

Readings Monthly

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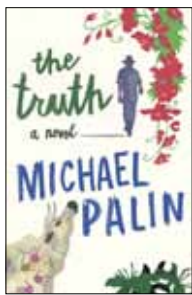
Alice Pung on Majok Tulba • Nick Earls

IMAGE: DETAIL FROM COVER OF JOHN BANVILLE'S ANCIENT LIGHT. SEE REVIEW P.7

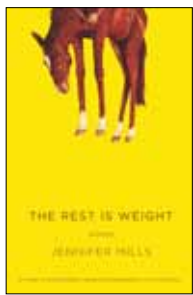


John Banville's new novel *Ancient Light*

July book, CD & DVD new releases. More new releases inside.



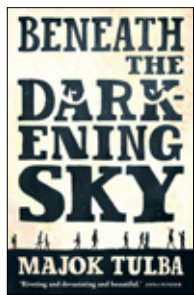
FICTION
\$32.99
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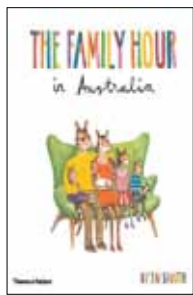
AUS FICTION
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CLASSICAL
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July event highlights: Ita Buttrose at Cinema Nova; Kylie Kwong at Hawthorn; Simone Felice & Josh Ritter at Carlton. More inside.

All shops open 7 days, except the State Library shop which is open Monday–Saturday, and the Brain Centre shop which is open Monday–Friday.
Carlton 309 Lygon St 9347 6633 Hawthorn 701 Glenferrie Rd 9819 1917 Malvern 185 Glenferrie Rd 9509 1952 St Kilda 112 Acland St 9525 3852
Readings at the State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston St 8664 7540 Readings at the Brain Centre, Parkville 30 Royal Parade 9347 1749
See more new books, music and film, read news and reviews, check event details, and browse and buy online at www.readings.com.au



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From the Books Desk

By the time you read this column, the Miles Franklin prize will have been awarded for 2012. Always a horse race – goodness gracious, Mr Waterhouse was even offering some (surprisingly generous) odds on it this time around! – I detected a great deal of goodwill from the literary community towards the shortlist this year: it's clear the judges allowed their subjective opinions to roam freely, and the choices reflect their passionate engagement with some of the fine fine work that was produced over the last 12 months.

But every month we see a new or emerging fiction writer knocking on the door for our attention, and July is no exception. In this issue, my colleague Jess Au finds much to admire in Jennifer Mills's short-story collection *The Rest is Weight*. Already with a couple of books under her belt, here is a writer that one senses is only going to grow in stature in the years to come. And Nick Earls, with his own collection *Welcome to Normal*, proves that it doesn't matter how many times you've gone around the track as an author, you're only as good as your last work.

Now although publishers do like to trumpet their powers of divination in terms of recognising bullion in the slush pile and the like, sometimes they are just damn serendipitous with their publishing programmes. Dear old Black Inc. must be in a state of glee over the recent Fifty Shades phenomenon – for who's publishing a book this month called *The Sex Lives of Australians?* Move over Christian Grey – the real question is: were the Kelly Gang gay? And not missing a beat either is Text with Nicki Reed's debut novel *Unzipped* – a somewhat saucy number I understand from Chris Gordon, who seems to have gotten rather a warm glow reviewing it for us.

Finally, to a grab-bag of mid-winter goodies: an important debut, Majok Tulba's *Beneath the Darkening Sky*, which Alice Pung introduces here; a stunning new edition of the increasingly award-encrusted *1832* by James Boyce; some fine Australian crime writing on debut from Jessie Cole (*Darkness on the Edge of Town*) and Andrew Grimes (*The Richmond Conspiracy*); *Dancing with Empty Pockets*, a history of Australian bohemianism by Tony Moore (which I'm sure must unearth a lot of very entertaining tales); and the inimitable Bill Leak returns with *Unaustralian of the Year*, which I understand will include not just the cartoons that typically don't hold back, but some rather controversial writing by Bill as well.

—Martin Shaw

Readings Monthly

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Thank you to Readings staff members and contributors for your reviews.

This Month's News

VISIT THE MELBOURNE BRAIN CENTRE (AND OUR NEW SHOP) DURING OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE



Explore 100 incredible buildings for free over the weekend of 28 and 29 July 2012. Open House Melbourne allows you to explore great contemporary, historic and sustainable buildings and spaces that you would not normally get to access.

Join a special tour of the Melbourne Brain Centre and take the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes where cutting edge neuroscience research takes place. Visitors are welcome to explore the Dax Centre, home of the Cunningham Dax Collection. The gallery comprises of creative works by people with mental illness and/or emotional trauma. Younger visitors might like to observe cool demonstrations of a strawberry DNA extraction lab. You will also be able to browse in our new bookshop next to the cafe (Dr Dax Kitchen) over this Open House weekend.

The Melbourne Brain Centre houses researchers of the Florey Neuroscience Institutes, the Mental Health Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. It enables collaboration in new, purpose-built facilities in Parkville. This centre is the focus of a \$225 million project that incorporates three sites and is the largest neuroscience facility of its kind in the southern hemisphere. It accommodates research on brain disorders that affect one in seven people, including stroke, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy and mental illness. The centre is located at 30 Royal Parade, cnr Genetics Lane, Parkville. Opening Hours: 10am to 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Tours run every 15 minutes, 15 to 20 minutes duration. Last tour at 3.40pm.

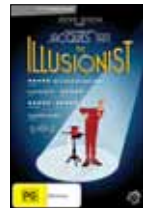
For more information on the Open House Melbourne and to sign-up for updates visit www.openhousemelbourne.org

MIFF



The Melbourne International Film Festival's First Glance of its 2012 program has been revealed! Ahead of the full program announcement on 13 July, First Glance offers a preview of the Festival with highlights drawn from a cross-section of the program. 'We've been keeping mum up until now so it's good to let at least a few little cats out of the bag,' said Festival Director Michelle Carey. 'We're thrilled to be bringing Michael Haneke's stunning *Amour* (image above) from Cannes to Melbourne as well as the latest work from the always delightful Wes Anderson and festival favourite Werner Herzog ... I think it's going to be the best MIFF yet!' Visit MIFF at miff.com.au for First Glance; full program released on 13 July.

READINGS MIFF DVD SALE



Readings is a proud sponsor of MIFF and to celebrate this year's festival we are holding a sale of extraordinary DVDs at all Readings shops and online at readings.com.au from 13 July to 19 August.

Turn to page p17 for details.

YA READERS' GROUP



Are you interested in joining our Young Adult Readers' Group? If you are a broad reader between the ages of 13-17 and are interested in getting your hands on new books before they hit the shelves and discussing the books you read the previous month with a small group, contact Alexa Dretzke at alexa.dretzke@readings.com.au. Meetings are held upstairs in the new event space at Readings Hawthorn, 701 Glenferrie Rd at 1pm on the 1st Sunday of the month commencing Sunday 5 August.

Mark's Say

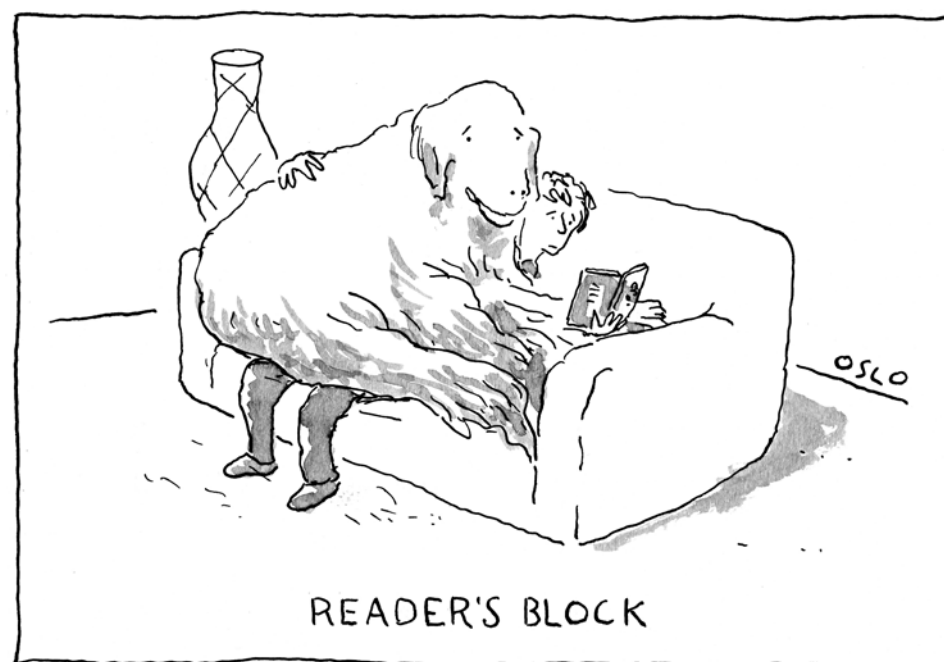
News and views from Readings' managing director Mark Rubbo



A number of years ago Jamie Byng, of the Scottish publishing house Cannongate, was talking with Canadian author Margaret Atwood. The talk got around to favourite books and Atwood in her distinctive Canadian drawl said that the book that she had given away most copies of in her life was *The Gift* by Lewis Hyde. Hyde's book is a cultural study of giving. Atwood told Byng that she would send him a copy and that if he liked it, he must promise to publish it in the UK. "How could I refuse her?" Cannongate did indeed go on to publish *The Gift* and it became one of their best selling titles but one thing they did, Byng told a recent meeting of Australian booksellers was to give away 1000 copies – 500 in Edinburgh and 500 in London. "It was an amazing experience. Reaction ranged from suspicion to great pleasure. I had this amazing range of conversations with complete strangers about the book, about giving and about the power of books."

A number of years later in discussions with book industry colleagues about the importance of books and literacy in the community the discussion turned to England's World Book Day and its role in generating interest in children's books – was there something equivalent that could be done for adult readers? It was then that he recalled his experiences giving copies of *The Gift* away and wondered what would happen if this was done on a massive scale around the country and so the idea of World Book Night came into being.

Studies show that reading and literacy are intrinsically linked to success in work, careers and many other areas of life. Byng's group argued that if they could get books to those who hadn't read, or who had forgotten the rewards and pleasures of reading then that must surely be beneficial and, not to be timid, they decided they wanted to give one million books away on one night. Authors and publishers agreed to forgo royalties and other fees, printers agreed to print the books at cost and the BBC agreed to massively back the project. The issue then was how to physically distribute 1 million books, 40000 each of 25 titles, across the country to the right people. They argued that readers are the best advocates for books; passionate readers like to impart their passions – they are books best advocates. So they called for 20,000 volunteers to each give 50 books away on World Book Night. They gave them away in housing estates, prisons, hospitals and on the streets. It was an unqualified success. World Book Night has spread to the US and Germany and has just had its third year in the UK. The Australian Booksellers Association brought Mr Byng to Australia to convince us that it was an idea we couldn't ignore – the assembled booksellers and publishers did need much convincing of the merits scheme. "I'd dearly love to see this happen in Australia." Hopefully we'll be calling for volunteer givers soon!



Oslo Davis

www.oslodavis.com

CINEMA NOVA RECOMMENDS

PAGE PICTURE Text Classics Pick a side: book or film!

They're A Weird Mob (G) Wednesday July 4: 6.45pm

Cinema Nova & Text Publishing present the latest in a series of discussions on book to film adaptations of selected novels from the newly released Text Classics series. John O'Grady's first novel under the pseudonym 'Nino Culotta' is an hilarious snapshot of the immigrant experience in Menzies-era Australia. The 1966 film starred early Australian stars including Chips Rafferty and John Meillon.

SERIES SCREENING FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Visit the Cinema Nova Bar

CINEMA NOVA

380 LYGON ST CARLTON
www.cinemanova.com.au

Online bookings available

Join our e-news for updates on the Met Opera, National Theatre and other stage spectaculars.

From Oscar winning filmmaker Kevin McDonald (*Touching The Void*, *The Last King Of Scotland*) comes an incredible insight into one of the 20th century's most influential musicians.

MARLEY

★★★★★ Empire **NOW SHOWING**

July Events

All our Readings book and music events are entry by gold coin donation to The Readings Foundation, unless otherwise stated. Please note that bookings do not guarantee a seat, but rather indicate to us the number of people to expect. To see more events or for updates on new events please visit the events page at www.readings.com.au.

GOLD COIN DONATIONS AT READINGS EVENTS

We're now asking for people who attend our events to please make a small donation, when possible, to the Readings Foundation. The Readings Foundation was established by Readings' managing director Mark Rubbo in 2008 to make donations to individuals and organisations that do good work for community, literacy, or the arts. Donations are funded from a percentage of Readings' profits, and from Readings customers, who make donations in return for gift wrapping – and now events as well. There will be a tin for gold coin donations at each event. All contributions to the Foundation over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made at any Readings shop. Thank you for your support.

4

ITA BUTTROSE



Don't miss this special event with the extraordinary Ita Buttrose, founding editor of *Cleo*, and later editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly*. Join us as we celebrate the release of her new memoir, *A Passionate Life* (Penguin, PB, \$29.95). Wednesday 4 July, 6.30pm, Cinema Nova. \$10 per person, redeemable against the book on the night. Bookings essential: book online at readings.com.au, or please call 9347 6633

4

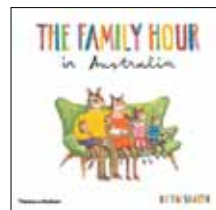
KYLIE KWONG



Wonderful chef Kylie Kwong is back in our fair town with her new book, *Kylie Kwong's Simple Chinese Cooking Class* (Lantern, HB, normally \$59.95, our special price \$49.95). Join us for a glass of Brown Brothers wine, tastes from the cookbook and an opportunity to chat with Kylie. Wednesday 4 July, 6.30pm, Readings Hawthorn. \$20 per person. Bookings essential: 9819 1917

7

TAI SNAITH



Bring your kids down for a reading by the author of *The Family Hour in Australia* (T&H, HB, \$24.95). Saturday 7 July, 3pm, Readings St Kilda. Free, no need to book.

9

SIMONE FELICE & JOSH RITTER



Simone Felice is the author of *Black Jesus*. His latest CD is *Simone Felice*. Josh Ritter is the author of *Bright's Passage*. His latest CD is *So Runs the World Away*. Both artists will be appearing in-store. Monday 9 July, 6pm, Readings Carlton. Free, no need to book.

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TASTES OF MARGARET RIVER

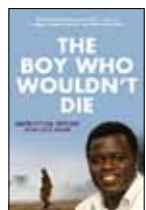


Have you been? In celebration of two new wonderful books, the authors of *Chefs of the Margaret River Region* (Margaret River Press, HB, \$55) and *Things That are Found in Trees and Other Stories: Margaret River Short*

Stories (Margaret River Press, PB, \$13.99) join us for some Margaret River cheese and wine and take us on a journey through the region. Tuesday 10 July, 6.30pm, Readings Hawthorn. Free, but please book on 9819 1917.

12

DAVID NYUOL VINCENT



To coincide with the first anniversary of Southern Sudanese Independence, please join us to hear David's story. His book, *The Boy Who Wouldn't Die* (A&U, PB, \$29.99) tells of the horror of war-ravaged south

Sudan. Now based in Melbourne, Vincent has become an advocate for the Sudanese community and *The Age* recently voted him as one of Victoria's 100 most influential people. Thursday 12 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

16

TONY KEVIN

Reluctant Rescuers (Self-published, PB, \$24.95) will interest anyone concerned with Australian border security. Tony Kevin is a former Australian ambassador whose courageous questions in 2002 sparked off the Senate inquiry into the sinking of SIEV X. Monday 16 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

18

THE HORROR OF SYRIA

We are fortunate to have activist Nina Haider; spokesperson for Australians for Syria Robert Bekhazi; and blogger Susan Dirgham to talk to us about what is happening in Syria and why. Wednesday 18 July, 6.30pm, Kenneth Myer Building Theatre, University of Melbourne, Genetics Lane, off Royal Parade, Parkville. Bookings essential: please call 9347 1749.

21

HEATHER TAYLOR JOHNSON

Heather is the poetry editor for *Wet Ink* magazine and will be reading from her second collection *Letters to my Lover from a Small Mountain Town* (IP, PB, \$25). Monday 21 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

26

GERALD MURNANE IN CONVERSATION WITH WAYNE MACAULEY



Join us as Gerald Murnane talks about the re-release of his classic Australian novel *The Plains* (Text, PB, \$12.95). Thursday 26 July, 6.30pm, Readings St Kilda. Free, but please book on 9525 3852.

26

BROWN BROTHERS PAGES TO POETRY WINTER FESTIVAL



Bonny Cassidy's long awaited first collection *Certain Fathoms* (Puncher & Wattman, PB, \$24) has just been published. She'll be joined by poet, scholar and editor, Ann Vickery, and emerging poet and editor,

Will Druce. Thursday 26 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, no need to book.

28

FATHER JOHN MISTY



J. Tillman, formerly of The Fleet Foxes, is touring Australia with his new band Father John Misty, and we are chuffed that he will be performing in-store. They have released an album of new material (*Fear Fun*)

that infuses the harmony-laden hymns of Tillman's former band with a patina of Gram Parsons and Harry Nilsson-inspired, Laurel Canyon-inspired, neo-psychedelia. Saturday 28 July, 3pm, Readings Carlton. Free, no need to book.

Launches

DR NICK CARR

Michael Leunig will launch Carr's new book *What Happens Now?* (ACER, PB, \$24.95). Leunig has also written the foreword and the book contains illustrations by Andrew Weldon. Thursday 5 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, no need to book.

TAI SNAITH

Wonderful Melbourne-based illustrator, Tai Snaith is launching her sweet, funny and engaging children's book *The Family Hour in Australia* (T&H, HB, \$24.95) tonight! Come and help celebrate. Thursday 5 July, 6.30pm, Readings St Kilda. Free, no need to book.

JACQUELINE PEEL

Jacqueline Peel is co-author of a recently released third edition of *Principles of International Environmental Law* (CUP, PB, \$89.95). Wednesday 18 July, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton. Free, no need to book.

Coming in August

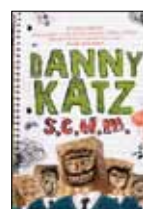
L.A. LARKIN IN CONVERSATION WITH CARMEL SHUTE



This is a Sisters in Crime event. Hear L.A. Larkin talk about her latest environmental thriller, *Thirst* (Murdoch, PB, \$29.99). She will be in conversation with Sisters in Crime national convenor,

Carmel Shute. Thursday 2 August, 6.30pm, Readings Hawthorn. Free, but book on 9819 1917.

