my students, whose ideas about the Second World War and its outcome are transformed by Overy's brilliant book. It is a masterpiece of analytical history presenting a very different take on the war – one

of industry, economics, technology, and production.



Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power
Daniel Yergin
Free Press – \$32.99

There are a handful of books that, upon finishing, I remark with absolute admiration, "I wish I would have written that." This is one of these select, extraordinary books. Yergin presents an eye-opening, at times uncomfortably

shocking, journey through petroleum geopolitics, challenging conventional notions about historical events, the modern world order, and how it came to pass.

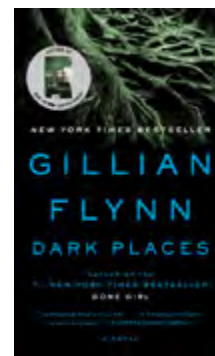


CHRISTIAN WHITE
Author



The Beach
Alex Garland
Penguin – \$14.99

One of those books that grips you from the start. It captures the irresistible pull of adventure and the dark side of finding paradise. With its vivid descriptions of a hidden utopia and deep exploration of human nature, it's both thrilling and thought-provoking. It's one of my all-time favourite books.



Dark Places
Gillian Flynn
W&N – \$22.99

A seriously twisted thriller. The writing is razor-sharp, and the protagonist is flawed and complex. The story deals with trauma, secrets, and survival, taking you on a haunting journey into some of the darkest corners of the human psyche. It's unforgettable and leaves a mark.

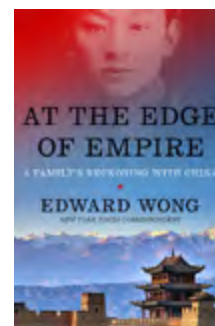


Killing Commendatore
Haruki Murakami
Vintage Arrow – \$22.99

Just mesmerising. It's a surreal blend of art and mystery, with Murakami's signature dreamlike prose. The novel explores themes like creativity and identity. It's atmospheric, packed with symbolism, and blurs the lines between reality and imagination. It left me feeling enchanted and deeply reflective.



JANE PERLEZ
Journalist and Podcast Host –
Face Off



At the Edge of Empire
Edward Wong
Profile – \$49.99

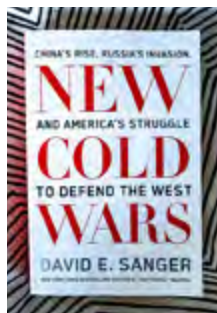
My favourite China book for 2024. Evocative of China, past and present. The author combines his experiences as a New York Times reporter in China with the story of his father who was a soldier in the Chinese army, until his disenchantment and defection. Beautifully told.



Tiananmen Square
Lai Wen
Swift Press – \$34.99

A charming coming of age novel set in Beijing in the 1970s and 80s. It's rare to get inside family life in modern China, and this story of a young girl, her battles with her parents and her first loves reveals feelings we rarely read about. The author fled China in 1989, now lives in Britain, and uses a pen name.

OUR FRIENDS FAVOURITES



New Cold Wars

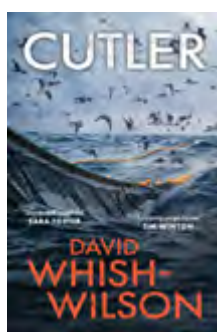
David Sanger
Scribe – \$45.00

China's Rise, Russia's Invasion and America's Struggle to Defend the West by David Sanger: A must read if you want to understand the precarious global situation. Packed with amazing anecdotes, including how Trump invited an American CEO

to the Oval Office for what was supposed to be a serious talk on national security. Instead, the CEO got graphic stories about Trump's girlfriend.



CHRIS HAMMER
Author

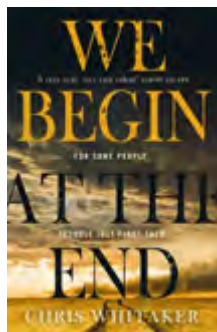


Cutler

David Whish-Wilson
Fremantle Press – \$34.99 ●

This is part thriller, part expose of the environmental destruction and human devastation at the heart of industrial fishing on the high seas. Paul Cutler goes under-cover on a Taiwanese fishing boat to discover the fate of a missing scientist – but with evidence of slavery and worse,

he's soon fighting for his life.



We Begin at the End

Chris Whitaker
Bonnie – \$34.99

Chris Whitaker is an English writer, but you would never guess it, given how powerfully this book evokes small-town America. The story-line of thirteen year old Duchess Radley and ailing local cop Walk is a heart-breaker – this is crime fiction with soul. Read it and you will understand why this book has won so many awards.



TRENT DALTON
Author and Journalist



First Friend

Malcolm Knox
Allen & Unwin – \$34.99 ●

A rather unforgettable dark comedy about the friendship ties that can brutally bind, set in 1930's Soviet Union.



All Fours

Miranda July
Canongate – \$32.99

I'm currently enjoying *All Fours* by Miranda July. The writing is so exciting and fizzy it makes me envious.



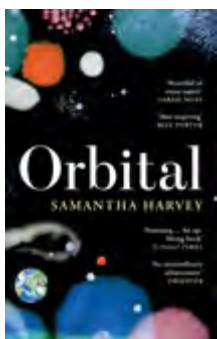
Sonny Boy

Al Pacino
Century – \$55.00

I've pre-ordered for summer Al Pacino's memoir which is reportedly as colourful and brilliant as the man himself.



KYLIE MIRMOAHADI
Author



Orbital

Samantha Harvey
Vintage – \$22.99

In this beautiful and mind-expanding novel, six international astronauts are orbiting the earth, watching its cities and oceans and landscapes. They are observing from afar, and yet this is an incredibly intimate account of our relationships with our planet, each other, and our own bodies and

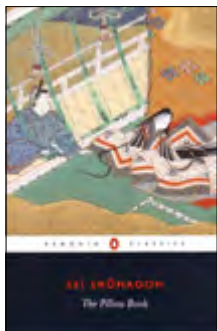
emotions, told in the most lyrical and moving of ways.



The Watch Tower

Elizabeth Harrower
Text – \$14.99 ●

Set in 1940's Sydney, this haunting and disturbing novel is melancholic, lingering and menacing. Its sense of place is superb – you can feel the harbour, the gardens and the suburbs – and the characters, especially the malevolent Felix Shaw, will stay with you long after it is finished.



The Pillow Book

Sei Shōnagon
Penguin – \$22.99

Written a thousand years ago, this classic of Japanese literature is a compelling account of one woman's life at court. It contains a whole world: gossip, observations, poetry, lists. This book is from a very specific place and time in history, and yet what it reveals about human relationships, needs

and desires resonates today.



EVIE WYLD
Author



Rapture

Emily McGuire
Allen & Unwin – \$32.99 ●

I loved Emily's novel, *An Isolated Incident*, and this is such a left turn – it's so exciting to see a writer who has such range and talent. This is the story of a young girl living in ninth century Mainz who does not accept her lot in life and so disguises herself as a monk.

Tense, flawless writing.



There are Rivers

in the Sky
Elif Shafak
Viking – \$34.99

I love Elif's work for its beauty and wisdom but this one is just so elegant – it darts from ancient Mesopotamia to Victorian England to Turkey in 2014 and then to 2018 London and the stories are all linked by a drop of

water. In anyone else's hands this would come apart but Elif is such an incredible storyteller, she has you in the palm of her hand the whole way through.



JOHN BOYNE
Author



Into the Storm

Cecilia Ahern
HarperCollins – \$34.99

Cecilia Ahern is one of Ireland's finest writers and her new novel, *Into the Storm*, is her best work yet. Both a page-turning thriller and an incisive study of how a single moment can change a person's life, it constantly surprises, leading to a dénouement that is both artistically satisfying

and emotionally cathartic.



The Garden Party

B.P. Walter
One More Chapter – \$24.99

I'm a huge fan of literary thrillers and B.P. Walter's *The Garden Party* is as compulsive as anything I've read this year. Secrets and lies offer an unstable foundation to a couple's engagement celebration and, as each are revealed or uncovered, the cracks begin to show. I regularly give Walter's

books as gifts to my friends; he combines great writing with complex characters, while his often unsettling plot-lines will impress fans of Patricia Highsmith.



JESSIE TU
Author



Love Unleashed

Melanie Seward
Michael Joseph – \$34.99

My favourite genre of movie is the romcom – and this book, well, let's just say it felt like reading something from peak romcom era: think, Meg Ryan and Katherine Heigl! The protagonist is a highly ambitious yet insecure Indigenous Australian from Brissie. We follow her stint in NYC (the most

romantic city in the world, no?) as she tries to take on a new position at a literary publication. This is a wildly fun, breezy, wholesome read!

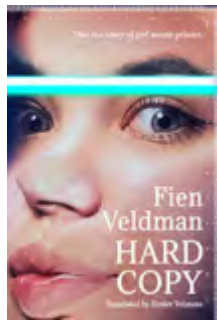


Love and Autism

Kay Kerr
Macmillan – \$36.99

This book destabilized me SO MUCH. It's an incredible portrait into the lives of six (the author includes herself in her examinations) autistic people and how they live, how they love, the way they approach romantic love and

the challenges they face in trying to connect to neurotypical people. It shook me (in a good way) and I was so moved by the depiction of maternal love. This is an incredible book – I couldn't stop thinking about its impact on me for weeks.



Hard Copy
Fien Veldman
translated by Hester Velmans
Apollo – \$22.99

This book is short (which is the best kind of novel, IMO) and follows the quirky and spectacularly fun antics of a young woman who is in love with her printer. Yes. As in, the printing machine. It's an office drama, set

in Amsterdam and paints a really interesting portrait of the city by a native.



JACQUELINE BUBLITZ
Author



Bright Young Women
Jessica Knoll
Pan – \$22.99

The dark yet strangely hopeful *Bright Young Women* by Jessica Knoll is made to be read in one sitting, so pick a night when it's too hot to sleep and dive on in. A work of true crime inspired fiction, you will likely recognise the serial killer terrorising young women across America in the 1970's, but Knoll is not

telling his story. Instead, she focuses on victims and their loved ones, whilst deftly dismantling the myths surrounding over-hyped perpetrators who have had the spotlight on them for far too long.



Evil Eye
Etaf Rum
HQ Fiction – \$32.99

You really can judge this novel by its stunning cover showcasing the story's titular *Evil Eye*. Palestinian-American writer Etaf Rum's first novel, *A Woman is No Man*, was a break out hit in 2019, and her follow up, featuring the troubled yet relatable Yara, is an equally poignant look at intergenerational

trauma and what it takes to challenge systems of oppression, both inside and outside the home. Rum's prose is just as gorgeous as that blue cover, too!



Return to Blood
Michael Bennett
Simon & Schuster – \$32.99

With an evocative coastal setting, and multiple skeletons suddenly resurfacing for now-former detective Hana Westerman, NZ author Bennett's sequel to his debut crime novel, *Better the Blood*, is an atmospheric, pacy thriller that never sacrifices its heart.

Take this one away for a long weekend and enjoy the jump scares, the insights into Māori culture, and the chance to play detective along with Hana and her whānau.

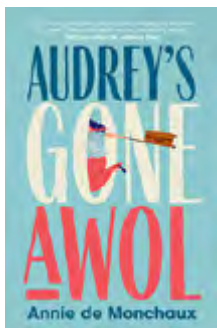


LAUREN KEEGAN
Author and Psychologist



Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow
Gabrielle Zevin
Vintage Arrow – \$22.99

I almost didn't read this book as it is about gaming. I am so glad I picked it up because yes, it is about gaming, but it's also about friendship and love and loss and life. It is funny and sad and beautiful, and it certainly lived up to the hype. Go and read it!



Audrey's Gone AWOL
Annie de Monchaux
Ultimo Press – \$34.99

In this marvellous debut novel, Audrey has devoted her whole life to her husband and her now adult children. When she discovers her husband's infidelity, it sparks an identity crisis. Who is she now, if not a wife? She flees to rural France to care for her Aunt and her bed and breakfast

business. Annie's strong voice and wry humour makes this book a stand-out for me.



Bear Woman
Karolina Ramqvist
Manilla – \$24.99

Part-memoir, part-writing process and part-historical retelling, this book is equally intriguing and compelling. The Swedish author shares her ambivalence about motherhood and the preoccupation of the writing process as she researches a story about the French noblewoman Marguerite

de la Rocque who is abandoned on a small island in the 16th century and survives.



SOPHIE GEE
Academic and Podcast Host –
The Secret Life of Books



A Chance Meeting
Rachel Cohen

New York Review of Books – \$39.99

A Chance Meeting is a beautiful collection of short essays by the art historian, memoirist and biographer Rachel Cohen. It details brief encounters, meetings and friendships between many of America's greatest writers and artists from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. Henry

James, Mark Twain, Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston, Richard Avedon, Elizabeth Bishop, Norman Mailer and many others. Cohen writes vividly and with immense critical intelligence about friendships, and the allure and melancholy of American artistic culture.



Go Tell It On The Mountain
James Baldwin
Penguin – \$22.99

The debut novel of the great African American writer James Baldwin, whose centenary is this year. It's a coming of age novel that captures both the freedom and violence of New York's

Harlem in the 1930s. Baldwin's narrator John, a poor Black gay teenager, gives us New York in all its splendour: the riches of the Harlem Renaissance, the jazz Baldwin so loved, alongside the violence and grief of Black lives, then and now.



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SEBASTIAN SMEE

The Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic discusses his new book, Paris in Ruins.

There are few genres I enjoy more than art history, so *Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism*, the new book by Australian born, Pulitzer-Prize winning Washington Post art critic Sebastian Smee went straight to the top of my to-be-read pile.

It is a captivating book. Viewing history through the lives of its avant-garde creatives it is a powerful testament to all artists and their role in reflecting, challenging and re-imagining the dominant culture of the time.

Sebastian offers exquisite insights into the work of the Impressionists and seamlessly weaves politics, romance and tragedy in this must-read non-fiction of 2024. – *Sally*

You examine the creative life of Paris before, during and after the ‘terrible year’ of 1870, including the deep bond which formed between Berthe Morisot and Edouard Manet, founding members of the impressionist art movement. *Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism* is a thrilling and thought-provoking read. I’d love to know how it came about?

Thank you Sally! It came out of my love for these artists, and then a growing understanding of what they went through during this period (1870-71) – how disastrous it was, how traumatic. I figured it must have affected all the Impressionists – but especially those who were stuck in Paris during the Siege (Manet, Morisot, Degas). I had written about all three in one of the four sections of my past book, *The Art of Rivalry*, but that was focused on the 1860s. I resolved to try to tell this story after seeing a Morisot retrospective in Quebec City in 2018.

Paris in Ruins opens with an incredible vision: a hot-air balloon floating, under enemy fire, over a German occupied field outside Paris. Ballooning was the only option for communication during the siege and this balloon contains letters from the fledgling republic: from Victor Hugo and Leon Gambetta as well as its champion artists: Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet. It’s a great scene. Tell me why you started here.

I wanted a dramatic place to start, before going back into the build-up, the back-story. This was an obvious scene to try to describe – not only because ... well, balloons! But because it involved such vivid characters: Nadar, the pioneering photographer, balloonist, republican and self-publicist (a friend of Manet); Victor Hugo, who had just returned to Paris after years in exile; and Léon Gambetta, the leading republican (another friend of Manet).

