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AUGUST 2008 / FREE

# Readings Monthly

YOUR INDEPENDENT BOOK, MUSIC AND DVD NEWSLETTER • EVENTS • NEW RELEASES • REVIEWS



PHOTO CREDIT: SINGING BOWL MEDIA

## Melbourne Writers Festival 2008 >> p7

August book, CD and DVD new releases. More inside >>



**FICTION**  
*The Good Thief*  
Hannah Tinti  
\$29.99 \$24.95  
>>p9



**FICTION**  
*Dissection*  
Jacinta Halloran  
\$27.95 \$22.95  
>> p5



**NON-FICTION**  
*Freedom Paradox*  
Towards a post-secular ethic.  
Clive Hamilton  
\$35 >>p17



**DVD**  
*Inland Empire*  
\$34.95 >>p25



**POP CD**  
*Fleet Foxes*  
Fleet Foxes  
\$24.95 >>p27



**CLASSICAL**  
*Audivi Vocem*  
The Hilliard Ensemble  
\$32.95 August Only:  
\$24.95 >>p30

August event highlights. More Readings events inside >>



**JAMES HALLIDAY**  
AT READINGS  
HAWTHORN



**CLIVE HAMILTON**  
AT CINEMA  
NOVA



**GO GIRL AUTHORS**  
AT READINGS  
PORT MELBOURNE

# Readings Events in August

All our events are free, unless otherwise stated. For more information, please call the shop where the event is to be held, or the booking number provided.

## 1 JAMES HALLIDAY



A special event and wine tasting with James Halliday. *The James Halliday Wine Companion 2009 Edition* (Hardie Grant, PB, Normally

\$35, Our special price \$29.95) will be available. **Friday 1 August, 6.30pm, Readings Hawthorn.** \$15 includes three wine tastes. Strictly limited places. Bookings essential: 9819 1917. Supported by Annie's Lane.



## 5 BILL KENT



*Australians in Italy: Contemporary Lives and Impressions* edited by Bill Kent, Ros Pesman and Cynthia Troup (Monash University e-Press, PB,

\$37.95) will be launched by Professor Ian Donaldson, with a performance by David Eckstein and Jin Shi Tang. **Tuesday 5 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

## 6 GREG CLARK

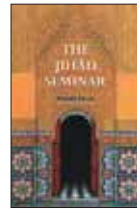


*A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World* (Princeton University Press, HB, \$46.95) examines why some parts of the

world are so rich and others so poor. Why did the Industrial Revolution – and the unprecedented economic growth that came with it – occur in eighteenth-century England, and not at some other time, or in some other place? Why didn't industrialisation make the whole world rich – and why did it make large parts of the world even poorer? In *A Farewell to Alms*, Gregory Clark tackles these profound questions and suggests a new and provocative way in which culture explains the wealth, and the poverty, of nations. Gregory Clark is chair of the economics department at the University of California. He has written widely about

economic history. **Wednesday 6 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

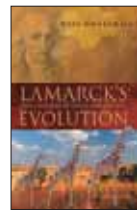
## 6 HANIFA DEEN



Melbourne University National Centre of Excellence of Islamic Studies and Readings invites you to an 'in conversation' with

author Hanifa Deen and *The Age's* Religion Editor, Barney Zwartz, discussing Deen's latest book, *The Jihad Seminar* (UWA Press, PB, \$29.95), and her close encounter with Victoria's religious hate speech law. In 2002, the Islamic Council of Victoria lodged a complaint of religious vilification against a Pentecostal para-church organisation, called Catch the Fire Inc. From the outset, freedom of speech versus freedom from vilification came under the spotlight. Over time, Deen came to understand that religious vilification was only one strand of a more complex story. Hanifa Deen is a Melbourne-based author and social commentator. **Wednesday 6 August, 6pm for 6.30pm start. Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne. Grid Reference: I21.** Free, book on 9347 6633.

## 7 ROSS HONEYWILL



*Lamarck's Evolution* (Pier 9, PB, \$29.95) by Ross Honeywill takes us to a time before Darwin, when Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck created

the first theory of evolution, an idea so powerful it promised to become the great unifying force of science. Instead, for two hundred years Lamarck's grand idea polarised the scientific establishment and became a byword for discredited beliefs ... until, on the eve of his bicentenary, science finally caught up and proved him right. Ross Honeywill is the CEO of NeoNeighbourhood.com and an authority on the influence of genetic and evolutionary change. **Thursday 7 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

## 11 STEFAN LASZCZUK



Antoni Jach will launch Stefan's *I Dream of Magda* (A&U, PB, \$23.95). Funny and very surprising, this

novel of brothers, family and loss is the winner of the 2007 *The Australian/Vogel* Literary Award. George Harrison is afraid of the dark. His father is dead and his mother lives in la-la land. Reeling from a broken heart, and still coping with the trauma of a childhood home invasion, George has retreated into a private world of sleep where he dreams about falling in love with comedienne Magda Szubanski. Stefan Laszczuk is currently undertaking a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. **Monday 11 August, 6pm for 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

## 11 MICHAEL VEITCH



Michael's *Fly* (Viking, HB, \$49.95) is a thrilling volume of true stories from

airmen in the Second World War. It's an amazing exploration into the lives of the men who fought the war from the air. Including stories of bravery and fear, moments of terror and relief and vivid details of flying under fire, *Fly* is Michael Veitch's second collection of interviews with 24 pilots, navigators and gunners – now all in their 80s. **Monday 11 August, 6.30pm, Readings Hawthorn.** Free, but please book on 9819 1917.

## 12 JACINTA HALLORAN IN CONVERSATION WITH CLARE FORSTER



Clare Forster, an agent for Curtis Brown, will be in conversation with Jacinta Halloran

about Jacinta's first novel, *Dissection* (Scribe, PB, Normally \$27.95. Our special price \$22.95). Doctor Anna McBride's life is starting to unravel. The mother of two boys and a dedicated GP, she is being sued for medical negligence — a case of delayed diagnosis. Anna's day-to-day work becomes increasingly difficult

as she starts to scrutinise her every action and question her worth. Deeply ashamed of her mistake, she retreats into family life, only to find that her husband seems preoccupied with a younger colleague. *Dissection* is our very own pick for the August CAL Australian Feature.

**Tuesday 12 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

## 13 CLIVE HAMILTON



Clive brings us a radical reconsideration of the meaning of freedom and morality in the

modern world in his new book *The Freedom Paradox* (A&U, PB, \$35). He argues that the paradox of modern consumer life is that we are deprived of our inner freedom by our very pursuit of our own desires. He turns to metaphysics to find a source of transformation that lies beyond the cultural, political and social philosophies that form the bedrock of contemporary western thought. His search takes him to an unexpected conclusion: that we cannot be truly free unless we commit ourselves to a moral life. The implications of this conclusion challenge many deeply held beliefs in modern secular society. **Wednesday 13 August, 6.30pm, Cinema Nova, Lygon Street, Carlton.** Free, but bookings are essential on 9347 6633.

## 13 OUYANG YU



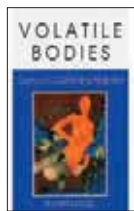
Supported by Asialink, University of Melbourne. *On the Smell of an Oily Rag* (Wakefield, PB, \$27.95) draws examples from low and high culture

and from the everyday and the literary life. Based on the unique *biji xiaoshuo* (pen-notes fiction) genre and written in an accessible, readable and deliberately un-academic style, *On the Smell of an Oily Rag* is a seminal non-fiction book that creates its own genre in its exploration of cultural, linguistic and literary similarities, differences and parallels between the English and the Chinese language in a distinctly Australian context. Ouyang edits Australia's only Chinese literary journal, *Otherland*,

and writes and teaches part-time in China and Australia. **Wednesday 13 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, but please book on 9347 6633.



## 14 ELIZABETH GROSZ



World-renowned contemporary feminist and philosopher Professor Elizabeth Grosz will deliver the keynote lecture in the Australian

Centre for Contemporary Arts 'Look who's Talking' series, complementing Lyndal Jones' 'Darwin with Tears' exhibition. Grosz, who has written several agenda-setting books focusing on sexuality and power, will explore the relevance of Darwin's theory of evolution and the links between animal sexuality and the most elementary forms of architecture and art. The lecture is presented by ACCA. **Thursday 14 August, 6.30pm, Storey Hall, RMIT, Swanston Street, Melbourne.** Free, no need to book.

## 14 RACHEL POWER IN CONVERSATION WITH CLAIRE BOWDITCH



In *The Divided Heart: Art and Motherhood* (Red Dog, PB, \$30), author Rachel Power interviews some of Australia's most respected

artists, writers and actors to reveal the shocking and funny demands of motherhood, and their undiminished passion for their work. **Thursday 14 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, but please book on 9347 6633.

## 15 ROCHELLE JACKSON



Lindy Burns from ABC Radio 774 will launch this fascinating look at criminal minds. Working with leading Australian forensic psycholo-

gist Ian Joblin, investigative journalist Rochelle Jackson takes us deep into the minds of eight Australian criminals to find out why they chose a life of crime. *Inside Their Minds* (A&U, PB, \$29.95) explores the background,

childhood and personality of these criminals, and includes interviews with the criminals themselves, family members and the police and detectives involved. Rochelle corresponded with every offender in the book, even if they were in jail, and her search led to some fascinating revelations about how criminals are 'created'. **Friday 15 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

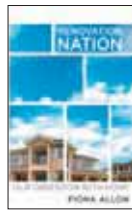
## 16 YU JIHUI



Prior to the play, *Zhang Da Li and the Village of Big Eaters* showing at La Mama at 8pm, Frank Moore will launch the book of the same title. This

is the story of young men at university in the 1960s during the Great Famine that followed the Great Leap Forward. **Saturday 16 August, 4pm, La Mama, Faraday Street, Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

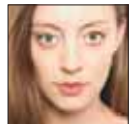
## 19 FIONA ALLON



Join us as journalist and author, George Megalogenis converses with Fiona about her book *Renovation Nation* (UNSW Press, PB, \$34.95).

*Renovation Nation* asks why we have become so wrapped up in our homes. It explores the ways we are distorting our lives in the pursuit of prestige and tax-free capital gains as we play the real estate game with mindless passion. Fiona Allon is a writer and critic who specialises in the analysis of contemporary Australian culture and politics. She is a regular media commentator on current affairs, social issues and popular culture, and researches and writes on a broad range of subjects. **Tuesday 19 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

## 20 CLAIRE THOMAS



Join us for the launch of *Fugitive Blue* (A&U, PB, \$29.95). *Fugitive Blue* tells the story

of a young art conservator and her work on a fifteenth-century panel painting in striking ultramarine. As she restores the fragile artwork, her fascination with it grows. How did an inexperienced artist in Renaissance Venice come to possess such

valuable art materials? Who has loved it? Relinquished it? Carried it with them across the world? This beguiling and multi-layered novel illustrates Claire's place as a talented young Australian author. Claire Thomas has published short stories in journals such as *Meanjin*, *Overland* and *Australian Short Stories*. **Wednesday 20 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, no need to book.

## 28 READINGS IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

This event – presented with the Deakin Masters Program in Psycho-analytic Studies – is part of our regular series discussing the latest publications in psychoanalysis. Details of this month's speaker, and the book to be discussed, will be posted on our website: [www.readings.com.au](http://www.readings.com.au). Please join us for a glass of wine and informal discussion. **Thursday 28 August, 6.30pm, Readings Carlton.** Free, but no need to book.

## MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2008



This year's festival is based in the heart of Melbourne at Federation Square, The Federation

Square Atrium will be the festival hub, with box offices, the Readings bookshop, and numerous places to sit and eat and drink. The Festival will have outdoor events; free events: live streaming from the Edinburgh Festival: children's activities: the festival club: walks: dinners: Big Ideas at the RMIT Capitol Theatre and of course our two keynote addresses - from Germaine Greer and Augusten Burroughs at the Melbourne Town Hall. Find out more by visiting [www.mwf.com.au](http://www.mwf.com.au).

## NOTE ON AIIA EVENT

The Australian Institute of International Affairs Monthly Forum, where we meet over wine to discuss a book that highlights issues, will not be held this month. It will be back in September. Please check [www.readings.com.au](http://www.readings.com.au).

## AND IN SEPTEMBER



Simon Winchester, Robert Drewe, Tim Flannery, Monica Dux and more! Join our mailing list to

be the first in the know. Email [events@readings.com.au](mailto:events@readings.com.au).

## Kids Events

### 2 LISA GORTON



Join us as Antoni Jach launches *Cloudland* (Macmillan, PB, \$15). After a year of endless rain, cities are flooded; families are living

on rooftops. Drawn into a world in the clouds, Lucy finds a strange society of injustice, weird beauty and danger. A gripping tale for young readers! **Saturday 2 August, 3.30pm, Readings Hawthorn.** Free, no need to book.

### 3 CHRIS MCKIMMIE



Bring the kids down to see Chris McKimmie read from his new book *Special Kev*, the story of Special Kev and his eleventh million

cousins. Chris's two latest books are *Maisie Moo* and *Invisible Lucy* (2007) and *Brian Banana Duck Sunshine Yellow* (2006, and short-listed for the 2007 CBCA Picture Book of the Year Awards). **Sunday 3 August, 2pm, Readings Hawthorn.** Free, no need to book.

### 9 GO GIRL! ILLUSTRATORS



We are lucky enough to have with us the illustrators of

*Go Girl!* fame – conducting a 'How to Draw Yourself as a Go Girl' workshop. Places are strictly limited, so book quickly for your place in this 45 minute event. There will be games and giveaways as well! Sonia Dixon will be appearing at Readings Hawthorn and Danielle McDonald will be appearing at Readings Carlton. **Saturday 9 August, Readings Hawthorn: 10am; Readings Carlton: 12pm.** Free, but please book at your shop.

### 23 GO GIRL! AUTHORS

Christie Perry and Meredith Badger, authors of the *Go Girl!* series, are ready to meet you! And there'll be plenty of activities and freebies to give away! Supported by the Books Alive Campaign. **Saturday 23 August, 2.30pm to 4pm, Readings Port Melbourne.** Free, but please book on 9681 9255.

August Special Feature

# LAYING HER BARE

Georgia Blain interviews Jacinta Halloran about her novel *Dissection*

Melbourne GP Jacinta Halloran won the 2007 Victorian Premier's Award for an Unpublished Manuscript for an earlier version of her first novel, *Dissection*, which is being launched this month by Helen Garner. That's two pretty auspicious ways to kick off a writing career. Georgia Blain spoke to Jacinta for the latest in Readings series of Australian Features showcasing new and emerging writers, sponsored by the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL).



Each of us has a carefully constructed sense of self. We build it, gradually, from a young age, and try to fortress it against the inevitable small daily chips that chisel back the armour, and the larger blows that run the risk of cracking the core. In her very taut and lean first novel, Jacinta Halloran takes a female GP protagonist, Dr Anna McBride, and puts her under the microscope as she suffers one such blow. Following a case of delayed diagnosis necessitating the amputation of a young man's leg, McBride finds herself facing a negligence suit. Despite being aware that her mistake is one any doctor easily could have made, the experience is a shattering one.

The novel is a beautifully executed dissection of a rapidly crumbling inner core. With precision and skill, Halloran lays McBride bare, examining her as she cracks and disintegrates, page by page. It is, at times, a painful read, a little like watching a car crash, as we see the effect of this one

mistake running through McBride's professional life, and then into her personal life. It is also a thought-provoking novel, because it is so much more than just a careful examination of individual self doubt and suffering. It questions – in a much broader sense – the

“*[Dissection]* questions – in a much broader sense – the infallibility that we expect from others and the consequences of those expectations.”

infallibility that we expect from others and the consequences of those expectations.

Halloran, who is herself a GP, said the impetus for writing *Dissection* came from an article she read about a doctor facing a negligence suit. What intrigued Halloran was the woman's discussion of the failure of her marriage, which she attributed to the stress of the impending court case. “The details of the negligence case in my novel – who did what to whom – are backgrounded, intentionally,” she said. “I wanted to focus on the emotions of my protagonist – her self-doubt, her terrible guilt about doing harm, and the loss of equilibrium and confidence that begins to infiltrate her faith in her marriage.”

Halloran believes most doctors (and particularly female

doctors) worry about being sued. It's an inevitable aspect of an occupation that has become increasingly demanding and challenging. “Doctors are required to keep up to date with an ever-expanding range of medical information; they have real time constraints (especially given the current shortage of GPs nationally); they work essentially in isolation; and as primary caregivers they are constantly required to be vigilant for the rarer, serious condition among the plethora of common, more minor complaints,” she said. “It's perhaps unwise to generalise about the issues faced by female GPs, but I would say that there's some evidence that women tend to spend longer with patients, especially those with mental health issues. Many female GPs have children and work part-time: in such a situation one can find oneself 'giving' and

‘caring’ full-time, and this can be very draining. ‘Compassion overload,’ it’s sometimes called.”

“If a doctor does become the subject of a negligence case, it’s not just the difficulty of going through the legal formalities – of speaking in a differ-

“Halloran believes most doctors (and particularly female doctors) worry about being sued. It’s an inevitable aspect of an occupation that has become increasingly demanding and challenging.”

ent language, that of the law,” Halloran said. “It’s the whole self-analysis that such a suit engenders. Doctors, by nature, are usually high-achieving and self-exacting people, and the concept of harming a patient is very confronting to their sense of self.” This is certainly the case with Anna McBride, who has, until her mistake, never really questioned either her profession or her role in it. Now, she doubts every action she takes and every decision she makes, and this doubt eats away at any faith she has in her work having worth or value. In the process, which is inevitably one of self-absorption, she cuts off from her husband and her children, causing further destruction to her sense of self.