DANNY KATZ



Well-loved *Age* columnist, children's book author and all round funny man is signing copies of his new book, *SCUM* (A&U, PB, \$15.99) – a book aimed at teenagers. Saturday 4 August, 11am, Readings Hawthorn. Free, no need to book.

Meet the bookseller with ...

Will Heyward, Readings St Kilda



Why do you work in books?

1. The only reason I work at all: for money.
2. For enjoyment. I go to bookshops a lot and buy a lot of books so being employed by one is a good way to rationalise my time. I come across a lot of new authors and titles, and, in that way, working in a bookshop is its own kind of education. And chatting with customers can be fascinating.
3. My colleagues are funny and knowledgeable, and the management team are humane, generous and pragmatic.
4. The staff discount is a bonus.

What's the best book you've read lately?

A History of Books by Gerald Murnane. A few others worth mentioning whilst I'm at it: *A Death in the Family* by Karl Ove Knausgaard, *Wildlife* by Eliot Weinberger, and *Leaving the Atocha Station* by Ben Lerner were all great, and I'm looking forward to flicking through *As Consciousness is Harnessed to Flesh* by Susan Sontag, which has just been published.

What have you noticed people buying lately?

Fifty Shades of Grey x 50 000 000. Also *Suicide* by Edouard Levé, which hasn't sold nearly as many as the *Fifty Shades* series, but has done pretty well for a small press title in translation. People seem to be compelled to buy it after reading the blurb (Levé killed himself four days after turning the manuscript into his publisher in Paris). A really unusual book. It's written very clinically and in the second person, but there is something very affecting about the voice of the narrator.

What's the strangest experience you've had in a bookshop?

A guy came to the counter of the shop in St Kilda and asked, very earnestly, if he could borrow some money from the cash register because he needed to buy an engagement ring so that he could ask his girlfriend to marry him.

There have also been celebrity sightings and tantrums from customers, but this romantic guy who thought that the bookshop could lend him cash sticks in my mind the most. I've concluded that he must really think of bookshops as benevolent and loving places. Or that booksellers are gullible and bad with money ...

What's the best experience you've had in a bookshop?

Discovering new books – it happens all the time.

What was your favourite book as a kid?

Tintin and the Goosebumps series are my two earliest reading memories. After that there are a handful of books that I can remember reading with total wonder, such as *The Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, His Dark Materials series by Phillip Pullman, and Roald Dahl's short stories – a mixed list. I didn't realise it at the time but these are the books that led to my discovery of the pleasure of reading.

New Australian Writing Feature

How we survive

Alice Pung interviews Majok Tulba about his new book *Beneath the Darkening Sky*



Majok Tulba arrived in Australia from Sudan in 2001, having narrowly missed out on being recruited as a child soldier for a rebel army. His debut novel, Beneath the Darkening Sky (Penguin, PB, \$24.95), is a harrowing

reimagining of what might have been – he talks to Alice Pung about confronting the worst of violence and despair.

When Susan Sontag wrote *Regarding the Pain of Others*, about portraying hell through art, she said that this portrayal was not intended 'to tell

us anything about how to extract people from that hell, how to moderate hell's flames'. Portraying hell does not mean the portrayal will make things good. Yet Sontag recognises that it seems a good in itself to acknowledge how much of our human suffering is caused by human wickedness.

Majok Tulba's *Beneath the Darkening Sky* is about such human cruelty, told through the voice of a child. What is striking about this powerful book is that there is no overarching framework of morality as we would understand here – only survival through eternal vigilance. 'You had to be aware of danger and we were confronted by death and evil in our world and this was desensitising,' explains Majok. Much of this story is about the rapid loss of a short-lived innocence, an innocence paralleled with the author's recollections of his childhood:

'My village was a paradise. As a boy, I loved staying outdoors; tending goats, hunting in the woods and playing with my friends in the fields. Mornings were the best. It was my favorite time of day, that morning

light, it made the greens on the hills so much greener and the sky was always that perfect blue.'

Born and raised in Pacong, a village by the waters of the White Nile in Southern Sudan, Majok was once measured against the length of an AK-47 rifle – the height test used by a marauding army for recruiting boy soldiers – and fortunately fell short. However, he lived through a country that was in the maelstrom of a civil war. This is how he came to be able to write about Obinna, a boy whose Nigerian name means 'Strong Hearted', and Obinna's attempts to stay alive through luck and prudence. Yet his is a luck that is truly vagarious, and a prudence that relies on animal instincts.

Beneath the Darkening Sky is a work of fiction, not autobiography, but Majok says that every child in Sudan would have seen many of the things he has written about: 'There are far more vivid images I have seen, and I had to scale back the reality of much that occurs there, because the Western reader would be appalled.'

It is interesting that Majok refers to the 'Western reader'. Although this reference is not one of contempt but respect for sensibilities that have not been exposed to the sheer banality of brutality, Majok has understood that some of the things he has witnessed in his life seem too atrocious to be credulous – though real they are.

Perhaps fiction from a first-person perspective offers a way to portray that truth without opening up personal traumas, and to avoid too many probing questions about his own experience. It is also a good way to prevent being heralded as a personal ambassador for political or social commentary, or representation of a diverse ethnic group. Obinna's story is his own, and the fictional gap enriches it, gives it room to inhale and exhale before beginning to document the lives of the South Sudanese.

'Obinna's story is his own, and the fictional gap enriches it, gives it room to inhale and exhale before beginning to document the lives of the South Sudanese.'

And document it he does. The visceral descriptions of looting, pillaging, rape, amputation, massacre and depraved violence which occur throughout two thirds of this book could seem unrelenting, but for the narrator's convincing humour and adolescent awkwardness – amazingly enough, Obinna is a wry and funny storyteller, even in the midst of getting beaten up. The misogyny of the soldiers is documented with no overriding redemption, and the steady slide into a universe of the hunter and the hunted appears inevitable considering the psychological torments to which the boys are subject.

You cannot see a war through a filter, you cannot look at darkness through rose-coloured glasses because all you get is the colour of clotted blood. I understand this from my own family experience as a child of a genocide-survivor; Majok has written about war in a way that does not glorify anything. He has the unflinching simplicity of Primo Levi, set in a world of heat and

not cold. If Levi wrote *If This Is a Man*, then Majok has written a story that could very well be alternately titled *If This Is a Boy* – there are none of the 'childhood' traits we would like to superimpose on his children characters, particularly not innocence.

Living in Sydney since 2001, Majok came to Australia as a refugee, and also works as a filmmaker. Interestingly enough, the novel reads like a finely crafted film script, so vivid were its descriptions and settings. As a director though, his hand is unwavering. In Sudan, storytelling is not based on the written word.

'My family have no idea that stories can be told in a medium other than oral, and oral storytelling is unpaid job in my country,' Majok states. 'My family want me to work in the bank or become a doctor. A writer is an unknown career in Southern Sudan. The other jobs would give high status in the community, whereas as a storyteller is a fun, passing the time activity with no pay and no status.'

Yet this is not a 'fun' book. It is an adventurous story, a daring one, a necessary tale to tell. Unlike Dave Eggers's *What is the What*, another vivid and compelling narrative about a boy soldier, Majok's story does not extend to arrival in a new country – it is set firmly in the war zone. However, Majok is focused on bridging an understanding between the newly arrived African refugee communities and the wider one. He believes that there is very little positive representation of Sudanese in Australian mainstream media, and that many of the problems reported are due to a lack of insight into 'refugee trauma reactions and the psychological impact of past experience on the present'.

There are novels that bore into a reader's psyche long after the last page, leaving behind a residual smear of dark feelings. Yet dark does not necessarily mean bad – you do not feel, while reading the story, a sense of inchoate despair. It is more terrible to not acknowledge that such darkness exists. Sontag warns against this type of willful blindness in *Regarding the Pain of Others*:

'Someone who is perennially surprised that depravity exists, who continues to feel disillusioned (even incredulous) when confronted with evidence of what humans are capable of inflicting in the way of gruesome, hands-on cruelties upon other humans, has not reached moral or psychological adulthood.'

Beneath the Darkening Sky is a devastating book, but after reading it, it is not a book that leaves a reader feeling devastated. It is a book about growing up that leaves us clearer about what to feel regarding the pain of others, with an understanding about how human beings can regenerate, slowly. As Majok concludes during our interview:

'I don't want to change the world but I look forward to the day when humankind awakes and sees the world as it is, a beautiful place.'

Alice Pung's latest book is Her Father's Daughter (Black Inc., PB, \$29.95).

Book of the Month

THE REST IS WEIGHT Jennifer Mills

UQP. PB. \$19.95. Ebook \$16.82.



One of the problems with many short story collections – particularly those that gather together the disparate works of a single author over time – is the tendency to repeat the same few notes. Finding one's voice, or fine-tuning a tried and true formula over several different publications, can lead to a dangerous sense of repetition when amassed together in novel-length.

Jennifer Mills is the author of several books – including *Gone* (2011) and *The Diamond Anchor* (2009). *The Rest is Weight* casts a wide net, pulling together stories from venerated publications such as *Overland*, *Meanjin* and *Black Inc's* Best-ofs over the years, and it's a sign of Mills's strength as a writer, and the breadth and courage of her range, that the collections falls into none of these common traps.

Rather, this is a publication that leaps from perspective to perspective in octaves. We open with the haunting story of a young boy and his quiet empathy both for the horses in his care and the criminal in their midst, the telling managing to be both contemporary, mournful and archaic at the same time. The concluding piece couldn't be further from this beginning – a Russian cloud-seeding pilot seeking to atone for his last mistake – in a story that walks to the edge of futurism and back again.

Between these brackets we are taken from Beijing to Shanghai, from urban Adelaide to rural Australia, from Russia to the desperate borders of Mexico. Mills has travelled widely, including taking part in an Asialink residency in Beijing in 2010, and currently lives in South Australia.

Her background as a poet also comes through strongly. There's a precision and coolness to the words, as well as a palette of moods and tones, that go towards creating beautifully varied worlds. Several of the stories read more like vignettes – tiny glimpses of a life or slice of time: cowboys, performers and feathered boy-angels in 'The taxi driver'; oxygen tanks, abandoned sons, hatchbacks and quiet suburban imaginings in 'The air you need'; troopers, rifles, ropes, tobacco and wine in 'Look down with me'.

Yet the stronger pieces are undoubtedly those that combine this flair with narrative weight: 'Aperture', which follows the gradual drifting apart of a mixed-raced couple in modern China, 'The jungle will swallow anything', about a young girl's awakening to a much more adult world as she observes her mother and her clients at a roadside diner, and 'The milk in the sky', the saddest story of two women and the reasons they break apart.

Incidentally, Mills has recently been announced as the new fiction editor of *Overland*, a welcome move and perhaps another indication of the vitality of our independent journals and anthologies to the growing and supporting of the local writing scene. *Jessica Au is from Readings St Kilda*

New Fiction

Australian Fiction

BENEATH THE DARKENING SKY Majok Tulba

Hamish Hamilton. PB. \$24.95



Majok Tulba was nine when the Sudanese Armed Forces invaded his village, killing many people including some of his family. Most of the young boys were forced to join the SAF but Tulba was exempted because he was shorter than the AK-47 that the SAF used to measure recruits. He escaped with his younger brother and, after years of living in refugee camps, came to Australia at the age of 16.

Beneath the Darkening Sky is the 'what if?' version of Tulba's experiences. What if he had been taller than that AK-47? What if he had been recruited by the SAF and made to join the war raging in his homeland? What if he had become one of the tens of thousands of child soldiers roaming the country, inducted into a life of violence?

Tulba tells the story of 11-year-old Obinna, whose village is attacked and who is forced to join the SAF along with his older brother. It is the moving story of a compassionate young boy who tries to resist the savagery he is faced with, even as his brother succumbs, but I found the novel most remarkable for its subtle portrayal of how even the most innocent can be corrupted when pushed too far.

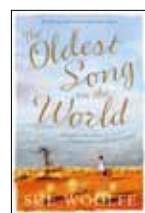
Beneath the Darkening Sky is an important addition to Australian literature, not only because of its eloquent and heartfelt examination of humanity under duress, but also for the insights it might offer us into the lives of some of our newest Australians. *Kabita Dhara is editor of the Readings Monthly*

THE OLDEST SONG IN THE WORLD Sue Woolfe

HarperCollins. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95.

Ebook \$14.99.



Kate is a linguistics student from Sydney and she is asked by her lecturer to travel to a remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory to record the song of a dying old woman.

The language spoken in this community is endangered and the song is believed to be from the Dreaming so there is evidence that there may be ancient grammar preserved within it 'like an extinct butterfly preserved in amber'. The pretext of Kate's selection for the trip is pretty implausible; she is one of the worst students academically but the lecturer has seen something unique in her and has chosen Kate in the hope that she will fulfil the lifelong dream of a teacher to change the life of a student.

There's a fair bit of implausibility to get around in this novel and there is much speculation that the invitation from the community to record the song has coincidentally come from someone from Kate's lonely and tragic childhood. I didn't feel there was much original insight in this novel and the landscape felt incompletely imagined. Kate is an odd character, her motivations were often a mystery and some of the periphery characters were dangerously one dimensional. Thankfully the novel is somewhat redeemed by an ending that is not predictable and in the last moments the story comes together and has something worthwhile to say about the importance of language and a sense of belonging. *Kara Nicholson is from Readings Carlton*

UNZIPPED Nicki Reed

Text. PB. \$29.99. Ebook \$19.74.



Here is a love story for all of us that live on the north side of the river. *Unzipped* is Reed's first novel set around our inner northern suburbs, and what a saucy number it is! The story centres on Peta, a woman caught in the trap of being someone she isn't until she falls in love with someone she meets on an alcohol-driven evening out. So far, not so complicated. But Peta is married and her life is already sorted. Her new love throws all old assumptions out of the window. The wonderful Melbourne setting (I really enjoy reading about our own fair city), is a wonderful extra in this tale of two women falling in love. Peta's story, I'm sure, is not so uncommon. The writing is reminiscent of a Bridget Jones style, albeit without the diary entries. The quirky humour is there as are the lists of dos and don'ts and the moments of hilarious humility. It all ends well as, the romantic in me would like to believe, is so of all love stories.

This is a light fun easy read with genuine erotic passages that should delight most women readers.

Chris Gordon is events coordinator at Readings

WELCOME TO NORMAL Nick Earls

Random. PB. \$29.95



Eight stories make up Nick Earls's most recent collection, *Welcome to Normal* – each of them vivid, self-contained examples of what longform storytelling can achieve. Caught somewhere between a novella and short fiction, these pieces give something of the depth and detail of full-length work, with all the necessary sparseness and brevity of a short story, and personally, it's a genre I'd love to see more of.

Earls is a veteran writer of 12 novels, amongst them *48 Shades of Brown*, *The True Story of Butterfish* and *Zigzag Street*, and there's a completeness to his writing that shows. Or, to talk of the reverse, a skill that means you never feel the labour of it.

Each of these stories manages to stand apart from the other, yet within an arms-reach of all is a keen eye for the most explosive, invisible moments in everyday life – the realisation that you will never be young again, that your parents too are flawed, dissatisfied and tragically human, and that partnership is as much about love as it is the imperfections that you've melded long ago. The characters here are all expats of a kind, forced to react when thrown out of their comfort zones, through travel, separation or unwanted company. Each of them undergoing seismic shifts that take place internally, without anyone noticing and within the blink of an eye.

Standouts for me were the title piece, 'Welcome to Normal', and 'The Heart of Robert the Bruce'. The former is a quietly powerful story of attraction and mismatches, when an employee finds himself sharing an evening with the wife of his boss's best friend in small town Illinois. The latter follows two lovers who decide to tell a lie about each other every night to their fellow holidaymakers while in Spain, making for sharply executed comic moments, as well as saying much about their prejudices, empathy and mutual flaws. *Jessica Au is from Readings St Kilda*

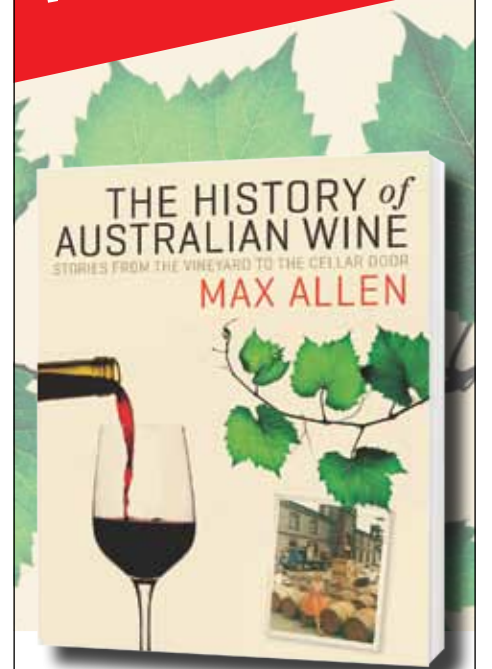
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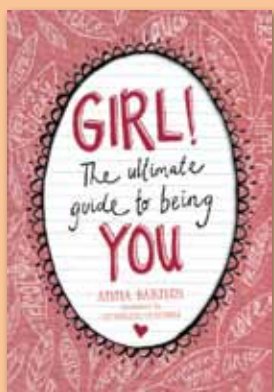
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Beneath the Darkening Sky describes a life unimaginably different from our own, but one that is the experience of tens of thousands of child soldiers. Uncompromising, vivid and raw, it is an astonishing portrait of a mind trying to make sense of a senseless world.



Ancient Light is the story of a life rendered brilliantly vivid: the obsession and selfishness of young love and the terrifying shock of grief. It is a dazzling novel, funny, utterly pleasurable and devastatingly moving in the same moment.



Anna Barnes' guide for girls 12+ discusses friendships, self-esteem, going green and making creative change. Discover what makes you tick and how to make the most of who you are in this ultimate how-to guide for modern girls.



In Eric's house there were too many elephants – in the living room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, even in his bedroom! The elephants take up a lot of space, but Eric loves every one of them. So when his mum says they have to go, Eric comes up with a clever solution to a very BIG problem...

penguin.com.au 

Q&A with Nick Earls

Jessica Au interviews Nick Earls about *Welcome to Normal* (Random, PB, \$29.95).



You have a sharp eye for the revelatory moments in everyday life – what draws you to documenting this?

I realised that was something that some of my favourite fiction did and I tried to learn from it. Some of the biggest moments in life and in the fiction that appeals most to me are practically silent and could pass unnoticed without the right light hitting them. The people behind the stories I've loved know where the switch is and they know how to angle the light, and they can get it right without the reader even noticing that a writer has been in the room.