Tell us about the first meeting of Manet and Morisot?

Manet met Berthe Morisot in the galleries of the Louvre. They were introduced by mutual friends and fellow artists, but they were already aware of one another: Manet had seen the work of both Morisot sisters at the Salon and probably elsewhere. When Manet met Berthe, he found her intriguing. She also reminded him of the women in Goya’s “Majas on a Balcony” and so he asked her to pose for his homage to that painting, “The Balcony,” now in the Musée d’Orsay. She said yes.

Berthe is young and single while Edouard is married to his former tutor, who has a child. He is charming, a bon vivant. He starts to spend time with Berthe, he paints her in ‘The Balcony’. Tell us about that relationship?

We’re not sure if the boy Léon was Manet’s biological son or someone else’s (possibly his father’s!) Suzanne, his wife, had been his piano teacher, yes. So Morisot and Manet, although they seem to have had strong feelings for one another, couldn’t marry. She ended up marrying his brother, Eugene – the next best thing? At first, Morisot is keenly aware of Manet’s power as a painter and conscious of his influence over her (although she never becomes his student). But soon enough (and especially after the Terrible Year), they start to influence one another. The relationship becomes more balanced. Manet is inspired by Morisot’s bold and loose brushwork. And they embark on a fascinating sort of dialogue on canvas.

A few years after they meet Napoleon declares war and is summarily defeated, deposed and exiled. France is in a tumult. How did Paris come to be ruined?

After enduring a long winter siege – during which the population of Europe’s greatest city was reduced to starvation and the German army began a bombardment – Paris surrendered. But left-wing radicals staged an insurrection – the Commune – which lasted a couple of months before French government forces re-took the city in a week of horrific violence known as Bloody Week.

Manet and Morisot were revolted by ideological rhetoric, appalled by violence, and freshly conscious of the fragility even of most seemingly “civilised” society.

Manet and Morisot eventually return to their artistic practice, leaving behind the horrors of that year. You write about the movement's honesty and its 'rejection of the sentimental and ideological delusions of the political sphere'. How did they perceive their duty as artists during a period of such political turbulence?

It's striking that they avoided depicting the rubble and ruins in central Paris, post-Bloody Week, and the many signs of destruction elsewhere. I think they were patriotic – they were certainly republicans who wanted France to thrive as a republic – but I don't know that they thought in terms of their "duty" as artists. I think they were baffled and to some degree traumatised. They were revolted by ideological rhetoric, appalled by violence, and freshly conscious of the fragility even of the most seemingly "civilized" societies. I think their artistic responses to the 'terrible year' could be likened to the way human minds process difficult experiences. In psychology or psychoanalysis, we speak of things like repression, denial, sublimation and projection. It's the same, perhaps, when artists process difficult events – complicated! But broadly speaking, the Impressionists painted landscapes, portraits and scenes of everyday life in ways that registered both the beauty of the natural world and shifts in modern social relations. They stood for a way of seeing the world that was sincere, open, democratic and devoted to the present rather than the past.

Were you able to view a lot of archival materials?

Not a lot, to be honest, no. The letters of Morisot and Manet and their families and friends were very important but I read them in translation. There is so much published material on the Terrible Year and on Impressionism generally, and I benefited enormously from my reading in both areas. The pandemic made it impossible to travel during the writing of the first draft. When I finally got to Paris, a lot of the book was already written. But the Musée Carnavalet, the Musée d'Orsay and the Musée Marmottan-Monet were very important – they have amazing materials and resources relating to both the 'terrible year' and the artists.

You write of the "existential fragility of Impressionism ... it's emphasis on fugitive light, shifting seasons, glimpsed street scenes, and transient domesticity as expressions of heightened awareness of change and mortality." What did light and colour mean to the Impressionists?

Such a great question! I don't know for sure. What do light and colour mean to any of us? So many things! A sense of reality. Freedom – not only being free in the open air, as opposed to the studio, but being free from dusty, outdated ways of picturing the world. Sunlight gives life. It's beneficent. Colour is emotional and also profoundly relational, and therefore the way it hits the eye and stirs the emotions is always changing. Light, too, is constantly changing as it is affected by the media through which it passes. So if you, as an artist, elevate light and colour, you are elevating the importance of these properties: flux, transience, relativity. I love the idea that when Monet painted Rouen cathedral he wasn't painting the building so much as the envelope of air around it – the medium (inflected by coloured light) between him and his subject.



Berthe Morisot (1841–1895).
Oil on canvas, 1872, by Edouard Manet

Paris in Ruins: Love, War and the Birth of Impressionism

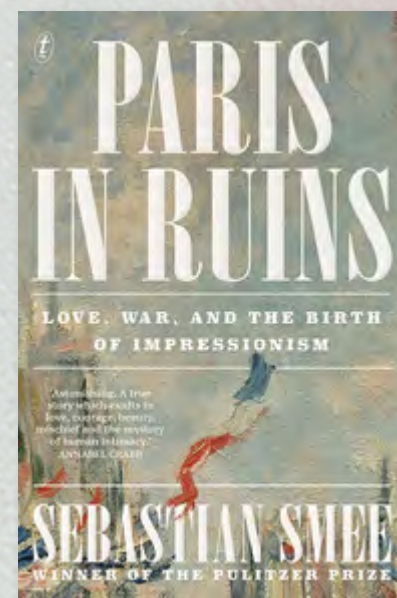
Sebastian Smee

Text – \$34.99

{ DISCOVER MORE ABOUT SEBASTIAN SMEE }

instagram.
website.

@sebastian.smee
washingtonpost.com/people/sebastian-smee/



Following that terrible year Manet paints the most extraordinary series of Morisot portraits. Were you able to spend a lot of time with them?

Whenever I could! I've seen most of them in the flesh – at the Musée d'Orsay, the Musée Marmottan Monet, and in temporary shows such as last year's Manet/Degas show at the Met. One of them is currently in a Manet show at the Isabella Stewart Gardner.

In 1874 the Impressionists, including Degas, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir and Cézanne, staged an exhibition in competition with the state sanctioned show to be held two weeks later. Berthe was a key contributor, but Manet refused to participate. Why?

A few reasons. The one most often cited is that he felt the audience at the Salon was much bigger and could have a greater effect on your career. He wanted, in other words, to swim in the big pool! Many of the artists in the 1874 breakaway show weren't entirely serious. He thought it wouldn't help him to be described as their leader (which happened anyway). But there was also a political dimension: the breakaway artists were known republicans associated in the public mind with the Communards. Just as the Communards had tried to set up an alternative government, here was a bunch of left-leaning artists trying to set up an alternative to the Salon. In 1874, France was experiencing a conservative backlash. The republic was in peril. The Communards were reviled. And Manet – although he sympathised with them – saw trouble for himself in being associated with them.

Berthe marries Edouard's brother Eugene in 1874 and they become brother and sister-in-law. Morisot writes that she has 'entered the positive side of life after living for years with insubstantial dreams that did not make me happy'. Were these good years for them?

Yes and no. Berthe evolved into one of the great, genuinely innovative artists of the 19th century. She and Eugene had a child and they were at the centre of a beautiful social circle. But people around her kept dying, including Manet, who died in atrocious pain in 1883.

Paris in Ruins concludes with Berthe’s posthumous exhibition in 1896 organised by her friends Monet, Renoir and Degas as well as her orphaned 16-year-old daughter Julie. In this wonderful portrait she is clearly an adored and celebrated leader of the movement. And yet she is often now referred to as a neglected Impressionist or an overlooked artist. Do you think this has been the case?

Yes, I think it has. There are no doubt multiple explanations, but I think the obvious one – that a strain of sexism saw her favoured subjects (domestic interiors and gardens, children and teenage girls) treated as somehow unserious – is probably the most pertinent. She was relegated to the status of a sort of handmaiden to her male colleagues. But those same colleagues – Monet, Renoir, Degas, et al – rated her as an equal.

“The obvious explanation for Berthe being an overlooked artist or a neglected Impressionist is that a strain of sexism saw her favoured subjects treated as somehow unserious.”

When did you fall in love with art?

I think it came on slowly. It wasn’t something separate from my love of writing or cinema or music. But various experiences in Australian galleries were key. I was so lucky to be allowed to learn on the job when I joined the Sydney Morning Herald as a freelancer when I was 23.

Favourite Manet; favourite Morisot?

Manet’s “Plum Brandy” and Morisot’s “Eugene Manet on the Isle of Wight.”

I loved your earlier book *The Art of Rivalry*, but didn’t realise you had another book, a series of interviews with Lucian Freud. He famously abhorred interviews. What was that like?

I knew him over almost four years while living in London and saw him regularly, including on trips back there after we returned to Sydney. It was exciting – he was electrifying company.

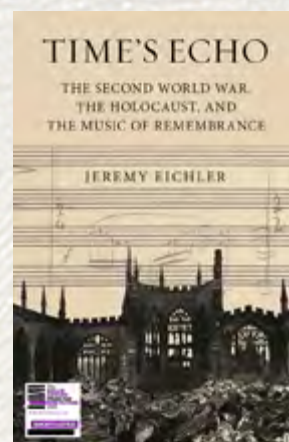
What art excites you at the moment?

I like Ragnar Kjartansson’s video installation “The Visitors,” Christian Marclay’s “The Clock,” and the paintings and sculptures of artists like Nicole Eisenman, Dana Schutz, Tomma Abts, Charlene von Heyl, Salman Toor, Kathy Butterly, and Australia’s Gareth Sansom, Brett McMahon and Matt Coyle. Many others, too, of course.

I have met your sister, acclaimed French language translator, Stephanie Smee, and your mother Ann-Margrete. They came to Bookoccino years ago to celebrate Stephanie’s translation of *No Place to Lay Your Head* (would you please tell her how much I love her Hanelore Cayre translations too). You clearly come from a creative and intellectual family. Were you all readers?

Steph is amazing. I love all the books she has translated, most recently Marie-Helene Lafon’s “*The Son’s Story*”, which is so good! Also “*On the Line*”, for which she just won the Australian Academy of the Humanities’ 2024 Medal for Excellence in Translation. A while back, she worked with mum, who is Swedish, to translate some Swedish children’s stories. Dad, meanwhile, is a classicist (and also a French speaker who helps Steph in the proofing stage of her translations). We were all readers, yes – but I am the only one who doesn’t read in other languages! I’m the runt of the litter in that sense. I did German, Latin, Italian and French, but never properly followed through, much to my shame.

Books Sebastian loves ...



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FICTION



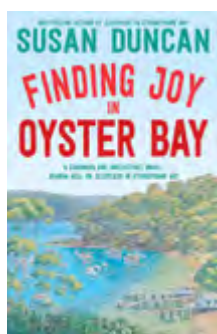
The City and Its Uncertain Walls
Haruki Murakami
Harvill Secker – \$49.99

When a young man's girlfriend mysteriously vanishes, he sets his heart on finding the imaginary city where her true self lives. When he finally makes it to the walled city, a shadowless place of horned beasts and willow trees, he finds his beloved working in a different library – a dream library. But she has no memory of their life together and, as the lines between reality and fantasy start to blur, he must decide what he's willing to lose.



Juice
Tim Winton
Hamish Hamilton – \$49.99

Two fugitives, a man and a child, drive all night across a stony desert. As dawn breaks, they roll into an abandoned mine site – middens of twisted iron, rusty wire, piles of sun-baked trash. So begins a searing, propulsive journey through a life whose central challenge is not simply a matter of survival, but of how to maintain human decency as everyone around you falls ever further into barbarism.



Finding Joy in Oyster Bay
Susan Duncan
Allen & Unwin – \$32.99

When journalist turned cafe owner Kate Jackson abandons her six-month-old baby, the quirky offshore community of Cook's Basin quickly steps in to salvage a delicate and difficult situation. Wrapped in the colourful culture of a boat-access community, *Finding Joy in Oyster Bay* celebrates life, love, community and the power of forgiveness.



The Venice Hotel
Tess Woods
Penguin – \$34.99

The lives of four very different women become entangled in a boutique Venice hotel. Not everyone who checked in will check out again. A stunning romance tinged with tragedy, set against the magical backdrop of Venice. A deliciously twisty novel exploring the powerful bonds that develop between women in times of crisis.



The Thinning
Inga Simpson
Hachette – \$32.99

Fin, her mother Dianella, and a band of outliers live deep off the grid, always ready to run. With disaster looming,

Fin finds herself thrust into an unlikely partnership with a stranger who has appeared – one of a new breed of evolved humans, the Incompletes, who are widely distrusted. But the pair will need to work together during a dangerous journey if they are to play their part to help restore the natural world – and humankind.



Cherrywood
Jock Serong
4th Estate – \$34.99

Edinburgh, 1916: A rich Scottish industrialist, Thomas Wrenfether, impulsively embarks on a mad scheme to build a paddle steamer out of dubiously sourced European cherrywood on the other side of the world, in booming Melbourne, Australia. But nothing goes according to plan.



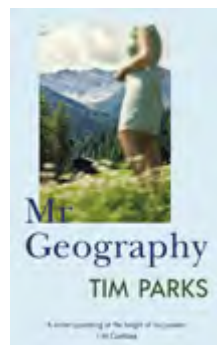
The Players
Minette Walters
Allen & Unwin – \$34.99

Decades after the end of the civil war, the country is once again divided when Charles II's illegitimate son, the Protestant Duke of Monmouth, arrives in Dorset to incite rebellion against his Catholic uncle. Armed only with pitchforks, Monmouth's army is quickly defeated by King James II's superior forces and charged with high treason. Those found guilty will be hanged, drawn and quartered.



This Kingdom of Dust
David Dyer
Penguin – \$34.99

The whole world has just watched Neil and Buzz walk on the Moon. Now they are struck by terror – the lunar module's engine has failed. There is no back-up, no other way off the surface. If the astronauts can't fix the problem, they'll slowly run out of oxygen and die.



Mr Geography
Tim Parks
Harvill Secker – \$34.99

From the Booker Prize-shortlisted author of *Europa*, a beautifully wrought story of love and memory set in the dramatic landscape of the Alps. Daniel Burrow walks from Konstanz to Como. Step by step, with a tumult of emotions, he reckons with what his life is and might have been had he been a different man with different choices.



Things Will Calm Down Soon
Zoë Foster Blake
Atlantic Books – \$32.99

Things Will Calm Down Soon follows Kit's journey from idea to founder of a highly successful hair-care company. Amid spreadsheets, product launches and a parade of potential investors, Kit is juggling an eager young team, a charismatic but unreliable romantic partner, single parenting and far too many school WhatsApp messages. She is certain things will calm down soon, because how can life possibly keep going at this pace?



The Belburd
Nardi Simpson
Hachette – \$32.99

Ginny is a young poet, fierce and deadly. She's making sense of the world and her place in it, grappling with love, family, and the spaces in which to create her art. Like powerful women before her, Ginny hugs the edges of waterways, and though she is a daughter of Country, the place that shapes her is not hers. A story about seeking the truth and learning our own.