Halloran depicts McBride perfectly – a middle-aged woman who suddenly looks in the mirror and sees all her fallibilities painfully on display. There is also considerable

compassion in this depiction. She is a woman we feel we know. One of the other very powerful aspects of the book is its understanding of how life and human interaction do not sit neatly within the expectations of the medical and legal professions. There are rarely definitive answers or clear rights and wrongs, but we frequently expect this from our doctors – and the law certainly demands it when it is called upon to judge their conduct. As Halloran says: “Anna McBride is not a bad person but neither is she perfect – as a doctor, wife and mother, she has made mistakes. Hasn’t everyone? I have tried to make Anna a real woman, riddled with self-doubt and negativity yet capable of love and kindness, and I have tried to make her relationships with her husband and children also real. Relationships are full of ambivalence – in general life is full of ambivalence, too, and shades of grey – and I have tried to capture this in this novel.”

Halloran came to writing – like many new authors – through a tertiary course. “After doing editing and non-fiction writing subjects I felt confident enough to start a novel. [Melbourne writer] Antoni Jach was my teacher at this time and he encouraged me to enrol in a Masters of Creative Writing at RMIT, which I did. I am due to finish this MA very soon. Both the RMIT diploma course and the MA provided wonderful and very supportive writing environments.” Halloran also reads widely, naming the Canadian short story writer, Alice Munro, experimental French writer Marie Darrieussecq and the Nobel Prize winner, J. M. Coetzee, as just some of her favourite authors. “Coetzee’s prose is always magnificent – the rhythm beautiful, the words so precise, the consciousness and self-consciousness of his characters so superbly drawn. He

writes in a different way from many novelists – he is always questioning the function of language.”

With her first novel now published, Halloran is planning her second. “It’s about a mother and her two daughters who set out on a journey – a pilgrimage if you like. (I was brought up a Catholic and I find religious ideas making their way into my work!) There may be some medical themes – life-threatening illness and death will feature – but I envisage the novel to be largely concerned with the relationship between the three women.”

She is also still working as a GP. “I work in a large practice as an employee, so I don’t have the added work of running my own practice,” she said. “I try to write two days a week and can of course extend this if I want to. It’s a good balance. Writing is a very solitary occupation – not only physically but mentally – your mind turns in on itself – at least, that’s been my experience to date. It can be difficult. So it’s good to get to work and think about my patients and their lives, their stories, for a change.”

*Georgia Blain’s latest book is the memoir collection Births, Deaths and Marriages (Vintage, PB. \$24.95).*



### SPECIAL OFFER

Readings is offering Jacinta Halloran’s *Dissection* (PB, Scribe Publishing) for the special price of \$22.95 (normally \$27.95).

### DISSECTION Jacinta Halloran

Scribe. PB.

Normally \$27.95.

**Our Special Price \$22.95**

Melbourne GP Dr Anna McBride is suffering under the weight of a three-year-old malpractice suit. Her carefully constructed life is disintegrating, both personally and professionally. The tone of the novel is oddly detached, intensely inwardly focused. Anna, a perfectionist ill-equipped to cope with this one terrible mistake, watches and analyses her every action and inaction. The language of lawyers (neglect, exposing or covering oneself) seeps deep into her consciousness. As the circumstances of her case are splashed across the papers, her husband seems to be infatuated with a younger work colleague. Certainly, he is slipping away from her. As she takes apart and examines her life, struggling not to drown in her own guilty conscience, she builds a revealing picture of her life for the reader, piece by meticulous piece.

Helen Garner will launch *Dissection*, and Halloran possesses Garner’s knack for the poetic and telling domestic detail. (For example, the neglected back lawn is an early symbol and metaphor for their untended marriage.) The detailed illustration of Anna’s professional life: the ethical and social elements of working as a GP, and the medical details of her patients past and present, are curiously fascinating, too – an added bonus for the reader. This is a powerful and elegant meditation on the power of one mistake to destroy a life – and an impressive study of an unravelling mind.

*Jo Case is Editor of Readings Monthly*

# This Month's News

Literary news of all kinds, award winners, guest reviewers, Readings offers and promotions.

## INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY



The Victorian Writers' Centre is hosting an event to mark Indigenous Literacy Day on

September 3. Alexis Wright, Arnold Zable and John Marsden will be amongst the prominent writers discussing the importance of literacy to their lives, their development as writers, and to the wider society. The event will be held at the Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria (La Trobe Street entrance), 6:15 for 6:30pm. To book, please phone 9654 9068. Entry is by donation (tax deductible, with all money going to the Fred Hollows Foundation to support Indigenous literacy programs in the Northern Territory).

## RUSHDIE WINS BEST OF THE BOOKER



Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (Vintage, PB, \$24.95) has been chosen as the best Booker Prize

winner in the 40 years of the prize's operation. The shortlist of six books was selected by a panel of judges: the biographer, novelist and critic Victoria Glendinning (Chair), writer and broadcaster Mariella Frostrup, and John Mullan, Professor of English at University College, London. The decision then went to a public poll. *Midnight's Children* won with 36% of the votes. *Midnight's Children* won the Booker Prize in 1981. It was then chosen as the Booker of Bookers in 1993 - the only other time a celebratory prize has been awarded.

## ENTRIES OPEN: CALIBRE ESSAY PRIZE (\$10,000)

Entries are open for the Calibre Prize for an Outstanding Essay, hosted by *Australian Book Review* and sponsored by the Copyright Agency Limited. With a prize of \$10,000, this is one of the world's major essay competitions. Entries are open to non-fiction in any genre, and close 31 August 2008.

Visit [www.australianbookreview.com.au](http://www.australianbookreview.com.au) for entry forms and further information.

## AN UNACCUSTOMED PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT



The literary world is in a bit of a flap over the unprecedented decision not to announce a shortlist for the world's

richest short story prize (€35,000), instead awarding it outright to Jhumpa Lahiri for *Unaccustomed Earth* (Bloomsbury, PB, \$29.95). The judges of the Frank O'Connor Award decided: 'it would be a sham to compose a shortlist and put five other writers through the unnecessary stress and suspense' and were unanimous in their belief that Lahiri's book is 'so outstanding ... that no other title was a serious contender'. On the plus side, the publicity generated by the decision will hopefully benefit future recipients of the award. On the down side, shortlisted books customarily share in increased sales in the lead-up to an award - a benefit that will now be lost. Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for her first book, also a short story collection, *The Interpreter of Maladies* (HarperCollins, PB, \$25).

## TRIPLE R RADIOTHON

Roll up, roll up for the Triple R annual radiothon, starting August 22 (and running to August 31). Triple R is a non-profit organisation that relies on listener subscriptions and sponsors to operate. The station does not receive government funding and the radiothon subscription drive is its biggest fundraising and promotional event each year. The station maintains its passionate commitment to Melbourne music and culture through the efforts of over 200 volunteer broadcasters producing live and local independent radio 24 hours a day. This year's radiothon has a fantastic range of prizes to encourage listeners to join the Triple R circus, including a \$2000 Readings gift voucher.



## BOOKS ALIVE 2008



This year's Books Alive campaign has begun and runs until Sunday, 31st August 2008. Pick up a copy of *The Guide, 50*

*Books You Can't Put Down 2008* at any Readings shop. Purchase any book from *The Guide* throughout August and receive a FREE copy of Michael Robotham's new crime thriller *Bombproof*. Only while stocks last. Michael Robotham is also at this year's Melbourne Writers' Festival.

## NEW ST KILDA BOOK CLUB

Have you got 'Hungry Eyes'? Then we have good news for you! Readings St Kilda invites you to join their new book club for adults. Meeting at 6.30pm on the first Thursday of each month for a literary feast. Interested persons please call 9525 3852 and leave your contact details, or email [stkilda@readings.com.au](mailto:stkilda@readings.com.au).

## 20% OFF PHAIDON BOOKS



To celebrate the Melbourne Art Fair (30 July - 3 Aug), Readings are offering 20% off all full-priced

Phaidon books currently in stock throughout August. See p21 for a quick tour of some of the best Phaidon art and design titles.

## 20% OFF LONELY PLANET GUIDEBOOKS AND PHRASEBOOKS

Now is the time to purchase your Lonely Planet Guidebooks and Phrasebooks for that long-awaited trip or for pure escapism from Melbourne's winter! Offer is valid until 31 August or while stocks list. Not available with any other offer.



## ETHICS AT HAWTHORN

The Ethics Café is held at Readings Hawthorn store on the last Monday of each month excepting school holiday periods. It starts at 6.30pm and finishes at 7.30pm. The café is an informal sharing of views on

ethical issues of current interest. Occasionally a specialist guest speaker will introduce a topic and respond to questions. So come along and buy a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and join in our lively discussions (there is no charge for coming and participating!). August's topic is 'The morality of self-interest'. The ethics café will consider discussing any topic suggested by participants at one of the monthly meetings, and is convened and chaired by Dr Ralph Blunden, a retired academic. For further information contact Ralph on [jblunden@bigpond.com](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com) or phone 9853 5095.

## CARLA BRUNI/ALLIANCE FRANCAISE PROMOTION



Be one of the first 35 customers to buy Carla Bruni's new CD *Comme si*

*de rien n'était* ('As if nothing happened') and win a two-hour 'French for Beginners' course at The Alliance Française de Melbourne. The vouchers can be redeemed at the beginning of the fourth term at The Alliance Française (51 Grey Street, St Kilda) by the 1st week of October. *Bonne chance!*

## MIFF CLOSING NIGHT FILM AND PARTY

You can win a double pass to the MIFF Closing Night screening and Party on Sunday 10 August. Simply email [emily.harms@readings.com.au](mailto:emily.harms@readings.com.au) with your favourite film and why in 25 words or less by Monday 4 August. Only the winner will be notified and tickets will be posted out. And congratulations to Carey Dell of South Yarra for winning the MIFF competition to the Opening Night Film and Party promoted in the July Readings Monthly.

## MADMAN DVD SALE: SELECTED MADMAN DVDS ONLY \$19.95



To celebrate the 2008 Melbourne Film Festival, show your MIFF Passport or Mini Pass in any

Readings shop during MIFF (until 10 August) and receive a further 10% off these DVDs.

# Melbourne Writers Festival Q & A

We speak to MWF Festival Director *Rosemary Cameron* in the lead-up to the 2008 festival (22-31 August).



The 2008 Melbourne Writers Festival takes place in late August (22-31), with an

exciting range of overseas and local authors and a new home at Federation Square. Jo Case spoke to Festival Director Rosemary Cameron in the lead-up to this year's festival to find out what highlights lay in store for Melbourne's many festival fans.

## Who are some of the main drawcards for this year's Melbourne Writers' Festival?

Germaine Greer is our keynote speaker and I would walk across hot coals to hear her speak. Augusten Burroughs, too, has a new book out, which is about his relationship with his father – who was mostly absent from *Running With Scissors*. Philip Gourevitch is a brilliant speaker. And we have David Sedaris and David Malouf – two of my favourite authors, who I've been trying to get to the festival for many years. Kate Atkinson, whose book *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* entranced me many years ago. Paul Keating, of course.

## What are the emerging themes for this year's festival?

Terror. There are a range of writers who will be speaking about the broader political and cultural contexts of terror, terrorists, war, war crimes and the complex relationship between law, war and crime. These speakers include Julian Burnside, Gerry Simpson, Philippe Sands, Michael Burleigh and Philip Gourevitch.

## Festival goers attend sessions to see the writers they know, but often come out having discovered new writers they wouldn't otherwise have heard of. Who are some of the 'hidden talents' of this year's festival?

Some of the young writers coming out of America and Canada are very interesting and on the cusp of great things: Mark Sarvas, Hannah Tinti, Anya Ulinich, Gil Adamson, David Rakoff, and I'd also include David Francis and Nam Le, even though they are both Australians living in the US.

## What do you look for when



## selecting writers to invite to the festival? What catches your eye?

That's an almost impossible question to answer: there are so many factors at play. Having a new book is a starting point. Often authors don't want to interrupt their writing time if they don't have a new book. The author should be published in English. And then, beyond those rather basic requirements, it is a matter of balance.

## The Melbourne Writers Festival has always been known for its focus on ideas and debate. This year will see Big Ideas @ RMIT Capitol Theatre, a series of ten debates. What kind of themes can we expect for this series?

The series kicks off with Paul Keating, which is fitting, as his prime ministership was synonymous with big ideas. We end with a fascinating look at the intellectual traditions and motivations behind our new leaders – the Governor-General designate, the Prime Minister and Treasurer, among others – all coming out of Queensland. Glyn Davis, Julianne Schultz, John Birmingham and Tara June Winch look at how Queensland has changed, who influenced it, and the consequences for the nation. In between, we have Philip Gourevitch on America, Michael Burleigh on terror, Orlando Figes on Stalin's Russia, John Pilger on the silence of writers, Susan Maushart and others on feminism, Philippe Sands on US abuses of international law, Maude Barlow and others on the politics of water and David Sedaris on being David.

## This year, the festival moves venues from The Malthouse to the more central Federation

## Square, right in the heart of the city. What new opportunities does the new venue present – and what will it mean for festival goers?

There are endless opportunities at Fed Square which we haven't had before. The most obvious is our satellite link between the Edinburgh International Book Festival and our own festival. On Sunday 24 August, our audience will be able to join an interview with Sir Salman Rushdie in Edinburgh

and Edinburgh will be able to join our interview with Nam Le. Then there is the range of other venues we can access within easy walking distance of the festival hub. We are holding events in many city venues, including Beer Deluxe and St Pauls Cathedral, to give the alpha and omega of venue choice. And of course, Fed Square has so many cafes that I'm hoping the coffee queue will all but disappear! And then we'll have a huge box-office in Fed Square from July 18, so we will be on people's radar in a way that we haven't been able to achieve in the past.

## What are you currently reading?

Now that I've stopped proofing the program every night I can return to the huge pile of books beside my bed. Top of the pile is the fascinating and controversial book by Nick Davies, *Flat Earth News*. Davies who has been UK Reporter of the Year, has exposed what he sees as the unacceptable corruption of journalism by propaganda and PR.

MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL  
22-31 AUGUST 08  
Think inside the square...  
Federation Square

## WHO'S COMING?

Debra Adelaide, Waleed Aly, Maude Barlow, Larissa Behrendt, Michael Burleigh, Augusten Burroughs, Blanche d'Alpuget, Michelle de Kretser, Robert Dessaix, Peter Doherty, Orlando Figes, Anna Funder, Helen Garner, Philip Gourevitch, Germaine Greer, Riaz Hassan, Lloyd Jones, Paul Keating, Barrie Kosky, Judith Lucy, Catharine Lumby, David Malouf, Susan Maushart, Bruce Petty, John Pilger, Naomi Ragen, Salman Rushdie, Philippe Sands, David Sedaris, Gerry Simpson, Don Watson and more.

Download the full program at [www.mwf.com.au](http://www.mwf.com.au)  
Book [www.mwf.com.au](http://www.mwf.com.au) 1300 722 211

# Fiction



## Australian Fiction

### LIFE IN SEVEN MISTAKES Susan Johnson

Bantam. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95

Staff review



To paraphrase Tolstoy, every unhappy family is different, but they're also the same. In this darkly affectionate

comic novel, the adult children bicker among themselves and unite to bitch about their parents; alternately judge and conspire with each other's spouses and children and obsessively analyse (or stubbornly ignore) significant incidents from the past. Bob and Nance have recently moved, post-retirement, from their North Sydney home to a beachfront Gold Coast penthouse, where the family have somewhat unwillingly gathered for Christmas. Artist Elizabeth, who is finally finding professional success at 49, has a rocky marriage to a resentful husband and three children by different fathers. Her brother, the affable Robbo, can't stand her 'psychobabble', and wishes everyone would just get along. And heroin addict Nick, the black sheep of the family, is in jail. Meanwhile, uptight Nance and oafish former business bigwig Bob have their own bitter-sweet story that helps to explain how the family's patchwork history unfolded. Over a few eventful days, the Barton clan discover some home truths about themselves – and the ties that bind them. Cleverly constructed, spiked with spot-on satire, warm and funny; this is smart, entertaining fiction with plenty of moments that will resonate with readers.

Jo Case is Editor of Readings Monthly

### HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER

John Clanchy

UQP. HB. \$32.95

Guest review



After reading this collection, I'm regretful that I haven't read Canberra-based John Clanchy's stories before, and I'll be

steadily making my way through his backlist. Having a themed collection means that this book will appeal to those who are perhaps fathers or daughters; but this is a book for any reader, or any observer of family life. The stories are of varying length, including a superb 90-page novella, 'Flights of Memory'. In this piece, Clanchy writes convincingly from the perspective of 17-year-old Laura, who leaves Australia for Greece to visit the father she has not seen nor communicated with for 10 years. Laura's insecurities and her desperate search for something familiar – both in the landscape and within her father – means the story succeeds on many levels. Clanchy demonstrates that he can also cross eras, age and socio economic boundaries: the fathers of the title include a farmer, mechanic and miner. Older men reflect on the lives they've lived and daughters they've not known well. Interestingly, almost despite the focus on fathers and daughters, the mothers and wives omitted from the title come sharply into view, too. Annie Condon is a freelance writer and reviewer

### THE LAST SKY

Alice Nelson

FACP. PB. \$29.95

Staff review

Shortlisted for last year's Vogel Award, this is Alice Nelson's first novel. Maya and her husband,

Joseph, are academics. She is working on Poussin, he, an archaeologist, has just taken a position at Hong Kong University. It is just a few months before the handover of Hong Kong and Joseph has joined his old mentor to research the lost tribes of the Talamakan Desert. He has become obsessed with the work and in the heady days of the changeover their research has become politically charged. For Maya the move to Hong Kong is a chance to finish her dissertation; a chance meeting with an elderly man leads her to the story of a Jewish Russian émigré, Ada Lang, and a strange and tragic love story. As she digs out the story of Ada, she and Joseph become more and more estranged; he is consumed by his work, undertaking field trips at a moment's notice becoming more and more disparaging about her work while becoming more convinced of his. *The Last Sky*, set against great social and political upheavals, is a beautiful and exotic story of relationships with many layers. Nelson writes effortlessly and her work will be worth watching. Mark Rubbo is Managing Director of Readings

### I DREAM OF MAGDA

Stefan Laszczuk

A&U. PB. \$23.95

Guest review



Last year's Vogel winner reminds us that breaking up is hard to do. Left by their respective girlfriends, the Harrison

brothers lead a shambolic existence, numb with grief. Matthew retreats into an imaginary tryst with comedienne Magda Szubanski while younger brother George shuffles along in a soulless job. Unlike his namesake, George is now chilled-out Beatle but reminiscent of a less cynical, equally neurotic Holden Caulfield. Fast forward

Salinger's anti-hero 50 years, get him a job at Northcote Bowl scrubbing wheelie bins and agonising over lost love, and you get the picture. When a wonky rebound relationship appears to offer him some respite, George can't help but worry about that too. Throw a nutty mother into the mix and it's difficult to imagine this hapless family ever functioning. Laszczuk's second novel is laced with black humour but readers will need to wade patiently through some murky emotional soup before these broken-hearted goofball brothers are finally dealt a faintly upbeat hand. It's an ending worth waiting for: moving, hopeful and unexpectedly tender. I can almost hear Magda giggling with relief.