I think life can appear to work one way on the surface, but deeper to that and often undeclared there are other issues playing themselves out. I wanted to see if I could do that in fiction – send a character off on some kind of journey, often literally on a physical journey, but use that to throw something their way that allowed a glimpse or two at the unspoken stuff that really counted.

Some of the characters seem to bond not over goodness, but over what they lack – two reluctant acquaintances struck with the 'narrowing of possibilities' and aging at an achingly hip coffee shop for example. Is there a strange comfort in this?

I think so. I hope so. There needs to be something for us when we're no longer achingly hip, or no longer legitimately in a position to hope we might be one day. Certainly you can bond with someone because you appeal to each other, or because you've both collected an awesome number of ceramic frogs or whatever, but I think you can also connect over a shared grasp of regular human frailty – of having lived enough to know how it feels to be enduringly imperfect.

If you were born anywhere close to when I was, you reach a point where you're made up of your own set of aches and pains, and good and bad 80s songs that mean something to you and your kind, and the blunders you've made and survived and perhaps emerged from a little wiser. Perhaps. It gives you a kind of common ground that's often not talked about, but it can still count for something.

So I decided to send two incompatible guys out for coffee with an undercurrent of that.

Equally, in 'Grass Valley', a young boy becomes an unwitting accessory to his father's deception. Why does this rite of passage hold such an emotional twist?

It's a holiday almost overtly set up by the father as a rite of passage, but perhaps the true rite of passage for the central character comes from learning that adults – specifically your parents – have their failings but still work earnestly at getting by and holding things together. For years, one of the things you rely on your parents for most of all is certainty or constancy. At some point something can come along to make you question that, and you're forced to accommodate what you find and recalibrate things a bit.

It's also a chance for the son to witness his father attempting to recapture a lost moment from his youth – perhaps even a moment that never was – but then, when he's taken himself right there, to back clumsily away. Not that the son can be certain of what happens, but he gets to see his father being something other than a father. It's almost as if the father feels he might have missed some of his own rite-of-passage business or not got it quite right, or failed to live up to expectations, and he needs to go back and work through it again.

There are some wonderful comic notes in the collection too – what in your mind is the trick to writing humour?

When it comes to writing humour in fiction, don't try to be a comedian. Stick to your story and the people in it, and they'll bring you what you need. It's not about the punchlines, it's about the people. I was on *Good News Week* once and the writer told me they needed a laugh every two and a half lines, and that's teleprompt lines, which have room for about four words each.

It's not like that when you're writing fiction, or at least that shouldn't be the way you're thinking. In fiction, sure, some lines are funny – because they just are – but a lot of the comedy comes from the context and the set-up, and the rush of reader empathy for the crushing, non-fatal embarrassment the character has just stumbled through.

It's rare to read a great comic novel written by a comedian, because too often they spend their energy on the comedy and not the novel. There might be a stack of punchlines, many of them very funny, but how much did you care? I'm sure there are comedians who could – and perhaps do – write great comic novels, but if you keep your foot down on the funny pedal and don't pause for breath and some thought about your characters, you risk ending up with just a stack of good punchlines. Which is fine, but a novel offers you a chance to do a lot more than that.

The converse also applies, at least in my case. I shouldn't try to do stand up, because it's insanely hard to do well and the deaths you die are many, public and ugly. It's a different skill, as I have sometimes wished publishers would realise when twisting the arms of successful comedians and asking them to write a book. It's entirely possible some people do have both those skills, but most of us should feel lucky if we're given opportunities to work on one of them.

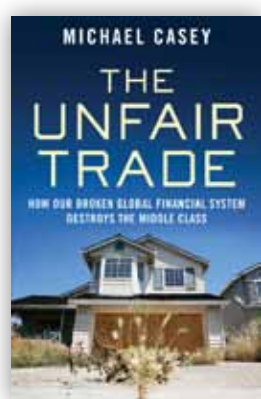
Full interview at www.readings.com.au

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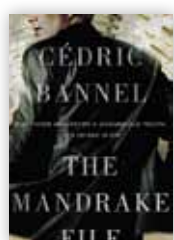


'For Australians, *Drift* has a particular significance: citizens of a country so inclined to march arm in arm with our powerful ally need to understand how and why the US decides to wage war.'

— Paul Barratt



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VICKY SWANKY IS A BEAUTY

Diane Williams

Transit Lounge. HB. \$23.95

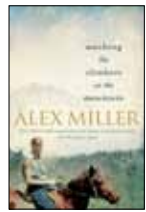


Williams lays bare the urgency and weariness that shape our lives in stories honed sharper than ever. Her unsettling stories – a cryptic meeting between neighbours, a woman's sexual worries, a graveside discussion, a chimney on fire – are narrated with razor-sharp tongues and naked, uproarious irreverence. 'Diane Williams is one of the true living heroes of the American avant-garde. Her fiction makes very familiar things very, very weird.' —Jonathan Franzen

WATCHING THE CLIMBERS ON THE MOUNTAIN

Alex Miller

A&U. PB. \$23.99. Ebook \$13.19.



Ward Rankin had not wanted to be tied to the station; he'd imagined a life of travel and experience. When his mother died, it came to him – owner and manager, now in his fifties, a frustrated man. Ida, his young wife, sees a solution to her own discontent in her growing feelings for the young English stockman Robert Crofts. Set in the remote Central Highlands, this is a reissue of one of Miller's earliest novels.

NO SEX IN THE CITY

Randa Abdel-Fattah

Pan. PB. \$27.99. Ebook \$9.99.

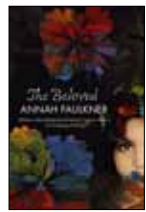


Twenty-eight-year old Esma has a Masters in Human Resources Management, is well-travelled, has *The Guardian* saved as an app on her iPhone, knows all the two-letter words in Scrabble and can tell the difference between a Ford and Holden. She's on the hunt for Mr Right, who must be Muslim. Along with her three friends Lisa, who works with refugees, lawyer Ruby, and midwife Nirvana, they form the No Sex in the City club. Filled with humour, intelligence and insight, this is the first adult novel from the award-winning YA author of *Does My Head Look Big in This?*

THE BELOVED

Annah Faulkner

Pan. PB. \$27.99. Ebook \$9.99.

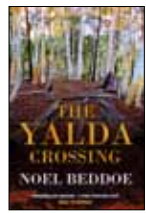


When Bertie is crippled by polio, her world collapses. But Mama doesn't tolerate self-pity, and Bertie is her mother's daughter – until she sets her heart on becoming an artist. While her father is happy enough with Bertie's passion, her mother will not let art get in the way of a professional career. In 1955 the family moves to post-colonial Port Moresby, where Bertie rebels against her mother, secretly learning drawing and painting from her mother's arch rival. Tender and witty, *The Beloved* is a moving debut novel which paints a vivid portrait of both the beauty and the burden of unconditional love.

THE YALDA CROSSING

Noel Beddoe

UQP. PB. \$32.95



New South Wales, 1832. Captain James Beckett and his lover, Harriette, leave behind Sydney society and pioneer far west of the Blue Mountains to the Morrom-bidgee River, deep into the lands of the Wiradjuri. Harriette's daughter, Emily, and the Captain's son, Young James, join their parents' struggle to establish a life in alien country. But when new settlers destroy sacred sites

and hunting grounds, the hard-won understanding between the Becketts and the Wiradjuri is shattered and the shocking events that follow will torment Young James for the rest of his life.

THERE SHOULD BE MORE DANCING

Rosalie Ham

Random. PB. \$19.95. Ebook \$16.95.



Margery Blandon was always a principled woman who found guidance from the wisdom of desktop calendars. She lived quietly in Gold Street, Brunswick for 60 years until events drove her to the 43rd floor of the Tropic Hotel. As she waits for the crowds in the atrium far below to disperse, she contemplates what went wrong. 'Ham combines the tartness of vinegar in her tone, tempered by the mellowing compassion of a nice cup of tea.' —*The Age*

International Fiction

ANCIENT LIGHT

John Banville

Viking. PB. \$29.95



Ancient Light is a moving read, the latest from Man Booker Prize-winning John Banville. With subtlety and grace, he lets us into the world of Alex Cleave, an ageing actor recalling a boyhood affair with the mother of his best friend.

Years later, he and his wife are struggling to come to terms with the suicide of their daughter, and his meditations on the love affair that shaped his adolescence gently introduce us to the rest of his life. As his recollections grow to their climax, his present life throws up plot-twists of its own. Cast in the lead of a biopic, he befriends the film's lonely starlet. With her help, he begins to better understand his daughter and uncover clues surrounding her death, lending the novel a hint of mystery and conspiracy.

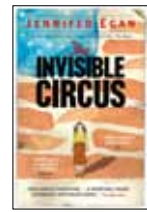
Banville's portrayal of rainy small-town Irish life is strongly evocative, and characters and scenes are recalled in wry and affectionate detail. It's a wonderful exploration of adolescent (and adult) desire, with its odd mixture of impulse and selfishness. Cleave's ageing memories of the affair are both powerful and evasive, and Banville's fascination with the unreliability of memory becomes ours. The 'present-day' grief of Cleave and his wife is also perceptively explored, a delicate story in its own right.

Despite the heady subject matter, this steady, calm novel is a great chance to enjoy what Banville does best: careful, beautiful prose. What stands out to me is Banville's tender respect for his characters. Despite his sharp sense of humour, he never reduces them to something sordid or ridiculous. The pages of the novel are illuminated with poignancy and elegance, along with the odd moment of joy. For those new to Banville, it's a bit Winton, a bit Tóibín – and a bit something else entirely. *Imogen Dewey is from Readings Carlton*

THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS

Jennifer Egan

Murdoch. PB. \$19.99. Ebook \$9.99.



After her Pulitzer Prize-winning success with *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, Jennifer Egan's ever expanding fan club has flocked to read her earlier work. Novels *Look at Me* and *The Keep*, as well as short story collection *Emerald City* have all been re-issued; now comes this most recent re-release, her debut novel, *The Invisible Circus*.

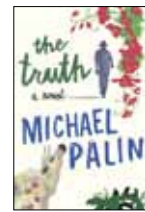
The year is 1978: teenager Phoebe O'Connor remains obsessed with the sudden passing of her beautiful, idealistic elder sister, Faith, whose death seven years earlier while travelling in Italy, still remains a mystery. Determined to discover the truth, and a little more about her own self along the way, Phoebe sets out to retrace her sister's footsteps, from their childhood home in San Francisco all the way to Europe. It is a complex journey, one which unveils some rather disquieting revelations about love, family and Faith's quixotic generation; there is certainly a strong thread of sixties radicalism flowing through the story, as Phoebe is lured by the seductive pull of the era.

While Egan's first major work lacks the cleverness of *Goon Squad's* structure, zealous fans shouldn't be disappointed. Her prose has its usual assurance and clarity, and there is no question regarding her talent at creating believable teenagers; one can't help but empathise with Phoebe's confusion, with her angst and rebelliousness. Egan also does a brilliant job of illustrating Phoebe's journey: the descriptions of each city – London, Amsterdam, Paris, Munich – are palpable. There may be some very coincidental moments in the plot, making certain events seem rather a little too convenient; and the story does also attempt to cover a lot of ground, as Egan sets out to depict an entire generation, rather than to simply tell a story. Nonetheless, this is fine writing, earnest to its heart. *Nicole Mansour is from Readings St Kilda*

THE TRUTH

Michael Palin

Orion. PB. \$32.99



Michael Palin has long been a respected comic, TV personality and diarist. Having presented many travel programs and in so doing becoming attracted to India, in 2010 he was moved to send a message of support

to Dongria Kondh, a tribe on the eastern coast of India who are resisting a mine on their land. *The Truth* may well be influenced by this experience. It tells the story of Keith Mabbut, a middle-aged environmental journalist who was once a champion of the underdog, writing stories about big company pollution and chemical spills. In recent times Mabbut has reached an impasse in all areas of his life. His marriage is ending perhaps as a result of his desire to leave his social activism and align himself with Big Company money.

Mabbut gets the chance to redeem himself when he is given a handsome commission to write a biography of the famed environmental crusader Hamish Melville. Mabbutt feels compromised by the fact that it is a big publishing house commissioning him but eventually takes the commission, telling himself he must do justice to the truth of this man whom he idolises whilst regaining his own moral compass. But can Mabbut get this book written or will Melville continue to evade him?

Palin writes with great compassion and the twists and turns in this story keep you guessing as to its outcome. Thought-provoking and genuinely entertaining.

Michael Awosoga-Samuel is from Readings Carlton

WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE?

Maria Semple

Orion. PB. Normally \$30

Our special price \$24.95



Bernadette Fox is notorious. To Elgie Branch, a Microsoft wunderkind, she's his hilarious, volatile, talented, wife. To fellow mothers at the school gate, she's a menace. To design experts, she's a revolutionary architect. And to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best

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friend and, quite simply, mum. Then Bernadette disappears. And Bee must take a trip to the end of the earth to find her. A compulsively readable, deeply touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's place in the world.

THE LONG EARTH

Stephen Baxter & Terry Pratchett

Random. PB. Normally \$32.95
Our special price \$27.95



2015: Madison, Wisconsin. Junior policewoman Sally Jansson is called out to the house of Willis Lynsey, a reclusive scientist. There, she finds a kind of home-made utility belt. When she straps it on she 'steps' sideways into an America covered with virgin forest. Willis came here meaning to explore and colonise. And when Sally gets back, she finds Willis has put the secret of the belt on the internet. The great migration has begun ...

THE WOMAN WHO DIED A LOT

Jasper Fforde

Hodder. PB. Normally \$30
Our special price \$24.95



Fforde's latest Thursday Next novel sees the BookWorld's leading enforcement officer four months into an enforced semi-retirement following an assassination attempt. Thursday returns home for a time of recuperation but is faced with an array of family problems. With Goliath attempting to replace Thursday at every opportunity with synthetic Thursdays, and a looming meteorite that could destroy all human life on earth, Thursday's retirement is going to be anything but easy.

GET JIRO!

Anthony Bourdain & Joel Rose

DC Comics. HB. \$34.95



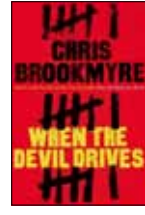
In a not-too-distant future L.A. where master chefs rule the town like crime lords and people literally kill for a seat at the best restaurants, a bloody culinary war is raging. On one side, the Internationalists, who blend foods from all over the world into exotic

delights. On the other, the 'Vertical Farm', who prepare nothing but organic, vegetarian, macrobiotic dishes. Into this maelstrom steps Jiro, a renegade and ruthless sushi chef, known to decapitate patrons who dare request a California Roll. Both sides want Jiro to join their factions. Jiro, however has bigger ideas, and in the end, no chef may be left alive!

WHEN THE DEVIL DRIVES

Christopher Brookmyre

Little, Brown. PB. \$29.99

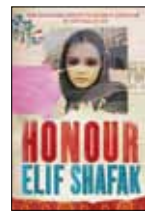


The much anticipated follow up to *Where the Bodies are Buried*. When private investigator Jasmine Sharp is hired to find Tessa Garrion, a young woman who has vanished without a trace, it becomes increasingly clear that there are those who want her to stay that way. What begins as a simple search awakens a malevolence that has lain dormant for three decades, putting Jasmine in the crosshairs of those who would stop at nothing to keep their secrets buried.

HONOUR

Elif Shafak

Viking. PB. \$29.95



Leaving her twin sister behind, Pembe leaves Turkey for love – following her husband Adem to London. There they hope to make new lives for themselves and their children. Yet, no matter how far they travel, the traditions and beliefs they left behind stay with them – carried in the blood. A powerful novel set in Turkey and London in the 70s, *Honour* explores pain and loss, loyalty and betrayal, the trials of the immigrant, the clash of tradition and modernity, as well as the love and heartbreak that too often tears families apart.

THE FLAME ALPHABET

Ben Marcus

Granta. HB. \$29.99



A brilliant, dark new novel in which the speech of children is killing their parents. All Sam and Claire need to do is look around the neighborhood to see that people are going into hiding to escape their children. But they find

it isn't so easy to leave the daughter they still love, even as they waste away from her malevolent speech. On the eve of their departure, Claire mysteriously disappears, and Sam, determined to find a cure for this new toxic language, presses on alone into a world beyond recognition.

IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN

Kim Barnes

Random. PB. \$29.95



When Mason takes a job in Saudi Arabia, Gin finds herself a company wife. Her new life is one of private clubs, dressing for dinner and the illusion of freedom – she learns to drink discreetly, flirt safely and to pretend that her marriage isn't changing. But as Gin tires of this life, she realizes that the glamour and the wealth inside the gates are bought with the corruption beyond them. And when a young Bedouin woman is discovered dead, she begins to ask dangerous questions.

PARK LANE

Frances Osborne

Little, Brown. PB. \$29.99

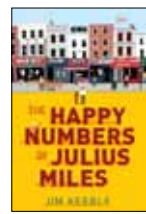


It is 1914 and 18-year-old Grace Campbell arrives in London to find that the only job she can get is as a housemaid in the mansion at 35 Park Lane. Upstairs, a jilted and humiliated Beatrice Masters is determined not to return to the New York of her childhood before she has salvaged her pride. She secretly joins Emmeline Pankhurst's militant suffragettes. But Grace and Beatrice's existences are not as parallel as they seem. Little do they realise that their lives and emotions will soon be revolving around the same man – or that the coming war will change both their worlds forever.

THE HAPPY NUMBERS OF JULIUS MILES

Jim Keeble

Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99



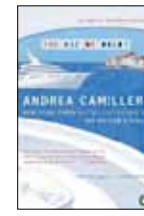
Julius Miles is a mathematical genius, but he is hefty of frame, awkward with the opposite sex and struggling to bring his existence into balance. When he stumbles across the girl next door naked and dead on her

Victorian tiles, he starts to unravel the one equation that's eluded him: that of his own life. Witty, poignant, darkly comic *The Happy Numbers of Julius Miles* is a triumph of linguistic inventiveness and a timely tale of personal relationships in a modern metropolis.

THE AGE OF DOUBT

Andrea Camilleri

Penguin. PB. \$22.95



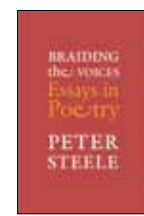
The day after a storm, Inspector Montalbano encounters a strange woman who expresses interest in a certain yacht scheduled to dock that afternoon. Not long after she's gone, the yacht's crew reports finding a disfigured corpse. Also at anchor is a luxury vessel with a somewhat shady crew. Both boats will have to stay in Vigàta until the investigation is over. Montalbano begins to think the occupants of the yacht might know more about the man's death than they're letting on.

Poetry

BRAIDING THE VOICES

Peter Steele

John Leonard. PB. \$36.95



A book of essays on poetry from eminent poet and academic Peter Steele, *Braiding the Voices* continues to investigate some of the ways in which individual poets have sought, firstly, to find out what they most wanted to say, and, secondly, how their art is to take its place in the general conversation of humanity itself.