The First Friend
Malcolm Knox
Allen & Unwin – \$34.99

Reflecting on Putin's Russia, Trump's America, Xi's China and Murdoch's planet Earth, *First Friend* is at once a satire and a thriller, a survivor's tale, a tour de force, set in Stalin's 1938 Soviet Union, in which a father has to walk a tightrope every day to save his family from a monster and a monstrous society. Where safety lies in following official fictions, is a truthful life the ultimate risk?



Gabriel's Moon
William Boyd
Viking – \$34.99

Gabriel Dax is a young man haunted by dreams of his childhood home in flames. His days are spent as an acclaimed travel writer, capturing changing landscapes in the grip of the Cold War. Falling under the spell of Faith Green, an enigmatic and ruthless MI6 handler, he becomes 'her spy', and soon the revelations closer to home change the rest of his story.

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FICTION



The Other Side of Paradise
Vanessa Beaumont

Oneworld – \$32.99

Duty, scandal, and a mother's desperate attempt to protect her sons from a secret that will destroy them. *The Other Side of Paradise* is the heart-breaking story of a family ripped apart by the shackles of inheritance and the rules imposed upon them by a society that cannot face the truth.



By Any Other Name
Jodi Picoult

Allen & Unwin – \$34.99

New York Times best-selling author Jodi Picoult brings to life the woman many believe was the real playwright behind the work of William Shakespeare, alongside a contemporary story of a New York author suffering the same fate of being silenced. Picoult explores the ways in which two women, centuries apart, are both forced to hide behind another name to make their voices heard.



The Garden
Clare Beams

Atlantic – \$32.99

An eerie, psychologically thrilling novel about womanhood and bodily autonomy. Irene Willard is desperate to give her

beloved husband the child he desperately desires. Pregnant for the sixth time, she checks in to an isolated hospital run by a team of doctors who are pioneering a cure, to rectify the maternal environment. Think *Pet Sematary* meets *Rosemary's Baby* with a literary sheen.



The Mighty Red
Louise Erdrich

Little Brown – \$34.99

Starkly beautiful like the landscape it inhabits, this book is about ordinary people who dream, grow up, fall in love, struggle,

endure tragedy and carry bitter secrets. And as with every book this great modern master writes, *The Mighty Red* is about our tattered bond with the earth, and about love in all of its absurdity and splendour.



The Life Impossible
Matt Haig

Canongate – \$32.99

When retired math teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on Ibiza by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets

the better of her. Among the rugged hills and golden beaches of the Balearics Grace searches for answers about her friend's life, and how it ended. What she uncovers is stranger than she could have dreamed. But to dive into this impossible truth, Grace must first come to terms with her past. A modern *Celestine Prophecy*.



Diving, Falling
Kylie Mirmohamadi

Scribe – \$32.99 ●

For years, Leila Whittaker has been the mediator in her family. She smooths ruffled feathers between her sons;

endures the volatile moods of their father, acclaimed Australian artist Ken Black; even swallows the bitter pill of Ken's endless affairs. All this, for the quiet hum of creative freedom her marriage provides. Or so she tells herself.



Dusk
Robbie Arnott

Pan Macmillan – \$34.99 ●

In the distant highlands, a puma named Dusk is killing shepherds. Down in the lowlands, twins Iris and Floyd are out of

work, money and friends. When they hear that a bounty has been placed on the puma, they reluctantly join the hunt. They will discover there's far more to the land and people of the highlands than they imagined. As they close in on their prey, they are forced to reckon with conflicts ancient and deeply personal.



Liars
James O'Loughlin

Echo – \$32.99 ●

Handy-woman Barb Young has lived in the sleepy coastal town of Bullford Point for over fifty years. When Joe Griffiths returns from Sydney after six years of drug

addiction, jail and, eventually, rehab, Barb offers him a job, hoping to help him turn his life around. However, when another resident of Bullford Point is murdered, Joe becomes the prime suspect.

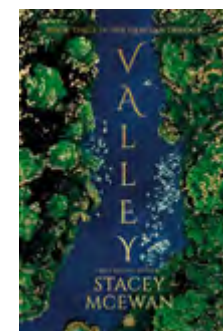


Highway 13
Fiona Macfarlane

Allen & Unwin – \$32.99 ●

A gripping, provocative work by one of our finest writers. In overlapping stories, *Highway 13* explores

the reverberations of a serial killer's crimes in the lives of everyday people. A brilliant and illuminating account of loss and its extended echoes across an entire society.



Valley: The Glacial Trilogy
Stacey McEwan

Angry Robot – \$32.99

At the bottom of the Chasm, Dawsyn and her followers traipse through the darkness to find their long-

awaited home. But there are whispers all around them and safety is never guaranteed. With her powers much depleted, and food supplies running low, will they even survive the journey? Above, the Queen and the new King of Glacia still bay for Dawsyn's blood, and they will not stop in their quest to destroy her.



Playground
Richard Powers

Hutchinson Heinemann – \$34.99

Four young people meet on the history-scarred island of Makatea in French Polynesia, marked for humanity's next great adventure: a

plan to send floating, autonomous cities into the open sea. Set in the world's largest place we have yet to colonize and interweaves profound themes of technology and the environment, and a deep exploration of our shared humanity.



Leave the Girls Behind
Jacqueline Bublitz

Allen and Unwin – \$32.99

A taut suspense thriller overlaid with a moving exploration of the ways in which violent

crime ricochets through the lives of those left behind. Nineteen years ago, Ruth-Ann Baker's childhood friend was murdered, the killer convicted. She has long been convinced Oswald had other victims. But no one has ever believed her.



Blood Ties
Jo Nesbo

Harvill Secker – \$32.99

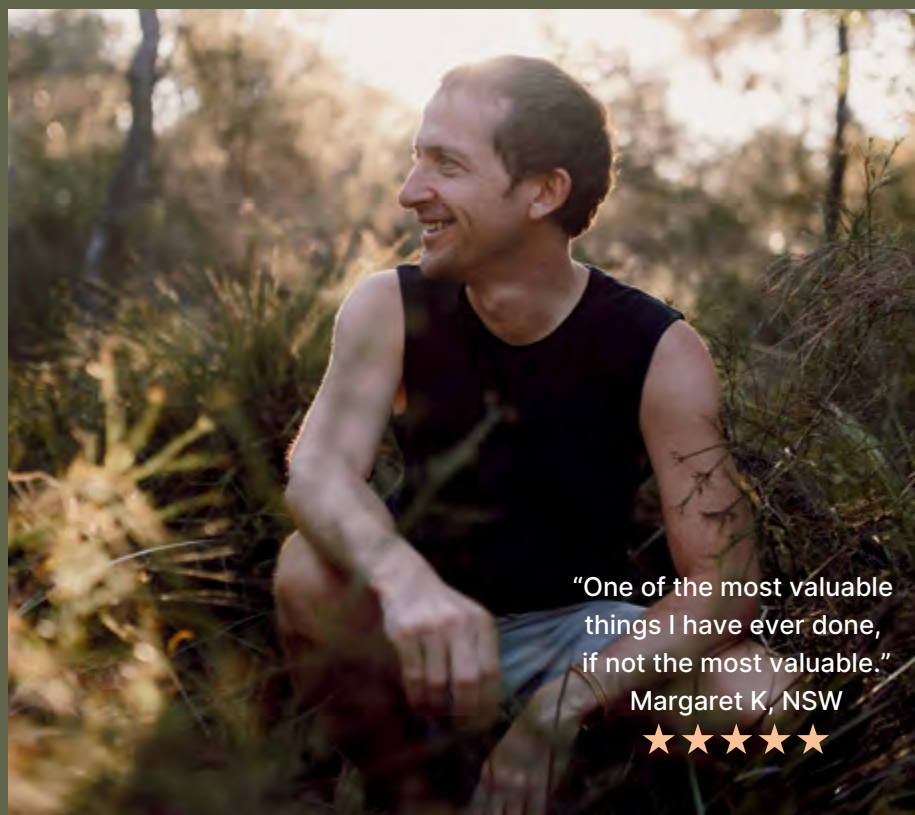
Brothers Carl and Roy Opgard have succeeded in life. Or at least they've had as much success as is possible in a small town like Os, where they've killed their

way to the top. Carl manages the swanky spa hotel, while Roy has made ambitious plans for an amusement park. Life's good at the top, but the local sheriff is looking to bring them down. *Blood Ties* is an explosive suspense novel about family, loyalty, and what someone is willing to do for both.

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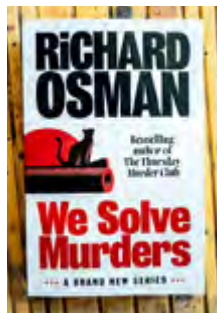
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NON-FICTION



We Solve Murders
Richard Osman
Viking – \$34.99

Combining the heart and humour of *The Thursday Murder Club* with a puzzling international mystery, welcome to the

blockbusting new series from the biggest new fiction author of the decade, Richard Osman.



Creation Lake
Rachel Kushner
Jonathan Cape – \$34.99

Seductive and cunning American spy-for-hire Sadie Smith has been sent by her mysterious but powerful employers to a remote

corner of France. Her mission is to infiltrate a commune of radical eco-activists. Beneath this story of espionage and intrigue lies one of a woman caught in the crossfire between the past and the future.



Intermezzo
Sally Rooney
Faber – \$39.99

Peter is a Dublin lawyer in his thirties – successful, competent and apparently unassailable. Ivan, is a twenty-two-year-old competitive

chess player, socially awkward, a loner, the antithesis of his glib elder brother. For two grieving brothers, this is a new interlude – a period of desire, despair and possibility – a chance to find out how much one life might hold inside itself without breaking.



The Traitor
Jörn Lier Horst
Michael Joseph – \$34.99

Following weeks of heavy rain, the earth comes crumbling down on one of Larvik's residential areas, burying a handful of houses.

A day later a body is found, killed before the landslide, and Wisting must solve this mysterious murder.



Time of the Child
Niall Williams
Bloomsbury – \$34.99

Doctor Jack Troy was born and raised in the little town of Faha, but his responsibilities for the sick and his care for the dying mean he has always been set

apart from his community. A visit from the doctor is always a sign of bad things to come. His youngest daughter, Ronnie, has grown up in her father's shadow, and remains there, having missed her chance at real love. As the winter passes, their lives, the understanding of their family, and their role in their community are changed forever.



Everywhere We Look
Martine Kropkowski
Hardie Grant – \$32.99

A year after a tragic incident splintered their friendship, three women travel

to Marcoy, a regional town, in an attempt to reconnect. But when they witness a young girl being coerced into a car by a man she fears, they are forced to reckon with the chasm of grief and trauma that's kept them apart.



All the Bees in the Hollows
Lauren Keegan
Affirm – \$34.99

An atmospheric, original, folkloric mystery set in a remote Lithuanian bee-keeping community in the 16th century, from

debut author Lauren Keegan. For fans of Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites* and Kate Forsyth's *Bitter Greens*.



Tasmania: A Novel
Paolo Giordano
Other Press – \$32.99

After losing the future he imagined for himself, a writer sets out in search of connection and purpose at a tipping

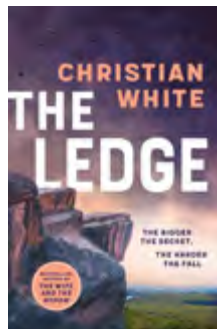
point with climate change and global conflict, in this breathtaking novel from the Strega Prize-winning author of *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*.



The Burrow
Melanie Cheng
Text – \$32.99

Amy, Jin and Lucie are leading isolated lives in their partially renovated, inner city home. They are not happy, but they are also terrified of change. When they

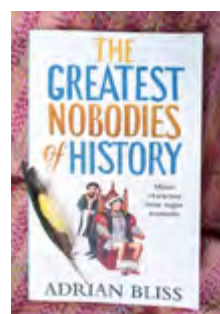
buy a pet rabbit for Lucie, and then Amy's mother, Pauline, comes to stay, the family is forced to confront long-buried secrets. Will opening their hearts to the rabbit help them to heal or only invite further tragedy?



The Ledge
Christian White
Affirm – \$34.99

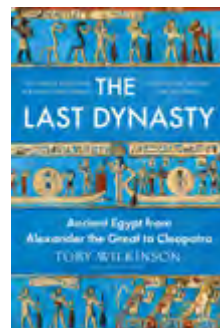
When human remains are discovered in a forest, police are baffled, the locals are shocked and one group of old friends starts to panic. Their long-held secret is

about to be uncovered. It all began in 1999 when sixteen-year-old Aaron ran away from home, drawing his friends into an unforeseeable chain of events that no one escaped from unscathed.



The Greatest Nobodies of History: Minor Characters from Major Moments
Adrian Bliss
Century – \$36.99

The lives of Leonardo da Vinci, Henry VIII and Queen Victoria fill bookshelves and fascinate scholars all over the world. But little attention is given to the ferret who posed for the renaissance master, the servant who oversaw the Tudor's toilet time, or the famous horse who thrilled the miserable old monarch.



The Last Dynasty: Ancient Egypt from Alexander the Great to Cleopatra
Toby Wilkinson
Bloomsbury – \$34.99

When Alexander the Great arrived in Egypt, he overthrew the hated Persian overlords and was welcomed as a saviour. He repaid them by showing due reverence to their long-held traditions. After his death, as the Greek empire broke up and his closest advisers squabbled over the spoils, a Macedonian general named Ptolemy seized the Egyptian

throne, ushering in a new dynasty that would last for 300 years.



Paris in Ruins
Sebastian Smee
Text – \$36.99

In *Paris in Ruins*, a book of great narrative sweep and vivid detail, Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic Sebastian Smee explores the complex circumstances

that gave birth to the Impressionist movement. An indelible portrait of the city, *Paris in Ruins* captures the shifting passions and politics of the art world, and reveals how the chaos of that year had an incalculable effect on the development of modern art.



Noble Fragments
Michael Visontay
Scribe – \$34.99

One hundred years ago, Gabriel Wells, a New York bookseller, committed a crime against history. He broke up the world's

greatest book, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off in individual pages. Half a century later, Sydney journalist Michael Visontay stumbled upon a mysterious legal document that linked Wells to his own family. He became obsessed by the Gutenberg's invisible imprint on his life, and set out to track down the pages of the broken bible.

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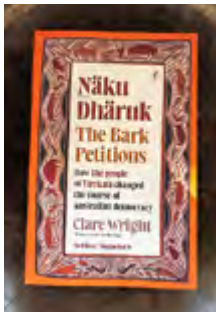
Wonders in the Deep

Mensun Bound and Mark Frary

Simon & Schuster – \$49.99

An awe-inspiring deep-dive into ocean treasure and what it reveals about

our past. Mensun Bound is the renowned marine archaeologist who was the Director of Exploration on the team that found Shackleton's *Endurance*. With journalist Mark Frary, and a bounty of sea relics, he explores maritime history from 3000 BC to the present day. Interwoven with beautiful photographs, *Wonders in the Deep* is a riveting story of human ambition, defeat and ingenuity.