Sally Keighery is Program

Coordinator of CAE Book Groups

### FUGITIVE BLUE

Claire Thomas

A&U. PB. \$29.95



A beautiful, beguiling and multi-layered novel, *Fugitive Blue* tells the story of a young art conservator and her work on an unusual

ultramarine painting. As she restores the fragile artwork, she begins to speculate on its provenance – its controversial creation in Renaissance Venice and reappearance 300 years later during a nobleman's Grand Tour of Europe, passing through nineteenth-century Paris before its eventual arrival in Australia as one of the scarce possessions of a post-war Greek migrant family. Threaded through the painting's progress is the story of the young conservator's own life in contemporary Melbourne, her developing passion for her work and the demise of her relationship.

Visit [www.readings.com.au](http://www.readings.com.au) to read our online-only Q&A with Claire Thomas.

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Garry Maddox, The Sydney Morning Herald

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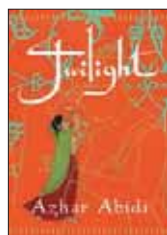
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**TWILIGHT****Azhar Abidi**

Text. PB. \$32.95

Staff review



I loved Azhar Abidi's first novel, *Passarola Rising*, a historical fable set in eighteenth-century Portugal about a fantastical air

voyage by a pair of Brazilian brothers. His latest novel, while just as absorbing and lyrical, is set closer to home, between Karachi in Pakistan and Melbourne (and begs the question of autobiography, as Abidi is Australian of Pakistani heritage). The elegant Bilqis, matriarch of the Khan family, is less than pleased when her only son, Samad, decides to marry an Australian of European descent, Kate, and stay on in Melbourne. But as Bilqis struggles to accept Samad's choices, she must also accept that her privileged life in Karachi is coming to an end: it is 1985 and a religious fervosity is taking hold of the nation. At the heart of this novel are the dilemmas of every cross-cultural family and their traditions – how much can we keep, how much must we give away, what can we salvage, what will be lost forever – and the complicated compromises that families must sometimes make to stay together and yet apart. *Kabita Dhara* is from *Readings Carlton*

*International Fiction***AMERICA AMERICA****Ethan Canin**

Bloomsbury. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95

Guest review



\* SPECIAL PRICE

Ethan Canin has published several short story collections and some promising novels including the

very fine *Carry Me Across the Water*, but he has moved up several notches with *America America*. The funeral of a famous liberal senator in 2006 prompts the middle-aged publisher of a regional newspaper to revisit his youthful relationship with a powerful

liberal family and his walk-on part in a scandal that destroyed the Democrats and guaranteed the re-election of Richard Nixon. Senator Bonwiller, anti-war Democrat and frontrunner in the 1972 presidential election, is a man of genuine public idealism, but he is also ruthless, delusionally vain – and a philanderer. Switching between the sensibility of the 16-year-old, working-class, small-town boy mesmerised by contact with an aristocratic elite and the equally unreliable interpretations of the still credulous older man, we follow Bonwiller's archetypal political trajectory from 'the ritual of deference ... to the auction of influence ... to the orgy of slaughter'. Vietnam, Watergate, the racial and cultural wars of the 60s and 70s provide the deep but almost unspoken context for this story. This is a rich and multi-layered rumination on power and personality, history and memory, on family and loyalty, and on the now virtually unmentionable idea of class. *America America* is a big book in all senses and will no doubt be a contender for major US literary prizes. For me, it's the novel of the year. *Russ Radcliffe has just launched the publishing company High Horse Books*

**THE GOOD THIEF****Hannah Tinti**

Headline. PB. Normally \$29.99

Our special price \$24.95

Guest review



\* SPECIAL PRICE

At the start of Hannah Tinti's debut novel, twelve-year-old, one-handed Ren has been stuck in an orphanage

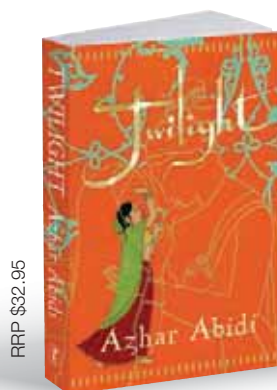
for as long as he can remember. He doesn't know how he lost his hand or what happened to his parents. When Benjamin Nab comes to take him away, it becomes clear that Ren is being claimed by a yarn-spinning charmer. Ren doesn't know what to believe, and the fear we felt for Ren's safety in the orphanage is only amplified as Benjamin's tales get taller. As Benjamin takes Ren on a violent and surprising journey, doing whatever it takes to get by, Tinti draws a ghoulish, petrifying, film-ready, nineteenth-century America, full of shady characters. They are all richly and subtly portrayed but Ren is a constant delight; he has idealised

**August highlights from Text Publishing****TWILIGHT**

Azhar Abidi

'I love fiction that takes me out of my world and into another one. And *Twilight* does this beautifully.'

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'A fierce little gem of storytelling.' *LA TIMES*

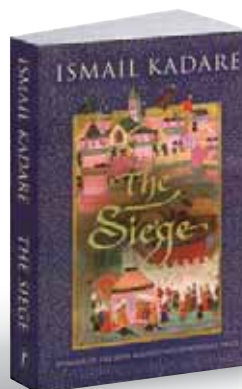


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Ismail Kadare

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**David Malouf**  
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OCTOBER

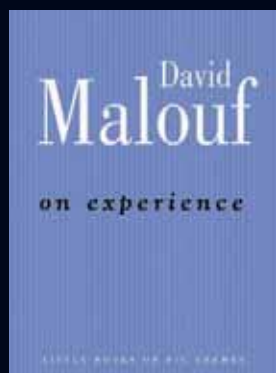
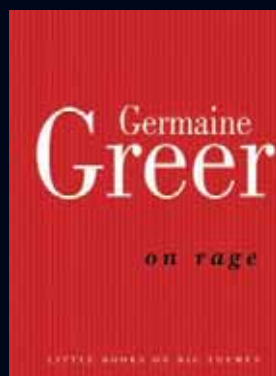
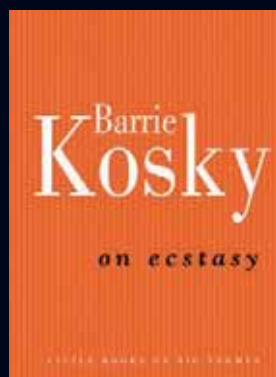
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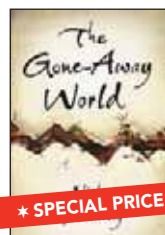


 **MUP**  
BOOKS WITH SPINE

the notion of family in the absence of one, and he is relentlessly battling the moral dilemma of how to be good when surrounded by evil. He doesn't know who to trust, and neither does the reader, so this becomes a page turner of the highest order. *The Good Thief* is literary fiction with a plot to rival Dickens and Stevenson. Tinti's previous book is a collection of short stories, which I am about to seek out. *Louise Swinn is the editorial director of Sleepers Publishing*

### THE GONE-AWAY WORLD

**Nick Harkaway**  
*Random. PB. Normally \$35*  
*Our special price \$29.95*  
*Staff review*



\* SPECIAL PRICE

What can I say? This novel (by none other than John Le Carré's son) is already my favourite of the year, and the best debut I have read in many years. Its 500-plus pages offer so many riches I cannot go into too many details here. Apocalyptic scenery? Check. A wild troupe of ruffians trying to save the world? Check. Laughter and heartbreak? Check. Oh, and did I mention the ninjas? Think Dickens smoking a doobie with Vonnegut and Philip K. Dick and you'll get the idea. It's more than that, though. This young author has found his own voice and deserves more than easy comparisons. You are an amazing talent if you can weave a plot together consisting of world-saving adventure, heartbreaking love and insanely funny, engaging characters. And how about those ninjas? This novel is big, freakish and very, very promising. A bit like Lance Franklin really. (Is he a ninja?) Do yourself a favour and buy this book. You'll thank yourself for many years to come. Enough said. *Harry Doorn is from Readings Malvern*

### THE CREATOR'S MAP

**Emilio Calderon**  
*Text. PB. \$32.95*  
This seductive first novel blends political intrigue, love and deceit against the backdrop of two of the twentieth century's most significant conflicts: the Spanish Civil War and World War II. A Spanish architecture student studying in Rome and an alluring young librarian, Montse,

find themselves in possession of a valuable book. Does it contain a map of divine origin, a map of great interest to a Nazi SS chief? And is Italian prince Junio Vivarini vying for the book or Montse?

### THE ATLAS OF IMPOSSIBLE LONGING

**Anuradha Roy**  
*Quercus. PB. Normally \$29.95*  
*Our special price \$24.95*  
*Staff review*



\* SPECIAL PRICE

Anuradha Roy is best known in book circles as a publisher at Permanent Black, a small Indian publishing imprint that was set up by Roy and her husband after their controversial departures from Oxford University Press India. Permanent Black publishes both academic and general trade titles, mostly of South Asian interest, by authors such as Amitav Ghosh, Amit Chaudhuri and Partha Chatterjee. Roy's debut novel is a love story and a family saga that starts when newly married Amulya leaves his privileged life in Calcutta to set up a household with his new wife, Kananbala, in the small village of Songarh. This is the story of the family's attempts to adapt, to grow and to fulfil their dreams – and their 'impossible longing' – ever aware of Amulya's restless discontent and Kananbala's emotional disintegration. This is a novel that is remarkable for its evocation of place and its very human story: that of family, love and misplaced ambitions.

*Kabita Dhara is from Readings Carlton*

### THE HAKAWATI

**Rabih Alameddine**  
*Picador. PB. Normally \$32.95*  
*Our special price \$27.95*  
*Staff review*



\* SPECIAL PRICE

I loved this book and could not put it down, which made for a very tricky week as I have a six-month-old who also didn't want to be put down. It's amazing how much reading you can get done jiggling on the spot with baby in a papoose. I believe *The Hakawati* will top my list for the year's most inventive,

witty, adventurous and sexiest reads. It's pure genius. Hakawati is Arabic for storyteller, and the narrator of this tale is Osama al-Kharrat, a young Lebanese man who has returned to present day war-torn Beirut to join his family at his father's deathbed. His story is but one thread amid a sumptuous saga of Middle Eastern history and legend. Fabulous stories of warriors, sultans, imps, seductresses, jinnis and Crusaders; each fable evoking the diversity and depth of the Arab world. *The Hakawati* is also a story about the meaning of storytelling, the power and potency of carefully chosen words. 'Listen' is the seductive invitation used by the hakawati to begin a story and fittingly it is the novel's last word, as you'll want to turn back to page one, and start reading it over again. *Sanchia Hovey is on maternity leave from Readings St Kilda*

## A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA

Nicholas Drayson

Viking. PB. \$29.95

Guest review



Rose Mbikwa is a widow – a victim of Kenyan politics and an ardent birdwatcher. She doesn't know it, but she is also the

trophy of a wager between two old classmates. Mr Malik, also widowed, is passionately in love with her. For Harry Kahn it's just another conquest he is intent on winning. The one who counts more birds is the one who gets to ask her to the annual Hunt Club Ball. This plot is hilarious. Characters like Tiger Singh, Mr Gopez, Mr Patel and Benjamin will have you gasping for air. An irresistible novel set against the streets of urban Nairobi with its slums, its corruption and crime, Drayson is a witty and fresh writer who knows how to captivate his reader from the outset. He also knows how to combine hilarity with the tragedy of one of the world's most neglected spots. It's about Bill Clinton and that Monica, AIDS, poverty and our fundamental humanity. *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* will almost certainly have you crying with joy by the end. A fantastic read!

*Dimitri Gonis is a freelance reviewer*

## THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

Mary Ann Shaffer

A&U. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95



It's 1946, and Juliet Ashton, a writer of witty newspaper columns, is tired of exploring the sunny side

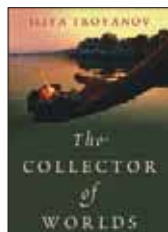
of life during and after the war. One day, Guernsey farmer Dawsey Adams finds Juliet's name in a used book and encourages neighbours to write to her with their stories – including the story of the formation of the quirkily named Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, while Guernsey was under German occupation. Entranced by their stories, and the correspondence that first blossomed out of a mutual love of books, Juliet decides to visit the island and meet her letter writers – and changes her life forever. A charming and heart-warming story.

## THE COLLECTOR OF WORLDS

Iliya Troyanov

Faber. PB. \$32.95

Guest review

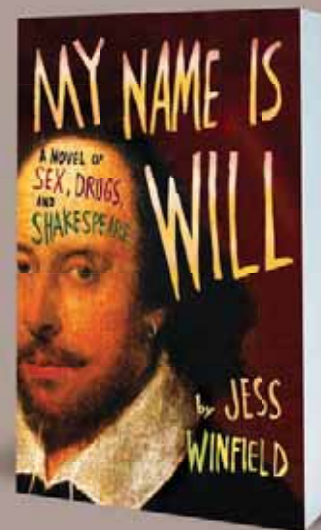


Sir Richard Francis Burton – explorer, writer, soldier, diplomat – is acclaimed for his vivid translation of two master-

pieces; from Arabic, *One Thousand Nights and A Night* and from Sanskrit, *The Kama Sutra*. High-born, well-travelled and prodigiously multilingual, Burton enlisted in the East India Company army after expulsion from Oxford. Career and adventure enabled the learning of languages and the developing of disguises, through the colonial worlds of India, Arabia and Africa. In Iliya Troyanov's composition, a legendary Burton adventure is lyrically complemented by local narrators, whose accounts playfully layer Oriental scenes with themes from Burton's epic life. In British India, a Scheherazade-like courtesan seduces Burton. In Arabia, Burton makes the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medica, among the first Englishmen to do so. In East Africa,

## 'Shakespeare in Love' on magic mushrooms

A wildly imaginative tale of two William Shakespeares: one of Stratford upon Avon in 1582; the other, would-be Shakespeare scholar Willie Shakespeare Greenberg in 1986 California. Both are in serious girl trouble and being pursued by government agents: the Bard at a time when Catholics were being hung, drawn and quartered; Willie Greenberg during the War on Drugs.



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## The Two Pearls of Wisdom

ALISON GOODMAN

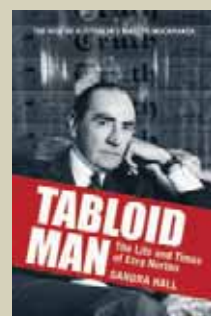


Eon is a potential Dragoneye, able to manipulate wind and water to nurture and protect the land. But Eon also has a dark secret... Based on the ancient lores of Chinese astrology and Feng Shui, *The Two Pearls of Wisdom* and its sequel are compelling novels set in a world filled with false identities, dangerous politics and sexual intrigue.

## Tabloid Man: The Life and Times of Ezra Norton

SANDRA HALL

For over thirty years, he was one of the most powerful men in Australia. In 1922 Ezra Norton inherited the newspaper Truth from his father, John, and along with its stablemate the Daily Mirror, made Ezra Norton one of the key media figures of his day. Sandra Hall's thoroughly researched and lively account of Ezra Norton's life gives a fascinating insight into this influential Australian figure. In doing so, it traces the evolution of tabloid newspapers and the Australia in which the Nortons thrived.



4th Estate

to the source of the Nile. Other narrators include Burton himself, writing to the Governor, and the disapproving appraisals of locals and colonials. Burton's upbringing and sophisticated immersion across multiple cultures is justly matched by Troyanov's geographical resume: a Bulgarian-born German who grew up in Kenya and journeyed in Burton's footsteps.

*Maloti Ray is a freelance reviewer*

**HUMAN LOVE**  
**Andre Makine**

*Hodder. PB. Normally \$32.99*

*Our special price \$27.95*

*Guest review*



**\* SPECIAL PRICE**

After witnessing his parents' deaths during Angolan independence, Elias becomes a

'professional revolutionary'. Through him, we watch socialism's march through Africa, but for Elias, revolution embodies not the pursuit of ideology, allegiance or power, but the fight for humanity and the transcendent love that can exist between two people. Whilst this is a bleak read, the poeticism of Makine's meditations on the carve-up of post-colonial Africa beautifully translates the collateral damage of 'History' into human reality. The novel presents a series of fragments, each distilling the inhumanity of war into a single poignant moment: a child fixates on his mother's fragile collar bone being snapped by a prison guard's boot; a dead woman's mouth is probed for diamonds after she has been gang raped; a soldier takes a languid drag on his cigarette between loading his gun and killing a child's father. These moments become motifs that echo through the story and remind Elias of why he must keep going. This book will transform even the most banal aspect of your daily life into an extraordinary gift.