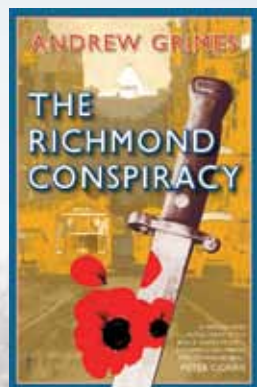
TRAVELLING THROUGH THE FAMILY

Brendan Ryan

Hunter. PB. \$19.95

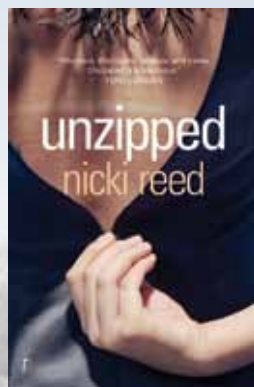


Travelling Through the Family brings rural Australia to life through a clear-eyed and provocative vision of the way the land and our treatment of animals moulds the people who work with them. An assured and beautifully crafted new book from one of Australia's finest contemporary poets.



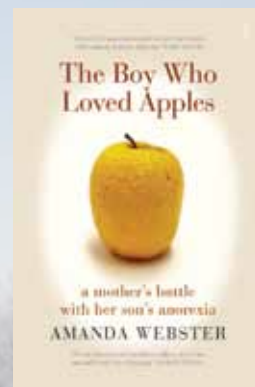
Lust and murder in the back streets of Depression-era Melbourne.

'COMPELLING.'
PETER CORRIS



Unconventional, hilarious and downright sexy.

'A KNOCKOUT.'
TONI JORDAN



A brave and beautifully written testament to a mother's love.

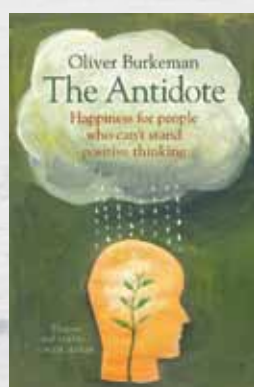
'GRIPPING.'
JACINTA TYNAN

CURL UP UNDER THE COVERS THIS WINTER WITH TEXT PUBLISHING



A thriller set in the wilds of post-apocalyptic Alaska.

'FINDS THE FAULT LINES OF A HEART IN ONE BREATHLESS SITTING.'
JODI PICOULT



A radical new path to happiness that turns decades of self-help advice on its head.



A dark and disturbing psychological thriller about maternal obsession.

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SHADOWS: BOOK I OF THE REPHAIM
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New YA Fiction

New release Young Adult fiction titles. See books for middle readers on page 15.

DOOM RIDER

David Gatward

Hachette. PB. \$15.99



Most 13-year-olds probably aren't out foretelling the end of the world, but then again, Seth Crow isn't like other kids his age. He's been dragged around from one religious festival to the next by his parents as they perform their travelling doomsday show. Seth's alter ego 'Apocalypse Boy' is the star of the show, handing down his predictions of the end times. Then he meets Lily, who shows him a bleak future he never could have predicted.

After tragedy strikes Seth, Lily hands him the really bad news: it turns out that Seth is none other than Conquest, one of the four riders of the Apocalypse. Since it's his job to bring about the end of the world, some very well-connected and dangerous people want him dead. The only chance he has at survival is to find the other three riders – Strife, Famine and Death. But how can he hope to succeed against the god-like Protector and his Chosen?

Doom Rider is a truly original take on the horsemen of the apocalypse tale, and one framed by a world of religion taken to extremes. As with Gatward's previous series, *The Dead* trilogy, this is high-action stuff, and definitely for the horror fans out there. The scary elements are sure to hook even the most reluctant readers, and the compelling story will keep them going.

Holly Harper is from Readings Carlton

THE LAST LITTLE BLUE ENVELOPE

Maureen Johnson

Harper. PB. \$14.99



Despite its trashy, unrepresentative cover, *Thirteen Little Blue Envelopes* has been a favourite at Readings, so we were excited but hesitant at the appearance of *The Last Little Blue Envelope*. Would it be as good? If not,

would it sully the memory of the first one? Such a quandary; to read or not? Well, on a cold, wet winter's eve, temptation got the better and I am glad it did. But you know what, I really can't tell you much about the story because you may not have read the first one, so trust me, get your hands on a copy and get reading. Then you are ready for this, lucky you! Ginny's aunt may still be dead but that woman has more *joie de vivre* than a lot of living people and the journey she takes her niece on illuminates her uniqueness. So do yourself a favour, you won't be disappointed. For ages 11 and up.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

SHADOWFELL

Juliet Marillier

Pan Macmillan. PB. \$16.99. Ebook \$4.99.



Alban is a land ruled by a dangerous king, a man who has outlawed any contact with the fairy-like Good Folk who are now invisible to most humans. Neryn, though, can see them all-too-well, and while she tries hard to blend

in, she can't ignore the fact that she has a very dangerous gift.

After her father gambles her away to a stranger, Neryn narrowly avoids death only to face an uncertain future: she is now an orphan with no money and no prospects in an unfriendly land, where even the merest hint of rebellion will set the king's Enforcers on her trail. When she discovers that Alban's liberation might lie with her and her gifts, Neryn has no choice but to

take a bold stance and face them.

A new Juliet Marillier book is always cause for celebration, and fans of this award-winning Australian fantasy author will not be disappointed. The world of *Shadowfell* is simple, yet beautifully wrought. For those who have not yet discovered Marillier, she's an author for lovers of Isobelle Carmody and Tamora Pierce, and even for fans of Emily Rodda who are thinking of graduating to something a bit older. HH

SILHOUETTE

Thalia Kalkipsakis

Egmont. PB. \$22.95. Ebook \$11.99.



Scarlett is in her final year of ballet school and, up to this moment, her whole world has been consumed with dance. But when her mother tells her that she can't apply for the prestigious National Ballet School, and she

secretly auditions as a dancer in a video clip, two very different worlds are set to collide. This is a fascinating insight into the ambition and sheer hard work required from young dancers and also a realistic portrayal of the temptations that every teenager will face at one time or another – alcohol, marijuana and party drugs. While Scarlett does flirt with the dark side of the rock star lifestyle, it doesn't take her long to realise the price of partying is her ambitions. Scarlett's difficult relationship with her mother is also well drawn and their eventual reconciliation feels authentic. This novel is recommended for girls age 14 and up, particularly those who are focused on dance, music or other performing arts.

Angela Crocombe is from Readings St Kilda

THE TREASURE HOUSE

Linda Newbery

Hachette. PB. \$19.99



When Nina's mother mysteriously runs off leaving only a short note and a few texts, Nina is determined to find out where her mother has gone and what made her leave so suddenly. Strange clues begin to turn up at the second hand

store run by Nina's two great-aunts while Nina is helping out there, and she embarks on a mission involving treasures, secrets, recycled fashions and even llamas! This is a nice story about family with charming characters and a great plot.

Kim Gruschow is from Readings Hawthorn

ABOVE

Leah Bobet

Scholastic. PB. \$24.99



Safe is a secret community underground where freaks and outcasts are safe from persecution by the Whitecoats, who want to do tests on them and keep them locked up. But Safe is no longer a haven when it is invaded by mad Corner

and his crew of shadows. Safe's leader is killed and the survivors escape to the world known only as Above, where they must attempt to pass as normal humans. Matthew was born underground, and looks normal, but his mother had gills and his father had lion's feet. He has been entrusted with the stories of all the people of Safe, along with responsibility for the traumatised but beautiful shapeshifter, Ariel. How he manages to discover the truth about his beloved Ariel and uncover the stories of Safe is a strange, unique, but highly engaging story. This unusual book is suitable for readers 12 and up. AC

TONY MOORE
DANCING with Empty POCKETS
Australia's Bohemians
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The Boy Who Wouldn't Die
David Nyuol Vincent
Paperback \$29.99
ebook \$11.99

Watching the Climbers on the Mountain
Alex Miller
Paperback \$23.99
ebook \$13.19

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New Crime Dead Write with Fiona Hardy

Book of the Month

DARKNESS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN

Jessie Cole

HarperCollins. PB. \$24.99. Ebook \$11.99.



One dark night, Vincent drives home from an evening out and finds an upturned car in front of his house.

Standing beside it is a woman with a baby, limp in her arms. Paramedics take them away, but days later she hitchhikes

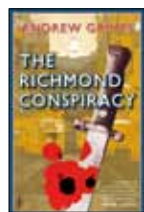
back to his house, and soon his efforts to assist her see the ever-willing Vincent and his teenage daughter Gemma – both telling their story in an interlocking narrative – emotionally stripped bare.

As someone who had a baby only a couple of months ago, reading about someone suffering through the loss of a child was painful – I put this book down at first, but found myself coming back to it, wanting to know what happened to Rachel in her grief, and Vincent and Gemma as they offer their friendship to her. Cole's writing is evocative in its simplicity, the characters' dialogue – sometimes grimy – as honest and real as Australia can be. Gemma's struggles brought my own teenage years into sharp relief, and the need for Vincent to 'mend' the women he meets is touching and well-intentioned, but not always successful. Not a crime book in the sense that most of Dead Write's titles are, there is nevertheless an undercurrent of violence that will leave you tense. A gripping and heartbreaking read.

THE RICHMOND CONSPIRACY

Andrew Grimes

Text. PB. \$29.99. Ebook \$19.47



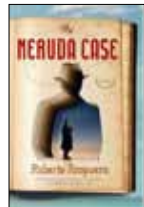
With a touch of Agatha Christie to it – a man is dead, but everyone he knows is coolly flippant about it – this 1930s-set tale sees Victor Radcliffe found in one of his warehouses, killed with a practised twist of his own

bayonet. Police Inspector James Maclaine, like many others, is grateful to have survived the war but not for the memories and nightmares that plague him. But investigate he must, with a cast of secretive characters to attempt to elicit information from, and a shady organisation called The Praetorian Guard lurking in the background.

THE NERUDA CASE

Roberto Ampuero

Riverhead Books. HB. \$37.95



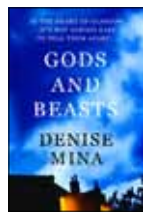
Ampuero's first English-language book sees poet Pablo Neruda recruit private eye Cayetano Brulé to solve a mystery before he dies. It's Brulé's first case, and he's not quite up to scratch yet, not least because Neruda is not

being entirely honest. Set during the heated political climate of 1970s Chile, and showing a side of the poet that is raw and not always pleasant, *The Neruda Case* is lively satire written beautifully.

GODS AND BEASTS

Denise Mina

Orion. PB. \$29.99



DS Alex Morrow, back at work after recently giving birth to twins (and after having recently given birth to just one kid myself, can I just say I'm impressed), is tasked with investigating the death of a man during a post office

heist. The man put himself in the path of a torrent of bullets in front of his young grandson, and Morrow wants to know why – and how it links to politician Davie Gillespie, accused of an affair and with big plans to defend himself.

THE LOST GIRLS OF ROME

Donato Carrisi

Little, Brown. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95



A thriller for those (like myself) who love the slightly scandalous feel of reading a crime involving the Vatican, *The Lost Girls of Rome* follows the path of Marcus, a crime scene investigator of sorts, working without memory

after an accident a year before, and Sandra, a forensic photographer whose husband died a year before. Both are working on the kidnapping of a young girl in Italy's atmospheric capital city, and both have unanswered questions about their past.

THE KINGS OF COOL

Don Winslow

Heinemann. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95



With Oliver Stone's movie version of Winslow's book *Savages* coming to cinemas soonish, the release of this – a prequel – has been timed well. Winslow is as awesome as this title himself, and this explains how the heroes (so

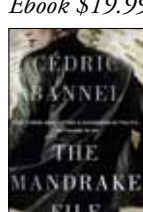
to speak) of *Savages*, Ben, Chon and O, became embroiled in the drug trade, and how, before they were born, the trade itself became what it was. Witty, acerbic, and unlike some prequels, it fits neatly in the timeline.

THE MANDRAKE FILE

Cedric Bannel

Scribe. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95



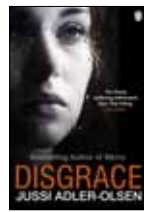
When an ex-diplomat writes a crime book, you like to think they've based it on true stories of the world they were in. There's a secret organisation called The Entity, who are trying to prevent Kabul's Murder Squad chief Osama

Kandar from investigating a suicide any further, though Entity analyst Nick Snee has found a connection between the death and a man he's been searching for, named Mandrake. Kabul has its fair share of violence already, and there are people who are willing to destroy anyone to keep these secrets.

DISGRACE

Jussi Adler Olsen

Michael Joseph. PB. \$29.95



Detective Carl Mørck works in Department Q, on cold cases, and does his very best to do not much. Currently, however, a file appears on his desk with no indication of who put it there, and this time he feels compelled to

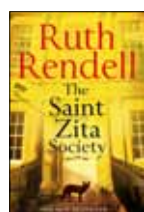
investigate, not least because it's already been solved. With a sharp eye on class culture and the lifestyles of your average wealthy Danish socialites, his search back into the murder of two siblings 20 years earlier uncovers killers that did not stop at just one crime.

THE SAINT ZITA SOCIETY

Ruth Rendell

Random. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95



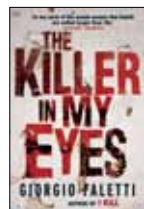
Saint Zita is the patron saint of servants, and will be called upon plenty in Rendell's new standalone crime novel as it tackles the class divide of Hexam Place. With the rich full of secrets (including the deliciously named Lord Stud-

ley, clearly not living up to his name as his wife is having it off with the valet) and their domestic staff planning schemes from blackmail to unionisation, and, possibly, to murder. Rendell is consistently satisfying and always enthralling.

THE KILLER IN MY EYES

Giorgio Faletti

Murdoch. PB. \$29.99. Ebook \$9.99



Before becoming an internationally bestselling author, Giorgio Faletti was a man of many careers, including an unexpected one in car racing. His aptitude at speed translates well into suspenseful thrillers you can rip

through during these cold weekends. In *The Killer in My Eyes*, a murderer leaves bodies arranged like those in Snoopy cartoons. One grisly example: soaked in blood, thumb in mouth, holding onto a blanket. The victim's uncle, along with a detective whose medical past is giving her visions, race to find this particularly odd killer.

THE NIGHTMARE

Lars Kepler

Blue Door. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95



Since Kepler's word-of-mouth bestseller *The Hypnotist* (a free copy of which is yours when you buy *Nightmare*) made its way onto every crime lover's bookshelf a year ago, excitement has built for a new book. DI Joona Linna returns

with two crimes – a woman who appears to have drowned despite being found on a floating boat and completely dry, and a man Linna believes is a suicide, hanging from his ceiling but with no furniture around to have aided him. This is just the start of a complex and fascinating case.

BLACK SKIES

Arnaldur Indridason

Harvill. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95



Indridason's tenth Detective Erlendur book sees Erlendur himself still missing, and gives his colleague Sigurdur Oli the opportunity to shine. He's unsatisfied with his job in the force, and his own actions – visiting blackmail-

ers off the books – may find his wishes coming true. Oli's visit winds up as the subject of a murder case, and soon all manner of crimes – drugs, extortion, and worse – have fallen into his lap, with Iceland's financial ruin a backdrop to this riveting story.

STRINDBERG'S STAR

Jan Wallentin

Atlantic. PB. \$29.99



An adventure thriller that starts with a well-preserved body discovered in a cave and traverses Europe, the North Pole, and time itself, *Strindberg's Star* is an ank that sees the diver who

discovered it dead, and the historian he met on the media circuit accused of the murder. Our flawed hero Don Titelman – an expert in the symbols that now lead to these troubles – realises the danger he's now in and goes on the run with his enormous stash of drugs and his lawyer, who is not entirely flawless either.

THE WOMAN BEFORE ME

Ruth Dugdale

Text. PB. \$29.99. Ebook \$19.47



Emotionally engaging – perhaps too much so – *The Woman Before Me* traces the obsessive motivations behind Rose Wilks, imprisoned for five years for killing her best friend's child. Probation

Officer Cate is tasked with deciding if Rose is able to re-enter society. While horrified, we switch back and forth from sympathy to loathing as the personalities of Rose and those who surround her are revealed, with the kind of shocking conclusion you'll want to tell all your friends to discover as well.

NIGHT WATCH

Linda Fairstein

Little, Brown. PB. \$32.99



With Dominique Strauss-Kahn's recent sexual assault case fresh in readers' minds, Fairstein has sent prosecutor Alex Cooper after the head of the World Economic Bureau, accused by a maid of rape.

News-hungry journalists are the last thing Alex wants to deal with when her romantic holiday to France was cut short by this case – though the trip itself proved less than ideal for some when a body washes up in a pond, and a connection is found to the lover she was in France to see.

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New Non-Fiction

Australian Non-Fiction

A PASSIONATE LIFE

Ita Buttrose

Viking. PB. \$29.95



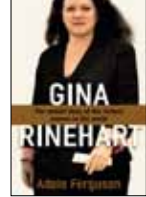
In *A Passionate Life*, Buttrose – known and loved by Australians as the editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly* throughout the second half of the 70s – traces her working career. She gives us glimpses of the inner

workings of the Australian media, politics, the arts, and the lives and personalities of many of the people she has met and worked with including Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch. With great courage and honesty, she also allows us into the more personal aspects of her life as a working mother during these years.

GINA RINEHART

Adele Ferguson

Pan. PB. \$34.99. Ebook \$19.99



Gina Rinehart is the richest person in Australia and part of a family known as much for its front-page legal stoushes as for its business acumen. With her reported wealth doubling in the last 12 months, Gina is beginning to flex the enormous power her wealth gives, buying large shareholdings in Channel 10 and Fairfax in moves that look set to give her and her controversial views a major influence in Australian life and public affairs. This is an extraordinary biography of Rinehart, the family she came from, and the wealth and power she wields, by award-winning journalist Adele Ferguson.

THE SEX LIVES OF AUSTRALIANS

Frank Bongiorno

Black Inc. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$29.95



Bongiorno charts the changing sex lives of Australians and shows how a predominantly male penal colony gave rise to a rough and ready culture. In the Victorian era, fears of sodomy helped bring an end to the transportation of convicts, while in more modern times, the contraceptive pill changed so much. He also deals with some intriguing questions – were the Kelly gang gay? why did the law ignore lesbianism for so long? – and introduces some remarkable characters, both reformers and radicals. With a foreword by Michael Kirby, AC CMG.