Näku Dhäruk: The Bark Petitions

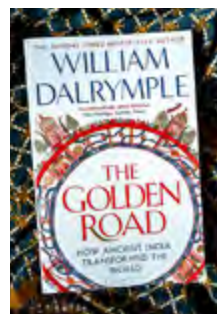
Clare Wright

Text – \$45.00 ●

In this engaging narrative, Wright follows the story of petitions on bark created by the

Yirrkala community in Arnhem Land in 1963, protesting bauxite mining on traditional lands. Throughout that tumultuous year leaders of the Yolŋu clans worked with white allies on the unprecedented political strategy that culminated in the presentation of four

Bark Petitions to Federal Parliament. It was a key moment in the formation of a uniquely Indigenous engagement with Australian politics.



The Golden Road

William Dalrymple

Bloomsbury – \$39.99

India is the forgotten heart of the ancient world. For a millennium and a half, India was a confident exporter of its diverse civilisation, creating around it a vast empire of ideas. Indian art, religions, technology, astronomy, music, dance, literature, mathematics and mythology blazed a trail across the world, along a Golden Road that stretched from the Red Sea to the Pacific.



War

Bob Woodward

Simon & Schuster – \$55.00

Two-time Pulitzer prize winner Bob Woodward tells the revelatory, behind-the-scenes story of three wars – Ukraine, the Middle East and

the struggle for the American presidency. *War* is an intimate and sweeping account of one of the most tumultuous periods in presidential politics and American history.



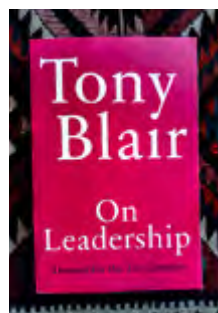
On Freedom

Timothy Snyder

Bodley Head – \$36.99

Freedom is the great Western commitment, but we have lost sight of what it means – and this is leading us into crisis. Too many of us look at freedom as the absence of

state power. But true freedom isn't so much freedom from, as freedom to – the freedom to thrive, to take risks for futures we choose by working together. Freedom is the value that makes all other values possible.



On Leadership: Lessons for the 21st Century

Tony Blair

Hutchinson Heinemann – \$36.99

Tony Blair learnt the precepts of governing by leading a country for over ten years. In that time he came to understand that there are certain key characteristics of successful government that he wished he had known about when he started. Now he has written the manual on political leadership, sharing the insights he has gained.



Always Was, Always Will Be

Thomas Mayo

Hardie Grant – \$19.99 ●

Since the referendum, supporters and volunteers have been asking for guidance as to how to continue to support Indigenous recognition. Mayo, a leader of the Yes 23 campaign and co-author of the best-selling *The Voice to Parliament Handbook*, has penned a new book to answer that question.



New Cold Wars

David Sanger

Scribe – \$45.00 ●

At the turn of the millennium, the United States was confident that a democratic Russia and a newly wealthy China could gradually be pulled into the Western-led order. That proved a fantasy. By the time Washington emerged from the age of terrorism, the three nuclear powers were engaged in a new, high-stakes struggle for military, economic, and technological supremacy – with nations around the world forced to take sides.



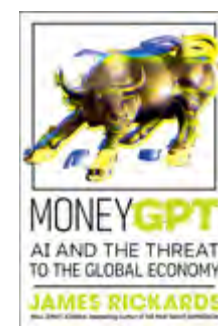
The Message

Ta-Nehisi Coates

Penguin – \$36.99

Words and stories – 'the need to haunt'. By one of America's leading public intellectuals, author of *Between The World*

and *Me*. In Dakar, he is haunted by the ghosts of his enslaved ancestors. On a journalistic trip to Palestine and Israel, he comes to question his landmark call for reparations to Blacks. Searing and controversial, a New York Times best seller one week after publication.



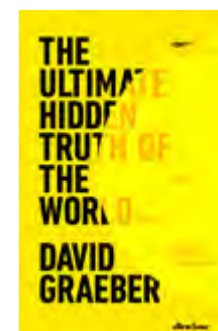
MoneyGPT: AI and the threat to the Global Economy

James Rickards

Penguin – \$36.99

MoneyGPT suggests that the danger is not that AI will malfunction, but that it will function exactly as intended. The peril is not in the algorithms, but in ourselves.

it will function exactly as intended. The peril is not in the algorithms, but in ourselves.



The Ultimate Hidden Truth of the World

David Graeber

4th Estate – \$34.99

"The ultimate hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily

make differently," wrote David Graeber. A renowned anthropologist, activist, and author of such classic books as *Debt* and *Bullshit Jobs*, Graeber was as well-known for his sharp, lively essays as he was for his iconic role in Occupy Wall St movement. Amid converging political, economic, and ecological crises, our politics is dominated by either business as usual or nostalgia for a mythical past. Thinking against the grain, Graeber was one of the few who dared to imagine a new understanding of the past and a liberatory vision of the future – to imagine a social order based on humans' fundamental freedom. A profound reminder of Graeber's enduring significance as an iconic, playful, necessary thinker.



Murriyang

Stan Grant

Bundji – \$34.99 ●

Stan Grant is talking to his country in a new way. In his most poetic and inspiring work yet, the Wiradjuri writer offers us a means of moving beyond the

binaries and embracing a path to peace and forgiveness rooted in the Wiradjuri spiritual practice of Yindyamarra – deep silence and respect. *Murriyang: Song of Time* is, in part, Grant's response to the Voice referendum and eschews politics for love. In this gorgeous, grace-filled book, he zooms out to reflect on the biggest questions, ranging across the history, literature, theology, music and art that has shaped him, setting aside anger for kindness, reaching past the secular to the sacred and transcendent.



The Position of Spoons and Other Intimacies

Deborah Levy

Penguin – \$45.00

In *The Position of Spoons*, Deborah Levy invites the reader into the interiors of her

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world, sharing her most intimate thoughts and experiences, as she traces and measures her life against the backdrop of the literary and artistic muses that have shaped her.



The Elements of Marie Curie
Dava Sobel

4th Estate – \$34.99

For decades Marie Curie was the only woman in the room at international scientific gatherings, and despite constant

illness she travelled far and wide to share the secrets of radioactivity, a term she coined. She is still the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two scientific fields.



The Season
Helen Garner

Text – \$34.99 ●

Garner's first new work in a decade is a tender portrayal of the relationship between grandmother and grandson, and of that moment on the cusp of adulthood when

a boy is both child and man.



The Voice Inside
John Farnham

Hachette – \$49.99 ●

A decades-long touring career. Twenty-one ARIA awards. Australian of the Year. The list of accolades and achievements is

long – so, at first glance, the John Farnham story is one filled with remarkable highs. It is, however, so much more than that. It is the story of the resilience John found as his stellar career stalled, record companies turned their backs, and he faced financial ruin. John has never shown how hard he fell and how difficult it was to stay true to himself in an industry that can be ruthless. It is a brave story of family, friendship and finding your voice.

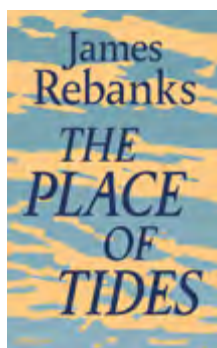


What I Ate in One Year
Stanley Tucci

Fig Tree – \$45.00

Tucci records twelve months of eating, in restaurants, kitchens, film sets, press junkets, at home and abroad,

with friends, with family, with strangers, and occasionally just by himself. *What I Ate in One Year* is a funny, poignant, heartfelt and deeply satisfying serving of memories and meals and an irresistible celebration of the profound role that food plays in all our lives



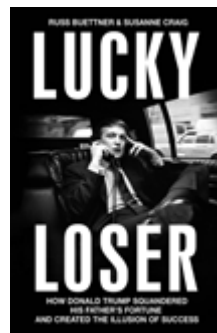
Place of Tides
James Rebanks

Canongate – \$32.99

Author James Rebanks meets an old woman on a remote Norwegian island. She lives and works alone on the tiny rocky outcrop, caring for wild Eider ducks and

gathering their down. When he asks if he can return, she replies, “bring work clothes and good boots, and come quickly”, her health

was failing. And so he travelled to the edge of the Arctic to witness her last season on the island.



Lucky Loser
Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig

Jonathan Cape – \$36.99

The story of Trump's finances is one of rise and fall, and another rise and fall, as he squanders fortunes on

money-losing businesses, only to be saved by blind luck. He tacks his name above the door of every building while taking out huge loans he'll never repay. He makes side deals to cut out the television producer who not only rescued him from bankruptcy but casts him as a business guru – the public image that carried him to the White House.



Bitter Crop: The Heartache and Triumph of Billie Holiday's Last Year
Paul Alexander

Canongate – \$39.99

An unconventional portrait of America's most eminent jazz singer. Acclaimed biographer Paul Alexander shrewdly focuses on the last year of her life – with relevant flashbacks to provide context – to evoke and examine the persistent magnificence of Holiday's artistry when it was supposed to have declined in the wake of her drug abuse, relationships with violent men, and run-ins with the law.



We are the Stars
Gina Chick

Summit Books – \$36.99 ●●

From day one of her wildly unconventional childhood, Gina Chick blazed her own trail, which led her to dance

through the hidden world of '90s Sydney nightlife into the arms of a conman. She fled to the wilderness to find healing, began a wondrous love affair with the deepest lessons life – and death – can offer, and found that all the answers are written in the wisdom of the body and the whirling silence of stars.



Didion & Babitz
Lili Anolik

Atlantic – \$34.99

Journalist Lili Anolik uses Babitz's brilliance of observation, intelligence and, most of all, Babitz's diary-like letters –

letters found in those sealed boxes, letters so intimate you don't read them so much as breathe them – as the key to unlocking Didion. An outrageously provocative and profoundly moving new work on the complicated relationship between Joan Didion and her fellow literary titan, Eve Babitz.



Mr & Mrs Gould
Grantlee Kieza

ABC Books – \$49.99 ●

John and Elizabeth Gould sailed into Australia on a cold spring day in 1838 prepared for the most

astonishing adventure of their lives. They had crossed three oceans from their London home to find the treasures of Australia's birdlife and showcase them to the outside world. This rollicking story brings Elizabeth and her extraordinary talent to life.



Sonny Boy
Al Pacino

Century – \$55.00

Al Pacino exploded onto the scene like a supernova. Between 1971 and 1975 he starred in four landmark films, his legendary performances

changing his life forever. Pacino was in his mid thirties by then, and had already lived several lives. A fixture of avant-garde theatre in New York, he had led a bohemian existence, working odd jobs to support his craft. He was raised by a fiercely loving but mentally unwell mother and her parents after his father left them when he was young, but in a real sense he was raised by the streets of the South Bronx. *Sonny Boy* is the memoir of a man who has nothing left to fear and nothing left to hide.



Angeball
Vince Rugari

Hachette – \$34.99 ●

In the ever-evolving landscape of Australian football, few figures loom as large as Ange Postecoglou. In this authorised biography,

Australia's foremost football journalist Vince Rugari charts the rise of this maverick mastermind and examines his complicated relationship with the game Down Under.



Kosciuszko
Anthony Sharwood

Hachette – \$34.99 ●

Tadeusz Kosciuszko lived from 1746 to 1817. A military engineer, freedom fighter, and champion of human rights, he

was crucial to the success of the American War of Independence, then bravely led an uprising against Russia and other invaders in his native Poland, promising freedom and equality to all who joined his cause. His great friend Thomas Jefferson called him 'as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known', while Kosciuszko would later challenge Jefferson to live up to the famous words 'All men are created equal' by bequeathing his American funds to free enslaved people, including those on Jefferson's plantation. With talk of renaming Mount Kosciuszko, Anthony Sharwood walks with the area's traditional owners and considers the man, asking whether he is 'the hero the world needs right now.'

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Let's Tax Carbon
Ross Garnaut
Osman

Viking – \$34.99 ●

Ross Garnaut says yes, and it starts with taxing carbon. A levy on the big polluters will help fund

Australia to become a carbon-free energy giant, lower the cost of living and assist the world to cut emissions. In this path-breaking book, Garnaut focuses on the underpinnings of successful social democracy. He traces when economic policy has worked for Australia and when it hasn't, and critiques the Albanese government's stilted progress.



Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from Stone Age to AI
Yuval Noah Harari

Fern Press – \$39.99

From renowned historian and #1 Sunday Times best-selling author Yuval Noah Harari comes the story of how information networks have made, and unmade, our world. The world is on the verge of ecological collapse. Misinformation abounds. And we are rushing headlong into the age of AI – a new information network that threatens to annihilate us. If we are so wise, why are we so self-destructive?



This Earthly Globe
Andrea Di Robilant

Fern Press – \$39.99

1505, the age of discovery. An anonymously authored volume containing a wealth of new

geographical information is published in Venice under the title *Navigazioni et Viaggi* (Journeys and Navigations). It was closely followed by two further volumes that, when taken together, constituted the largest release of geographical data in history, and could well be considered the birth of modern geography? The editor of these volumes was a little-known public servant in the Venetian government, Giovambattista Ramusio, a man who used his political skill, along with the help of conniving diplomats and spies, to democratise knowledge and show that the world was much larger than anyone had previously imagined. Fascinating.

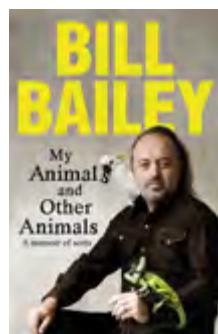


The Siege: The Remarkable Story of the Greatest SAS Hostage Drama
Ben Macintyre

Fern Press – \$39.99

Ben Macintyre is brilliant, a Bookkoccino favourite. Here he tells the definitive account of the SAS storming of the Iranian embassy in London. On April 30, 1980, six

heavily armed gunmen burst into the Iranian embassy on Princes Gate, overlooking Hyde Park in London. There they took 26 hostages, including embassy staff, visitors, and three British citizens.



My Animals and Other Animals
Bill Bailey

Quercus – \$34.99

Bill Bailey always had a variety of dogs in his life, including a Lakeland Terrier called Rocky who would travel with him in the van to his first shows. Fast forward a few decades and Bill shares his home with a variety of birds, dogs, frogs, chameleons, and an armadillo called Tommy. It's the story of Bill's life, but more than that, it's the story of how all of our lives are enriched by the animals who accompany us on that journey.



Max Dupain: A Portrait
Helen Ennis

4th Estate – \$55.00 ●

Dupain has been seen as exceptional, super masculine, an Australian hero. But this biography approaches him as a complex and contradictory figure who, despite the apparent certitude of his photographic style, was filled with self-doubt and anxiety, who struggled with the intensity of his emotions and reactions. He wanted simplicity in his art and life, but found it difficult to attain. He never wanted to be ordinary.



All the Worst Humans
Phil Elwood

Atlantic – \$34.99

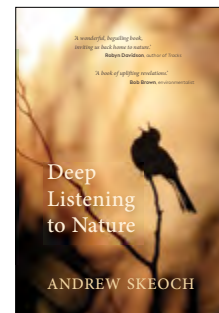
A bridge-burning, riotous confession by a top PR operative who exposes the secrets of the \$129-billion industry that controls so much of what we see and hear in the media. After nearly two decades in the PR business, Phil Elwood wants to come clean, by exposing the dark underbelly of the very industry that's made him so successful.