*Belinda Monypenny is a Developmental Editor at Cengage Learning*

**GIRL MADE OF DUST**  
**Nathalie Abi Ezzi**

*HarperCollins. PB. \$28*

*Staff review*

Set during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s, *A Girl Made of Dust* is a novel written with such maturity, it is hard to believe that

it's a debut. Ruba is ten and lives with her family in Ein Douwra, a village outside of war torn Beirut. Older brother Naji has taken to collecting spent artillery shells fired by soldiers in the depleting forest around their home. He has also been hanging out with a group of gun-toting older boys. Her friend Karim is being treated badly by other children because he's a Muslim. As the violence waged in Beirut creeps into their town, Ruba's father retreats further into his shell, becoming physically and emotionally unavailable due to events that he has witnessed and feels responsible for. Based on the author's own experiences, this novel transplants us into the world of Ruba, a girl on the cusp of adulthood: a world where the threat of death is very real, the quest for survival strong. It also begs us to ask the question: what happens to those without the money or means to escape a war zone?

*Jason Austin is Assistant Books Buyer at Readings Carlton*

**BONE BY BONE**  
**Tony Johnston**

*Text. PB. \$22.95*

*Guest review*

David is nine and growing up fast in 1950s Tennessee. He knows all the bones of the human body and one day, he's going to be a doctor like his father. Malcolm is David's best friend. He also knows the bones and together, they explore their universe. But this is the Deep South and Malcolm is black. In such a racially intolerant society, there is no greater sin than to mix with Negroes. *Bone by Bone* aims to be the next *To Kill a Mockingbird* and what it lacks in execution it makes up for in intention. Both Malcolm and David are believable characters. In David's father, the author presents a man of contradictions. On the one hand he is intolerant of Negroes, claiming he will shoot any who dare to enter his house. Yet in family friend Tinney, he also has a loving, mature Negro woman who he adores and respects. This novel is present and always will be, because now is always a good time to explore the racial intolerance that often divides like minds in working towards a truly multicultural community.

*Laurie Steed is a freelance reviewer*

**SIX SUSPECTS**  
**Vikas Swarup**

*Doubleday. PB. Normally \$32.95*

*Our special price \$27.95*

*Staff review*



**\* SPECIAL PRICE**

Vikas Swarup's first novel, *Q & A*, took as its starting point a poor, illiterate waiter who wins a million

dollars on a game show and the subsequent investigation by the producers of the game show into how someone like him could have known the answers to their questions. The novel proceeds to look at each of the questions he was asked and how his specific experiences equipped him to answer them. In Swarup's latest novel, he uses this same device of looking back from a primary event to uncover the way in which the said event comes to pass. The six suspects of the title are suspected of the shooting and murder of the rich, spoilt playboy Vicky Rai in the middle of an elite party. They are: a corrupt businessman, an American tourist, an indigenous tribesman, a Bollywood starlet, a petty thief and his own father, Jagannath Rai, the Home Minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh. All have motives and all have come to the party armed. A sprawling novel with a whodunnit at its core.

*Kabita Dhara is from Readings Carlton*

**SONG FOR NIGHT**  
**Chris Abani**

*Scribe. PB. \$22.95*

*Staff review*



*Song for Night* is a powerful piece of prose portraying the shocking experiences of an African boy soldier. 'My Luck' belongs

to a team trained to defuse mines with jungle knives. They have their vocal chords severed so they are unable to distract each other with their frightened screams of failure. After just such an explosion, My Luck has been separated from his unit. As he wanders shell-shocked through the war-torn landscape, he recalls his journey out of childhood and into the excitement and brutality of war. Nigerian author Chris Abani deftly depicts the thrill of the boy chosen to an 'elite' unit

and the taste for murder he develops, akin to orgasm. The title of each chapter describes the sign language the soldiers created to communicate with each other, a language to describe the indescribable. They range from the tender, 'Love Is a Backhanded Stroke to the Cheek' to the hopeless 'The Soul Has No Sign'. But despite the brutal and the unimaginable, My Luck has a capacity for love that is never extinguished. This is a powerful piece of writing, haunting and bleak, but with an uncanny glimmer of hope for the human spirit.

*Michelle Calligaro is from Readings Carlton*

**HOW THE SOLDIER REPAIRS THE GRAMOPHONE**  
**Sasa Stanisic**

*Weidenfeld & Nicolson. PB.*

*Normally \$32.99*

*Our special price \$27.95*



**\* SPECIAL PRICE**

Born in Višegrad, Bosnia and escaping during its Serbian invasion, Saša Stanišić charts his

debut novel as a whimsical child tenderly mindful of the river Drina. Witness to war and peace, the Drina remains the steady thread coursing through a tale and territory bloodily torn apart by conflict. From 1989 to 1995, ideological disagreement in former Yugoslavia led to political division and the horrific ethnic cleansing campaigns of Slobodan Milošević. Yet to Aleksandar, his role as family storyteller is to persist despite interruptions. Aleksandar the child puzzles over such absurdities as friends now descending into mutual cruelty and a beloved playmate Asija now deemed an unforgivable ethnicity. As idyllic fishing trips are replaced by a numbing exodus to Germany, Aleksandar the adolescent shifts from narrative to letters. Aleksandar the adult returns to Višegrad, in search of Asija and writing lists, 'to compare my memories with here and now'. Inquiries like 'Who Has the Right Sort of Name' are sobering twists on Rudyard Kipling themes. Dialogues and perspectives merge into monologue narration, faintly resonant of post-apocalyptic Cormac McCarthy.

*Maloti Ray is a freelance reviewer*

# Dead Write *New Crime Fiction with Judith Loriente*



## PICK OF THE MONTH

### A DEATH IN TUSCANY Michele Giuttari

Abacus. PB. Normally \$29.95

Our special price \$24.95

Staff review



\* SPECIAL PRICE

In a town in present-day Tuscany, the body of an unidentifiable girl, possibly no more than thirteen, is discovered.

She appears to have died of a heroin overdose, though with no one reporting her missing, the possibility that she is an illegal immigrant, and one who may have been murdered, is taken into consideration. Chief Superintendent Michele Ferrara, haunted by her senseless death, leaves no stone unturned in order to bring light to the case. Delving into the dark side of present-day Italy, he searches through a world of organised crime, secret societies, paedophilia and Albanian drug-runners, uncovering evidence that links her tragic end not just to Tuscany's underbelly, but to its very highest echelons. Written by a former police officer involved in recent high-profile cases in Italy. Another meticulously-plotted and gripping read from the author of *A Florentine Death*.

Judith Loriente is from *Readings Hawthorn*

## WHEN WILL THERE BE GOOD NEWS?

### Kate Atkinson

Doubleday. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95

Guest review



\* SPECIAL PRICE

From the moment she burst onto the literary scene with the dazzling *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, Kate

Atkinson has been fusing genres and defying categorisation to deliver wonderfully satisfying, funny, sad, wholly original and compelling fiction. *When Will There Be Good News?* is her latest brilliant work, and the third to feature charming anti-hero ex-detective Jackson Brodie. Perhaps because he is only one of a large cast of characters

– characters that not only leap off the page, but grab you firmly by the hand to pull you inexorably into their world – readers can fully enjoy *Good News* without having read the previous two works in which Jackson appeared, *Case Histories* and *One Good Turn*. Then again, it's a great opportunity to become acquainted with those novels as well. Because that's the thing about Kate Atkinson – she never disappoints. Whether you love her fantastical plots, the seductive lilt of her prose – infused with an acerbic intelligence – or her flawed-but-fascinating characters, being an Atkinson fan is one of the most rewarding pastimes a reader can have. Which means that *Good News* is not so much a must-read as a must-devour, a must-revel-in, a must-savour-every-page novel.

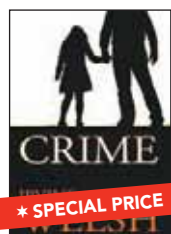
Olivia Mayer is a freelance reviewer

## CRIME Irvine Welsh

Jonathan Cape. PB.

Normally \$34.95

Our special price \$29.95



\* SPECIAL PRICE

*Trainspotting* author Irvine Welsh is tipped as returning to form in this intelligent, brave and gritty book.

Detective Inspector Ray Lennox is recovering from a mental breakdown induced by occupational stress and cocaine abuse, and a particularly horrifying child sex murder case back in Edinburgh. On vacation in Florida, his fiance Trudi is only interested in planning their forthcoming wedding, and a bitter argument sees a deranged Lennox cast adrift in strip-mall Florida. He meets two women in a seedy bar, ending up at their apartment for a coke binge interrupted by two menacing strangers. After the ensuing brawl, Lennox finds himself alone with Tianna, the terrified ten-year-old daughter of one of the women, and a sheet of instructions that make him responsible for her immediate safety. Lennox takes her across the state to an exclusive marina on the Gulf of Mexico, and quickly suspects that he has stumbled into a hornet's nest: a gang of organised paedophiles, every bit as threatening

as the monster that haunted him back in Edinburgh. 'A great, redemptive book' – *The Guardian*

## IN THE DARK Mark Billingham

Little, Brown. PB. \$32.99

Staff review



In London, Helen Weeks, a pregnant police officer, loses her child's father, Paul Hopwood, in what appears to be a random accident.

Knocked down and killed by a car that had had a gun fired at it in a dangerous part of London, it appears Paul may have been the innocent victim of a gang initiation gone wrong. But Helen, aware of his secretive life spent investigating violent crimes, begins to suspect that he may have been murdered. Only two weeks away from delivering her child, she nevertheless begins her own investigation, delving into her lover's past.

Meanwhile, intermingled with her story is that of the criminals who are responsible for Paul's death – but was it really an accident, or could it have been deliberate? JL

## ALL THE COLOURS OF DARKNESS

### Peter Robinson

Hodder. PB. Normally \$32.99

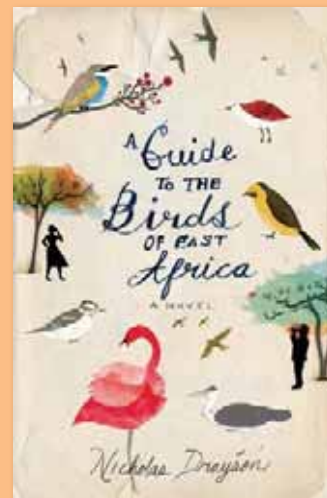
Our special price \$27.95

A beautiful June day in the Yorkshire Dales, and a group of children are spending the last of their half-term freedom swimming in the river near Hipswell Woods. But the idyll is shattered by their discovery of a man's body, hanging from a tree. DI Annie Cabott soon discovers he is Mark Hardcastle, the well-liked and successful set designer for the Eastvale Theatres current production of *Othello*. Everything points to suicide, and Annie is mystified. Why would such a man want to take his own life? Then Annie's investigation leads to another shattering discovery, and DCI Alan Banks is called back from his idyllic weekend with his new girlfriend.

This wonderfully warm love story will appeal to fans of Alexander McCall Smith and Marina Lewycka.

Reserved, honourable Mr Malik. You wouldn't notice him in a Nairobi street, except to comment on his sculpted comb over. But beneath his unassuming exterior lies a secret passion, he is head over heels in love with the leader of the Tuesday morning bird walk, Rose Mbikwa.

So when the flashy and well-resourced Harry Kahn decides that he too has Rose in his sights, Mr Malik unhappily agrees to a wager – whoever sees the most birds in a week will ask Rose to the upcoming ball. But as the race unfolds, it seems that Mr Malik's unorthodox methods and unrelenting determination to stay in the game may just ensure that he discovers the most valuable bird of them all.



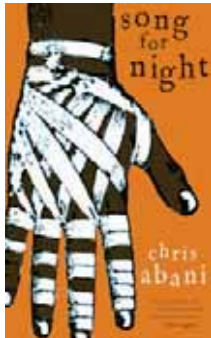
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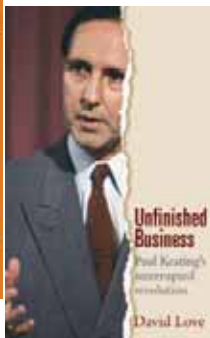




'an extraordinary ferocity'  
NEW YORK TIMES



Keating's modern-day Boswell

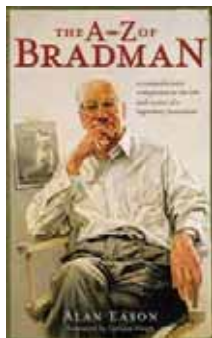


'searing and hilarious'  
DAVE EGGERS



Dr David Servan-Schreiber

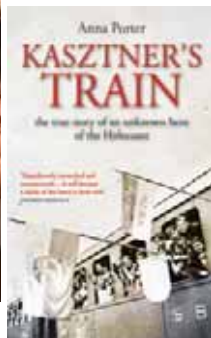
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CRICKET WEEK



'beautifully executed'  
GEORGIA BLAIN



'a classic'  
THOMAS KENEALLY

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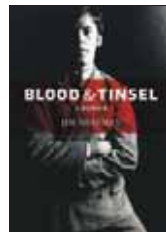


## Non-fiction

### Biography

#### BLOOD AND TINSEL Jim Sharman

Miegunyah. HB. Normally \$49.95  
Our special price \$39.95



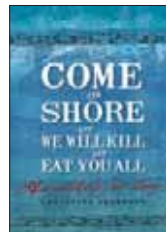
Stage and screen legend Jim Sharman launches an epic personal journey, from growing up in outback

Australia in the

1950s to international success in Los Angeles, Tokyo and London in the heady 1970s, on the back of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The international director of film, musicals and theatre recalls conversations with Lou Reed, a fateful night with Andy Warhol, and a long collaboration with Patrick White on most of the Nobel Laureate's performance work. In *Blood and Tinsel*, Sharman superbly captures his life and times.

#### COME ON SHORE AND WE WILL KILL AND EAT YOU ALL Christina Thompson

Bloomsbury. PB. \$29.95



A former editor of both *Meanjin* and *Harvard Review*, Christina Thompson tells the story of her unlikely marriage in this

thoughtful and intriguing memoir. As an American graduate student, Thompson holidayed in New Zealand, where she met and fell in love with a Maori man who was in many ways her opposite. She was an intellectual; he was a tradesman. He came from poverty; she came from middle-class privilege. What they shared was a love of adventure and a willingness to forge a new life together on their own.

#### EVER, MANNING: SELECTED LETTERS OF MANNING CLARK, 1938-1991

Roslyn Russell

A&U. HB. \$65

Canberra-based historian Roslyn Russell worked with Manning Clark on a number of books as his research assistant. Here, she

has assembled an illuminating selection of letters with a wide range of correspondents, including leading public figures. Tracking his time as a young man at Oxford to his final days as a renowned academic and public sage, they show the influence of his personal life on his work, and reveal a biting insight from his overseas travels to countries like the US and the Soviet Union, as well as dismayed reflections on emerging trends in Australian society.

#### THAT'D BE RIGHT William McInnes

Hodder. PB. \$35

Staff review



William McInnes's writing is a lot like my favourite of his characters: the grizzled journalist, Max Connors, from

*Sea Change*. It's laconic, unapologetically blokey; a dry wit spiked with lightly worn intelligence and offset by the occasional detour into a surprisingly laugh-out-loud moment. But, most of all, his writing is intimately human, and steeped in a real appreciation for the simple things in life, whether that's kicking a footy in the street with his son, playing cricket with theatre technicians in eighteenth-century costume outside the Sydney Opera House, or playing jokes on his cast-mates by writing them increasingly sycophantic fake fan letters. The anecdotal essays here draw on sport, politics, work and family, and often blend all these elementals seamlessly together to illustrate a larger point about contemporary Australian life. Personally, I like sport less than just about any other person in Australia, but I still really enjoyed these pieces. Just a couple of my favourite moments: his reflections on the Port Arthur massacre and the way it brought home what's really important (you have to read it to see why it's so good), and when his mother, eating mixed lollies in the cinema, offers him teeth, and laughs madly when he unwittingly puts her dentures in his mouth and tries to chew them.

Jo Case is Editor of *Readings Monthly*

**SOCIALISM IS GREAT!****Zhang Lijia**

UWA Press. PB. \$24.95

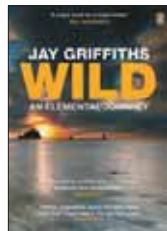


Zhang Lijia tells the extraordinary story of a life that moves from working in a missile factory and queuing for the

'period place' to prove she's not pregnant, to organising a major protest in support of the Tiananmen Square protestors and working as an international journalist. She also recounts the intellectual independence her increasing identification with the West brought her – from learning English and wearing bright Western clothes to her protest and journalism work. Lijia will be a guest of this month's Melbourne Writers' Festival.

**WILD****Jay Griffiths**

Penguin. PB. \$26.95



This is an amazing book: more than a travel book, more than a plea for the environment, more than a memoir,

although it contains elements of all these things. It's a poetically written, deeply felt plunge into the unknown – a journey through the wildernesses of the world and back again, to report what she has seen and learned. Some of these places include the Australian desert, the West Papuan highlands, the Canadian arctic and the Amazonian rainforest. Griffiths wants to redefine the Western understanding of wild places as desolate, uninhabited. A wilderness is, she says, 'a self-willed land' – a place with its own cycles and rhythms, which may include the will of people, but not the absolute dominance that we classify as 'civilisation'.

*Australian Politics***UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PAUL KEATING'S INTERRUPTED REVOLUTION****David Love**

Scribe. PB. \$32.95

In the 1980s and 1990s, Paul Keating reinvented the Australian economy: floating the dollar, deregulating banking and finance,

and introducing universal superannuation. The huge pool of investment capital thus created was integral to Australia's astounding economic growth and the wealth of ordinary Australians. Veteran economic adviser and financial observer David Love has had many frank and fascinating conversations with Keating before and after his political demise, shedding new light on his 'interrupted revolution' – and the dangers of not finishing the job.