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UNAUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Bill Leak

Scribe. PB. \$29.95. Ebook \$9.99



UnAustralian of the Year contains Leak's best editorial cartoons since 2007 and is a satirical history of an extraordinary period in Australian politics: from the enthusiastic popular mandate enjoyed by Kevin Rudd's

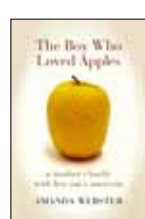
Labor after the 2007 federal election to the brutal merry-go-round of party leaders culminating in the rancour and instability surrounding Julia Gillard's minority government. Leak also writes about his recent accident and recovery from brain damage; the blessings of manic-depression for the creative artist; the art of editorial

cartooning and his commitment to free expression; portrait painting and the contemporary art scene.

THE BOY WHO LOVED APPLES

Amanda Webster

Text. PB. \$32.99. Ebook \$19.79



When it became clear that Webster's 11-year-old son Riche was not just a little too skinny but dangerously ill, people were often surprised. Do boys get anorexia? they would ask. And then: how did he get it? Brave, honest

and ultimately uplifting, *The Boy Who Loved Apples* is a compelling and beautifully written account of life with an eating disorder, and a gritty, moving testament to a mother's love.

THE SWEETEST THING

Mischa Merz

Hunter. PB. \$24.95



Journalist and amateur boxer Mischa Merz travelled across the United States and competed in a series of amateur boxing tournaments. On this wild and fascinating journey she met some of the pioneers of

women's boxing as well as some of the young stars hoping to make it onto the first women's boxing team in the 2012 Olympic Games.

1835

James Boyce

Black Inc. PB. \$29.95



With the founding of Melbourne in 1835, a flood of settlers began spreading out across the Australian continent. In three years more land was conquered than in the preceding 50.

Boyce asks the poignant question largely ignored for 175 years: could it have been different? 'Boyce is a graceful and robust stylist and a fine storyteller and he organises his material beautifully. His book ... deserves a wide audience.' — *The Sunday Age*.

DANCING WITH EMPTY POCKETS

Tony Moore

Murdoch. PB. \$29.99



The word 'bohemians' initially conjured the primitive, exotic and mysterious power of gypsies, but came to be used to describe any nomadic or vagabond character – with strong overtones of poverty and even criminality. In Australia, bohemians have been associated with subcultures, and movements across most creative arts and media for more than 150 years. *Dancing with Empty Pockets* is an exploration of Australia's bohemians, from Marcus Clarke through to the 21st century.

and movements across most creative arts and media for more than 150 years. *Dancing with Empty Pockets* is an exploration of Australia's bohemians, from Marcus Clarke through to the 21st century.

THE FUTURE AND RELATED NONSENSE

Antony Funnell

ABC. PB. \$24.99



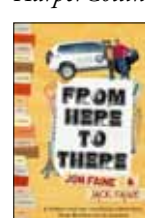
Do you really understand the world around you? Do you know how crowdsourcing works, what terraforming does, and what alternative currency is? Do you believe Google is great – or is there a sneaky feeling in the back of

your mind that it might know way too much about you? Come with guide and host of Radio National's Future Tense, Antony Funnell, as he unravels the mysteries of the world we've created, cuts through the mumbo jumbo, warns of the dangers and laughs at the hype.

FROM HERE TO THERE

Jon Faine & Jack Faine

HarperCollins. PB. \$19.99. Ebook \$10.99



Now in paperback, this is the intelligent and funny account of Jon and Jack Faine's journey overland to London in their rusty four-wheel-drive. In April 2008, Jon Faine and his son Jack closed their door on their Mel-

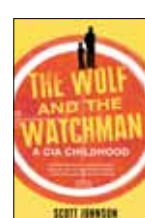
bourne home and leaving jobs, studies, family and friends, took six months to complete this trip. This is the story of the countries they visited, people they met and trouble they got into, but also the story of a tender father-son relationship.

Biography & Memoir

THE WOLF AND THE WATCHMAN

Scott Johnson

Scribe. PB. \$29.95. Ebook \$17.99



Growing up, Johnson always suspected that his dad was different. Only as a teenager did he discover that his father was a spy, one of the CIA's most trusted officers, and had been living a double life.

The Wolf and the Watchman is a provocative, meditative reckoning on truth, deception, and manipulation. It is also an intensely personal story of a bond between father and son that endured in the shadow of one of the world's most secretive and unforgiving institutions.

JUST SEND ME WORD

Orlando Figes

Allen Lane. HB. \$35



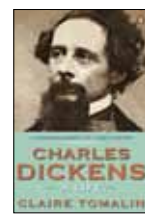
Figes tells the extraordinary love story of two Muscovites, Lev and Svetlana. Kept apart for 14 years by WWII and the Gulag, they stayed true to each other and left behind them an astonishing monument to their love: a remarkable cache of 1500 letters exchanged between them as Lev battled to survive in one of Stalin's most notorious labour camps.

able cache of 1500 letters exchanged between them as Lev battled to survive in one of Stalin's most notorious labour camps.

CHARLES DICKENS: A LIFE

Claire Tomalin

Penguin. PB. \$22.95



Claire Tomalin paints an unforgettable portrait of Dickens the phenomenon: a demonically hardworking journalist, the father of ten children, a tireless walker and traveller, a supporter of liberal social causes, but most

of all, a great novelist. 'No question: you put Tomalin's book down knowing that you have met a living author.' — Miriam Margolyes, *The Times*.

BERT HINKLER

Grantlee Kieza

HarperCollins. PB. \$32.99



Once upon a time, Bert Hinkler, a small, unprepossessing man from Bundaberg was feted as one of the most daring aviators in the world. Mussolini's favourite pilot, Hinkler was an adventurer who flew single handed

across countries, continents and oceans. Whether as an aerial showman or as a WWI

fighter pilot, Hinkler's exploits thrilled the world. But behind the headlines was a more private and more complex man, who juggled two relationships with two different women on two continents.

Cultural Studies

THE BLIND GIANT

Nick Harkaway

Hodder. PB. \$29.99



Novelist and tech blogger Nick Harkaway draws together fascinating and disparate ideas to challenge the notion that digital culture is the source of all our modern ills, while at the same time showing where the

dangers are real and suggesting how they can be combated. Ultimately, the choice is ours: engage with the machines that we have created, or risk creating a world which is designed for corporations and computers rather than people. This is an essential handbook for everyone trying to be human in a digital age.

THE GOLDEN DOOR

A.A. Gill

Orion. PB. \$32.99



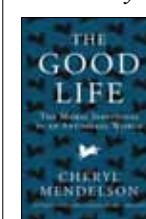
Where were you when John F. Kennedy was shot? A generation later, you could ask the same question about the World Trade Centre. Where were you when the plane hit the twin towers on 11 September 2001? This

book is about what happened to America and the world's perception of America between those two moments. Through linked essays based around places that will open up truths and mythologies about America and Americans, Gill writes about the things he's always found admirable and optimistic about the United States and its citizens.

THE GOOD LIFE

Cheryl Mendelson

Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.99. Ebook \$24.99



The Good Life is a deeply reasoned look at how the notion of morality has been co-opted by the political right. Mendelson, who is for gay rights, sexual equality, labor unions, and the strong

regulation of business and finance, is decidedly conservative when it comes to personal morality. She believes that while the right manages to portray its opponents as amoral or even immoral, it promotes policies that lack any real compassion.

THE ANTIDOTE

Oliver Burkeman

Text. PB. \$32.99. Ebook \$19.79



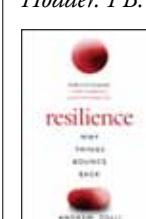
This is an exploration of a radically new path to happiness. In an approach that turns decades of self-help advice on its head, Burkeman explains why positive thinking serves only to make us more miserable,

and why 'getting motivated' can exacerbate procrastination. Hilarious and compulsively readable, *The Antidote* will have you on the road to happiness in no time.

RESILIENCE

Andrew Zolli & Ann Healy

Hodder. PB. \$32.99



Resilience is a dazzling exposition of fresh thinking about how the world works. It covers business, economic, geographic and social systems in a thrillingly readable narrative. A wealth of absorbing examples are covered,

BAND-AID FOR A BROKEN LEG
DAMIEN BROWN
BEING A DOCTOR WITH NO BORDERS
(AND OTHER WAYS TO STAY SINGLE)

A powerful, sometimes heart-breaking, often funny, always honest and ultimately uplifting account of life on the medical frontline in Angola, Mozambique and South Sudan. It is also a moving testimony of the work done by medical humanitarian groups and the extraordinary and sometimes eccentric people who work for them.

f t Ebook also available

ALLEN&UNWIN
www.allenandunwin.com

WILD POSTCOLONIAL BOYS

9781921888090 PB

Randolph Stow won the Miles Franklin Literary Award in 1958 and the Patrick White Award in 1979. This is the most comprehensive collection of his poetry ever published.

9781921888830 PB

Og is the last survivor of the giant races of the Old Testament. Og is the monster within. Philip Salom calls Og 'wonderfully primal and unexpected'.

9781921888526 PB

Have you had a gutful of Ned Kelly? Find out what made Moondyne Joe an internationally renowned escape artist and why we all but forgot him.

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from the link between US oil prices and the recent 'tortilla riots' in Mexico, to what was really happening when the US government decided not to bail out Lehman Bros.

THINKING, FAST AND SLOW

Daniel Kahneman

Penguin. PB. \$22.95



Why is there more chance we'll believe something if it's in a bold type face? Why do we assume a good-looking person will be more competent? The answer lies in the two ways we make choices: fast, intuitive thinking, and slow, rational thinking. This book reveals how our minds are tripped up by error and prejudice, even when we think we are being logical, and gives you practical techniques for slower, smarter thinking. 'A masterpiece ... one of the greatest and most engaging collections of insights into the human mind I have read.' — *Financial Times*.

FREELOADING

Chris Ruen

Scribe. PB. \$27.95. Ebook \$18.99



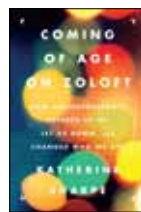
Freeloading attempts to get at the true nature of our still nascent relationship with digital content by examining how its dysfunctional history unfolded. Writer and blogger Ruen has interviewed major players in the independent music scene so that readers have a chance to hear the unvarnished opinions of those directly affected by freeloading. The book offers new rhetoric and symbols to navigate the digital unknown and sorts out fact from fallacy until the dire consequences of freeloading become all too obvious.

Science

COMING OF AGE ON ZOLOFT

Katherine Sharpe

HarperCollins. PB. \$19.99. Ebook \$10.99



A compelling exploration of a generation raised on antidepressants, this is an important study of one of America's most pressing issues: the growing reliance on prescription drugs. Sharpe addresses the questions that millions of young men and women are struggling with. 'Where does my personality end and my prescription begin?', 'Do I have a disease?', 'Can I get better on my own?' She combines scientific acumen with first-person experience gained through her own struggle with antidepressants to lead the reader through a complex subject.

WHAT A PLANT KNOWS

Daniel Chamowitz

Scribe. PB. \$27.95. Ebook \$18.99



How does a Venus flytrap know when to snap shut? Can a fern get jet lag? Do roses remember the romance springtime? Renowned biologist Daniel Chamowitz presents a beguiling exploration of how plants experience our shared Earth – in terms of sight, smell, touch, hearing, memory and even awareness. Combining cutting-edge research with lively storytelling, he explains the intimate details of plant behaviour.

History

THE BATTLE FOR LONE PINE

David Cameron

Viking. PB. \$29.95



Surprisingly, as we near the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, this is the first book solely dedicated to one of its key battles – that at Lone Pine, where Australian and Turkish soldiers fought an ultimately futile battle that claimed thousands of lives in incredibly close quarters. Cameron has pulled together firsthand accounts from the men and women involved (including from the Turkish army) to detail what transpired and to follow some of their personal stories throughout the ordeal.

ORDERLY AND HUMANE

R.M. Douglas

Yale. HB. \$49.95



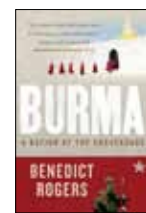
Immediately after WWII, the victorious Allies helped to carry out the forced relocation of German speakers from their homes across central and southern Europe to Germany. The numbers and losses were almost unimaginable – at least 500 000 people and perhaps many more died while detained in former concentration camps, while locked in trains en route, or after arriving in Germany exhausted, malnourished, and homeless. This book is the first in any language to tell the full story of this immense catastrophe.

Current Affairs

BURMA

Benedict Rogers

Random. PB. \$32.95

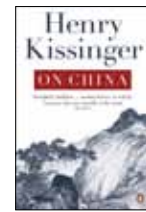


For more than 50 years, Burma has been ruled by a succession of military regimes which rank among the most oppressive dictatorships in the world. Yet in the last couple of years, and in spite of sham elections, the pace of change has been breathtaking. Drawing heavily on his many fact-finding visits both inside Burma and along its frontiers, Rogers gives a unique appraisal of the current ethnic situation and its implications for the nation as a whole.

ON CHINA

Henry Kissinger

Penguin. PB. \$22.95



Now in paperback, *On China* distils Henry Kissinger's thoughts on China. After reopening relations between China and the West in 1971, Kissinger has been more intimately connected with the country at the highest level than any other western figure. 'Fascinating, shrewd ... informed by Kissinger's intimate first-hand knowledge of several generations of Chinese leaders.' — Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*.

Music

THE ROLLING STONES: 50

Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts & Ronnie Wood

T&H. HB. \$49.95



Curated, introduced and narrated by the band themselves, this is the only officially authorised book to celebrate this milestone, packed with superb reportage and photography.

Neuroscience

by Kate O'Mara, Readings at the Brain Centre

APING MANKIND: NEUROMANIA, DARWINITIS AND THE MISREPRESENTATION OF HUMANITY

Raymond Tallis

Acumen. PB. \$32.95



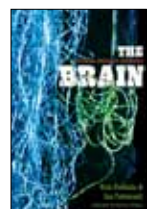
Tallis directs his guns at neuroscience's dark companion – 'Neuromania' – the belief that brain activity is not merely a necessary but a sufficient condition for human consciousness and that consequently our everyday

behaviour can be entirely understood in neural terms. Tallis dismantles the idea that 'we are our brains', which has given rise to a plethora of neuro-prefixed pseudo-disciplines laying claim to explain everything from art and literature to criminality and religious belief.

THE BRAIN: BIG BANGS, BEHAVIORS AND BELIEFS

Rob DeSalle, Ian Tattersall & Patricia J. Wynne

Yale. HB. \$39.95



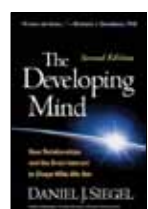
After several million years of jostling for ecological space, only one survivor from a host of hominid species remains standing: us. In this delightfully accessible book, the authors present the first full, step-by-step account of the

evolution of the brain and nervous system. Tapping the very latest findings in evolutionary biology, the authors explain how the cognitive gulf that separates us from all other living creatures could have occurred.

THE DEVELOPING MIND: HOW RELATIONSHIPS AND THE BRAIN INTERACT TO SHAPE WHO WE ARE

Daniel J. Siegel

Guilford. HB. \$78



In this fully revised and updated second edition of his bestselling book, Siegel explores the role of interpersonal relationships in forging key connections in the brain. He presents a groundbreaking new way of thinking

about the emergence of the human mind and the process by which each of us becomes a feeling, thinking, remembering individual. Illuminating how and why neurobiology matters, this book is essential reading for clinicians, educators, researchers, and students interested in promoting healthy development and resilience.

EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD TRAIN WRECK: WHY WE CAN'T LOOK AWAY

Eric G. Wilson

FSG. HB. \$29.95



Whether we admit it or not, we're fascinated by evil. Dark fantasies, morbid curiosities, Schadenfreude; as conventional wisdom has it, these are the symptoms of our wicked side, and we succumb to them at our own peril.

We're still compelled to look whenever we pass a grisly accident on the highway, and there's no slaking our thirst for gory entertainments like horror movies and police procedurals. What makes these spectacles so irresistible? Wilson sets out to discover the source of our attraction to the caustic, drawing on the findings of biologists, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, philosophers, theologians and artists.

Art & Design

by Margaret Snowden, Readings Carlton

VITAMIN GREEN: AN INSPIRATIONAL OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

Phaidon. HB. \$89.95



The latest in the 'vitamin' series is an extremely interesting showcase for the above. If you are interested in this area you may have seen some of the products/projects before, but this fascinating combination of beauty, functionality,

practicality and desirability is completely moreish. Many of the items that come from the third world are just as viable/desirable in developed countries (for different reasons perhaps); for example, the BioLite Stove and Bow Bins, and everyone should start taking up the sustainable architectural practices.

DRAW ME A HOUSE

Thibaud Herem

Cicada. PB. \$25.95



Draw Me a House is a playbook for budding architects and anyone interested in the built environment. Illustrated by Thibaud Herem, it invites people of all ages to colour in, think about, doodle and

engage with architectural elements. Both educational and entertaining, *Draw Me a House* takes the reader on a journey through architectural styles from Gothic church spires, to contemporary eco-design and out the other side to the world of fantasy.

LIVING AS FORM: SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART FROM 1991-2011

Nato Thompson (ed.)

MIT Press. HB. \$57.95



The story goes that a battalion of soldiers in France during WWI was the first action of the Dada Art Movement. Many artists around the world today, analogously to that moment, are taking their art practice

out of their studios and becoming engaged with current culture, community and politics, working as individuals, in groups, with communities, or as collectives, with subtlety or outrageous confrontation. Reading about the actions, performances and projects in this book is moving, inspiring, occasionally puzzling, but mostly inspires admiration for the ability of these artists to take their creative processes and use them so poetically and constructively.

UP ON THE ROOF: NEW YORK'S HIDDEN SKYLINES SPACES

Alex MacLean

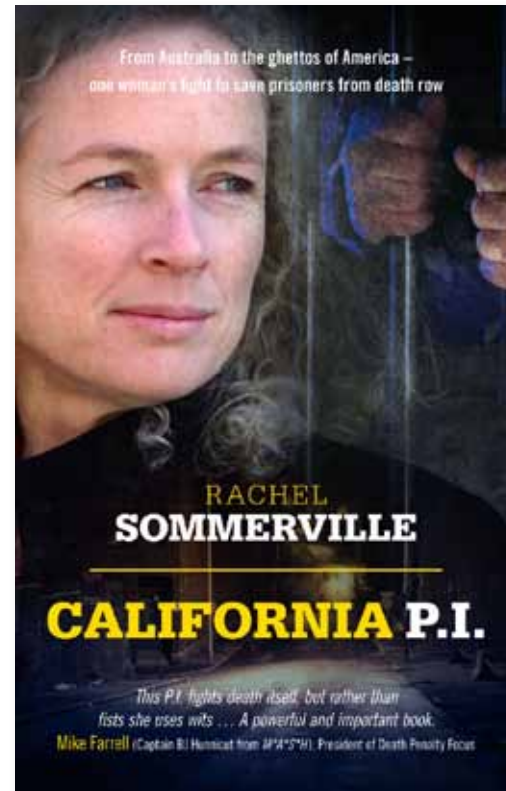
Princeton Architectural Press. HB. \$77.50



In *Up on the Roof*, architect turned photographer MacLean, directs his lens at the rarely seen 'top floor' of New York City and reveals a hidden world of amazing complexity, diversity, and life.