Profiles in Hope
John Brogden

Hachette – \$34.99 ●●

Every day, nine Australians take their own lives. Nineteen years ago, John Brogden came very close. But he survived and has become a passionate voice for mental health and suicide prevention. This book of profiles is for those at risk and the people who love them and don't know how to help.



Deep Listening to Nature
Andrew Skeoch

Listening Earth – \$32.99 ●●

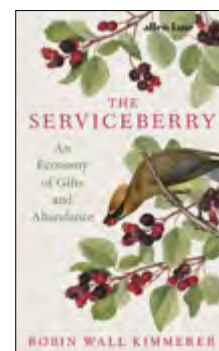
An invitation to open your ears to the natural world by tuning in to the sounds of creatures around us. Andrew discusses how to identify species by call, interpret their communications and find empathy for their sentience. He asks how, in our current environmental crisis, we can reflect on what nature has achieved in sustaining life as we move toward an ecological future. Be still and listen. Take your time. Extend your senses. Let nature get to know you, and in its own way, welcome you.



We Who Wrestle with God
Jordan Peterson

Allen Lane – \$39.99

What is the true story of our lives – and what should it be? A new revolutionary offering from clinical psychologist and best-selling author Jordan Peterson guides us through ancient accounts of rebellion, sacrifice, suffering and triumph that have formed the foundations of the Western world. Drawing on the psychology of religion, mythology and philosophy, he reveals the profound wisdom of the Biblical stories.



The Serviceberry: An Economy of Gifts and Abundance
Robin Wall Kimmerer

Allen Lane – \$32.99

Indigenous scientist and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, considering the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most?



First Knowledges Health: Spirit, Country and Culture
Shawana Andrews, Fiona Stanley and Sandra Eades

Thames and Hudson – \$24.99 ●

For thousands of generations the wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples was grounded in the sacred lands of Mother Earth. Good health occurred naturally because lifestyle and diet were connected to Country and culture. Colonisation damaged this connection, but much is being done to rebuild it.



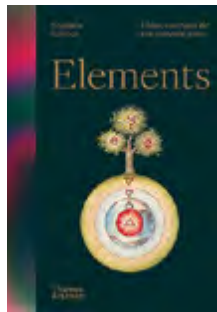
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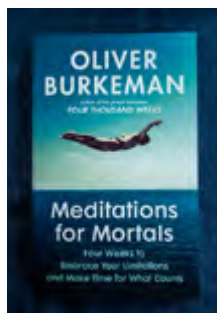
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**Elements:
Chaos, Order
and the Five
Elemental
Forces**
Stephen Ellcock
Thames & Hudson –
\$49.99

Elements is an eclectic, evocative and resoundingly beautiful treasury of imagery exploring depictions of the elemental forces, revealing their profound significance to ancient philosophers, alchemists and astrologers, modern artists, photographers and scientists alike.



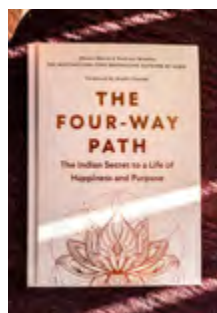
**Meditations
for Mortals:
Four Weeks to
Embrace Your
Limitations
and Make
Time for What
Counts**
Oliver Burkeman
Bodley Head – \$36.99

Addressing the fundamental question about how to live, this book offers a powerful new way to take action based on what counts – a guiding philosophy of life Oliver Burkeman calls ‘imperfectionism’. How can we embrace our non-negotiable limitations? Or make good decisions when there’s always too much to do? What if purposeful productivity were often about letting things happen, not making them happen?



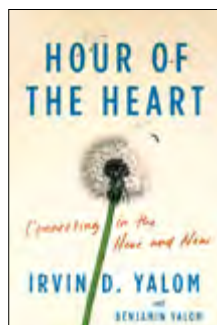
**Just Don't be
a D**ckhead**
Kasey Chambers
Hardie Grant –
\$34.99 ●

From her childhood in the Australian outback to the heights of her chart-topping international success as a singer/songwriter, Kasey has trusted her gut, stuck to her values and learned some hard truths, always while trying to live by the best advice she’s ever received: just don’t be a dickhead.



**The Four-
Way Path**
Hector Garcia
Cornerstone Press –
\$34.99

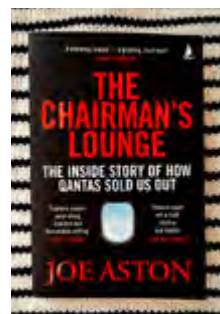
In Hindu philosophy, there are four goals that all human beings strive for: virtue, prosperity, love and freedom. If you can find the balance between them, you will discover the *Four-Way Path*.



**Hour of the
Heart**
Irvin and
Benjamin Yalom
Scribe – \$29.99

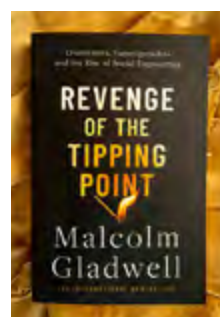
Renowned psychotherapist Dr Yalom captures profound moments with his patients.

In the span of just one hour, with people he will never see again, and amid Dr Yalom’s grief over losing his wife, these sessions “help to sustain my client and would profoundly alter my vision of what psychotherapy can do”.



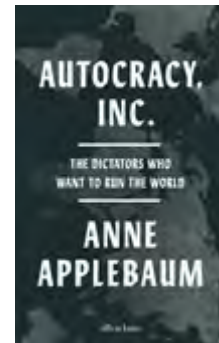
**The
Chairman's
Lounge**
Joe Aston
Simon and Schuster –
\$36.99 ●

A must-read journalist on how power, money and influence work in this country, the full story of how one of the nation’s favourite brands brought itself to ground. From Qantas company’s share price and extraordinary executive bonuses to illegally redundant workers, unethical flight credits, abysmal customer service, antique aircraft.



**Revenge of
the Tipping
Point**
Malcolm Gladwell
Abacus – \$34.99

Malcolm Gladwell returns to the subject of social epidemics and tipping points, this time with the aim of explaining the dark side of contagious phenomena.



Autocracy Inc
Anne Applebaum
Allen Lane – \$45.00

All of us have in our minds a cartoon image of what an autocratic state looks like, with a bad man at the top. But in the 21st century, that cartoon bears little resemblance to reality. Nowadays, autocracies are run not by one bad guy, but by sophisticated networks composed of kleptocratic financial structures, security services and professional propagandists.



**Swimming
Sydney: A Tale
of 52 Swims**
Chris Baker
New South –
\$32.99 ●●●

Sydney boasts more aquatic pleasures than just about any other urban centre in the world. In *Swimming Sydney* Chris Baker takes us on an odyssey of pools across the city, opening our eyes to the stories they tell and to the act and art of swimming.

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Team Greg Griffin – Belle Property.

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We are long-term agents, here for you to provide expert advice, and when the time is right, we will be there to guide you through what can be a stressful time. With over 2000 property sales in Pittwater, we know your market. Customer service is our top priority, which is why over half of our clients are referrals. We understand that many of our clients are time-poor, which is why we offer a complete real estate service and assist you every step of the way to ensure your property is presented as “best in class.” Our clients, their outcomes and our competitive nature are what drives us.

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LINDSEY HILSUM

The renowned British correspondent talks about the solace of poetry and her experience of covering war.



How did you become a war correspondent Lindsey?

By accident! In fact, I wouldn't call myself a "war correspondent", I'd say I was an international correspondent, but during my career, I've ended up covering a lot of conflict. I started as an aid worker, volunteering for Oxfam in Guatemala. Then I went to Kenya with Unicef. But I had no useful skills – I wasn't a doctor or an agricultural expert – so I turned to what I could do: read, write and ask questions, and became a freelance journalist.

In Africa in the 1980s and 90s, there were a lot of conflicts which inevitably I had to report. And although covering war is sometimes terrifying and always full of tragedy, I found that war can bring out the best as well as the worst in people, so it was extraordinarily stimulating to report. I felt I was seeing history as it happened.

Since 1997, I have worked for Britain's Channel 4 News, an evening TV news programme, which gives me huge scope. I believe strongly that you have to report from the front line, to be an eye-witness to suffering, but also to try to help viewers and readers understand the causes of conflict.

You write that you always carry a book of poetry with you. What does it offer to you?

Poetry picks up where journalism leaves off. It has a more allusive language, so I turn to it when my own words run out. In the book I have combined my own eye-witness accounts of war with poems that provide a reflection on the stories of those I have met.

Poetry can provide solace, as it creates both a connection and a way of distancing myself from what I have witnessed. Connection because a poet might express similar emotions to my own, and distance because a poem can transform the singularity of my experience into something universal. Poetry can be a vaccination against despair – putting something painful into words can stave off the darkest moments. That's why people turn to poetry when they're bereaved or going through a crisis. It helps.

We are familiar with a tradition of war poetry, mostly of European origin. Your brilliant curation includes Arabic, Turkish, Polish, Tamil, Vietnamese and Sumerian poets. Tell us how you came across some of these poets.

At the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, I was in Kramatorsk in the east and I started tweeting out a poem a day. People asked for more, and then I ran out of poems I knew! So I started to look for more online, and came across a whole world of war poetry I knew nothing about. There were brilliant war poems by women poets I had never heard

of. I asked friends from different backgrounds and cultures and learnt more.

I came across one of my favourite poems in the New Yorker. It's by a poet from Myanmar, Maung Saungkha, who was imprisoned for six months for writing:

*'I have the President's portrait
tattooed on my penis
How disgusted my wife is.'*

He is now the leader of a rebel group in the jungles of Myanmar, so I had no idea how we would get permission to reproduce it, but we found an email address. After a few months we got this reply:

"We're allowed about what you asked for permission. Sorry for our late reply.
with respect,
Bamar People's Liberation Army
On behalf of Maung Saungkha"

I think that's almost a poem in its own right!

You've covered so many conflicts in your four decades of correspondence. Are all wars different?

The stories in the book are specific to time and place – my eye-witness accounts of wars I have covered. The poems bring out the universal themes. Of course, the human suffering that war causes is universal. And the way guerrilla leaders start out so romantic, full of the righteousness of their cause, and end up corrupt and cruel like the dictators they're fighting against. War taints everyone it touches, including journalists. I write about the dirty secret that those who choose to go to war – journalists, aid workers, volunteer soldiers – often like the adrenaline rush, and the clarity. You live in the moment, and don't worry about tomorrow. That's universal too. And love! People fall in love very passionately in war. I write about that in the book too.

What would you like readers to know about war?

That the suffering war causes is as bad as they think or worse. That we don't show the most upsetting pictures on TV, because our editors don't want the audience to get upset over their dinner. That sometimes informing yourself, making sure that you know what's going on, is all you can do – apart from giving money to charity and being kind to refugees who have fled from war. I believe that reporting war is important – it doesn't necessarily change what's going on, but our leaders can never say they didn't know. They know, because we told them. And that if you sometimes despair, contemplating all that is wrong in our world, reading poetry can provide both solace and understanding.

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

March 2003

It was the first day after US tanks had rumbled into Baghdad and Saddam Hussein's forces had melted away. Iraqis approached the Americans with sweets and bouquets of flowers; as the US administration had predicted, they were greeted as liberators.

We were heading to Adhamiya Palace, which had been occupied by US marines and where we heard there had been a gun-battle. It was quiet as we approached but we knew the Yanks could be trigger-happy so we parked some way off and walked up calling out 'British television!' I carried a white flag made of one of my scarves tied to a broomstick. The marines on the gate wouldn't let us in. They said that earlier that morning they had been fired on from the mosque opposite and thirty-eight of their number had been injured. We waited. Marines situated on the palace walls above us fired sporadically at threats, real or imagined. They had erected no signage, so a bullet was the only way anyone could discover that the road was closed. A blue Passat drove along the road opposite and disappeared round a corner. A volley of gunfire rang out from above. Silence. And then the faint sound of crying.

Our translator, Mohammed Fatnan, told the marines he was going to see what had happened so they had better not shoot him. He ran across the road. After a few minutes, he ran back carrying a bundle in his arms. The next few moments are seared in my memory: as he got closer I could see the bundle was a little girl in an orange-and-white spotted dress, with long dark curly hair. Her name was Zahra. She was six years old. The marines had shot her in the head inside the blue Passat.

At first the marines wouldn't let us film as their medic patched Zahra up, but relented when we pointed out that they were responsible for shooting her, and it was only because of Mohammed that they had the chance to save her. Our team rescued more injured people, including Zahra's aunt who had a bullet in the shoulder. She could be treated locally, but the marines called in a medevac helicopter airlift Zahra and her father to Kuwait. All the time, the guys on the wall kept firing. In the hours we spent around the palace that day, they killed five civilians and injured another five. Iraqis - including Mohammed - who had welcomed the Americans were now trembling with fury and outrage.

After a few weeks in hospital in Kuwait, Zahra and her family moved to Iraqi Kurdistan, where it was safer. She survived. The reputation of the Americans did not. The incident we witnessed was one among many. US troops were regarded as liberators for less than twenty-four hours.

The US had been trying to get rid of Saddam Hussein since he invaded Kuwait in 1991. In 1996, the Palestinian-American poet Lisa Suhair Majaj heard a TV interview with the then US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright. Asked whether the sanctions imposed on Iraq were worth the deaths of half a million Iraqi children, she replied that they were. The poem Suhair Majaj wrote in reaction became even more relevant after the 2003 US invasion, not just because of the 'collateral damage' of civilian deaths but also because the invasion had so many terrible consequences. The world really did 'crack apart'.

A volley of gunfire rang out from above. Silence. And then the faint sound of crying.

I Brought the War with Me: Stories and Poems from the Front Line

Lindsey Hilsum

Chatto & Windus - \$36.99

Remarkable: combines her exceptional experience as a war correspondent with selected poetry as an act of witness.

- Andrew Motion

ARGUMENTS

Lisa Suhair Majaj, 1998

consider the infinite fragility of an infant's skull
how the bones lie soft and open
only time knitting them shut

consider a delicate porcelain bowl -
how it crushes under a single blow
in one moment whole years disappear

consider: beneath the din of explosions
no voice can be heard
no cry

consider your own sky on fire
your name erased
your children's lives 'a price worth paying'

consider the faces you do not see
the eyes you refuse to meet
collateral damage

how in these words
the world
cracks apart

ART, DESIGN, FOOD, GARDENS



This Creative Life: Fashion Designers at Home
Robyn Lea

Thames and Hudson – \$79.99 ●●

In this lush, illustrated book for lovers of fashion and interior design, best-selling photographer and author Robyn Lea opens the door to the private spaces where some of the world's top fashion designers live their best creative lives.



The Natural Garden
Richard Unsworth

Thames and Hudson – \$59.99 ●●

Garden designer Richard Unsworth offers advice on how to select materials that sit effortlessly in the landscape, planting combinations that thrive in different settings, and discusses the principles of bush regeneration and restoration. Whether large or small, urban or rural, every garden and every gardener can benefit from wildening their surroundings to reconnect with nature.



Ottolenghi Comfort
Yotam Ottolenghi

Ebury – \$65.00

In this much-anticipated book, Yotam Ottolenghi brings his inspiring, flavour-forward approach to comfort cooking, delivering new classics that taste of home. Weaving memories of childhood and travel with over 100 irresistible recipes, *Ottolenghi Comfort* is a celebration of the connections we make as we cook, and pass on from generation to generation. This is comfort food, Ottolenghi style.