**HOWARD'S END****Peter van Onselen & Philip Senior**

MUP. PB. \$34.95



Peter van Onselen was the co-author of *John Winston Howard*, the definitive and controversial biography of

our recently departed Prime Minister. In the tradition of Pamela Williams' *The Victory* (the campaign trail classic that charted the end of the Hawke/Keating era), *Howard's End* takes us behind the scenes of both parties on the announcement of the election campaign and traces the end of another era: John Howard's Australia. The authors piece together the events in the year leading up to the election, following the unravelling of the Coalition government as it lurched from crisis to crisis. One for political junkies and interested observers alike.

**INSIDE KEVIN 07****Christine Jackman**

MUP. PB. \$34.95



Political journalist Christine Jackman tells the inside story of a modern political party, taking us deep into the ALP

campaign war room for the 2007 federal election. Meet the dedicated band of political and creative strategists who engineered Rudd's rise to victory, and find out the inside story of the 'Kevin 07' juggernaut. Jackman interviewed all the key players in the campaign, including Kevin Rudd and ALP National Secretary Tim Gartrell. Fascinating and insightful.

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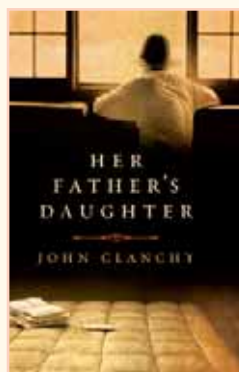
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**THE DIRTY BEAT**  
Venero Armanno

'Armanno assembles words like a poet ... so effortless, so poignant, so powerful.'  
*Sydney Morning Herald*

Rock and jazz drummer Max is dead.

Welcome to a hectic tour through his life. Driven by music and passion, *The Dirty Beat* shimmers with electric intensity.



\$32.95 / Fiction / 978 0 7022 3679 2

**HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER**  
John Clanchy

Love, loss, loyalty and betrayal.

From this award-winning author comes a collection of five new stories that explore the fascinating, and often fraught, relations between fathers and daughters.



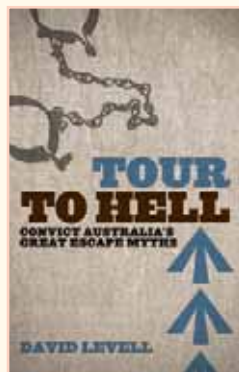
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**FIVEWAYS**  
Ian Commins

Five people. Five journeys. One destination.

Take a ride into the lives of five strangers who share a busy inner-city bus route but who are on very different journeys.

Winner of the 2007 Queensland Premier's Literary Award - Best Emerging Author.



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**TOUR TO HELL**  
David Levell

Vivid and barely believable stories of courage and foolhardiness in colonial Australia.

With an engaging and fast-paced narrative, *Tour to Hell* is our history at its rollicking best.

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## Human Love

Andrei Makine

Spanning forty years of Africa's tormented past as a battleground between East and West, and ranging from Cuba to Siberia, this powerful, impassioned novel plumbs the depths of human nature, but shows the heights men and women are capable of reaching too. A new novel by the internationally renowned Makine.

\$32.99  
Sceptre  
Trade Paperback

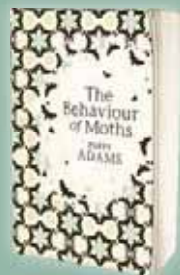
## The Good Thief

Hannah Tinti

Young Ren is missing his parents and a hand and doesn't know what happened to either of them. He is beginning to fear that he will never be claimed from his cold orphanage and that his dream of a family will come to nothing. Let *The Good Thief* steal your heart away this August.



\$29.99  
Headline Review  
Demy



## The Behaviour of Moths

Poppy Adams

An extraordinarily haunting, subtle and moving first novel about secrets and lies and moths. This brilliant debut novel tells us what families are capable of doing to each other – especially in the name of love.

\$32.99  
Virago  
Trade Paperback

## How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone

Saša Stanišić

A cross between Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything is Illuminated* and *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* - a fresh, poignant and very funny novel about a young child caught up in the Bosnian conflict. A major new voice in European literature with rights now sold in 24 countries.



\$32.99  
Weidenfeld and Nicolson  
Trade Paperback

## LISTEN TO NGARRINDJERI WOMEN SPEAKING

Diane Bell

Spinifex. PB. \$34.95



The Ngarrindjeri women were thrust into the national spotlight, then condemned as liars, when their 'secret women's business'

became – briefly – a critical obstacle to a controversial development on South Australia's Hindmarsh Island. In 2001, they were vindicated by the federal court. In this book, they tell their stories and outline their vision for a future in which their culture is respected, their stories are heard and their laws are carried out.

## Little Books on Big Themes



MUP. HB. All \$19.95 each

Box-set of all 4 titles \$60

Think *Quarterly Essays*, packaged in a hardback gift format, and ruminating on overarching 'big themes' of human existence, rather than pressing issues of the day (though some of these books, like Germaine Greer's *On Rage* take in both). These beautiful little books by some of Australia's leading writers and thinkers are must-reads, proving that good things really do come in small packages.

### ON RAGE

Germaine Greer

Germaine Greer's passionate and powerfully worded essay about Aboriginal rage is a provocation that will cause heated and intense debate.

### ON LONGING

Blanche d'Alpuget

This intimate and revealing meditation on longing examines the creative tension between writing and love. This moving tribute to her muse will surprise and touch readers.

### ON ECSTASY

Barrie Kosky

In this vivid, biographical piece, provocative director Barrie Kosky explores the intense joy and delight, as well as the power and terror, that is ecstasy.

### ON EXPERIENCE

David Malouf

In this beautifully written, eloquent essay, David Malouf explores the connections between writing and the imagination and offers wonderful insights into his own experiences of the writer's life.

## Humour

### DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE

David Rakoff

Scribe. PB. \$24.95

Staff review

Canadian-American journalist and essayist David Rakoff's new collection, is a delicious, wry observation of the American condition. Comparisons with his friend and fellow writer David Sedaris are inevitable, but Rakoff has a darker, less redemptive voice and the opening story about gaining his American citizenship illustrates this perfectly. His strangely anti-climactic observations as a passenger on one of the last flights of Concorde from New York to London is a standout for me, showing how something with all the hallmarks of a significant event, can actually end up being oddly ordinary (except, maybe, for getting to your destination an hour before you leave!). Anyone who is fascinated by the confusion, the contradiction, the humorous, the all-too-human reality show that is America today, will enjoy this collection and be grateful that we are here, and they are there.

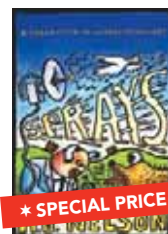
Kevin Clark is from Readings Carlton

### SPRAYS

H.G. Nelson

Macmillan. PB. Normally \$32.95

Our special price \$27.95



H.G. Nelson is one of Australia's most cherished comedy icons. In this irreverent collection, he

writes about the Festival of the Boot, going the grope, how kiddies

can fight the flab through the fun of fishing, and whether having a punt on the Archibald Prize could solve the funding problems of the Arts community.

## Australian History

### FLY: TRUE STORIES OF COURAGE AND ADVENTURE FROM WORLD WAR II

Michael Veitch  
*Viking, HB, \$49.95*

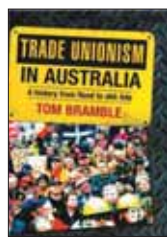


This candid and moving book tells the stories of just some of the thousands of young men who left ordinary homes

and jobs to learn to fly and fight in the great conflict of the twentieth century: World War II. Broadcaster and aeroplane enthusiast Michael Veitch has interviewed Australian, British and even German airmen, finding out what they remember and what they choose to forget. *Fly* captures their stories, before they are lost forever.

### TRADE UNIONISM IN AUSTRALIA: A HISTORY FROM FLOOD TO EBB TIDE

Tom Bramble  
*CUP, PB, \$49.95*



This timely book looks at the history of one of Australia's dwindling social and political institutions:

trade unions. In the late 1960s, unionism was growing in strength and capable of shaping the overall political climate of the nation. In 2008, despite the unprecedented (union-led) mobilisation against Work Choices that helped to unseat a government, union membership is woefully low. Tom Bramble charts the impact on unions of waves of economic restructuring, hostile governments and shifts in employer attitudes – and looks at how unions themselves have contributed to their own decline.

## Cultural Studies

### THE FREEDOM PARADOX

Clive Hamilton

*A&U, PB, \$35*



The ground-breaking author of *Growth Fetish* and *Affluenza* examines the paradox of modern life: that we are

deprived of our inner freedom by the hedonistic pursuit of our own desires encouraged by consumer societies. In his previous books, he diagnosed the malaise at the heart of our society. Here, he goes much deeper, going to the heart of that great human question: how are we to live? Hamilton turns to metaphysics to find a source of transformation that lies beyond the cultural, political and social philosophies that form the bedrock of contemporary western thought. And what he concludes is that we cannot be truly free unless we commit ourselves to a moral life – a belief that will challenge many deeply held beliefs in modern society.

### THE TROUBLE WITH THEORY

Gavin Kitching

*A&U, PB, \$29.95*

Postmodern theory has engaged the brightest students with its apparent political and social radicalism. However, Professor Gavin Kitching claims: 'At the heart of postmodernism is very poor, deeply confused and misbegotten philosophy. As a result even the very best students who fall under its sway produce radically incoherent ideas about language, meaning, truth and reality.' This is not another conservative attack on postmodernism. Rather, it is a carefully considered analysis from a dedicated university teacher who is convinced that we have gone terribly astray.

### AUSTRALIANS IN ITALY

Bill Kent et. al (eds)

*Monash University e-Press, PB, \$37.95*



This intriguing and wide-ranging book looks at the scholarly and cultural engagement of Australians with Italy. This

## August's Best Non-fiction



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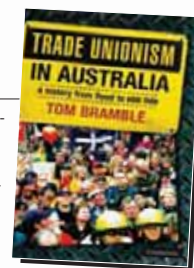
### Trade Unionism in Australia

A History from Flood to Ebb Tide

By Tom Bramble

This controversial new book - the first history of Australian unionism in 25 years - charts its turbulent history since the 1960s. What are the factors that have led to such an astonishing decline in membership, how does this compare with the international experience, and what can be done to combat the trend?

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### Global Citizens

Australian Activists for Change

Edited by Geoffrey Stokes, Roderic Pitty and Gary Smith

This book charts the political lives of nine activist Australians - Australians whose activism has contributed to advancing political agendas on a global scale. Featuring such household names as Michael Kirby, Bob Brown, Jack Mundey and Keith Suter, this is a book for anyone who aspires to improving our lot as world citizens, not merely as Australians.

**PB 978-0-521-73187-4 \$39.95 224 pages**



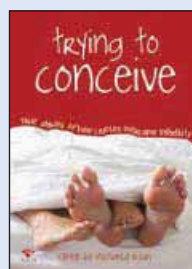
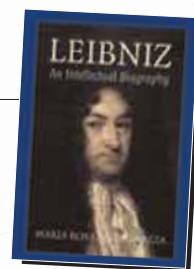
### Leibniz

An Intellectual Biography

By Maria Rosa Antognazza

This pioneering biography provides a unified portrait of this unique thinker and the world from which he came. Throughout his life, Leibniz pursued a dream of reform and advancement across all the sciences. His multifaceted career linked him with patrons and correspondents the world over.

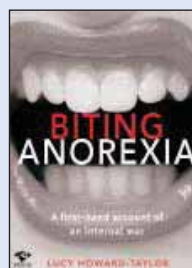
**HB 978-0-521-80619-0 \$59.95 550 pages**



### Trying to Conceive

True stories of how couples overcame infertility  
 (Michaela Ryan)

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### Biting Anorexia

A first-hand account of an internal war  
 (Lucy Howard-Taylor)

Anorexia is the most fatal of all psychiatric illnesses. This beautifully written and searingly honest account details the author's struggle to literally claw herself back from the point of no return and then to overcome an almost harder battle ... that of recovery.  
 RRP \$24.95



### Bully Blocking

Six secrets to help children deal with teasing and bullying  
 (Evelyn M. Field)

This practical book offers advice to help children (aged 4–16) deal with bullies who tease, exclude, intimidate or harass. In this book, renowned bullying specialist Evelyn Field provides parents and teachers with tested approaches to assist a child who is a target or a bully.  
 RRP \$24.95

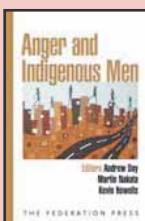


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## Anger & Indigenous Men

Andrew Day, Martin Nakata & Kevin Howells (eds)

This book is for practitioners who wish to develop culturally appropriate and effective programs for reducing anger-related violence perpetrated by Indigenous men.

The book is structured in three parts which:

- explores Indigenous perspectives on anger and violence, on both sociological and psychological levels
- outlines methodologies and processes for collecting meaningful data on anger and Indigenous men; and
- presents ideas for developing and delivering anger management programs that meet the needs of Indigenous men.

Contributors include psychologists, counsellors, educationalists and academics from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous backgrounds.

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# NEW



### THE SINKINGS

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Hanifa Deen

Award-winning author Hanifa Deen follows the Islamic Council of Victoria v Catch the Fire Ministries case from beginning to end, witnessing the religious impulse at its best – and worst.

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### "SOCIALISM IS GREAT!"

Lijia Zhang

A spirited memoir of coming of age in Nanjing in the 1980s. Written in English, "Socialism is Great!" is a testament to Zhang's personal triumph over the controlled existence that was supposed to be her destiny.

978 0 980296 55 6 Memoir \$24.95 Pb

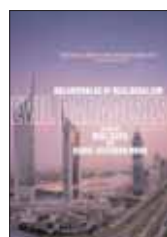
[www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au](http://www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au)

collection seeks to map the past and present of the Australian love affair with Italy, yielding rich insights into its causes, motivations and transformations. Contributors include former Australian Ambassador to Italy Rory Steele, poet Peter Porter, contemporary artists Euan Heng and Jo-Anne Duggan, as well as distinguished academics and young scholars. Amongst the diverse range of articles and vignettes, Ian Britain writes on Donald Friend's Italian years, Loretta Baldassar explores the phenomenon of reverse migration, and novelist Lisa Clifford reflects on her family ties with Italy.

## EVIL PARADISES

Mike Davis & Bertrand Monk (eds)

New Press. PB. \$35



This is the perfect companion book to Davis's compelling *Planet of Slums*, which looked at the nightmarish

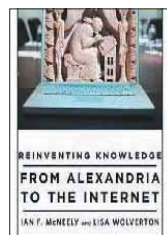
proliferation of slums that mark the contemporary city. *Evil Paradises*, a collection of essays by a range of contributors, looks at the flipside of this equation: the architecturally designed glittering five-star towers and shopping malls of the ultrarich that create a kind of economic apartheid in cities like Dubai, Hong Kong, Cairo and Los Angeles. 'A chilling lesson in how architecture can contribute to ... violence by hiding it beneath the aura of enlightened design.'

– *New York Times*

## REINVENTING KNOWLEDGE: FROM ALEXANDRIA TO THE INTERNET

Ilan F. McNeely

WW Norton. HB. \$32.95



A fresh and engaging intellectual history of organised knowledge in the West, featuring a cast of memorable

characters. The authors question how history can help us to understand the vast changes we are now experiencing in the landscape of knowledge, ranging from classical Alexandria to the rambunctious universities of the

late medieval cities, the thick social networks of the Enlightenment republic of letters, and, finally, the new digital age.

## History

### FORCE OF DESTINY

Christopher Duggan

Penguin. PB. \$29.95

The greatness of Italy's culture and way of life have had a powerful attraction for many generations of visitors. This has created an overwhelming sense that Italy is a fundamentally benign and easygoing country. *The Force of Destiny*, Christopher Duggan's immensely enjoyable new book, lays waste to this idea. While sharing everyone's enthusiasm for Italy as a place, he strongly distinguishes this from its political role over the past two centuries, which has been both vicious and ruinous for Europe as a whole.

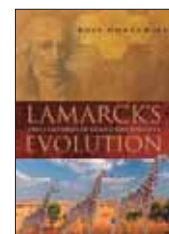
## Science

### LAMARCK'S REVOLUTION

Ross Honeywill

Pier 9. PB. \$29.95

Staff review



Australian scientist Ted Steele chanced on nineteenth-century French scientist, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, on a long plane flight

in 1978. Reading Arthur Koestler's *Janus*, he was particularly struck by the chapter 'Lamarck Revisited'. In 1809, Lamarck had published *Philosophie Zoologique*, a work in which he anticipated Darwin's theory of evolution. What struck Steele about Lamarck's theory was that he posited that characteristics acquired by an organism during its lifetime could be genetically passed on to its progeny. At the time, Lamarck's theories gained many enemies and he died 20 years later: penniless and largely unacknowledged. Fifty years after *Philosophie Zoologique*, Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*. While Darwin did acknowledge Lamarck's contribution, he disagreed with his idea that acquired characteristics could be passed on to the next generation. The ascendancy of Darwinian theory meant that few scientists pursued Lamarck's ideas with much vigour. (Although Austrian Walter Kammerer's experiments with the midwife toad seemed

to confirm Lamarck's theories; in the Soviet Union, agronomist Trofim Lysenko used Lamarckian theory to improve crops.) It was Steele and his colleague Reg Gorzynski who advanced the research to prove Lamarck right. In 1979, Steele (a fiery and driven character) published his findings in *Somatic Selection and Adaptive Evolution*. Like Lamarck, Steele was challenged by the prevailing scientific community – ultimately, he was driven, or drove himself, out of the academy. However, 200 years after his work was first published, Lamarck's theories are finding their place. Ross Honeywill makes what already was a fascinating story into a wonderfully compelling narrative that puts all the pieces together. In doing so, he has done science a great service.