Alongside the city's famous water towers are pools, sunbathers, tennis courts, art, restaurants, gardens, and solar panels. MacLean's photographs leave little doubt about New York City's 'green' potential and the belief that improved outdoor spaces above lead to more livable cities below. Maps and captions help the reader to easily identify the photographs. This fascinating look at hidden New York will be a revelation.

NEWSOUTH PUBLISHING



BOOKS THAT CHANGE YOUR MIND



Marquis is accused of involvement in the murder of a man from a rival neighbourhood. Darren has been found guilty of murdering a petrol station attendant. Charles has been charged with the murder of a homeless teenage girl. All of them are potentially facing the death penalty in California. Australian-born Rachel Sommerville is a private investigator whose job is to help lawyers convince a jury or appeal

court to let these men live. Her search for the evidence that may stop the imposition of a death sentence takes her to some of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the US.

www.newsouthbooks.com.au

OUT NOW

the CROSSING
B. MICHAEL RADBURN

'... a riveting tale of deception and desperation...'
- ABC RADIO

'... evocative... atmospheric'
- THE SUN-HERALD

the CROSSING
B. Michael Radburn

Traumatised by the disappearance of his daughter Claire, Taylor Bridges exiles himself to Glorys Crossing in Tasmania.

Struggling with the guilt of her disappearance, Taylor becomes a chronic sleepwalker. When another young girl the same age goes missing, Taylor begins to question himself... uncertain of what happens when he sleepwalks.

It's a race against time not just to find the missing girl, but in Taylor's search for redemption and a past better left lying at the bottom of the new lake.

PanteraPress.com

HarperCollinsPublishers



HarperCollins

Darkness on the Edge of Town

BY JESSIE COLE

9780732293192 | RRP: \$24.99

A haunting tale that beguiles the reader with its gripping and unrelenting tensions, and its disturbing yet tender observations, featuring an accidental hero, his daughter and a tragic interloper who crashes into their lives in a northern NSW country town with unexpected consequences...



HarperCollins

Rotten Gods

BY GREG BARRON

9780732294342 | RRP \$29.99

A new wave of terror threatens the world as presidents and prime ministers alike are taken hostage at a global summit. *Rotten Gods* is both an imaginative tour de force and a dire warning, holding the reader spellbound until the last breathtaking page.



HarperCollins

The Oldest Song in the World

BY SUE WOOLFE

9780732294991 | RRP \$29.99

Kate, a lonely city woman and reluctant student, is asked by her teacher to travel to the middle of the Australian desert to record a dying Aboriginal woman singing an ancient song. This is a brave and controversial story that will make readers question everything we have ever felt about our country.

harpercollins.com.au

Food & Wine

by Chris Gordon, Readings Carlton

KYLIE KWONG'S SIMPLE CHINESE COOKING CLASS

Kylie Kwong

Lantern. HB. Normally \$59.95

Our special price \$49.95



There are many reasons to enjoy Kylie Kwong's latest cookbook, and why I consider her to be one of the finest chefs in Australia at this time:

The cookbook is beautiful to look at.

The photos, which include step by step instructions on tricky business (I'm thinking in particular deboning chicken wings) are practical and lush.

The recipes are, and I'm really not kidding, easy to make.

Her descriptions of ingredients and equipment are accessible.

She believes in time honoured techniques.

She's fun and her food has integrity and comes from a generosity of spirit.

She believes in sustainable practice.

The title of the book is in no way misleading.

She has suggestions for mid-week meals, crowd pleasers and a sweet romantic night in.

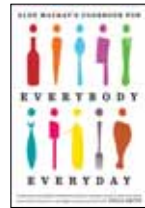
Actually, that's my description of a particular fine evening I spent with my bloke making steamed scallops with ginger and spring onions that were so good that we didn't bother with plates and ate standing up at the stove, glass in one hand, seafood in the other, greed and glee in our eyes.

You can read more about why she wrote this cookbook in the Q&A on this page or you could come and chat with Kylie at our very special Readings Hawthorn event on Wednesday 4 July. There will be tastes from the book for us to all enjoy – think dumplings galore – and there will be wine supplied by Brown Brothers. After the event, you may be inspired to go home and whip up a quick stir-fry of potato and black bean in chilli sauce. It takes approximately 10 minutes to make and is wonderfully aromatic and simply delicious. Sounds like a perfect Wednesday evening to me. See you there!

ALEX MACKAY'S COOKBOOK FOR EVERYBODY EVERYDAY

Alex Mackay

Bloomsbury. HB. \$39.99



Here's a book with a title that makes a *huge* claim. Forgive me, but I was suspicious. Everybody? Everyday? I think not. Clearly though, Mackay knows what he's about and fair enough – the man has been cooking and teaching

cooking all over the world for years. Here, he has come up with an excellent plan so actually I can now see how this could be indeed a book for us in every situation. Let me explain: take, say, pesto – the how and whys are there, and then there are the alternatives. So once pesto is mastered, you could make beef rump with pesto, you could make meatballs with mozzarella and pesto – and on it goes.

This is a bold book, but it's easy to follow. The most important part is, of course, establishing whether the recipes actually work. I cooked salmon fillets with fennel. Clearly I'm part of the great population mass because it was easy to make, and it was absolutely delicious. To everyone out there – Mackay is not misleading us with that title.

Q&A with Kylie Kwong

Chris Gordon interviews Kylie Kwong about Kylie Kwong's Simple Chinese Cooking Class (Lantern, HB, Normally \$59.95, Our special price \$49.95).



Firstly a couple of questions about your glorious books. Your cookbooks are always so vivid and colourful.

Do you have much say in the design?

Julie Gibbs, my publisher with her very own strong sense of personal style, and innovative and talented graphic designer Daniel New always come up with the overall concept and 'look and feel' of my books, based on their understanding and knowledge of what I kind of like, what they both like, and obviously based on the actual overall specific message and style of the book. The photographer Earl Carter has his say which we always welcome immensely. Then I am given the opportunity to offer my opinion, and add in my own voice, my own style. It has always been a wonderful collaboration between Julie, the graphic designer at the time and the chosen photographer. On all of my books, and fortunately, on each book, we have all seemed to like the same aesthetic. Now that certainly helps!

I find your cookbooks use such wonderful plain language, and certainly this one in particular shows how easy Chinese cooking can be! What inspired you to break down the recipes into baby steps?

In the past there has been so much mystery and therefore fear around cooking Chinese food, not to mention choosing which brands of soys and sauces etc. And because I actually cook simply myself, both at home and in my restaurant, I really wanted to share how easy it is to cook Chinese food, with the general public. Chinese food is so popular in this country and I think it only appropriate that everyone has the opportunity then to learn how to cook Chinese confidently and without anxiety, to have fun and enjoy

this beautiful, healthy, wholesome and flavoursome, interesting cuisine. We have all the Chinese ingredients readily available to us, not to mention an abundance of stunningly fresh Asian vegetables. Offering these step-by-step instructions along with matching images completely takes the 'guesswork' out of my recipes, and ensures that every single person, when following my recipes, will end up making a beautiful dish and feel really good about that. I want people to 'enjoy' cooking Chinese, and to enjoy eating what they have made, rather than seeing it as something difficult, unreachable and laborious.

Kylie, as one of the most well known of our female chefs, why do you reckon there are not more women in the commercial kitchen?

Just from my own personal experience, many women get to a certain age and choose to leave commercial kitchens because they simply wish to start a family. I totally understand this of course. Then, when they consider returning at a later stage, for many, the unsociable hours of working in a commercial kitchen just do not work in at all with family life. When I was an apprentice chef under Neil Perry for six years (almost 18 years ago!) I never had any issues with the fact that I was a woman in a traditionally male-dominated profession. In the kitchen, Neil and the staff always treated me and other females with great respect. So, from my experience, I have always enjoyed working in commercial kitchens. In my Billy Kwong kitchen, I have three women (including myself) and four men.

Friday night and you are throwing a huge dinner party for your mates: what one pot dish do you cook? (And what page is that recipe on because I'm copying you!)

Northern-style braised lamb with spices (page 99). You can make it earlier and just reheat upon serving with bowls of jasmine rice.

And finally it's Sunday night and you're knackered: what are you cooking for dinner at home?

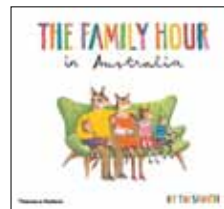
Definitely my mother's braised chicken wings with fresh pineapple (page 77)!

New Kids' Books

PICTURE BOOKS THE FAMILY HOUR IN AUSTRALIA

Tai Snaith

T&H. HB. \$24.95



There are so many delicious elements to this new Australian picture book that it's hard to know where to begin. Perhaps with the gorgeous native animals

engaging in typical behaviours, the stylish references to retro furniture and design, but also the unusual facts (did you know a baby echidna is called a puggle and drinks pink milk until it can eat ants?), the clock to be discovered on every page, and finally, the matte cover and thick pages that complete this gorgeous publication. Tai Snaith is a writer, curator and artist with an impressive CV. Her drawing style is realistic but with a quirky, stylised edge and her animals look very authentic while also anthropomorphised to appeal to young children. The story follows families on a regular day, beginning with the Gouldian finch family eating breakfast, termites for morning tea with the baby numbats, and so on, through to the hairy-nosed wombats, which awaken just as the rest of the world is going to bed. Various family units are represented from same sex parents and single mums, to multiple families living together. Some pages have simple bold lines, whereas others are filled with intricate detail and these in particular invite poring over by curious children. Many of the animals are endangered and all of the unusual anecdotes are true, which provides a fascinating educational experience for both parent and child. In every way, this book is an absolute delight to be enjoyed time and time again. *Angela Crocombe is from Readings St Kilda*

THE MAGNIFICENT TREE

Nicholas Bland

Scholastic. HB. \$24.99



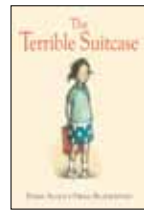
'What we need is a tree!' said Bonny. 'I completely agree,' said Pop. Bonny and Pop are bursting with ideas. Pop's ideas are big and brave and Bonny's ideas are simple and clever. When they decide to make something that will

attract the birds, they come up with ideas for a tree. A brave tree, a clever tree – a magnificent tree.

THE TERRIBLE SUITCASE

Emma Allen & Freya Blackwood (illus.)

Scholastic. HB. \$24.99



What do you do when it's your first day of school and your mum gives you a terrible suitcase instead of a red backpack with yellow rockets and a silver zipper? Well, first you get mad. MAD! Then you use your imagination to

build a rocket ship and escape with all your new friends. Suitable for ages 4 and up.

TOO MANY ELEPHANTS IN THIS HOUSE

Ursula Dubosarsky & Andrew Joyner

Penguin. HB. \$24.95



In Eric's house there were too many elephants – in the living room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, even in his bedroom! The elephants take up a lot of space, but Eric loves every one of them. So when his mum says they have

to go, Eric comes up with a clever solution to a very BIG problem... From the creators of *The Terrible Plop* comes this delightfully energetic story, full of fun and exuberance.

BIG BAD BILL ON THE NAUGHTY STEP

Mark Sperring & Tom McLaughlin

Puffin. PB. \$14.99



Uh-oh! Sam's on the naughty step again, and Captain Buckleboots too! But it begins to get mighty crowded when Big Bad Bill rides into town. Big Bad Bill is wanted for all sorts of badness. They all know they've done something naughty, but how are they ever going to say sorry?

MIDDLE READERS CODE CRIMSON: ARKIE SPARKLE TREASURE HUNTER

Petra James

Macmillan. PB. \$6.99. Ebook \$4.99



The contradiction of Arkie Sparkle's dilemma is she may have access to amazing technology but it is to the ancient world she has to return to in a bid to find her kidnapped parents. Along with her friend TJ and Cleo the dog, she has seven days in seven continents to find ancient treasures that will hopefully enable her parents' return. Illustrated throughout, this fun mystery will appeal to readers seven and up but particularly those who are intimidated by thick books. The great introductory price of \$6.99 is an added bonus. For ages 7–11. *Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn*

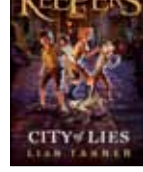
CITY OF LIES: THE KEEPERS BOOK TWO

Lian Tanner

A&U. PB. Normally \$15.99

Our special price \$9.99

Ebook \$9.99



The exciting sequel to Museum of Thieves. Six months have passed since the Great Storm, and Goldie Roth is trapped at home again, this time by the invisible chains of love and guilt. But when her friend

Toadspit's sister Bonnie is abducted by a mysterious criminal called Harrow, Goldie must leave home in a bold attempt to rescue her friends. She and Toadspit follow the child-stealers to the neighbouring city of Spoke. Along the way, Toadspit is also captured, and Goldie discovers some dangerous secrets – secrets that the child-stealers will kill to protect.

DEADWEATHER & SUNRISE: THE CHRONICLES OF EGG

Geoff Rodkey

Penguin. PB. \$14.95



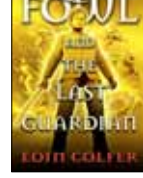
If you like the swashbuckling thrills of pirates on the high seas, villains at every turn, and the power of true love, then this story is for you. The first in a series of books about young Egbert, quickly renamed Egg, this is the story of how he loses his family, meets the entrancing Millicent, encounters numerous Pirates, both good and bad, befriends a strange, one-handed boy, and discovers a map to some ancient treasure, all without getting killed. Phew! This book is just the first in a trilogy, so there was a lot of set-up in the early chapters

that made me eager to get moving, but this story had a very authentic voice in young Egg and some fabulous characters that kept me reading on. It's perfect for pirate and adventure mad boys and girls from 8 to 12. AC

ARTEMIS FOWL AND THE LAST GUARDIAN

Eoin Colfer

Penguin. PB. \$19.95



In the final Artemis Fowl title, Opal Koboi, power-crazed pixie, is plotting to exterminate mankind and become fairy queen. If she succeeds, the spirits of long-dead fairy warriors will rise from the earth, inhabit the nearest available bodies and wreak mass destruction. But what happens if those nearest bodies include two curious little boys by the names of Myles and Beckett Fowl? Yes, Artemis Fowl's four-year-old brothers could be involved in destroying the human race. Can Artemis and Captain Holly Short of the Lower Elements Police stop Opal and prevent the end of the world?

SMALL CHANGE FOR STUART

Lissa Evans

Random. PB. \$14.95



This is a ripper little adventure that has magic, mystery and family intrigue. Stuart and his family have moved back to his Dad's hometown where he finds out that a great uncle, whose disappearance has never been solved, was also a magician. Almost immediately Stuart stumbles on clues to his vanishing but annoyingly is intercepted by three neighbouring sisters, one who turns out to be intrusively persistent and a surprisingly good detective, even for a girl! Quirky, funny and baffling, this is a marvelous read for ages 8–12. AD

CAESAR THE WAR DOG

Stephen Dando-Collins

Random. PB. \$16.95



Caesar doesn't look special. But Corporal Ben Fulton sees something different – an intelligent dog who will make him an excellent sniffer dog in the Australian Army. *Caesar the War Dog* is based on the true story of Australian military dog Sarbi, combined with the factual experiences of Endal, the devoted British dog who cared for his wheelchair-bound ex-serviceman master and became the most decorated dog in history. For ages 9 and up.

NOVELTY ENORMOUS CROCODILE BOOK & TOY GIFT SET

ROALD DAHL

Penguin. \$19.95



The Enormous Crocodile is a greedy, grumpy brute who loves to guzzle up little boys and girls. The other jungle animals have had enough of his nasty tricks so Trunky the Elephant decides to teach him a lesson he'll never forget!

IN THE FOREST

Anouk Boisrobert, Louis Rigaud & Sophie Strady

Tate. HB. \$25.95



In a lush green forest, a sloth sleeps. Can you see him? CLANG! Machines come to tear down the trees, but the sloth still sleeps. Will he wake up? Turn the pages of this ingenious and stylish pop-up book, which tells the story of one lazy sloth who hangs on in there as the forest is destroyed and then reborn.

NON-FICTION GIRL! THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO BEING YOU

Anna Barnes

Penguin. PB. \$19.95



This is a how-to guide for modern girls that gives them the gumption to try lots of fun things that will benefit the world, their community and themselves. It has heaps of ideas to help girls make and grow things, manage friendships and their emotions, glimpse life from different girls' perspectives, and find out about stuff happening on the other side of the world and in our own backyard. Young author and blogger Anna Barnes doesn't have all the answers but she shares some of her experiences, dreams and funny stories. For readers aged 11 and up.

CLASSICS THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT AND OTHER NONSENSE

Edward Lear & Robert Ingpen (illus.)

Walker. HB. \$29.95



In celebration of the bicentenary of Edward Lear's birth in May this year comes this wonderful collection of his best loved nonsense poems. Think 'The Owl and the Pussycat', 'The Jumblies', 'The Dong with the Luminous

Nose', and all those childhood favourites that stay in the mind's eye for life. Every poem is illustrated by award-winning artist Robert Ingpen and the book also contains Lear's limericks, his original artwork and some of his beautiful ornithological drawings for which he was first famous. It is a real tribute to his unusual genius.

Part of the Ingpen illustrated classics series, which includes *The Jungle Book*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Tom Sawyer*, it would be a great way of starting a child's collection of special books. KK

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM

Michelle Magorian

Puffin. PB. \$16.95



Set at the beginning of WWII, this story about Willie Beech, a deprived child evacuee, and Old Mister Tom with whom he is billeted has real heart. Gripping plot, full blown characters to love and hate and an unforgettable story. For ages 10+ and the whole family. KK

LADYBIRD CLASSICS

Ladybird. HB. \$9.95 each



Ladybird have reissued five classics – *Oliver Twist*, *Black Beauty*, *The Secret Garden*, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Treasure Island* – with beautiful new illustrations throughout and in a gorgeous larger format with ribbon marker. Each is an abridged retelling of a classic, making it perfect for introducing these stories to younger children.

SNIPPETS

A couple of milestones: it's 25 years since John Marsden's *So Much To Tell You* got everyone in YA literature talking. Less confrontational, Mem Fox's *New Hat* has been around for 10 years and the Readings' kids' buyers were lucky enough to hear her at this year's CBCA Conference in Adelaide. Ever passionate about picture books, she read from her new book *Two Little Monkeys* (Penguin, HB, \$19.95) out this month. You could have heard a pin drop.