The Garden Against Time
Olivia Laing

Picador – \$44.99

When Olivia Laing began to restore a walled garden in Suffolk, an overgrown Eden of unusual plants, the work drew her into an exhilarating investigation of paradise and its long association with gardens. Moving between real and imagined gardens, from Milton's *Paradise Lost* to John Clare's enclosure elegies, Laing interrogates the sometimes shocking cost of making paradise on earth. But the story of the garden doesn't always enact larger patterns of privilege and exclusion. It's also a place of rebel outposts, communal dreams and experiments that could prove vital in the coming era of climate change.



Karkalla at Home
Mindy Woods

Murdoch – \$49.99 ●

Welcome to *Karkalla At Home*, a please-use-me cookbook that brings Australia's incredible bounty of native foods into your kitchen. Chef, author and proud Bundjalung woman Mindy Woods features stories and profiles on more than 40 of the continent's most readily available native ingredients, including the iconic macadamia, citruses, berries, plums, myrtles and seeds, coastal greens and succulents, and a host of exceptional native seafood.



Big Garden Design
Paul Bangay

Thames and Hudson – \$49.99 ●

A garden that cannot be seen in one glance entices people to step outside with a sense of wonder. Landscape designer Paul Bangay has an extraordinary ability to envisage scale and create gardens that feel as though they've been there forever. These gardens are places to explore.



Love Crumbs
Nadine Ingram & Hudson

Simon and Schuster – \$54.99 ●●

To be a cake maker is to be woven into the sweetness of people's lives, to bake layers of love crumbs as an exploration of romance, adventure and comfort. For Nadine Ingram, of beloved Sydney bakery Flour & Stone, it's perfume, spice and fruit that awaken our senses and attract us to one another. In this book she honours the places and experiences that have formed us with a creative and soulful collection of cakes that are steeped in nature. *Love Crumbs* will be an essential addition to your cookbook shelf for its unique, surprising and often dreamy flavour combinations.



Carlo Scarpa: The Complete Buildings
Emiliano Bugatti, Jale N. Erzen and Cemal Emden

Prestel – \$130.00

Featuring exquisite photographs of every structure the architect designed from scratch or incorporated into a historical building, this elegant volume is as sumptuous and inviting as a Scarpa interior. Although he was not widely known during his lifetime, Carlo Scarpa has in the past-half century become one of the most revered of modern architects. His passion for integrating the ancient with the modern, the natural with the built environment, and the sensual qualities of glass, wood and stone, makes him the perfect architect for this moment.



Bellissima: An Australian-Italian Affair
Collette Dinnigan

Simon and Schuster – \$100.00 ●●

Her style philosophy is one of simple yet sophisticated beauty. *Bellissima: An Australian-Italian Affair* will take you into Collette's world of beauty – interiors, gardens, food, friends, curiosities, art and travel – in Italy and Australia. This is a book of inspiration and delight, a joyous journey of creativity with one of Australia's foremost fashion designers. Full of glorious imagery, it is a must-have book for those who love travel and interiors.



RecipeTin Eats: Tonight
Nagi Maehashi

Macmillan Australia – \$49.99 ●

Australia's favourite home cook, Nagi Maehashi, is back to solve the perennial problem of what's for dinner tonight ... and every night. After her record-breaking first cookbook, *Dinner*, Nagi brings us *Tonight*, with more than 150 brand-new foolproof, flavour-packed recipes, 800 variations on those recipes and 3000 possible combinations that match formulas (including the world-famous Charlie sauce) with different ingredients.



Goya and Munch: Modern Prophecies
Various

Munch Museum – \$79.99

Francisco de Goya and Edvard Munch revolutionised art through their ground-breaking pairing of raw realism and unique imaginative power. Exploring inner worlds and existential questions, they had a formative impact on art history and our understanding of our times. The book is published in conjunction with the exhibition *Goya and Munch: Modern Prophecies*, the first comprehensive presentation of these two artists in tandem.



65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art
Marcia Langton and Judith Ryan

Thames and Hudson – \$79.99 ●

Long before Britain's invasion of Australia in 1788, First Peoples' cultural and design traditions flourished for thousands of generations. Their art shaped the continent as we know it today and the societies that thrived here; but these continuing artistic practices and new art forms were disregarded by the settlers, and not considered to be 'fine art' until the late 1980s.



Kitchen Sentimental
Annie Smithers

Thames and Hudson – \$34.99 ●

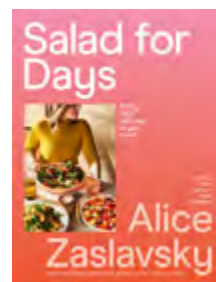
Annie Smithers is one of Australia's most highly regarded chefs and one of the first to truly epitomise the paddock-to-plate ethos. Her restaurant du Fermier, in the small village of Trentham, features a menu du jour based on classic French farmhouse cooking, using vegetables harvested that day from her kitchen garden, local meats and poultry. Here she recounts her lifetimes experience with food and the restaurant world.



About Face: Contemporary portrait painting in Australia and New Zealand
Amber Creswell Bell

Thames and Hudson – \$69.99 ●

Since the advent of the camera nearly two centuries ago, a portrait is no longer expected to be an exact likeness. From surrealist renderings to abstract interpretations, contemporary artists have shed the convention of traditional portraiture, experimenting with an array of styles to convey the personality and character of their subjects. "Containing a sublime collection of works, Amber Creswell Bell's book is a deeply fascinating insight into Antipodean portraiture." – David Wenham.



Salad for Days
Alice Zaslavsky

Murdoch – \$45.00 ●

You may have heard it said, "You don't win friends with salad". Well, I'm here to tell you that you do! When you cart a kaleidoscopic container-load to a friend's barbecue; when you plonk a bowl of zippy greens down alongside grand mains to cut through and cleanse the palate; when you toss pantry ingredients together for lazy bowl-food on the couch.

DISCOVER MORE LIFESTYLE READS TODAY



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The Decisive Moment
Henri Cartier-Bresson
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson – \$79.99

The Decisive Moment (Images à la Sauvette in French) is one of the greatest photography books ever published. First published in 1952 by Verve, with an original cover by Matisse, it was the result of a

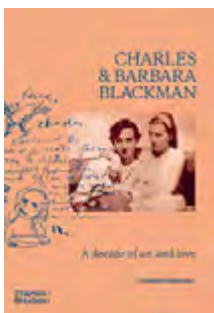
collaboration between the photographer, the famous art critic and publisher Tériade, and the painter, at the peak of his career. It reveals the intrinsic duality of Henri Cartier-Bresson's work, the combination of intimate interpretation with documentary observation, and received tremendous critical acclaim within the art world. *The Decisive Moment* is considered a "bible for photographers", in the words of photographer Robert Capa. It remains an essential reference for photographers to this day.



Tony Tan's Asian Cooking Class
Tony Tan
Murdoch – \$59.99 ●

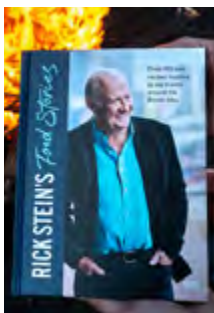
Tony Tan has been cooking, eating, teaching and writing about the foods of Asia for more than four decades. He shares more than 150 of his most cooked, beloved and personal

recipes from his vast collection. A book for beginners and connoisseurs alike, Tan teaches his contemporary, sometimes adventurous approach to the most important inspirational and evergreen dishes from Malaysia, China, Vietnam, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and beyond.



Charles and Barbara Blackman: A Decade of Art and Love
Christabel Blackman
Thames and Hudson – \$59.99 ●

When Christabel Blackman's mother turned ninety, they celebrated by sifting through Barbara's old documents: diaries, photos, manuscripts – and a fragile old folder, tied with a ribbon. This held letters from a love long past between Christabel's parents. It was a portal into a decade of art and love between Charles and Barbara Blackman. Set against the burgeoning cultural art scene of 1950s Melbourne, among the soon-to-become legendary artists of the Heide group, Christabel weaves the story of Charles and Barbara and the influence they had on each other, and on the Australian art world.



Rick Stein's Food Stories
Rick Stein
BBC Ebury – \$59.99

Rick Stein's Food Stories is an exciting collection of new classics that celebrate modern Britain. These recipes reflect his mouth-watering and heartfelt exploration of today's British cuisine and how different cultures have influenced the nation's evolving palate.

He highlights traditional favourites such as Bangers and Champ with Red Wine Gravy, Crumpets with Potted Shrimp, and Tattie Scones with Smoked Salmon, and puts his twist on new food and flavours that have come from other shores.



Galah: Stories of Life Outside the City
Annabel Hickson
Murdoch – \$69.99 ●●

It can be easy to assume nothing much happens beyond the city, if that's all you've known. But that, of course, is far from the truth. Here, across six themed chapters, journalist Annabelle Hickson

shares a different perspective on life in regional Australia, featuring stories from the coast to the farms, from the bush to the towns, from the rainforest to the outback. Annabelle brings together the best work from more than 50 leading writers, photographers and artists from her award-winning magazine, celebrating not only incredible landscapes and remarkable, beautiful places, but also the diversity, resourcefulness and creativity of the people that call the country home.



Simply Jamie: Celebrate the Joy of Food
Jamie Oliver
Michael Joseph – \$59.99

Simply Jamie is about celebrating the joy of cooking, and making it easy for us to fit cooking into our busy lives. In five knock-out chapters covering Midweek Meals, Weekend Wins, Trusty Traybakes, Cupboard Love and Perfect Puds, Jamie has produced a cookbook that will fit seamlessly into your life.



Good Cooking Every Day
Julia Busuttill Nishimura
Plum – \$44.99 ●

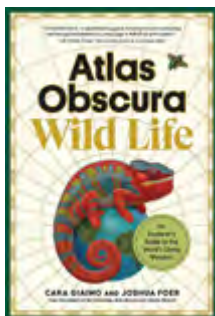
Julia Busuttill Nishimura is one of Australia's best-loved food personalities, renowned for her generous, uncomplicated, seasonal cooking. *Good Cooking Every Day* is all about simple food and creating memorable meals. This collection of brilliant recipes includes a guide to creating menus for any occasion, from a celebration of summer produce to pure comfort food in cooler weather, a simple family dinner to a relaxed lunch with friends. Julia pairs ingredients in harmonious and delicious ways, with recipes for every season. This is everyday eating at its very best.



Hawaii
Olaf Heine
teNeues – \$160.00

Photographer, artist and filmmaker Olaf Heine shows us Hawaii in all its beauty: the waves, surfers and landscapes. Over several years he travelled the islands and captured, in timelessly beautiful black and white photography, everything that

interested him. A mixture of impressions that portrays the special attitude to life in this area.



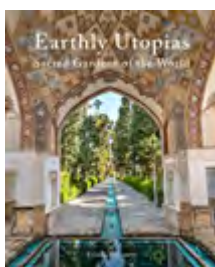
Atlas Obscura: Wild Life
Cara Giaimo and Joshua Foer
Workman – \$70.00

Featuring over 500 extraordinary plants, animals, and natural phenomena, with illustrations and photos on every page, the book takes readers around the globe—from Antarctic deserts to lush jungles, and into the deepest fathoms of the ocean and to the hearts of our densest cities.



The Good Farm Cookbook
Scott and Matilda Gooding
Murdoch – \$39.99 ●●

Sustaining and flavour-packed food that is good for your body and for the planet. With the authors' combined expertise in nutrition and regenerative farming – and their love of great food, these 80 recipes (covering mornings, afternoons and evenings, as well as sweet treats and staples) will guide you to mindfully source your ingredients with a reverence for their origins and yourself. Perfect for family cooking.



Earthly Utopias
Yolanda Zappaterra
Murdoch – \$69.99

From the mountains of Kashmir to a repurposed castle in the west of Ireland, a grand tour of the most magnificent sacred gardens in the world. Elements from religious gardens – from labyrinths and grottos to monastic herb gardens and geometrical patterns – have long been familiar in garden design, as has the tradition of seeking spiritual enlightenment through nature. But this book takes the reader straight to the source, showcasing the best gardens designed and informed directly by religious and spiritual teachings.



Uses for Obsession
Ben Shewry
Murdoch – \$34.99 ●

An intimate, searing and hopeful memoir meets manifesto that reframes the way we think about restaurants, cooking, hospitality, leadership and humanity from one of the most respected chefs in the world. Raised on a farm in a close-knit rural New Zealand family, Ben Shewry shares how a childhood surrounded by nature and a reverence for First People's cultures has influenced his work, the values he lives by, and the meticulous, inventive multi-course menu that is synonymous with Attica.



Magnum America
Magnum Photos, Peter van Agtmael, Laura Wexler
Thames and Hudson – \$250.00

What is "America"? What does it look like? Where can it be found? What does "America" mean and for whom? This ambitious publication does not attempt to present a comprehensive photographic history of the United States but uses the stories and photographs in the Magnum Archive to offer potential answers to those questions. In doing so, it presents a compelling visual portrait of the USA, past and present, as it stands once again at a crossroads of history.



Balenciaga – Kublin: A Fashion Record
Ana Balda
Thames and Hudson – \$100.00

An exquisite photography book featuring the collaborative work of fashion photographer Tom Kublin and renowned haute couture designer Cristóbal Balenciaga. More than 140 photographs and film stills by Kublin capture the golden age of Balenciaga couture in the 1950s and 1960s, from the impeccable elegance of the collection shoots – including exclusive film footage of Balenciaga himself at work – to striking covers and editorials for high-profile magazines.



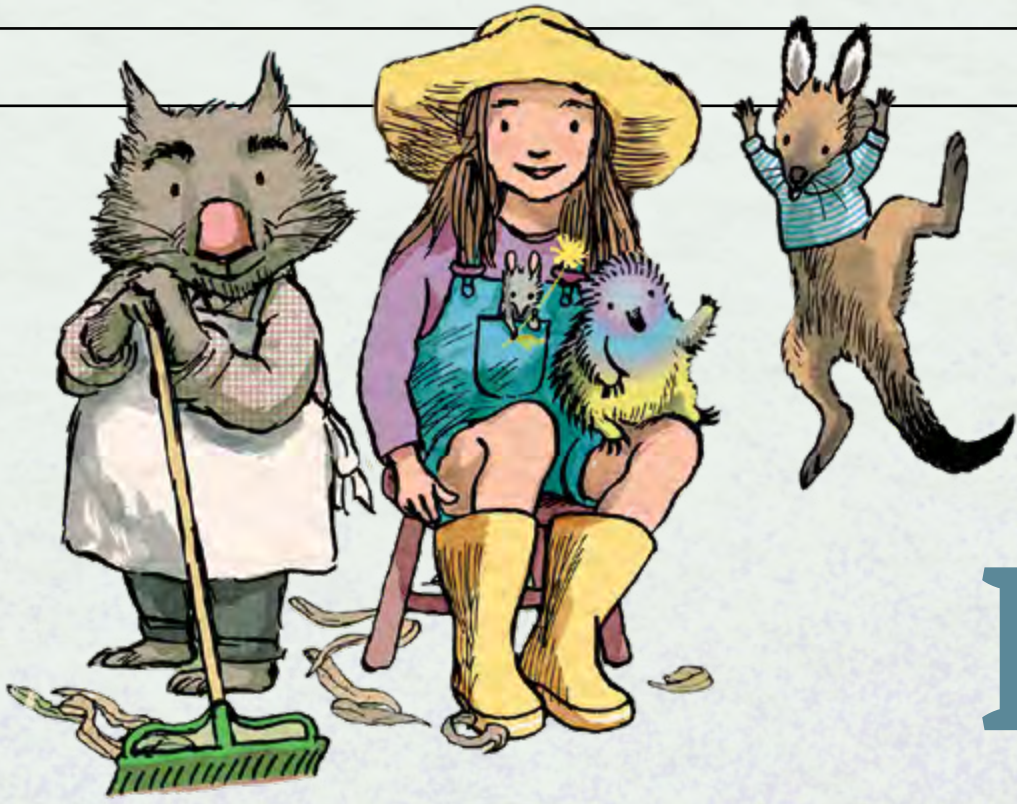
Inside Paris
Ricardo Labougle
Vendome Press – \$100.00

Paris never does things by half. Join distinguished photographer and author Ricardo Labougle for an exclusive look into the beautiful, diverse homes of Parisian interior and fashion designers, artists, and influencers. Peek inside interior designer Vincent Darr's stunning chinoiserie-inspired bedroom, AD100 interior designer Jacques Grange's contemporary twist on his regency apartment, and Italian fashion designer Jacopo Etro's architecturally beautiful home styled with mid-century decor and filled with objets d'art.