*Mark Rubbo is Managing Director of Readings*

### KINGDOM OF INFINITE SPACE Raymond Tallis

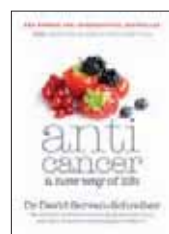
*Atlantic. HB. \$49.95*

What goes on inside our heads? Raymond Tallis takes us on a journey to discover the answers, combining biology and philosophy. From the act of blushing to the curiousness of a kiss, *The Kingdom of Infinite Space* explores the vast range of activities inside our heads, travelling through every chamber of the head and the brain. This is impulsively readable popular science.

### Health

#### ANTICANCER David Servan-Schrieber

*Scribe. PB. \$35*



Dr David Servan-Schrieber was a 31-year-old recognised pioneer in neuroscience when a routine scan revealed

he had cancer of the brain. In this internationally bestselling book, he writes from the twin perspectives of doctor and patient. He writes about his personal experience, the cases he has encountered, looking at the role played by nutrition, environmental toxins, emotions and physical activity in containing cancer. *Anticancer* equips readers with the understanding they need to fight – or avoid – cancer.

### Psychology

#### TEN BEST EVER ANXIETY MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Margaret Wehrenberg

*WW Norton. PB. \$22.95*

Addressing physical, emotional, and behavioural symptoms, Margaret Wehrenberg, a leading mental health clinician, draws on basic brain science to highlight the top 10 anxiety-defeating tips. Everything from breathing techniques and mindful awareness to cognitive control and self-talk are included—all guaranteed to out-kick your anxious thoughts.

### Food & Wine

#### ITALIAN LOCAL Tobie Puttock

*Lantern. HB. \$49.95*



The head chef of Melbourne's Fifteen, Tobie Puttock has been cooking Italian food in restaurants in London and Australia since

he was 18. Here, he gathers together 100 of his favourite Italian-inspired recipes and shows us how to achieve authentic Italian flavours at home, drawing on the best available produce – preferably organic.

#### BEER: A GUIDE FOR ENTHUSIASTS Greg Duncan Powell

*Murdoch. PB. \$29.95*



The co-author of the popular *Drink Drank Drunk* wine guides turns his attention to the amber liquid in this comprehensive guide

to beer in all its beloved forms, covering boutique beers and breweries and the expanding array of mass-market beers.

#### ONE MAGIC SQUARE Lolo Houbein

*Wakefield. PB. \$39.95*



The best and cheapest food is that which you grow in your own patch of dirt – and with rising food prices and increasing



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\$24.95

### The 10 Best-Ever Anxiety Management Techniques

*Understanding How Your Brain Makes You Anxious and What You Can Do to Change It*

By Margaret Wehrenberg

By distilling a multitude of anxiety-reducing strategies – many of which are expensive, entail therapy or include unwanted medications – into 10 concrete techniques, Margaret Wehrenberg provides a practical and valuable resource for the everyday anxiety-sufferer.

### Reinventing Knowledge From Alexandria to the Internet

By Ian F McNeely and Lisa Wolverson

*Reinventing Knowledge* is intellectual entertainment – a sweeping history of the key institutions that have organised knowledge in the West from the classical period onwards. The motivating question throughout: how does history help us understand the vast changes we are now experiencing in the landscape of knowledge?



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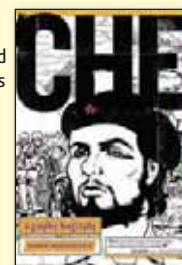
A Graphic Biography

*Spain Rodriguez, one of the most well-known artists in the comix underground, and Paul Buhle, Brown University*

Since his death in 1967, Ernesto "Che" Guevara has become a universally known revolutionary icon and political figure whose image is among the most recognizable in the world. This dramatic and extensively researched book breathes new life into his story, portraying his struggle through the medium of the underground political comic – one of the most prominent countercultural art forms since the 1960s. Spain Rodriguez's powerful artwork illuminates Che's life and the experiences that shaped him.

\$29.95 Pb, ISBN 978-184467-168-7

Publish August 2008, 120 pages  
Verso



### Burning Books

*Matthew Fishburn, a bookseller with Hordern House Rare Books in Sydney*

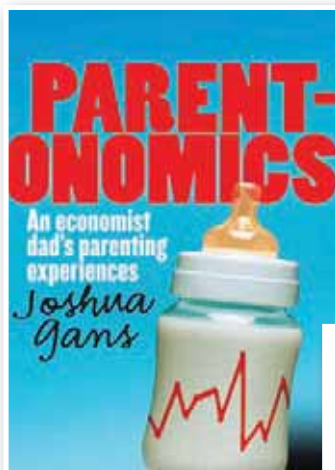
The Nazi burning of books in 1933 was one of the most infamous political spectacles of the twentieth century. Book burning has since become the symbol of any oppressive regime, and a taboo of modernity, as is captured in a much quoted line from Heinrich Heine: 'Where one burns books, one will soon burn people'. This provocative new work studies the impact of these fires, concentrating on the period which began with the fires in 1933 and ended with the publication of *Fahrenheit 451* (1953), showing how deeply embedded the myths of book burning are in cultural and literary history.

\$59.95 Hb, ISBN 978-02305-5328-6

Publish August 2008, 248 pages  
Palgrave Macmillan



new from



**Parentonomics**  
Joshua Gans

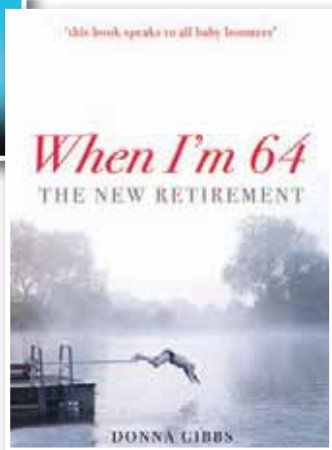
This funny and insightful book is written by a professor of economics who wonders what it would be like to apply key economic principles to raising his own three gorgeous children.

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**When I'm 64**  
Donna Gibbs

*When I'm 64* explores the experience of retirement from the point of view of those not yet retired, those newly retired, and those who are further down the track.

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## A Kind of Vanishing Lesley Thomson

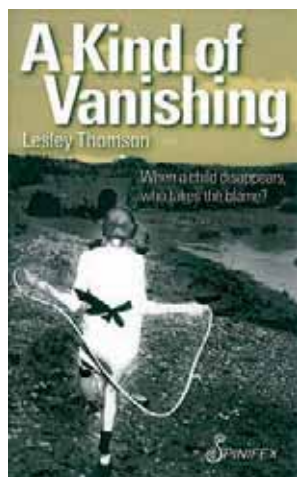
When a child disappears, who takes the blame?

This is a spellbinding mystery of obsession and guilt. It is also the poignant story of what happens to those left behind when a child vanishes without a trace.

*This emotionally charged thriller grips from the first paragraph, and a nail-biting level of suspense is maintained throughout.*

—She Magazine (*Book of the Month*)

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interest in sustainable living, there's never been a better time to start your own food garden. Most food gardening failures are due to starting too big, says Lolo Houbein. By starting with one square metre (then progressing one square metre at a time season by season, as suits), you can take control of your own fresh food supply, without overstretching yourself. And, of course, it's immensely practical for inner-city living, too!

## 1001 WINES YOU MUST TRY BEFORE YOU DIE Neil Beckett

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Wine writer Huon Hooke provides the preface to this comprehensive, fully illustrated guide to the world's best

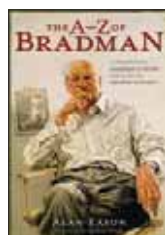
wines. Some of the wines here are old and rare, a few are controversial, others are curiosities, but all of them are fabulous – and together, they represent a thrilling variety of wines.

## Sport

### THE A-Z OF BRADMAN

Alan Eason

Scribe. PB. \$34.95



This quirky, comprehensive ode to the life and career of Australia's most famous cricket icon gathers together a treasure trove

of facts, catalogued in 900 A-Z entries. Eason's formidable research has uncovered odd trivia (like a blue joke the Don told about composer JS Bach) and telling insights into Bradman's family, friends, teammates, opponents and the significant events in his life.

### GLENN MCGRATH

Glenn McGrath

Heinemann. HB. Normally \$49.95

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\* SPECIAL PRICE

From working the land in Narromine to winning cricket's World Cup three times, Glenn

McGrath has always faced life with fierce determination and an unerring will to succeed, despite the odds. Now, following his retirement from international cricket, McGrath shares the story of his life – in cricket and off the field, including the establishment of the McGrath Foundation in support of the fight against breast cancer. Here, in their own words, the McGraths discuss their battles with the disease. that tragically ended Jane's life recently.

## SURF-O-RAMA Murray Walding

Miegunyah. HB. \$45



A lavishly illustrated celebration of surfing and Australian beach culture, this book assembles an impressive

collection of artefacts, memorabilia, ephemera and photographs. The treasure you'll find within these pages include brilliant reproductions of the last surviving examples of boards inspired by Duke Kahanamoku's visit to Australia (for the first-ever surfing demonstration), and the boards that followed: from superb hollow surf skis to the best vintage boards from the 1960s and 1970s and beyond.

## Literature

### UNCOMMON ARRANGEMENTS

Katie Roiphe

Virago. PB. \$35



This intriguing look at seven unconventional marriages (including one lesbian partnership, between Radclyffe Hall

and Lady Una Troubridge) has received rave reviews in London and New York. In addition to admiring reviews in the likes of *The New York Times* and *The Independent*, the decidedly less highbrow *People* magazine named it a perfect beach read. Not bad for a book on early-twentieth-century literary figures! Elegant, incisive and entertaining, *Uncommon Arrangements* explores passionate, experimental marriages that define their own ideas of what it is to be moral, flouting the repressive norms

of the Victorian era – and, of course, creating their own kinds of hypocrisy. Other couples include H.G. Wells and Rebecca West, and Katherine Mansfield and John Middleton Murry. Riveting reading!

## Journals

### GRIFFITH REVIEW 21: HIDDEN QUEENSLAND

Julianne Schultz (ed.)  
ABC. PB. \$19.95



The latest edition of this always intriguing literary journal takes a good, hard look at its home state – also the

place new PM Kevin Rudd calls home. Twenty years ago, the state was repressive and corrupt: today it's at the centre of political power. How did it happen? *Hidden Queensland* marks the transition of the state's policies, politics and people – and the lingering impact of secrets. Contributors include John Birmingham, Ashley Hay, Luke Slattery and Anna Haebich.

## Music

### GOODBYE TWENTIETH CENTURY: SONIC YOUTH AND THE RISE OF THE ALTERNATIVE NATION

David Browne

Piatkus. PB. \$40



David Browne tells the story of 'the Velvet Underground of their generation', based on extensive research, fresh interviews

with the band and those who have worked with them, and unprecedented access to unreleased recordings and documents.

### PASS THRU FIRE

Lou Reed

Da Capo. PB. \$36



Here are the lyrics of Lou Reed, the songwriter 'who brought plain-spoken realism to rock'n'roll' (*New York*

*Times*). If you're a fan, this is well worth adding to your collection.



## Phaidon Sale

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August brings the perfect opportunity to supplement or build your art book collection with Readings' special offer on a range of quality titles from Phaidon Books. Phaidon publishes some of the best, and best-priced, art, design and architecture books around, and are adding tempting cookbooks to the mix, such as the extremely popular *Silver Spoon* (Italian, RRP \$69.95), and *1080 Recipes* (Spanish, RRP \$69.95).

They publish introductory titles at affordable prices such as the mini Art, Photo and Fashion books (RRP \$16.95), or books for the more serious collector like *Andy Warhol Giant Size* (RRP \$175). If the classics are more your thing, a beautiful new series bound in richly coloured silks includes titles on *Titian*, *Raphael*, *Fra Angelico* and *Ingres*. At RRP \$69.95 and hardbound, these are already a steal. Take off the extra 20% and your shelves will look very classy, while containing hip pocket pain!

Okay, contemporary art can be confusing; but also very exciting, inspiring and hugely rewarding, once you get a feel for it. Phaidon have recently excelled at showcasing global trends with their shot-in-the arm art Vitamins – *Vitamin P* (PB, RRP \$69.95, for painting), *Vitamin D* (HB, RRP \$99.95, for drawing) and *Vitamin PH* (HB, \$99.95, for photography).

*Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century* (HB, RRP \$99.95) was published to coincide with the inaugural exhibition at the New Museum of Contemporary Art's landmark new building (designed by Sejima and Nishizawa/SANAA) on the Bowery in New York.

Maybe move onto that from *Sculpture Today* (HB, RRP \$99.95), complete the picture with *Art and Today* (HB, RRP \$120) and *Ice Cream. Aboriginal Art* by Howard Morphy (PB, RRP \$39.95), is one of the best overall introductions to our indigenous art available.

Have no idea what our urban lives might be? *Endless City* (RRP \$89.95) is the result of discussions and extensive research from The Urban Age Project. The project gathered a group of internationally renowned professionals (architecture, urbanism, economics and politics) for six conferences held in six international cities – New York, Shanghai, London, Mexico City, Johannesburg and Berlin – to discuss the future of the contemporary urban environment.

Margaret Snowden is Art & Design Buyer at Readings Carlton

## Art & Design

### FRED WILLIAMS Patrick McCaughey

Murdoch. HB. \$175



This scholarly, highly illustrated study was the first comprehensive and fully researched attempt to inform a

wider public of the significance of Williams' work. Patrick McCaughey traces Fred Williams' career from his student days through his years of mature achievement to the flowering of his art in the last years of his life. This eagerly awaited new edition has been fully updated and includes previously unpublished work.



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## LIFE IN SEVEN MISTAKES SUSAN JOHNSON



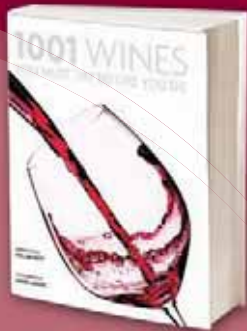
Why is it impossible to act our age in front of our parents?

A laser-sharp dissection of contemporary family life. Beautifully written, it is acclaimed Australian novelist Susan Johnson's finest achievement to date.

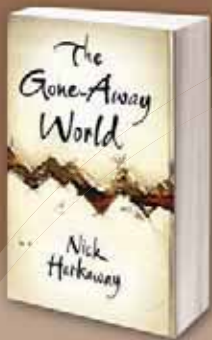
## 1001 WINES YOU MUST TRY BEFORE YOU DIE NEIL BECKETT

An essential for every wine lover.

This is an informative and sumptuous guide to the pleasures of the world's most irresistible wines, including 69 Australian wines.



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### PICTURE BOOKS

#### HERE COMES FRANKIE

Tim Hopgood

Macmillan. HB. \$26.99

Staff review



Can you smell music? Can you see notes and do they have a colour? Aah yes, you have synaesthesia, but don't be alarmed

because *Here Comes Frankie* to show you the fun. From the front endpapers of quiet pastel hues through to the bold, bright colours of the back endpapers, we follow Frankie's journey as a budding musician. We are introduced to silent Ellington St, where even the birds have lost their chirp and Frankie and his family lead a sedate existence until the moment Frankie brings home a trumpet. From then, the stylistic matt pages become more and more shimmeringly colourful as Frankie and his trumpet get Ellington St. rocking. Fun and colour for all the family.

Alexa Dretzke is from Readings Hawthorn

#### NEVER MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S: HERE'S THE PUNK ALPHABET

Paul McNeil & Barry Divola

Love Police. HB. \$27.95



The follow-up to the wildly successful *M is for Metal*, this hilariously absurd, brightly illustrated picture book will tickle

the funny bones of kids and grown-ups alike. *C is for Clash*, with a strummer called Joel! They're playing tonight, should I stay or should I go? Punk for all ages!

### SPECIAL KEV

Chris McKimmie

A&U. HB. \$29.95

Staff review



Special Kev has red hair and freckles, just like a strawberry according to his Aunty Pav. Meet a whole menagerie of

characters: some kind, some mean, including eleven-million cousins (of which Fatty Boombah is his favourite) and Nicky Bathgate, who doesn't play footy and is at the centre of an event which sees our Kev in a spot of time out.

Kevin has a special Mum who plants red roses upon his birth and names a star Special Kevin in his honour. I love the whimsy of Chris McKimmie's books, his busy illustrations and his spontaneity. I highly recommend a trip to planet McKimmie: three stars left of the moon, a planet where they speak childish. You will return with a smile on your face and feel a bit special too.

Polly Latras is from Readings Port Melbourne

### BOW-WOW BUGS A BUG

Mark Newgarden

Walker. HB. \$27.95



As day breaks, Bow-Wow wakes to find a teasing speck of a bug hovering around his bed. With doggy determination, he follows it

out of the house and through the streets of suburbia, where he comes face to face with his own mirror image and many other quirky situations. Bow-Wow's surreal adventures come to an end at sunset, as the bug leads him back to his own front door, his bowl, and then his bed.

### BIG KICKS

Bob Kolar

Candlewick. HB. \$27.95

Staff review



Biggie Bear is a loner, a jazz playing, stamp-collecting, giant loner of a bear. Then one day he gets a knock on the

door to come and play for the local soccer team. Biggie, being a loner (see above), has never played football but he's big and according to his new teammates that's all that counts! He soon finds out that soccer is a little bit more tricky than that, but it's only once the last siren blows that it turns out that stamp collecting might be more

useful than Biggie thought. This is a beautiful, loveable book that champions both outsiders and team players; sometimes I just want to live inside picture books. Who's with me?

*Callie Martin is from Readings St Kilda*

## CLASSIC STORIES

### STORIES FROM THE BILLABONG

**James Vance Marshall & Francis Firebrace**

*Frances Lincoln. HB. \$34.95*  
*Staff review*



James Vance Marshall, best known for the novel *Walkabout*, and subsequent film, has collected together 10 Dreamtime

stories originally told by storytellers from the Yorta Yorta people. It is a wonderful collection, surely designed to be read aloud, and containing those insights from ancient wisdom we expect from all great folklore. The 'Rainbow Serpent' creation story is there, with its reverence for the land and all its creatures, along with (for example) 'How the Kangaroo Got her Pouch', 'Why the Platypus is Such a Special Creature' and 'Why Brolgas Dance'. The illustrations by the aboriginal artist and storyteller Francis Firebrace, and the inclusion of brief explanatory paragraphs about the background of the stories help make them 'available' for a non-Aboriginal audience. Frances Lincoln, the publishers, are a UK publishing house who have a commitment to multicultural publishing. A good book for families to share, both here and overseas.