Readings Bargain Table

Bargains on the web: New books are regularly added to our website. Click on the Bargains tab at www.readings.com.au.

GOOD LIVING STREET

Tim Bonyhady

PB. Was \$35. Now \$14.95



From high society in Vienna to a small flat in Sydney; from patrons of the arts to refugees from the Holocaust; this is the enthralling story of three generations of women spanning a century of upheaval.

THE BIG SLEEP

Raymond Chandler

HB. Was \$29.95. Now \$12.95



Old man Sternwood, crippled and wheelchair-bound, is being given the squeeze by a blackmailer and he wants Los Angeles PI Philip Marlowe to make the problem go away. But with Sternwood's two wild, devil-may-care daughters prowling LA's seedy backstreets, Marlowe's got his work cut out! Cool little hardback edition.

HOW PROUST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Alain De Botton

PB. Was \$24.95. Now \$12.95



'What a marvellous book this is ... de Botton dissects what [Proust] had to say about friendship, reading, looking carefully, paying attention taking your time, being alive and adds his own delicious commentary. The result is an intoxicating as it is wise, amusing as well as stimulating, and presented in so fresh a fashion as to be unique.'—Brian Masters.

INNER WORKINGS ESSAYS 2000-2005

J.M. Coetzee

PB. Was \$34.95. Now \$10



In addition to being one of the most acclaimed and accomplished fiction writers in the world, Nobel Prize winner Coetzee is also a literary critic of the highest calibre. In this collection of 20 essays, Coetzee examines the work of some of the twentieth-century's greatest writers.

INTO THE WILD

John Krakauer

PB. Was \$20.95. Now \$10

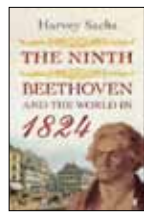


By examining the true story of Chris McCandless who walked deep into the Alaskan wilderness and whose SOS note and corpse were found four months later, Krakauer explores the obsession which leads some people to explore the outer limits of self, leave civilisation behind and seek enlightenment through solitude and contact with nature.

THE NINTH - BEETHOVEN AND THE WORLD IN 1824

Harvey Sachs

HB. Was \$35.00. Now \$14

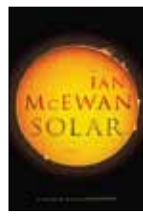


Explains how the premiere of Beethoven's staggering last symphony was emblematic of its time - a work of art unlike any other - and a magisterial, humanistic statement that remains a challenge down to our own day and for future generations.

SOLAR

Ian McEwan

HB. Was \$35. Now \$15



Can a man who has made a mess of his life clean up the messes of humanity? A complex novel that brilliantly traces the arc of one man's ambitions and deceptions, *Solar* is a startling, witty new work from the author of *On Chesil Beach* and *Atonement*.

THE PEASANT PRINCE: THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

Alex Storzynski

PB. Was \$22.95. Now \$12.95



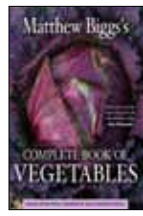
Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish-Lithuanian, was one of the most important figures of the modern world. Fleeing his homeland after a death sentence was placed on his head, he went to America a month after the signing of

the Declaration of Independence, with little more than a revolutionary spirit and a genius for engineering.

COMPLETE BOOK OF VEGETABLES

Matthew Biggs

PB. Was \$46.95. Now \$15

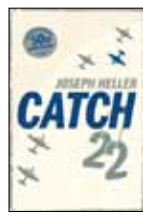


Matthew Biggs has been a professional gardener for over 20 years. In this comprehensive book, Matthew Biggs shares his extensive knowledge of a wide variety of vegetables and inspires the gardener to take on the fulfilling activity of vegetable growing.

CATCH 22 ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Joseph Heller

PB. Was \$45. Now \$12.95



This fiftieth-anniversary edition celebrates Heller's masterpiece with an introduction by Howard Jacobson, rare images from Heller's personal archive and essays by the likes of Norman Mailer, Anthony Burgess and

Christopher Hitchens.

EARTH FLIGHT

Jonathon Littell

HB. Was \$69.95. Now \$15.95



A collection of over 200 stunning photographs from the landmark BBC series that takes you across the world to experience some of the spectacles on earth. It unlocks the secrets of the skies and offers a glimpse into a previously inaccessible world.

STRANGER MAGIC

Marina Warner

HB. Was \$45. Now \$14.95



Magic is not simply a matter of the occult arts, but a whole way of thinking, of dreaming the impossible. In this book, the author explores the figure of the dark magician or magus; from Solomon to the wicked uncle in *Aladdin*; the complex vitality of the jinn, or genies; animal metamorphoses and flying carpets.

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

Evelyn Waugh

HB. Was \$35. Now \$15.95



The most nostalgic and reflective of Evelyn Waugh's novels, *Brideshead Revisited* looks back to the golden age before WWII. It tells the story of Charles Ryder's infatuation with the Marchmains and the rapidly disappearing world of privilege they inhabit. In a fine commemorative hardback edition.

RIVERED EARTH

Vikram Seth

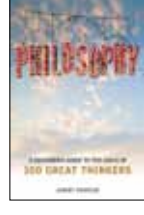
HB. Was \$29.95. Now \$13.95



Contains four libretti that are to be set to music. This title includes: 'Songs in Time of War', 'Shared Ground', 'The Traveller' and 'Seven Elements', that take us all over the world - from Chinese and Indian poetry to the beauty of the Salisbury house where the poet George Herbert lived and died.

PHILOSOPHY: A BEGINNERS GUIDE

HB. Was \$33.95. Now \$10

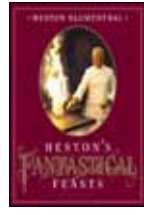


From philosophy's founding fathers to the great minds of the post-modern era this concise new guide presents 100 of the world's most influential thinkers. Arranged from the ancient world to the present day, each philosopher's key ideas, notable works and pronouncements are encapsulated in a series of succinct biographies, accompanied by illustrations.

HESTON'S FANTASTICAL FEASTS

Heston Blumenthal

HB. Was \$39.95. Now \$15



Once upon a time there was a Chef called Heston who opened a small restaurant called the Fat Duck. At first, he served only simple French classics but gradually, the Chef's curiosity got the better of him and he began

thinking up more unusual dishes, such as Snail Porridge and Chocolate Wine.

ATLANTIC

Simon Winchester

HB. Was \$35. Now \$15

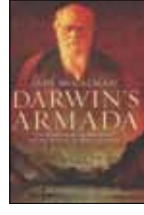


For thousands of years the Atlantic ocean was viewed by mariners with a mixture of awe, terror and amazement. In recent times, as we fly high above it without so much as bothering to look down, this vast sea has been reduced to the status of a mere passageway between continents.

DARWIN'S ARMADA

Iain McCalman

HB. Was \$22.95. Now \$15

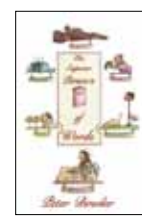


Darwin's Armada tells the stories of Charles Darwin, Thomas Huxley, Joseph Hooker and Alfred Wallace, four young amateur naturalists from Britain who voyaged to the southern hemisphere during the first half of the 19th century in search of adventure and scientific fame.

THE SUPERIOR PERSON'S SECOND BOOK OF WORDS

Peter Bowler

HB. Was \$29.95. Now \$10



Words are not only tools; they are also weapons. The secret to being a truly Superior Person is to use really superior words. This book offers 500 words to help you wiggle out of sticky debates, deal with obnoxious dinner guests and fill in sick leave application forms with panache.

NEW YORK IN THE 70S

Allan Tannenbaum

HB. Was \$69.95. Now \$15



A personal collection of photographs documenting an exciting chapter in New York's history and a remarkable body of work produced by photographer Allan Tannenbaum while he was a photo editor in Manhattan. The photographs capture the heady exuberance of the era.

ISLAND BENEATH THE SEA

Isabelle Allende

HB. Was \$42. Now \$12



From the sugar plantations of Saint-Domingue to the lavish parlours of New Orleans at the turn of the 19th century, Allende's latest novel tells the story of a mulatta woman, a slave and concubine, determined to take control of her own destiny.

ITALIAN DESIGN

Giampiero Bosoni

PB. Was \$49.95. Now \$12



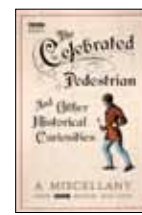
Beyond any romantic declaration of Italians' secret to success is the exceptional effectiveness of Italian modern design. This book provides an overview of Italy's design culture; an essay by Giampiero Bosoni

illuminates the masterpieces of modern Italian design reproduced in the volume's plate section.

THE CELEBRATED PEDESTRIAN AND OTHER HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES

Dave Musgrove

HB. Was \$37.95. Now \$12



Who is the Downing of Downing Street? What did the first illuminated adverts in Piccadilly Circus advertise? Was Oliver Cromwell actually Welsh? Questions like these and many more are answered in this, the first ever miscellany from the editors of *BBC History Magazine*.

ARMAGEDDON

Paul Daley & Michael Bowers

PB. Was \$49.99. Now \$12



Paul Daley and Michael Bowers follow in the footsteps of the Australian Light Horse divisions. As they pick up shrapnel, bullet casings and even the odd human bone, the musings and black humour of these two mates recall the laconic spirit of the diggers.

New Release DVDs with Gerard Elson

DVD OF THE MONTH THE ARTIST

\$39.95. Blu-ray \$49.95



Silence was golden at this year's Oscars, with this charming throwback to Hollywood's black-and-white heyday soft-shoed away with statuettes for Best Picture, Best Director (Michel Hazanavicius) and Best Actor (Jean Dujardin). Dashing moustachioed Dujardin stars as George Valentin, early film heartthrob and silent cinema purist, who soon finds himself relegated to relic status with the advent of the talkies. With mounting bitterness he's left to watch the meteoric rise of the beautiful young ingénue Peppy Miller (Bérénice Bejo), whose career he initially assisted. It's easy to see why this riches-and-back-again tale resonated with the AMPAS: with the 'digital revolution' necessitating major changes to film delivery and distribution methods, the modern industry faces a radical paradigm shift of its own. *The Artist* reassures that although modes and formats might change, cinema goes on. Dujardin and Miller have old-fashioned, screen-illuminating chemistry, but the playful Jack Russell Terrier Uggie steals every scene. A delight.

PROPHETS OF SCIENCE FICTION

\$34.95



Having recently screened on SBS1, this eight-part series investigates the lives of science fiction's most influential figures. Mary Shelley, Philip K. Dick, H.G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Jules Verne, Robert Heinlein and George Lucas are each expounded. Produced by Ridley Scott (*Blade Runner*, *Alien*), these enlightening documentaries dispel once and for all the myth that sci-fi is foremost the stuff of escapism by highlighting the genre's sure footing in the heres and nows that have prompted it, in its manifold forms, in the two centuries since its invention.

MABO

\$19.95



Torres Strait Islander Eddie Mabo led the long and arduous legal battle that culminated with the overturning of 'terra nullius' in 1992 and granted legal recognition of traditional land rights to Australia's Indigenous citizens. Directed by Rachel Perkins (*Art + Soul*) and written by Sue Smith (*Bastard Boys*), this ABC production stars Jim Bani, Deborah Mailman, Miranda Otto and Colin Friels. '[A] fine telemovie.' — Richard Watts, *Arts Hub*.

THE BORGHIAS: SEASON 1

\$59.95



Few families throughout history have held as much sway as the House of Borgia did in the 15th and 16th centuries. This first season of the hit Showtime series chips off the varnish of history to expose the conniving and corruption that led to Rodrigo Borgia's election to the papacy to become Pope Alexander VI. Created by Neil Jordan (*Interview with a Vampire*) and starring Sir Jeremy Irons, 'the Borgias ... were a family made for TV' according to *The New York Times*.

RAY BRADBURY THEATRE

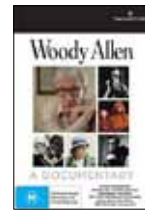
\$59.95



The late Ray Bradbury was one of science fiction's most lyrical voices, though his visions more often than not came tinged with alarm. Available on DVD for the first time, this seminal anthology series comprises 65 episodes, all scripted by Bradbury himself, with many based on his own short fiction and novels. Bradbury's fantastical tales are enacted by an aptly stellar cast, including Shelley Duvall, Jeff Goldblum, Peter O'Toole, Drew Barrymore, David Carradine and William Shatner, to name but a few.

WOODY ALLEN: A DOCUMENTARY

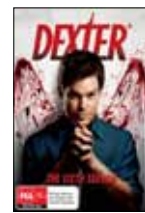
\$39.95



Following winning screenings at the Sydney Film Festival and ACMI, this documentary examines the creative life of the filmmaker who elevated neurosis to the level of art. Copious excerpts from Allen's four-decades-and-counting career illustrate not only his incredible prolificacy, but the extent of his influence.

DEXTER: SEASON 6

\$59.95



With season five's shocking conclusion behind him, Michael C. Hall's charismatic serial killer faces off with his most formidable adversary yet: a delusional and unbudging Bible-thumping zealot. Full of twists, turns, ghastly laughs and shock reveals, long-time fans will most relish the way this season culminates – not to spoil anything – in a moment they've long awaited ...

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN

\$39.95. Blu-ray \$49.95



As the screen's most iconic actress, Michelle Williams achieves the near-impossible in this accomplished snapshot biopic by delivering a performance that never approaches simple mimicry or impression. Kenneth Branagh, too, inhabits his big shoes – those of the mighty Laurence Olivier – with aplomb. For David Stratton, this 'very enjoyable film' was a four-star experience.

HEADHUNTERS

\$39.95

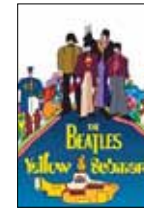


Adapted from Jo Nesbø's bestseller, this latest addition to cinema's burgeoning canon of Scandi noir follows an accomplished corporate recruiter who moonlights as an art thief. The film's streak of jet-black wit has courted

comparisons to the Coen brothers at their wicked best. 'A superbly crafted, cunningly untrustworthy and utterly irresistible new thriller from Norway of all places? You better believe it.' – Leigh Paatsch, *Herald Sun*.

YELLOW SUBMARINE

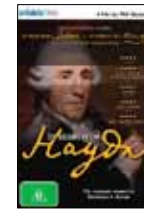
\$29.95, Blu-ray \$34.95



Following years of unavailability, this psychedelic animated favourite is re-issued on DVD and blu-ray, sourced from a brand new digitally restored 4K master. Furnished with a comprehensive suite of extras – including an all-new essay from Pixar doyen John Lasseter – Pepperland has never looked, nor sounded, so far out. 'Pop art at its finest.' – *Empire* magazine.

IN SEARCH OF HAYDN

\$34.95



From Phil Grabsky, the award-winning director of *In Search of Mozart* and *In Search of Beethoven*, comes this final film in the lauded documentary trilogy that investigates the lives of these fêted composers. Close friend of Mozart and educator of Beethoven, Joseph Haydn is the less-known bridge between these two titans of classical music. 'Grabsky [has] a great gift for showing how a piece is put together. The music is the thing.' – Sandra Hall, *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Also available

J. Edgar Chronicle
Buck
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (27 June)
The Grey (27 June)
John Carter (4 July)
Carnage (4 July)
Baboons with Bill Bailey (4 July)
Coriolanus (11 July)
Life in Movement (11 July)
Like Crazy (11 July)

Coming soon

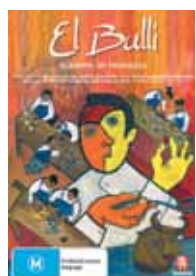
A Separation, *Le Quattro Volte*, *The Hunger Games*, *Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey*, *The Kid with a Bike*

Extraordinary films on sale now at Readings

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A Beginner's Guide to Cinema Box Set. Vols 1, 2 & 3 avail. Were \$99.95 ea. Now \$49.95 ea. *Douglas Sirk* Box Set \$79.95 \$49.95



Was \$29.95
Now \$19.95



Was \$29.95
Now \$19.95



Was \$29.95
Now \$14.95



Was \$34.95
Now \$19.95



Was \$34.95
Now \$19.95



Godard Box Set
\$69.95 \$49.95



New Release CDs

CD of the Month

BOYS DON'T CRY

Rumer

\$19.95



On *Boys Don't Cry*, the follow-up to her million-selling debut *Seasons of My Soul*, Rumer has recorded versions of tracks written by men in the 1970s. In almost every instance she inhabits the songs to such an extent that they feel like her own compositions, even when the titles at first seem inappropriate. Rumer's performances are uniformly technically flawless and models of restraint. *Boys Don't Cry* works superbly as a companion piece to *Seasons*... the harmonic richness of the music and lush chord sequences showing exactly where her allegiances lie. It posits Rumer as a throwback, albeit a glorious one, to a bygone era, when the songwriting verities of the Brill Building were transposed to LA's Laurel Canyon. Fabulous stuff.

Pop/Rock

LIL BAND PLAYS FATS

Lil' Band O' Gold

\$21.95



For those not familiar with this super group of Louisiana swamp rockers, this could be the start of a very special love affair. Mixing everything including blues, Cajun, country and rock these guys represent the absolute cream of the crop when it comes to steamin' hot, born on the bayou grooves, and the line up of guests along for the ride shows just how much pulling power is on display. Robert Plant, Lucinda Williams, Ani DiFranco and our very own Jimmy Barnes and Tim Rogers provide some of the guest vocals on this rollicking tribute to the indomitable Fats Domino. Great stuff.

Declan Murphy is from Readings St Kilda

SPIRIT BIRD

Xavier Rudd

\$21.95



Album number seven for Xavier sees him in a fairly stripped back mode. He incorporates percussion, bird calls, yidakis (didgeridoos), harmonica and slide guitar with his own brand of blues, reggae and indigenous folk music, all with a deeply personal and socially-conscious lyrical slant. Clearly he cares a great deal for the environment as well as the plight of Aboriginal peoples. And yet he manages to get his point across without it feeling preachy; you can feel how much he believes that we can all have a brighter future if we try. It's an album with many beautiful moments, well worth the price of admission.

GRACELAND 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Paul Simon

\$14.95. CD/DVD \$19.95. Deluxe box set \$124.95. Vinyl also available



Besides the luminously re-mastered original *Graceland*, the CD/DVD edition includes a treasure trove of details that shed light on the entire project that became *Graceland*. The controversy that surrounded Simon following the release of this album is included in a fascinating DVD documentary *Under African Skies*. The deluxe edition has a second CD which

contains outtakes, one of which 'Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes' is jaw-droppingly beautiful with just a bass guitar and Simon's voice. And finally another DVD contains a concert in Zimbabwe from 1987.