The Plant Society Design Handbook
Jason Chongue
Murdoch – \$45.00 ●

Love plants? Appreciate design? Want to combine the best of the two in your home? *The Plant Society Design Handbook* brings together essential know-how for incorporating the ethereal magic of plants into your living spaces, where a thriving, perfectly situated kauri pine or a striking arrangement of succulents is just as important as an investment couch or a stand-out piece of art.



ZANNI LOUISE

Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise, talks to Bookoccino about Hazel's Treehouse, the new book she and illustrator Judy Watson have created – an Australian 'Winnie-the-Pooh', a delightful, whimsical celebration of childhood.

How and when did you realise you were a writer?

As a kid, I always told stories. I had an old olive tree that grew like a cave where I spent hours sitting, telling myself stories and making up characters. When I was about six, my dad brought home a typewriter and I had so much fun bashing out stories to bring into school. My spelling was atrocious but at that age, who cares? It was all about the story.

I wrote all the way through school and university – plays at Christmas, plays for school and university, short stories, pages and pages of journals ... But not once did I consider becoming a writer. It wasn't a tangible career, in my mind. Even though everything I did revolved around stories and writing was at the core of all my favourite activities, I was more drawn to art, to drama, everything but writing as a career.

I had an old olive tree that grew up like a cave where I spent hours sitting, telling myself stories.

I worked in a contemporary art gallery for a while in Melbourne, moved to regional NSW to have kids, and began doing a bit of technical writing for TAFE, as well as writing blog posts for companies. It was something I just fell into, by chance, and was great flexible work to do around young children. But the combination of leaving a full time job, spending hours (alone) with babies, living in a regional area, somehow reawakened my love of stories. I began telling them in my head as I walked, like I did as a kid. Reading *Winnie-the-Pooh* to my daughters set off a fire in my chest. I knew instantly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Write stories! It felt like everything came together at once and made so much sense.

I have always made sense of the world and my feelings through stories. It's how I connect with others. And now I write books for a living, I've never once looked back. When people ask what other job I'd like to do, I can't think of a single one! Nothing fulfils me like writing. Oh, maybe being a national park ranger. But still, I will write for love.

Where did you grow up and were there lots of native animals around you?

I grew up in regional NSW, on the outskirts of Inverell. We had a twelve acre property surrounded by eucalyptus forest and I was always given a lot of freedom to explore. I spent most of my time outside. We had a tonne

of farm animals but there were definitely native animals around. Brown snakes! Lots of kangaroos. Birds. We raised a squirrel glider in our home, called Skye, until she was old enough to go into nature. Her first night, she was eaten by the cat, but I don't tell the kids that part of the story! We also had two emus who lived in our garden because my dad was gifted emu eggs. A strange and wonderful pet!

Hazel's Treehouse is very much based on my own olive tree, which was filled with both real and imagined animals. I can see the characters as clearly today as I could as a kid. It's funny how those things don't go away.

Tell us about Poky, why does he change colour?

Poky in fact started out as a feelings hedgehog (I am obsessed with hedgehog videos on TikTok). It wasn't until my then editor, Lindsay Knight, suggested I use all Australian animals, that Poky became an echidna.

Echidnas are just the cutest things. I see them on my walks every now and then. They are super shy and sweet. I loved the image of a girl wearing an echidna on her head.

I'm not sure why I decided for Poky to change colour depending on Hazel's mood. But having written books like *I Feel the World*, and having done a lot of emotional and social learning with kids in classrooms, I know colours are a really great way for kids to talk about how they feel. There is no right or wrong answer but it helps to give the feeling some form, like a colour! Kids always love Poky best too when I show them the pictures and have fun guessing what colour Poky would turn if Hazel's feeling happy, sad, lonely, confused.

Did the animal inspire the character or did the character inspire which animal you chose?

I never deliberate much on character. Characters simply appear on the page, in their animal form, with whatever personality they so desire! I guess it makes sense that Odette is a jumpy and enthusiastic pademelon, whereas Walter is a slower, grumpier animal (wombat). There is definitely a nod to A.A. Milne's characters in this cast: Eeyore, the grumpy donkey and Tigger, the enthusiastic tiger. However, all of the characterisation is happening on the page; the characters and their idiosyncrasies emerge as the stories unravel. One rule of thumb I try to follow when creating a cast is to make sure there are plenty of contrasts between the characters. Contrasts create more dynamic content and dialogue, and creates opportunities for characters to rub up against each other.

Was this your first time working with Judy?

Yes. I adore Judy's art for this book. It so happens her partner is a native flower specialist; little did I know when she was signed up! And yet one of the takeaways I wanted for this book was for kids to get to know some of their local plant species. Judy really was the perfect person for that.

Interview by Sally Tabner; Images courtesy of Zanni Louise and Walker Books

Her style is so classic and yet she’s captured so many beautiful nuances – Hazel’s hair tucked behind her ear. The way the grass bends. Such gorgeous details, which completely compliment and extend the images that existed in my mind as I wrote the text. I am a big believer in the magic that happens between words and text, when an illustrator brings a story to life. As a writer, it’s my job to sit back and let the magic evolve.

I ran a retreat with Judy in Victoria long before we worked together, so I happen to know she’s also a lovely person!

How did the idea of having each day as a chapter come about?

This collection of stories began on a leafy verandah at a friend’s house in Brooklet. I woke with the sun, sat on the deck and hand-wrote the first two stories in the collection. This was definitely a case of free-writing; I was uninhibited by any conscious or critical thought. I just let the story be.

I loved the tone and characters, so wrote a couple more, then sent the idea to Clare at Walker Books, who loved it. Once it was signed up, I wrote a selection of chapter themes as headings, like Happy Pants Friday, and went from there.



Hazel’s Treehouse

Zanni Louise

Illustrated by Judy Watson

Walker Books – \$19.99

{ DISCOVER MORE ABOUT ZANNI LOUISE }

instagram.

@zannilouise

website.

zannilouise.com

representative.

lkliterary.com

The stories are all approximately the same length (1,500 words), which was long enough for the characters to see their dilemma through, but not too long that we’d get exhausted by their antics. I feel they’re also a nice length for kids to read to themselves or for parents to read one a night to kids before bed. Bite sized.

Once I’d written about three-quarters of the stories, I realised most of them were centred around a day. That helped give me a shape for the remaining stories. The working title as I wrote the collection was ‘The Hazel Days’.

Why do you think reading is important?

Reading to kids from a very early age creates a bond between parent and child. It’s a relaxing time to spend together, where both of your attention is completely focused on the story. It’s no wonder kids look forward to story time and beg for it to last as long as possible!

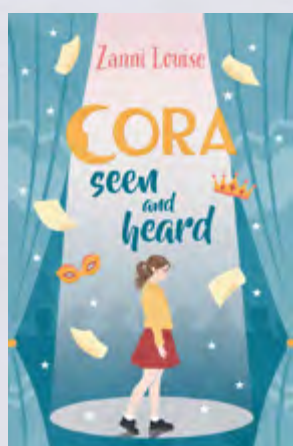
On a functional level, kids are absorbing language as they listen. They’re also empathising with characters, which develops their empathy and social skills. Books are literal empathy machines, putting the reader in the character’s shoes. There’s nothing else like it.

Absorbing stories at any age also helps kids work out who they are and how to be in the world. I’m not big on stuffing a message into a story-sock in order to educate a child. But kids can’t help but absorb the messages as they read and listen. So if a story is about learning to be kind, a child is absorbing that message. That can’t be a bad thing!

Reading also expands creativity and imagination. By visualising stories as their parent reads, a child exercises all these wonderful muscles. I see it all the time when I visit kids in classrooms. Children who are read to a lot, and who now read themselves are excited about making their own stories. Their ideas are limitless!



Other books by Zanni ...



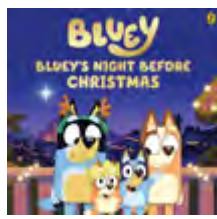
And the classic ...



{ DISCOVER ZANNI'S BOOKS TODAY }

{ CLICK AND COLLECT IN AVALON + DELIVERY AUSTRALIA WIDE }

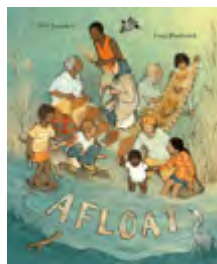
KIDS



Bluey's Night Before Christmas

Bluey
Puffin – \$16.99 ●

'Twas the night before Chrissie, when inside their home, not a Heeler was stirring, not even a gnome. It's Christmas Eve and Bluey and Bingo are tucked up snug in their beds. When suddenly a noise outside wakes them up ... Who could it be? Experience the magic of Christmas Eve with Bluey and the Heeler family in this retelling of the classic Christmas tale!



Afloat

Kirli Saunders and Freya Blackwood
Hardie Grant – \$24.99 ●

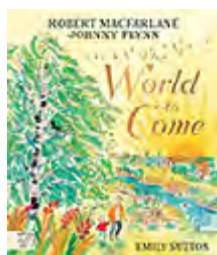
Against the backdrop of a changing environment, an Elder leads a child along the waterways, sharing her People's knowledge and gathering community along the way. An inspiring picture book that uses the practice of weaving as a powerful metaphor for the honouring and teaching of First Nations wisdom, and the coming together of all people to survive and thrive.



A Dictionary Story

Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston
Walker Books – \$24.99

Dictionary wishes she could tell a story just like the other books. So one day she decides to bring her words to life. How exciting it is, she thinks, that an adventure is finally happening on her very own pages! But what will she do when everything gets out of control, all in a jumble, and her characters collide causing the most enormous tantrum to explode. Her friend Alphabet knows exactly what to do and sings a song that brings calm and order to Dictionary's pages once again. Hilarious fun from favourite Oliver Jeffers.



The World to Come

Robert McFarlane and Johnny Flynn
Magic Cat – \$24.99

Take a lyrical journey through nature with this sumptuous blend of words and pictures. Follow a father and son as they walk together through every season – hailing owl and otter, blackbird and silver birch – as together they discover a world to come.



The Tiny Gardeners

Kat Macleod
Thames and Hudson – \$26.99 ●

Join the *Tiny Gardeners* as they grow fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs for the upcoming Summer Market. See the long and bumpy

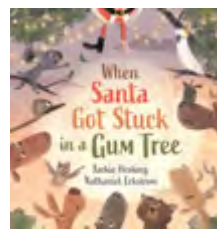
beans! Taste the fresh and juicy strawberries! Feel the spiky rosemary sprigs! Smell the sweetly scented honeysuckle! Everything is almost ready to pick, but it's a hot, humid day and the garden is looking dry and thirsty.



Best Present Ever

Zoe Foster Blake
Puffin – \$16.99 ●

What would YOU choose as the best present ever? A magical creature? A swimming pool filled with candy? Or, maybe your very own amusement park? Still not special enough ... then let your imagination soar with this funny and heart-warming book about finding the perfect gift for a friend.



When Santa Got Stuck in a Gum Tree

Jackie Hosking and Nathaniel Eckstrom
Walker Books – \$24.99

It's Christmas Eve but Santa is stuck in a gum tree! How will he deliver the presents? Luckily, an enthusiastic cast of Aussie animals are up for the challenge. But despite their Christmas spirit, unsticking Santa is harder than they thought! Maybe they need a new plan...



Where to Hide a Star

Oliver Jeffers
Harper Collins – \$27.99 ●●●

Once there was a boy who would often play hide-and-seek with his friends the star and the penguin. The star was always easy to find, but one day it went missing. So, the boy radioed the Martian for help and soon found himself on an exciting spaceship rescue mission to the North Pole! But there, he discovered that he wasn't the only one who had always dreamed of having a star as a friend. The out-of-this-world, long-awaited sequel to the much-loved *Boy* stories, loved all around the world – now introducing a brand-new character!



Junkyard Fairies 1: Dig Deep

Edwina Wyatt
Walker Books – \$19.99 ●●●

Fur, Tip and Nug live in a chipped, china teapot at the bottom of the junkyard. They are messy, bossy and never eat their vegetables. With the help of a burping toad, a sleeping giant and a monstrous caterpillar, the junkyard fairies can find a way to fix just about anything. Join them as they navigate life at the bottom of the heap, making rusty magic and turning trash into treasure.



Hazel's Treehouse

Zanni Louise
Walker Books – \$27.99 ●

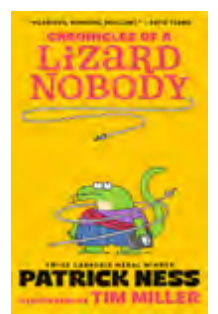
Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise and illustrator Judy Watson have created an Australian *Winnie-the-Pooh* with a collection of warm and whimsical stories. Hazel is nine years old, as long as her bunk bed and as kind as a marshmallow. She and her friends – Odette, a pademelon, Walter the wombat, Tiny, a honey possum and Poky – an echidna – live together in a treehouse in the bush. Every day brings new adventures, sometimes mistakes ... and always, always, imagination and friendship.



All the Beautiful Things

Katrina Nannestad
ABC Books – \$27.99 ●

The Nazis want everyone to be the same. If you're different, you don't belong. Not belonging is dangerous. Anna's little sister, Eva, is frail and needs time to learn new things. She has a huge heart and a gift for loving, but Hitler doesn't value such riches. And so she's hidden away. Safe for now, but with the threat of discovery always near.



Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody

Patrick Ness
Walker Books – \$16.99

Zeke and Daniel have just been made hall monitors by Principal Wombat. This has nothing to do with the fact that they are monitor lizards. Somehow, they must impose order on arrogant lions, excitable seals and super-relaxed pandas. And worst of all, there is Pelicarnassus! A pompous giant pelican, who inexplicably has it out for the lizards. Can the hall monitor lizards and their new friend, a blind, fearsome red-tailed hawk, protect their school from all manner of outlandish threats?