*Kathy Kozlowski is from Readings Carlton*

## MIDDLE READERS

### PADDINGTON HERE AND NOW

**Michael Bond**

*HarperCollins. HB. \$19.99*

Generations of children have grown up with the adventures of Paddington Bear, the Peruvian refugee who was found by the kindly Brown family at Paddington station (hence the name!). It's now 50 years since the first adventure from the bear who seems prone to getting in and out scrapes, and in honour of the occasion, here is a brand new Paddington novel – centring on

the appearance of Paddington's long-lost uncle from Peru and the need to make a decision about where home really is. As funny and moving as ever.

## THE WISH PONY

**Catherine Bateson**

*Woolshed Press. PB. \$15.95*

*Staff review*



Magda, the mysterious new neighbour, came into Ruby's life at just the right time. Ruby had just lost her best friend and her

parents were preoccupied with her mother's difficult pregnancy. So Ruby found herself feeling prickly and sometimes being rude and impulsive. Then Magda, with her flamboyant clothes and green eyes, gave Ruby her little glass horse, the wish pony, to keep in her room and talk to now and then. It was as though some sort of quiet magic entered their lives. A lovely story about ordinary families, schoolyard friendships, and the possibility of kindly powers alive in our streets. Ages 9 to 12-ish. KK

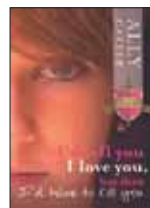
## YOUNG ADULT

### I'D TELL YOU I LOVE YOU BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU: BOOK 1: GALLAGHER GIRLS

**Ally Carter**

*Lothian. PB. \$16.99*

*Staff review*



So the cover of this book is pink, very, very pink and girly ... and did I mention pink? But inside is a un-put-downable story

set in a spy school for gifted girls. And gifted they are, able to kill a man using a piece of raw spaghetti, speak 14 different languages and crack CIA security codes for extra credit; it's being normal teenagers they have problems with. What to wear on a date, what to do when a boy wants to call, where to hide your spy gear when you escape from your Fort Knox-like school campus, just your normal issues! It is an endearing, engaging story that shoots along like any Cherub or Alex Rider book. I read it in two days and seriously did not want to leave the house whilst doing so. So ignore the pink and indulge your inner spy. CM

## ARTEMIS FOWL AND THE TIME PARADOX

**Eoin Colfer**

*Puffin. PB. \$22.95*

*Staff review*

I'm well aware that this series is not to everyone's liking, and I have to admit, I wasn't entirely sold on the last couple of books, even though I'm a die-hard Artemis Fowl fan. However, this new book is a cracking read! We meet our hero facing a terrible dilemma: his mum is really sick with a disease of the Fairy World. With time running out, and joined by the LEP's own Holly Short, Artemis races to save his mother, going back in time to take on his younger, craftier self!

*Julia Jackson is from*

*Readings Carlton*

## ROAR

**Emma Clayton**

*Chicken House. PB. \$19.99*

*Staff review*



It is the future and things are bleak. London has been walled in to keep out vicious, plague-ridden animals on the loose in the world

outside. Twelve-year old twins, Mika and Ellie have been separated by sinister government forces and both have to literally 'play the game' to reunite. This game is called pod fighter – a game being used to train children unwittingly for a terrible destiny. This book has it all. Great characters, in-depth themes and enough action to make your head spin. Most importantly, I could not put it down. Somehow, Clayton makes everything in her book seem terribly believable. Recommended for ages 12 plus.

*Bruno Moro is from*

*Readings Malvern*

## BREAKING DAWN

**Stephanie Meyer**

*Little Brown. PB. \$29.99*



The fourth book in the *New York Times* bestselling vampire romance series that has developed a cult following among teens. Questions

will be answered and the fate of Bella and Edward will be revealed.

*Readings special offer: Buy a copy of Breaking Dawn and get a FREE copy of Ironside: A Modern Faerie Tale (Holly Black, usually \$16.95).*

*While stocks last!*

## THE GENERAL: CHERUB 10

**Robert Muchamore**

*Hodder. PB. \$17.95*

The world's largest urban warfare training compound stands in the desert near Las Vegas. Forty British commandos are being hunted by an entire American battalion.

But their commander has an ace up his sleeve: he plans to smuggle in 10 CHERUB agents and fight the best war game ever.

*Readings special offer: Buy a copy of The General and get a FREE copy of Dark Sun (Robert Muchamore), while stocks last.*

## THE GOLDSMITH'S DAUGHTER

**Tanya Landman**

*Walker. PB. \$16.95*



This mythical adventure novel has just been shortlisted for the Guardian Awards. Landman's previous novel, *Apache*,

was shortlisted for the 2007 Carnegie Medal. In the golden city of Tenochtitlan, Emperor Montezuma rules with an iron rod and people live in fear of the gods. Itacate, a girl born under an ill-fated sky, is destined for a life of submission and domestic drudgery. But when her father, a goldsmith, discovers her talent for his craft, she starts to work as his apprentice, a secret she must keep in order to protect the lives of herself and her family. When Itacate's work comes to the emperor's attention and she falls in love with a stranger, her life takes an even more perilous turn.

## NON-FICTION

### MAKE IT

**Jane Bull**

*DK. HB. \$24.95*

*Staff review*

'Don't throw it away – create something amazing' is the subtitle for this fun, colourful book which has clear and concise directions for creating imaginative projects while subtly educating kids about recycling.

In the four sections of paper, plastic, metal and fabric, you learn how the materials are manufactured and then how to make such wonders as bright bowls from junk mail, stuffed bubble wrap cushions and goofy glove puppets to name just a few of the quirky ideas in the book. Going green has never been so much fun. A must for every home and classroom. 4 up. AD

# Readings Famous Bargain Table

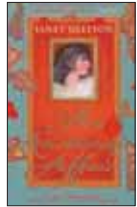
## BARGAINS ON THE WEB

Our new arrivals are regularly added to our website. Just click on the Bargains tab at [www.readings.com.au](http://www.readings.com.au).

## AN ARISTOCRATIC AFFAIR

**Janet Gleeson**

PB. Was \$29.95. Now \$10.95



Harriet Spencer, Countess of Bessborough, was one of the most glamorous women of her age, at a time when the aristocracy were like today's A-list celebrities. She was characterised by both respectability and high scandal.

## STRANGERS

**Taichi Yamada**

PB. Was \$21.95. Now \$10.95



An eerie ghost story written with hypnotic clarity; quickly paced, intelligent and haunting.' – Bret Easton Ellis

## BETJEMAN

**A.N. Wilson**

PB. Was \$27.95. Now \$12.95



'Wilson's forte is the character and he brilliantly conveys Betjeman's odd mixture of introspection and sociability, gaiety and melancholia,

exhibition and self-disgust. Betjeman is a poet who badly needs saving from his soporiferous fans, and this Wilson has done.' – *Daily Telegraph*

## BLACK SWAN GREEN

**David Mitchell**

PB. Was \$32.95. Now \$12.95



Jason is thirteen and stuck in the deadliest village in darkest Cold War England. But with a stammer, bullies and simmering family discord to contend with, plus the Falklands War, and these mysterious objects known as girls, 1982 will prove to be anything but boring.

## THE BOB DYLAN SCRAPBOOK: 1956-1966

**Bob Dylan**

HB. Was \$59.95. Now \$29.95



This scrapbook is crammed with features including rare photographs, facsimiles of hand-written lyrics and rare memorabilia.

## THE COLLECTED LETTERS OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

**Janet Todd**

HB. Was \$75. Now \$19.95



Mary Wollstonecraft was one of the most distinctive letter writers of the eighteenth century: to read her letters today is to trace her

thoughts on paper. In this unique volume of her correspondence, we follow her from the girl of fourteen leaving home to become a lady's companion, to the woman of thirty-eight, facing death in childbirth.

## THE COMPENDIUM OF NOSH

**Jack McLean**

HB. Was \$39.95. Now \$16.95



*The Compendium of Nosh* is all about the weird and wonderful things we put in our mouths. From A through to Z it gives wickedly

funny, informative insights into foods, flavours, produce, etiquettes and observances – from Baked Alaska to Fufu; the hobbies of J.H. Kellogg to the tea and coffee wars.

## THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WOODWORK

**Chris Simpson**

HB. Was \$37.95. Now \$19.95



This work sets out to cover everything from basic techniques through to different cultural influences in woodwork style. It contains 30 projects for all levels of expertise and step-by-step instructions.

## THE HAVANA MOB

**T.J. English**

PB. Was \$35. Now \$13.95



As the Cuban people laboured under a repressive regime, the Mob-financed revelry in Havana never stopped. Behind the scenes, Fidel Castro was building an opposition.

## THE HOUSE OF MEETINGS

**Martin Amis**

PB. Was \$24.95. Now \$12.95



In the slave camps of the USSR, women would travel long distances to spend a night with their particular enemy of the people, with invariably tragic consequences.

## THE IMPERIAL CAPITALS OF CHINA

**Arthur Cotterell**

HB. Was \$65. Now \$19.95



A unique history and exploration of China over two millennia, from the cosmological foundations of the first capital to the politics of empire and cataclysmic civil wars.

## NOT EVEN WRONG

**Peter Woit**

PB. Was \$27.95. Now \$12.95



A fascinating story about our attempts to come to grips with how the world works at the most fundamental level – and the role of mathematics.

## DEAREST MUNX

**Margaret Harris (ed.)**

HB. Was \$49.95. Now \$15.95



This collection of letters between Christina Stead and her life partner William Blake 'offers an intriguing window into a passionate literary marriage' (*Australian Book Review*).

## THE NUREMBERG INTERVIEWS

**Leon Goldensohn**

HB. Was \$65. Now \$19.95

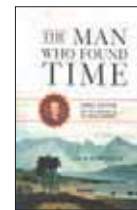


*The Nuremberg Interviews* reveals the chilling innermost thoughts of the former Nazi officials under indictment at the famous postwar trial.

## THE MAN WHO FOUND TIME

**Jack Repcheck**

HB. Was \$34.95. Now \$14.95



The story of the gentleman farmer from Edinburgh who discovered that the earth was millions of years old, not six thousand, paving the way for Darwin's theory of evolution. This is also the story of Scotland and the Scottish Enlightenment.

## THE ROOT OF WILD MADDER

**Brian Murphy**

HB. Was \$29.95. Now \$16.95

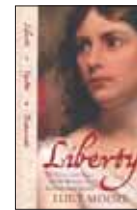


Part travelogue and part exploration into the meaning and worth of these mystical artefacts, *The Root of Wild Madder* presents practical information about Persian carpets while exploring the artistic, religious, and cultural complexities of these enigmatic lands.

## LIBERTY: THE LIVES AND TIMES OF SIX WOMEN IN REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE

**Lucy Moore**

HB. Was \$68. Now \$16.95



'A fascinating spectrum of female experience inside the Revolution and among the ruins it left behind ... In mapping these six varied and overlapping lives, Moore vividly reminds us of the immense struggle there has been to establish political rights for women.' – *Daily Telegraph*

# New Release DVDs



## DVD OF THE MONTH INLAND EMPIRE

\$34.95. Director: David Lynch



Cult director David Lynch's latest masterpiece is a dark and thrilling mystery about a doomed film project. Nikki, a dedicated actress,

signs onto a new movie, only to discover that the film she is working on is a remake of a cursed film based on a Polish folktale, where the previous two leads were murdered. Nikki's personality becomes fragmented as she delves deep into the character – or is that the same curse stalking the set again?

## THERE WILL BE BLOOD

\$39.95. Director: Paul Thomas Anderson. Released 13 August



This brilliant epic is almost operatic in its dramatic tone, making it easy to see why it was nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards

this year. Daniel Plainview gets a mysterious tip-off that there is oil flowing in Little Boston. He heads west with his son H.W. to take their chances at striking it rich. Plainview and H.W. do make their lucky strike but as their fortunes rise, nothing will remain the same, as conflicts escalate and human values are corrupted.

## BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOUR DEAD

\$39.95. Director: Sydney Lumet. Released 14 August



Two brothers, Andy and Hank, who are both in need of some fast cash, hatch a plan to rob their parents' modest jewellery store. Andy's

trophy wife Gina is secretly sleeping with Hank, and when the robbery proves a complete disaster, it isn't long before loyalties start to shift. Now Andy and Hank's father is determined to make the unidentified robbers pay for their crime. What's a father to do when he discovers that the ones he loves most have become his worst enemies?

## INFLUENTIAL DIRECTOR: MICHEL GONDRY

French director Michel Gondry's (1968–present) innovative ideas have translated into some of the most visually stunning music videos and unique feature films of the modern day. His wild imagination, hand-made, childlike imagery and in particular, his technique of placing numerous cameras around a subject and combining the images to form an astonishing sweeping effect are stylistic traits that appear in all of his work. His films *Human Nature*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Science of Sleep* and *The Work of Director Michel Gondry* are also available at Readings.

## BE KIND REWIND

\$39.95. Director: Michel Gondry



An ingenious and hilarious comedy brandishing all the quirky Gondry flourishes. When Jerry, a junkyard worker, attempts to sabotage a

power plant, he becomes magnetised, and accidentally erases the entire collection of videotapes at his best friend Mike's video store. The dynamic duo begin to remake the collection of movies themselves.

## SAVAGE GRACE

\$19.95. Director: Tom Kalin



A Readings exclusive for the month of August, *Savage Grace* recounts the true crime tale and murder of Barbara Baekeland. The

Baekelands' child, Antony, grows up homosexual. When Barbara takes a personal interest in 'curing' her son of his orientation, their explicit relationship leads to her murder.

## THE ITALIAN

\$29.95. Director: Andrei Kravchuk. Released 20 August



This moving drama follows Vanya, an abandoned Russian boy who forsakes a life of luxury in the name of finding his true mother.

## BARGAIN OF THE MONTH: FILM CLASSIC

### PAT GARRETT AND BILLY THE KID

\$19.95. Director: Sam Peckinpah. Released 13 August



A former friend betrays a legendary outlaw in Sam Peckinpah's final Western. Holed up in Fort Sumner with his gang between cattle rustlings, Billy the Kid ignores the advice of comrade-turned-lawman Pat Garrett to escape to Mexico, and he winds up in jail in Lincoln, New Mexico. After Billy escapes, the governor requisitions Garrett to form a posse and hunt him down.

## JUNO

\$39.95. Director: Jason Reitman



When teenager Juno is faced with an unexpected pregnancy, she tries to find the baby a suitable home. Mark and Vanessa, an affluent

suburban couple, seem like they would make great parents, and are eager to adopt Juno's unborn child. Now, as Juno is faced with a series of very adult decisions, she will draw on the support of her family and friends in order to discover who she truly is, and discover that one bad choice can have a lifetime of consequences.

## TV TITLES

### FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS: SERIES 1

\$39.95



This hilarious New Zealand comedy has taken the world by storm. It follows a folk duo, 'Flight of the Conchords', who move to New York to seek fame and fortune by breaking into the American music scene. The show portrays a fictionalised version of the real-life duo, Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie, who play themselves.

## MIGHTY BOOSH: SERIES 3

\$29.95. Released 7 August



The highly anticipated release of *Mighty Boosh Series 3* will not disappoint fans. Vince Noir and Howard Moon start working in Naboo's second-hand store of magical trinkets named Nabootique, the setting for their hilarious antics. Past favourite characters return to join in on the wild shenanigans. The fabulous comic genius of Julian Barrett and Noel Fielding resounds in this smash-hit cult comedy.

## SKINS: SERIES 2

\$34.95 Released 20 Aug



*Skins* is an offbeat comedy about a crew of wild 17-year-olds living in Bristol. Following on from the end of the first series, where gang leader Tony is run over by a bus, the group of friends try to cope after heartbreak and loss. Tony's best mate Syd and girlfriend Michelle get together, shocking everyone. Each episode is told from one of the eight main characters' points of view, together forming the overall story where getting high, getting drunk and getting laid is what it's all about.

## DEXTER: SEASON 2

\$49.95 Released 21 Aug



*Dexter* is a brilliant and dark drama series, based on the novel *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay. Set and produced in Miami, Dexter Morgan is a serial killer who works for the Miami Metro Police Department as a blood spatter analyst. In series two, things are heating up for Dexter as Sergeant Doakes' suspicions about him are growing, his victims are escaping and to further complicate matters, treasure hunters discover Dexter's underwater dumping ground for his victims.

DOCUMENTARY AND DRAMA



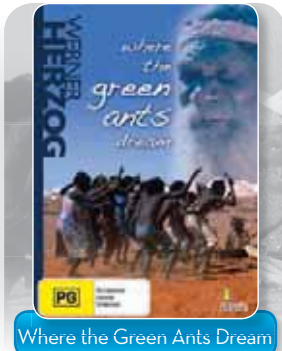
Darling

The award winning documentary



Night & Fog

Alain Resnais documents the Nazi concentration camps.



Where the Green Ants Dream

A film by Werner Herzog



My American Uncle

From landmark French director Alain Resnais

IN STORE NOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [UMBRELLADVD.COM.AU](http://UMBRELLADVD.COM.AU)



THE WIRE: SEASONS 3 & 4

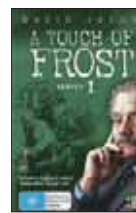
\$59.95 for each series. Released 13 August



A slow-burn masterpiece garlanded with critical acclaim. This is television as chapters in a grand urban novel with Baltimore as a bureaucratic battlefield between the law and project kids surviving by dealing drugs. With cutting-edge writers of the calibre of Richard Price, George Pelecanos and Denis Lehane, a consistent quality is maintained – rare in television of this or any other era.