Alice Bisits is from Readings Malvern

WORDS AND MUSIC

Saint Etienne

\$21.95



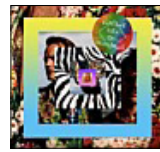
Hard to believe this is already their eighth album, and this time I feel it's one of the best. So full of nostalgic themes, with often melancholic and introspective lyrics. Musically positioned firmly in the 'pop' world, Saint Etienne express themselves with nuanced melodies that can be just as comfortable on the dance floor as in a smoky bar (remember those?). Highly recommended. AB

IDEA OF HAPPINESS

Van She

Normally \$26.95

Our special price \$21.95



Sydney synth pop exponents Van She return with their much anticipated second long player. *Idea of Happiness* was produced and engineered by the band in Sydney's Kings Cross. The lead single and title track has played on high rotation on triple j. *Idea of Happiness* is an uplifting record which will impress to no end. *Michael Awosoga-Samuel is from Readings Carlton*

CHERRY THING

Neneh Cherry & The Thing

\$24.95



Neneh Cherry's new record is a collaboration with Norwegian jazz trio, The Thing. The Thing take their name from a Don Cherry (Neneh's stepdad) song.

After meeting in London in 2010, things clicked and they toured the next year. This new album is a coming together of a season free jazz band and a legendary frontwoman, with interpretations by diverse artists such as Suicide and Ornette Coleman to give it a real zing. MAS

INTO THE TREES

Zoe Keating

\$24.95



This is rapidly becoming a late night favourite at Readings Carlton, but where do you file it? Classically trained cellist and northern California resident Zoe Keating toured here very recently and, if these two CDs are anything to go by, must have delivered some amazing performances. Keating has suffered chronic stage fright and worked in the software industry. Somewhere along the way she has created a living for herself with skilful use of the internet and YouTube and bypassed the music business. With the use of an acoustic cello, foot pedals and a laptop, and an incredibly fertile imagination, Keating has produced these sonic wonders. Through her considerable traditional and unorthodox cello technique and looping abilities, Keating provides percussive and rhythmic effects and melodies that fade in and out and build layer upon layers of sound that never descend into noise or chaos. Musical reference points, although useless here, would be some of the more out there cello-driven pieces from The Penguin Cafe Orchestra and the menacing opening bars

from the theme from *Jaws* but remember here there is just one cello playing the part of rhythm section and string section combined. When listened through headphones this music is incredibly powerful and equal parts beautiful and disturbing but utterly compelling and will generate strong emotions. Not recommended for background listening. *Paul Barr is from Readings Carlton*

AMONG THE LEAVES

Sun Kil Moon

2 CD set. \$29.95



This is the fifth piece from California-based singer/songwriter Mark Kozelek under the Sun Kil Moon moniker. *Among the Leaves* retains many elements of its impressive predecessor *Admiral Fell Promises* with its gentle pace, reflective lyrics and its beautiful (nylon) acoustic guitar work, which is reminiscent of that of Nick Drake's. What differs in this album is that Kozelek has sprinkled some (rather incongruous) biting and humorous tracks into the mix, such as 'The Moderately Talented Yet Attractive Young Woman vs. the Exceptionally Talented Yet Not So Attractive Middle Aged Man', 'Not Much Rhymes With Everything's Awesome At All Times' and 'UK Blues'. An intimate and engaging album to immerse yourself in this winter. *Miranda La Fleur is from Readings St Kilda*

LEX HIVES

Hives

\$21.95. Vinyl also available



What better way could there possibly be for The Hives to end their four-and-a-half year absence than with a song called 'Come On!' that hurtles along at a million miles an hour, lasts one minute, eight seconds and features just the title shouted over and over again? Answer: there is no better way. The message is clear: The Hives are back, and this time it's... exactly the same as the last time.

IDLER WHEEL

Fiona Apple

\$19.95. Vinyl also available.



Fiona Apple recorded her first LP in 1996 at the age of 19. At the time, she was compared to Tori Amos who led the charge of the 90s introverted singer/songwriters. Fiona's new record has been a long time coming, seven years in fact. *Idler Wheel* is well worth the wait. It finds the artist mature and trusting of her own instincts. Her many fans will be impressed as will new converts. MAS

FEAR FUN

Father John Misty

\$19.95. Vinyl also available



J Tillman has been a favourite of the music staff at Readings for some years, for his most recent solo albums and of course his work with The Fleet Foxes (2008-2011). But now his new project Father John Misty has arrived and it is possibly the best thing he has done. Musically, *Fear Fun* consists of such disparate elements as Waylon Jennings, Harry Nilsson, Arthur Russell, 'All Things Must Pass', and 'Physical Graffiti', often within the same song. Tillman's voice has never been better and often sounds like Roy Orbison, while the music maintains a dark, mysterious and yet conversely playful, almost Dionysian quality. You can catch Father John Misty performing live at Readings Carlton on Saturday 28 July at 3pm.

Dave Clarke is from Readings Carlton

Jazz/Blues

UNITY BAND

Pat Metheny

\$24.95

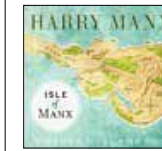


Pat Metheny's *Unity Band* is a wave to his fine album *80/81*, which featured the late Michael Brecker and Dewey Redman on saxes. Their roles are merged here on a batch of new Metheny pieces by the versatile recent visitor Chris Potter, accompanied by regular drummer Antonio Sanchez and gifted bass newcomer Ben Williams. The themes are typical Metheny: sensuous Latin grooves, synth-guitar fusion, folksy ballads, a good deal of jazz swing – and the rhythm section is mindboggling.

ISLE OF MANX

Harry Manx

\$29.95



The essential 'desert island' collection, these fifteen tunes represent a ten year, nine album career, painting a clear picture of a highly unique musical style that fuses Eastern sounds, Western blues and acoustic folk. A very regular and popular visitor to Australia, this is the perfect way to introduce yourself to his wonderful albums.

Soul/Funk

BRAVEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE

Bobby Womack

\$21.95. Vinyl also available



Bobby Womack has survived everything from poverty to drug addiction to being shot by an infuriated wife. Now almost 70, the soul legend has poured the emotional fallout from such experiences into his first album of new material since 1994. Producers Damon Albarn and XL's Richard Russell have framed Womack's lived-in vocals in stark, urbane, minimalist beats. He hits extraordinary notes as he sings of struggles with fading memories of long-lost better days. Womack claims this is the best album he's made, and you wouldn't argue because he'd punch you. But it's an album he could only have made in the autumn of his life, at the apex of his game.

Country

ASHES & ROSES

Mary Chapin Carpenter

\$24.95



Songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter offers the most confessional record of her career. She examines heartbreak, grief, loneliness, yearning, acceptance, gratitude, and new possibility with a gaze brimming with self-respect and compassion. The album is devastating in its quiet yet dignified and fierce vulnerability. Its courage makes it something singularly beautiful. Musically and lyrically, it is likely to be among her most enduring recordings.

ORIGINAL ALBUM SERIES PROMO

5CD set. Normally \$24.95

Our special price \$19.95



This is a great way to introduce yourself to an artist you have always been curious about. Five original albums in one handy box for under \$20 = BARGAIN. Artists include; Tom Waits, Aretha Franklin, Emmylou Harris, John Coltrane, Linda Ronstadt, The Pogues, and more.

Classical CDs

Classical CD of the Month

LATINO

Milos Karadaglic

DG. 4790063. Normally \$26.95

Our special price \$21.95



The 'classical-guitarist-with-the-movie-star-looks' second album is a collection of Latin American pieces. Featured here are Carlos Gardel's 'Por Una

Cabeza' (popular from the film *Scent of a Woman*), Piazzolla's classics 'Libertango' and 'Oblivion', and the folk hit 'Quizás, Quizás, Quizás' in a new arrangement for solo guitar and string orchestra. Karadaglic really shines on the solo pieces – Villa Lobos's 'Prelude No. 1' (one of Milos' signature tunes heard in many of his concerts around the world), and Leo Brouwer's beautiful 'Un dia de noviembre' are standouts on a recording that is not short on memorable moments. This is a well balanced programme that will only enhance Karadaglic's standing in the world of classical guitar. He tours Australia in November of this year.

Phil Richards is from Readings Carlton

HIRUNDO MARIS

Arianna Savall

ECM. 2227. \$24.95



As with all of Arianna Savall's recording this one is infused with the same sweetness underscored with a strong musicality. In her first foray away from the familial record label, she joins with lutanist and singer Petter Udland Joansen for a series of traditional songs arching across the Nordic countryside. Her ethereal voice really has no match and with lineage such as hers, I am not surprised as she goes from strength to strength. A little bit of drums to spice up the gentle rhythms from the harp, makes this my pick of the month.

Kate Rockstrom is from Readings Carlton

BOTTESINI: CAPRICCIO DI BRAVURA

Rick Stotijn

Channel Classics. CCSSA32612. \$29.95



There's an instrument in the orchestra that sits behind the body of the strings, oft forgotten and definitely not appreciated. This is the double bass.

Totally neglected at the back of the orchestra, if you haven't heard this instrument as a soloist I have to confess, you're missing out.

With the lyrical qualities of a violin, depth and sonority of a cello and lower brass, it truly has the best of every world. Rick Stotijn has put together a delightful collection of double bass chamber works by Giovanni Bottesini. Not a composer I was familiar with, the pieces are highly romantic in nature which allows Stotijn to show off his virtuosity and versatility as a musician. KR

CHANSON DANS LA NUIT: WORKS FOR VIOLA AND HARP

Jitka Hosprova/ Katerina Englichova

Supraphon. SU4089. \$29.95



There is something really special about the sound of a viola. There's a depth that can never quite be reached by a violin. Pair an exceptional violist with an

exceptional harpist and you have something quite unique. These two very glamorous musicians have created and arranged much of the album themselves for this duo recording of repertoire both known and not quite as well known, including Debussy, Faure and Marais. But what is clear is that these are musicians of the highest quality and the lilting sense of singing imbues every note with delight. KR

MOTION OF THE HEART/ VIVA FRIDA

The Dublin Drag Orchestra

Heresy. HERESY003. \$29.95 (2CDs)



Sometimes you read titles and it doesn't quite sink in; read the title again. Yes, it is what you think it is. It's an orchestra of men, dressed in drag. Well, if that got

your attention (as it did mine), their music will hold your interest. These are some really terrific musicians. This is their double debut album, firstly of 17th century English music, coupled with the music of Frida Kahlo, or Mexican music of the 17th century. It doesn't matter what these musicians wear or call themselves, they are going to be remembered for a distinct sense of musicianship and yes, there's an undefinable flavour to their music. KR

LIGETI/BEETHOVEN

Jeremy Denk

Nonesuch. 7559796219. \$21.95



This is an unusual pairing at first glance, recording the Ligeti 'Etudes Book One and Two' with Beethoven's 'Sonata No 32' sandwiched between them. However

this is a very unusual pianist in some regards.

Jeremy Denk might be better known to Australian's as the musical partner of Joshua Bell, however in the US he's well known for his commitment to new music without neglecting traditional repertoire. What I particularly like about this combination is that Denk firstly gets to show off his versatility. Then, as you listen to the Sonata after being blown around by the Etudes, parallels form in your mind between the works. KR

FANTASIA

Yuja Wang

DG. 4790052. Normally \$26.95

Our special price \$21.95



I feel like encores are the flavour of the moment.

There are lots of albums coming out from all over the place featuring favourite encores of particular performers. It's a great way to have a peek into the mind of the musician as these works are close to them, something they can pull out of their back pocket when need be. Yuja Wang is rocketing to world domination of the piano through her exclusive Deutsche Grammophon recording contract and this album is a credit to her. Although featuring the usual array of Etudes, Preludes and Waltzes, this also has a delightful rendition of Dukas's 'Sorcerer's Apprentice', Gluck's 'Orfeo', Bizet's 'Carmen' and more. KR

VERDI: LA TRAVIATA

Joan Sutherland/Sir John Pritchard

Eloquence. 4806039. \$14.95 (2 CDs)



Verdi's opera, *La Traviata* really needs no introduction, nor does the star on this recording, Dame Joan Sutherland. Her much lamented passing in 2010

has encouraged the re-release of some of her most glorious recordings. This production was recording in 1962 in Italy with Carlo Bergonzi opposite. It has terrific drama and an almost palpable feeling of Verdi's presence in amongst all the Italians. KR

LOVE AND LONGING

Magdalena Kozena

DG. 4790065. Normally \$26.95

Our special price \$21.95



This is a very interesting meld of works, with three wildly different composers. Starting with Antonin Dvorak's 'Biblical Songs for Voice and Orchestra', we go

via France and Ravel's tone poem, 'Sheherazade' through to Mahler and his 'Five Songs' based on the poems of Friedrich Ruckert. What is stunning about this album is the musicianship throughout. With Kozena's husband, Sir Simon Rattle, leading the Berlin Philharmonic together they create sweeping musical gestures while exploring the poetic souls of these composers. KR

MOZART: PIANO CONCERTOS 20 & 21

Jan Lisiecki/Christian Zacharias

DG. 4790061. Normally \$26.95

Our special price \$21.95



I have always been told that Mozart is incredibly easy for the very young and the very old. Normally we have Mozart from those at the height of their careers, so

this CD is a change as the soloist here is but 17 years old. Born in Canada, Jan Lisiecki is making waves around the world, collaborating with chamber groups, soloists and orchestras. This is a recording of two of the favourite works by Mozart, the Piano Concertos No 20 & 21. There is a freshness you'd expect from a soloist so young, however there is clearly style and consideration through every note. Definitely 'watch this space' in regards to Lisiecki: we'll be seeing more of him very soon. KR

BEETHOVEN: CELLO WORKS

Zoe Knighton & Amir Farid

Move Records. MD3356. \$29.95



Zoe Knighton and Amir Farid are on their third album with Move Records, and each time they surpass their previous one. They've expanded in this release

with two CDs of the complete Beethoven cello works. From two sets of variations on themes by Mozart right through to the meaty Sonatas, I feel like we are privileged to watch a duo musically grow. This is not just about cello with accompanying piano but about an equal partnership. Their years together are showing in the warmth and deliberation shown in each fabulous musical phrase. KR

Classical Special of the Month

HANDEL ARIAS: BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Sandrine Piau/Accademia Bizantina

Naive. OP30484. Normally \$34.95

Our special price \$19.95 (while stocks last)



This month's special is truly special as it features the magical voice of Sandrine Piau. This is one of those CDs that demands your attention from

beginning to end. Accompanied by the Accademia Bizantina under the watchful eye of Stefano Montanari, Sandrine Piau's singing reaches new heights of brilliance. One of the many highlights is the duet 'As steals the morn upon the night' which features the internationally acclaimed Finnish tenor, Topi Lehtipuu. This is one disc to savour long after the last note has been played. PR

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

'Nevin [is] one of the grande dames
of Australian theatre'

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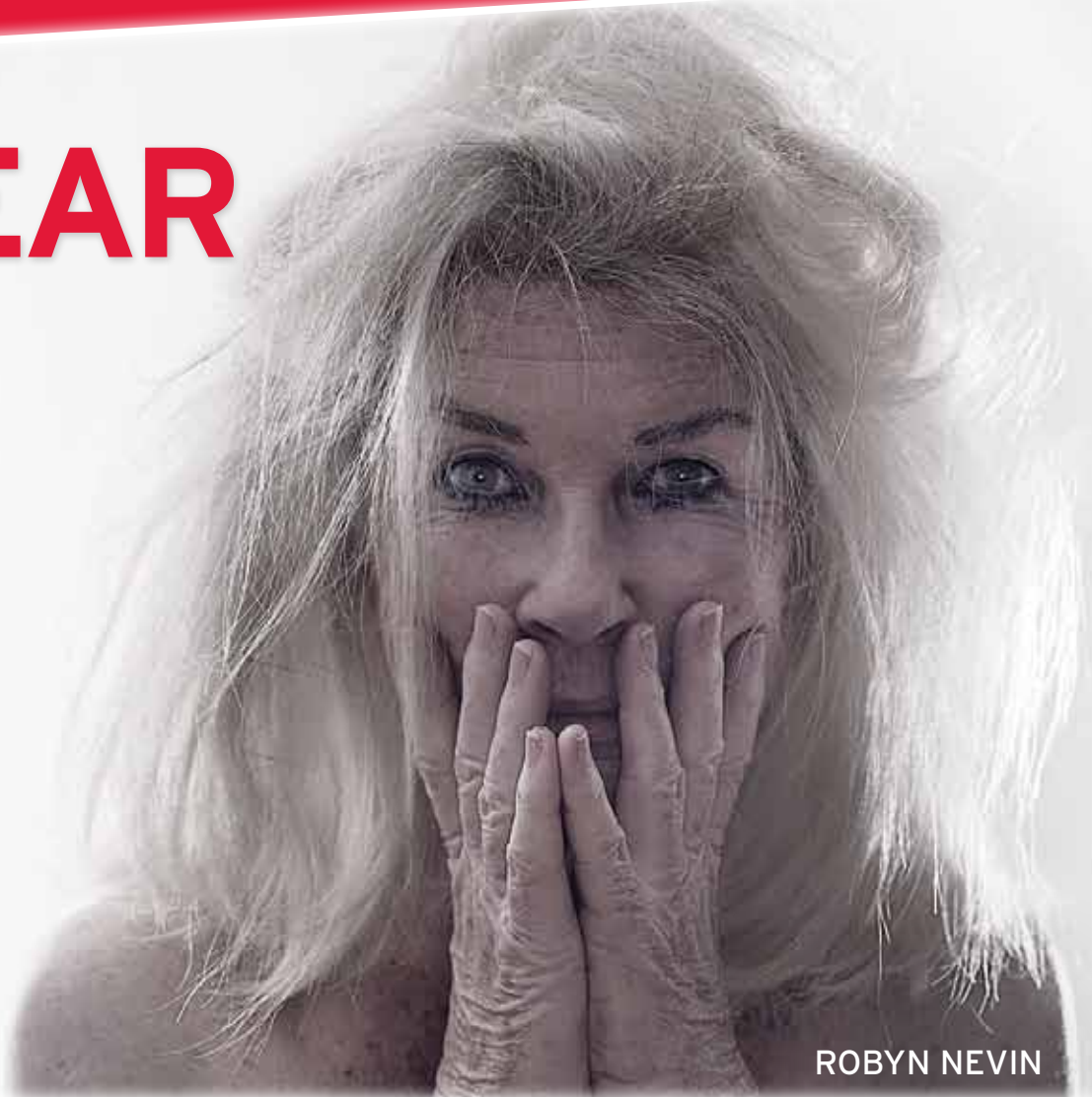
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