Taronga Presents 1 and 2: Poo at the Zoo and Party Animals

Laura Wood
Puffin – \$14.99

From the wild world of Taronga comes two new animal adventure books in this junior fiction series, for animal lovers aged 7 and up! Sophia and Ollie have always dreamed of working at the zoo like their parents. Now, they've been given the chance to volunteer! Join the best friends as they dive into the wild world of zoo-keeping, discovering new animals and fun facts at every turn.



Johnny, the Sea, and Me

Melba Escobar and Elizabeth Builes
Enchanted Lion – \$24.99

Pedro has always dreamed of going to the sea. So when his mum takes him on a special trip to a small island in the Caribbean, he's so happy that he grows an extra inch! But the troubles at home – bullying from classmates and an absent father – find a way to follow Pedro, even on vacation, and he runs away. That's when he meets Johnny, an islander descended from pirates.



The Best Sleepover in the World

Jacqueline Wilson
Puffin – \$16.99

Daisy's sister Lily is non-verbal but she's learned sign language at her new special school. So when she signs that she wants a host sleepover Daisy and her family conspire to make Lily's party *The Best Sleepover in the World!* A moving look at friendship, sleepovers and siblings.



The Midwatch

Judith Rossell
Hardie Grant – \$24.99 ●

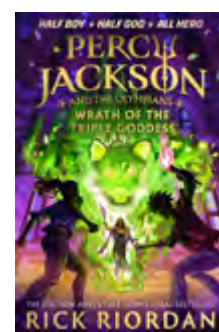
Banished to the Midwatch Institute for Orphans, Runaways and Unwanted Girls, Maggie Fishbone is sure she's in for a life of drudgery. But she quickly discovers there's more to the Midwatch than meets the eye. The biggest children's book of the year!



Dexter Proctor the Ten-Year-Old Doctor

Adam Kay
Puffin – \$24.99

It was clear from an early age that Dexter Proctor was different. He started speaking at four seconds old. By the age of three, he had 87 A-levels, from Afrikaans to Zoology. And by ten, he was working as a paediatrician at Lilydale General Hospital.



Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Wrath of the Triple Goddess

Rick Riordan
Puffin – \$26.99

Percy Jackson has saved the world multiple times – battling monsters, Titans, even death himself – so graduating high school should be a breeze, right? Wrong. Percy needs three recommendation letters

from the gods before his final year in high school comes to an end. And one thing Percy knows, the gods on Mount Olympus don't do anything for free.



Following the Moon
James Norbury
Michael Joseph – \$35.00

A beautifully illustrated tale of a wise and aged wolf who takes a young, orphaned pup under his guidance. Having saved the pup's life, the wolf agrees to join and protect the pup as she embarks on an adventure to follow the moon. As they make their way through day and night in a wintry landscape, they learn profound lessons about friendship, life, death, change and loss.



Dream Big BINGO!
Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
Quarto – \$35.00

Dream Big BINGO! is a bingo game with a difference! Choose one of history's most inspirational figures – from writers and artists to scientists and sports stars – and collect all the qualities and experiences they need to help them fulfil their big dreams. Race to be first to complete your card and shout 'bingo' to win! Learn about their incredible life stories and amazing achievements as you play.



Hotel Balzaar
Kate DiCamillo
Walker Books – \$24.99

At the Hotel Balzaar, while her mother cleans rooms, Marta slips down the back staircase to the grand lobby to chat with the bellman, study the painting of an angel's wing over the fireplace, and watch a cat chase a mouse around the face of the grandfather clock, all the while dreaming of the return of her soldier father, who has gone missing. One day, a mysterious countess with a parrot checks in, promising a story – in fact, seven stories in all, each to be told in its proper order.



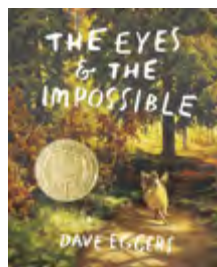
113th Assistant Librarian
Stuart Wilson
Puffin – \$26.99

Oliver Wormwood is sure his new job in the library will be boring. Until he learns that books hold great power - and danger. By the end of his first day, Oliver has witnessed a death, been frozen by a book, met a perplexing number of cats, and fought off a horde of terrifying creatures. With only a mysterious girl called Agatha to show him the ropes, Oliver needs to learn fast ... if he wants to live longer than the 112 assistant librarians before him.



The Encyclopaedia of Extinct Animals
Sami Bayly
Lothian – \$32.99

Discover the incredible features and characteristics of some of the natural world's most fascinating extinct and critically endangered animals in this gorgeously illustrated hard-cover encyclopaedia from award-winning author and illustrator Sami Bayly. Featuring facts and astonishing illustrations about sixty amazing animals, including the Western black rhino, thylacine, dodo, South Island giant moa and Tapanuli orangutan. Plus creatures with mysterious origins like Delcourt's giant gecko.



The Eyes and the Impossible
Dave Eggers
Anderson – \$19.99

A wild, lyrical, hilarious and beautiful story about Johannes a wild dog living and surviving in an urban park. Hemmed in on three sides by dense human neighbourhoods, and on one side by the ocean Johannes job is to be the Eyes – to see everything that happens within the park and report to the park's elders, three ancient bison who ensure the Equilibrium. But changes are afoot. Readers will fall in love with this unforgettable story of friendship, beauty, liberation, and running very, very fast.



Millie Mak Mender
Alice Pung and Sher Rill Ng
Harper Collins – \$12.99

Millie Mak is now ten, and often feels shy and awkward. But by using her special gift to make handy and beautiful things, Millie befriends residents at the aged care home where her mum works. When the whole school becomes involved in making hats for the residents, a tricky situation arises between Millie's friends. Millie is a maker – but can she also mend friendships?



Rabbit and Bear: This Lake is Fake
Julian Gough and Jim Field
Imprint: Hodder – \$16.99

Rabbit is fed up. Spring has finally arrived, but it's not as perfect as he hoped it would be. Bear thinks that if they work hard, they can improve things, a bit. But Rabbit has a MUCH better plan. He sets off across the lake in search of a Perfect World ... Meet Rabbit and Bear in the classic series that has taken the world by storm: this is a story of hope, friendship, a very long journey with no breakfast, and an entire island made of ... of ... wait ... is that chocolate? It looks like chocolate ...



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YOUNG ADULT



Comes the Night
Isobelle Carmody
Allen and Unwin – \$24.99

A superb YA fantasy set in the near future, full of secrets, high stakes, peril, deceptions and dreamwalkers, from the internationally acclaimed and best-selling author of the *Obernewtyn Chronicles* and *The Gathering*. Will Helloran, sixteen, lives in the Canberra dome complex that protects its inhabitants from the corrosive atmosphere outside. He comes to believe that his uncle's death may have been suspicious – and he begins investigating...



Songlight
Moira Buffini
Faber – \$29.99

Don't be deceived by Northaven's prettiness, by its white-wash houses and its sea views. In truth, many of its townsfolk are ruthless hunters. They revile those who have developed songlight, the ability to connect telepathically with others. Lark has lived in grave danger ever since her own songlight emerged. Then she encounters a young woman in peril, from a city far away. But who can they trust?



When the World Tips Over
Jandy Nelson
Walker Books – \$22.99

Welcome to Paradise Springs, Northern California – a hot, dusty, wine-country town where there are so many grapes fermenting at one time, you get drunk from breathing the air; where devil winds blow so hard they whip your sense away. A town where every fairy tale you've ever read could be set. When a strange, enigmatic, rainbow-haired girl shows up in their fantastical hometown, it sends the lives of Fall brothers Wynton and Miles and their sister Dizzy into tumult.



Last Seen Online
Lauren James
Walker Books – \$19.99

When Delilah meets Sawyer Saffitz (son of Anya Saffitz, aka Hollywood royalty), she becomes hooked on a decade-old scandal. In her quest for the truth, Delilah uncovers blog posts written by the mysterious "gottiewrites" and is soon caught up in a world of greed, fandom conspiracy theories ... and murder. And the deeper Delilah digs, the more dangerous it becomes – because someone is willing to kill to hide the truth.



The Glass Girl
Kathleen Glasgow
Harper Collins – \$19.99

Everyone in Bella's life needs something from her. Her mom needs her to help around the house, her dad needs her to not make waves, her ex needs her to not be so much. The only person who never needed anything from her was her grandmother -- she just needed her to be Bella. There's one thing that eases the pressure, though. Alcohol smooths the sharp edges of Bella's life and makes it all so much easier. What's the big deal? Everyone drinks.



Swiftle: The Ultimate Taylor Swift Puzzle Book
Puffin – \$32.99

Are you looking for the perfect antidote to a Cruel Summer? Enchanted by all things Taylor Swift? So deep in the Folklore you could fill in every Blank Space, answer any Question ...? Then *Swiftle* is the puzzle book for you. Packed with 100 facts to find, codes to crack and puzzles to solve, it will take all your Tay-Tay trivia and countless Midnights to unravel them all. The perfect gift for the Fearless Swiftie, all that's left to ask is – are you ... ready for it?



The Girl with No Reflection
Jandy Nelson
Penguin – \$27.99

Ying Yue believes in love. So when the royal matchmaker selects her to wed the crown prince, Ying hopes that love is exactly what awaits her. No matter that the royal family is notoriously reclusive, rarely leaving their walled palace-and no matter the rumours about the previous royal brides, who after their weddings, were supposedly never seen again. Ying knows that she was chosen for a reason. After all, why else would the matchmaker select her, out of all the girls in the kingdom?



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EVENTS OF 2024



2024 EVENTS WRAP UP

What a year! 55 events, many sold out. Grace, War, Migration; First Nations, Architecture, The Soul.

Bookoccino events are something special. Over 32 years we have hosted some of the biggest names in literature, fulfilling our mission to be 'more than a bookstore'.

This year we were joined by: **Julia Baird** with Juanita Phillips; **Annabelle Hickson**; **Nick Bryant**, **Don Watson**, **Mike Green** and **Marian Wilkinson**; **Cameron Bruhn** in conversation with Tim Ross; **Bruce Pascoe** and **Lyn Harwood** with Susan Moylan Coombs; **Viet Thanh Nguyen**; **Julian Borger**; **Jenny Croft**; **David Sanger** in conversation with **Jane Perlez**; **David McBride**; **David Lindenmayer** with Geoff Cousins and Sophie Scamps; **Vikki Moursellas**; **Kathy Lette**; **Sebastian Smee** with Alison Kubler; Poets **Judith Beveridge**, **Martin Langford**, **David Brooks**, **Jacob Ziguras**, **Judith Bishop** and **Luke Fischer**; **Richard Unsworth**; **Collette Dinnigan**; **Nadine Ingram**; **Lizzie Williamson**; **Julie Janson**; **Cherie Hausler**; **John Brogden**; **Melinda Ham**; **Collette Dinnigan**; and **Scott and Matilda Gooding**. With **Gina Chick** and **Robyn Lea** still to come.

A heartfelt thanks to all of our 2024 guests. We can't wait for another great year of books, conversation and ideas in 2025.



{ DISCOVER } OUR EVENTS PODCAST



PAPILLON

H A I R

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www.papillonhair.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER SERIES

Welcome to Bookoccino's 2025 Summer Series.

December kicks off with a peek inside the eclectic, eccentric and exotic homes of the world's best fashion designers. Author and photographer Robyn Lea sits with Jo Yeldham to discuss *This Creative Life*.

On Thursday 19th December, Avalon comes to life with a community Christmas party and late night shopping. Come and support your local retailer – there will be carols, face painting, Santa Claus and give-aways. There is something special about the festive spirit. We hope you find yours this Christmas!

Come late January, we welcome Chris Baker to talk about his book, *Sydney Swims*, as well as a special clowning workshop with renowned children's entertainers Jean Paul Bell and Sontaan Hopson. Perfect for the school holidays.

Author of recent favourite fiction *To Sing of War* Cath McKinnon, joins us to talk with *Always French* author Sarah Turnbull.

In March, our ever popular French lessons return and we host our seasonal salon with visiting poets and musicians.

New and exciting events are always being announced so please joining our mailing list.

We'd love to see you at a Bookoccino event soon!



{ DISCOVER } OUR SUMMER SERIES EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

7–9PM . Bookoccino

ROBYN LEA ON THIS CREATIVE LIFE: FASHION DESIGNERS AT HOME

Sneak a peek inside the eclectic, eccentric and elegant homes of fashion icons with photographer Robyn Lea, in conversation with Jo Yeldham.

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER

4–9PM . Bookoccino

AVALON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Late night shopping for Avalon Village with carols, Santa Claus, ice cream.

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025

6–8PM . Bookoccino

CHRIS BAKER ON SWIMMING SYDNEY: A TALE OF 52 SWIMS

A conversation on friendship, history and family, and how swimming can help us better understand ourselves.

THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2025

5–7PM . Avalon Recreation Centre

KIDS CLOWNING WORKSHOP

Renowned 'clown doctor' Jean Paul-Bell and Bookoccino's Sontaan Hopson lead a fun, interactive holiday workshop for kids. Learn magic tricks and make balloon art, discover the art of mime and the importance of laughter.

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

6–8PM . Bookoccino

CATH MCKINNON ON HER NOVEL TO SING OF WAR

Cath McKinnon discusses her rich, layered and thrilling novel of love, war and friendship with *Almost French* author Sarah Turnbull.

THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025

6–9PM . Bookoccino

RENDEZVOUS EN FRANÇAIS – A FOUR WEEK LANGUAGE PRIMER

Sandrine is back with her signature French lessons, pairing language tuition with cultural education, French wines and amuse bouche from four iconic regions of France.

FRIDAY 21 MARCH 2025

6.30–9PM . Bookoccino

POETRY AND MUSIC SALON WITH LUKE FISCHER

Our seasonal poetry salon brings some of Australia's finest poets and musicians together for an elegant evening of classical music and readings, hosted by poet and philosopher Luke Fischer.

SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

4–6PM . Bookoccino

KIDS CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH INKLING WRITING STUDIO

REGULAR HAPPENINGS

There is always something happening at Bookoccino! We have a regular program of workshops, book clubs, live music and trivia nights.

EVERY TUESDAY MORNING

10.00–10.30AM . Bookoccino

TODDLERS BOOK CLUB AND STORYTIME

Join us every Tuesday morning for stories and songs with your little ones. With regular guest authors reading their books this is a magical way to introduce literature to your child and a great opportunity to meet other parents in a relaxed and welcoming space.

SECOND TUESDAY EVENING OF THE MONTH

7–8PM . Bookoccino

HEART OPENING CACAO CEREMONY

Led by Bookoccino's Sontaan Hopson our cacao ceremonies offer a gentle celebration of life and a calm retreat from life's storm. Unwind and drink in this sacred elixir with nourishing properties.

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OF THE MONTH

5.30–8.30PM . Bookoccino

TRIVIA NIGHTS

Avalon's most hilarious night-out. Three rounds of trivia led by actress and MC Amanda Maple Brown with DJ Darren Todd on the decks.



{ SIGN UP } TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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Find out more





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books – events – live music

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