A TOUCH OF FROST: SERIES 1

\$39.95



Detective Inspector Jack Frost is an unconventional policeman whose arrogance and indifference to orthodox police procedures masks a keen sense of observation and dedication to solving crime. The series is based on the books by R.D. Wingfield.

NERO WOLFE: COLLECTION 1

\$24.95. Released 13 Aug



Nero Wolfe is a detective show based on the mystery books and novellas by Rex Stout. Set in New York in the 50s, the brilliant but lazy private investigator Wolfe solves all the cases at hand, but he uses his assistant to find the clues and do all the 'dirty' work for him.

FOR THE KIDS THE MYSTERIOUS CITIES OF GOLD

\$89.95



This series release features all 39 episodes digitally re-mastered. This French/Japanese collaboration in which Esteban, a young orphan, searches the New World for both his father and the Mysterious Cities of Gold, aired through the late 80s and early 90s.

SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES

\$39.95. Director: Mark Waters



When the Grace children move to the ancient Spiderwick mansion, they are not too impressed, until they discover an enchanted creature, living in the walls. A book, 'Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the World Around You', opens their eyes to the invisible, odd and strange creatures surrounding them.

LONELY PLANET: 6 DEGREES, SEASONS 1 & 2

\$39.95 each series



Lonely Planet has put together a street-smart series with an emphasis on the human dimension of travel. The series moves beyond obvious sightseeing and fast tracks straight to the heart of the city and what makes it so special: the people. Season 1 features: New York, Paris, Havana, KL, Buenos Aires, Singapore, Sydney and Mumbai. Season 2 features: San Francisco, Auckland, Berlin, Cape Town, Mexico City, London, Hong Kong and our Melbourne.

GOLD CINEMA COLLECTION: 1- 6

\$14.95 each collection.



The Gold Cinema Collection celebrates the classic age of film by revisiting acclaimed films that were responsible for launching many of our finest veteran actors and industry crew. The six collections contain three classic films dating back to 1941-1963. Collection 1: *This Sporting Life* (1963), *Odd Man Out* (1946), *Victim* (1961). Collection 2: *Whistle Down The Wind* (1961), *Tiger Bay* (1959), *Hunted* (1952). Collection 3: *This Happy Breed* (1944), *Brief Encounter* (1945), *Oliver Twist* (1948). Collection 4: *Carve Her Name With Pride* (1958), *Cottage To Let* (1941), *Sea of Sand* (1958). Collection 5: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1952), *Black Narcissus* (1947), *The Red Shoes* (1948). Collection 6: *The League of Gentlemen* (1960), *The Million Pound Note* (1954), *Genevieve* (1953).

NEW FROM HOPSCOTCH



MOVING WALLPAPER/ECHO BEACH BOX-SET

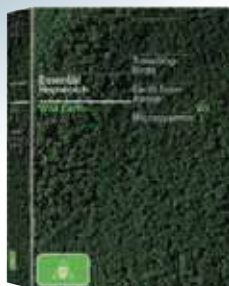
24 episodes of the ABC's star-studded and hilarious double-bill from the creators of *Spooks & Life On Mars*. \$49.95



BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

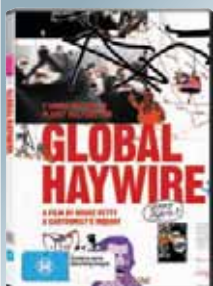
Directed by Sidney Lumet and featuring outstanding performances by Ethan Hawke, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Marisa Tomei. \$39.95

ESSENTIAL HOPSCOTCH WILD EARTH VOLUME 1



Limited edition box-set featuring *Travelling Birds*, *Earth From Above* and *Microcosmos*. \$49.95

GLOBAL HAYWIRE



Academy Award®-winning filmmaker and cartoonist Bruce Petty's look at why we have reached the present crisis point between East and West. \$29.95



# New Release CDs

## CD of the Month

### FLEET FOXES

#### Fleet Foxes

\$24.95



O bearded ones! Lead the people to your land of indie-folk melody! This young hirsute

five-piece from Seattle calls it 'baroque harmonic pop jams', but I think it's easier just to say Bloody Good Record. Fleet Foxes have a unique sound, vaguely in the same league as Midlake or My Morning Jacket; but it is really the harmonies that drive the songs – echoes of the Beach Boys, or even Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. This is definitely folk for a new generation and a tremendously accomplished collection of truly beautiful songs.

*Morgana Keating is from Readings Hawthorn*

### PRIMARY COLOURS

#### Eddy Current Suppression Ring

\$25.95



As soon as you hear the first track, *Memory Lane*, you can understand why these blokes

having been selling out venues across the country. Although the album does not 100% translate their full throttle performance energy, it does give you an indication of the strength of the songs that underpin the explosiveness of an Eddy Current Suppression Ring live show. Grab the album – then grab one of the hottest live tickets in town.

*James Power is from Readings St Kilda.*

### LISTEN TO LITTLE RED

#### Little Red

\$21.95



About a year ago I began to notice the consistency with which I was being asked

a certain question: *Have you seen Little Red?* I eventually did, several times, and they rocked. So, having forged for themselves a formidable reputation as a live act, Little Red have finally delivered what must

surely be one of the most keenly anticipated local debuts in some time. And what a little red belter it is! Not ones to hide their influences, the band's sound is drowned in joyous sixties beat pop, jangly guitars and a good measure of doo-woppy harmonies, all of which makes for a record so infectious it's almost criminal. From the irresistible hip shakin' opener *Coca Cola* and the sleek groove of *Witchdoctor*, it's clear that these boys are here to have a blast. It ain't reinventing the wheel, it's just a great pop record. Get out and see them.

*Declan Murphy is from Readings St Kilda*

### COMME SI DE RIEN N' ETAIT (AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED)

#### Carla Bruni

\$29.95

A slightly ironic album title, no? Now Mrs Sarkozy, the French President's wife's name is splashed all over the papers as her new album becomes global news. Which other president has his wife singing songs of love and lust about him (on record, not

at home)? I loved her first album *Quelqu' Un Ma Dit*, but was less enamoured with its English language follow-up, *No Promises*.

Happily this is far more like the debut: 13 beautiful contemporary French classics and one English cover of the Bob Dylan song, *You Belong To Me*.

*Dave Clarke is from Readings Carlton*

### DONKEY

#### CSS

\$26.95



Cansei de Ser Sexy (Tired of Being Sexy) hail from Sao Paulo, Brazil and burst onto the scene a

couple of years back with a self-titled record which made them the darlings of dance/rock enthusiasts everywhere. And with good reason. Their follow up effort *Donkey* proves it was no fluke, as they deliver another set overflowing with the same sexed-up disco energy that made its predecessor such a treat. Opening track *Jager Yoga* sets the pace perfectly, with pounding drums and a bassline which is sure to fill dance floors all over town with slim-hipped indie

hipsters. There is a wonderful sense of playfulness and humour throughout the record and with a name like theirs and a singer by the name of Lovefoxxx, well it's just hard not to love these guys. Oh yeah, and they've made one of the party albums of the year. DM

### FIGHT OR FLIGHT

#### 16 Millimeter

\$24.95



'Split me open and see my soul,' sings Tom Hoskins on *New Face*, the opening cut on

16 Millimeter's debut album. It's the perfect introduction to an extraordinary album. These dark urban tales will haunt you. Tom's voice is breathtaking – Bowie meets Jeff Buckley, capable of being both fragile and fierce. The standout track is the should-be-an-Aussie-classic *Saturday Night*, a tale of 'tearing through the maelstrom', depicting the nervous energy of a night on the town, capturing the anticipation, excitement, desperation and frustration: 'I just need some flesh,' Tom sings, 'to feel myself, to feel all right.' 16 Millimeter have made a masterpiece. Australian beauty. *Jeff Jenkins is a Melbourne music journalist*

### TAKES

#### Adem

\$29.95



British singer/songwriter Adem was asked by punters so often at gigs for copies of his

covers that he decided to record an album of them for this, his third outing, *Takes*. The brief: to cover only songs recorded between 1991-2001. Loving treatment has been heaped upon songs by Bjork, Smashing Pumpkins, Breeders and an amazing mash of Aphex Twins' songs, blending to become a mantra of joy. Part of the charm of this album is that, layered with the grand piano and violin, glockenspiel and appalachian dulcimer, found objects such as cups and bike locks fill in the percussion. Brilliant.

*Jason Austin is from Readings Carlton*

### REAL ANIMAL

#### Alejandro Escovedo

\$24.95



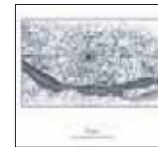
For his ninth studio release, Escovedo gives us an album full of life and hope for the future.

Slashing guitar work, a killer opening track and great songs are his new signature. After a life-threatening experience and an album that tested his mortality, he has definitely moved the bar. You can clearly hear his San Francisco punk and pop influences on Sister Lost Soul. Just think Springsteen, John Hiatt and Barroom brawler. Alejandro Escovedo, say hello to life again. LF

### AN INTIMATE UNIVERSE

#### Wellyn

\$19.95



*An Intimate Universe* gives the impression of being anything but a first album.

Moody and brooding, melancholic and soaring, both vocally and musically, similarities with 78 Saab come to mind. Let's not compare. The making of a good album is its songs. This set of songs delivers. I am struck by the melody and structure of the songs. At six years in the making this album was obviously a labour of love for Ned Jones. Wellyn reach for the stars – and for me, they shine pretty bright.

*Lou Fulco is from Port Melbourne*

### MELODIA

#### The Vines

\$29.95



After an interesting couple of years involving physical altercations

with the press, personal weight blowouts and an alleged breakdown, Craig Nicholls and his blokes are back, fit and in-form, with an album that not only has the snarl, but also the substance that made their debut album such a cracker. First single *He's A Rocker* is a great sign that The Vines have recaptured a bit of that gritty yet stylish explosiveness that cata-

pulted these Sydney boys onto the cover of music mags all around the world. A welcome return for fans of The Vines' attractively volatile earlier work. JP

## I FLATHEAD Ry Cooder

\$29.95. Deluxe version \$34.95



The last of his California trilogy (*Chavez Ravine* and *My Name is Buddy* came prior) Ry

Cooder continues his theme of exploring the history of the big American state from around mid-last century. Cooder has such a rich history of music storytelling, it is hard to know where fact and fiction are in his world. On *I Flathead*, he assumes the role of the fictitious Kash Buk, a beatnik, country music nut and salt flat racer. The music itself is mostly country rockably with a touch of blues, exotica and Latin influences. A very enjoyable ride. The deluxe version from America includes a 100-page novella telling the story and is packaged very smartly like a hardcover book (\$34.95). DC

## MEO SUO I EYRUM VIO SPILUM END (WITH A BUZZ IN OUR EARS WE PLAY ENDLESSLY)

### Sigur Ros

Normally \$29.95. Our special price for August \$21.95.



When I saw the cover of Sigur Ros's new album, my first thought was

'I hope it's summer'. Featuring various members of the band running stark naked across an Icelandic highway, the cover is a drastic and colourful departure from the band's previously sombre and minimalist artwork. This departure, however, is not just evident in the cover. For a band famous for recording in an empty swimming pool, it seems that this past summer, Sigur Ros filled up the pool, fired up the barbeque and invited their friends around. The record is a joyous and exuberant affair, tapping into similar sonic and emotional territory as The Arcade Fire and their country-woman, Bjork. It's a similar

transformation to the one Radiohead took with their recent release. The beauty and majesty are still present, but the mood has lifted from one of sombre reverence to an open encouragement of wild and happy participation. The record does still have its quieter moments, but it is obvious that Sigur Ros have turned a creative and perhaps psychological corner, and it's a corner I am very happy to follow them around.

Tom Hoskins is from Readings Carlton

## MODERN GUILT Beck

\$29.95



With the exception of last year's Grammy-nominated, digital-only single *Time-*

*bomb*, *Modern Guilt* is the first new material Beck has written since the prolific stretch that produced 2005's platinum *Guero* and 2006's acclaimed *The Information*. *Modern Guilt* is a tightly assembled group of songs that range in lyrical tone from introspection and social commentary to off-the cuff wordplay and light-hearted humour. Musically, the album's ten tracks vacillate between economy and experimentation, hybrid and pop classicism, while consistently manifesting Beck and Danger Mouse's shared interest in psych-rock, folk, electronic minimalism and orchestration. Not Beck's best work, but still reliably good. Sid Grane is from Readings Hawthorn

## A LOUD CALL Holly Throsby

\$24.95



A beautiful third album from this Australian singer-songwriter. Recorded in

Nashville with Lambchop associate Mark Nevers, it really is a great step forward from her two previous, slightly more straightforward, albums. With some help from a few bigger name musicians, the sound is fuller and the mood more upbeat – particularly on the standout song here, *A Heart Divided*. She could well be ready to take the next step, à la Sarah Blasko. DC

## Country

### STILL CROOKED Crooked Still

\$25.95



At first, you are in admiration of the wonderful musicianship on offer here.

Musicians of distinguished backgrounds form Crooked Still and the subtlety of their playing shines through. Blending bluegrass with an Irish traditional tweak, mixed with a touch of Alison Krauss, the band sings songs of longing and of long journeys and faraway lands. Singer Aoife O'Donovan sings in hushed tones and therefore delivers ballads to die for. Listen to this album in silence and soak it up. A wonderful release!! LF

## Blues

### TWO MEN WITH THE BLUES Wynton Marsalis & Willie Nelson

\$29.95

Willie Nelson has dueted with many people, but never before has he been so oddly coupled in recording. Recorded live over two nights at The Lincoln Center in New York last year, this is one of the more difficult to categorise albums of the past 10 years: is it jazz, blues, country, pop? This unusual pairing have clearly enjoyed themselves in making this and that joy comes across in the recording. It's mostly old classics here, including *Bright Lights Big City*, *Stardust*, *Georgia on my Mind* and *Ain't Nobody's Business*. SG

## Folk & World

### ANA HINA Natacha Atlas Mazeeka Ensemble

\$32.95



Diverse, introspective, acoustic: these are the words that come to mind when

describing the latest release from Anglo-Lebanese pop princess Natacha Atlas. *Ana Hina* is a beautiful, quiet mixture of songs gleaned from many sources, including 1950s Egyptian movies, a poem penned by Frida Kahlo set to

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music (a duet and in my opinion the highlight) and even a track written by Atlas herself. Backed by the Maze eka Ensemble, this offering showcases her lovely lilting voice with light arrangements that never overbear, harkening back to an golden age of Middle Eastern songbirds. I'll add surprising and satisfying to my earlier descriptions and say enjoy!!

Kevin Clark is from Readings Carlton

## INTRODUCING HANGGAI

\$24.95

With Olympic fever about to descend upon us, this may be the time to feature some sounds from China. This group are part of the current revival of Mongolian folk music and this album is filled with eerie throat singing and guttural voices and mysterious and beautiful instrumental sounds unlike anything I've heard in a long time. PB

## GAMBLER'S BALLET AND BACK CATALOGUE Kila

\$29.95



Long one of my favourite world music bands, Dublin seven-piece Kila have now had

their whole, and very impressive, catalogue released locally. *Gambler's Ballet* is their latest release and may be their best yet, featuring the dynamic instrumental interplay of Irish pipes flutes, fiddles, fretted instruments percussion, dulcimer, electronic textures and the odd vocal track in English and Gaelic. This group are talented composers and don't strictly play traditional Irish music, but are informed by it, as well as by a myriad of other influences, including classical and Eastern sounds, klezmer and African rhythms, all blended beautifully. Paul Barr is from Readings Carlton

## DREAMS OF BREATHING UNDERWATER

Eliza Carthy

\$29.95



Eliza Carthy, daughter of British traditional luminaries

Martin Carthy and Norma Waterson, is one of a bunch of younger musicians breathing new life into folk music. Carthy, a some-time member of

Waterson Carthy, has produced a series of innovative folk albums so far, and has taken a great leap forward with this one. From the opening, distorted guitar-riffing, you know you are in for something different. Carthy has developed into a really good singer and comparisons to Norma Waterson are inevitable. There's everything here, from mariachi brass to cellos, melodian and violin, as well as bass and drums. The theatrical spoken-word epic *Mr Magnifico* is the highlight here and features the aforementioned mariachi brass section. Carthy co-writes most of the tunes here with multi-instrumentalist Ben Witsky, except for a new Rory MacLeod composition *Hug You Like a Mountain*. This is a real genre-breaking album that's impossible to classify – and certainly one of the most interesting projects to emerge from The Topic label. PB

## HIGHLIFE TIME

\$44.95

## SIR VICTOR UWAIFO GUITAR BOY SUPERSTAR 1970 -76

\$29.95

Two more excellent compilations of long-lost Nigerian classics from the 70s. Not a month goes by now without at least one or two of these fantastically produced reissues emerging. PB

## Sub Pop Specials



Were \$26.95. Now \$16.95 each

The seminal Seattle label Sub Pop is turning 20 and they want you to join in the celebrations ... for a limited time, we have some of their classic albums (yes we still call CDs albums) available at the crazy price of \$16.95 each – that is, \$10 off.

## THE SHINS

The beautiful guitar pop group have released three albums. All are worth checking out: *Oh Inverted World*, *Shutes to Narrow* and their most recent *Wincing the Night Away*.

## IRON AND WINE

The masters of quiet country-folk-pop have also released three masterful albums: *Creek Drank the Cradle*, *Our Endless Numbered Days* and *Shepherd's Dog*

## BAND OF HORSES

Have come a long way in a short time. Recent visitors to Australia, their two albums are both great: *Everything All the Time* and *Cease to Begin*.

## CSS

The best thing to come out of Brazil since Harry O'Brien ended up at Collingwood. The crazy kids who are CSS have also just been here and they have a brand new album (see the review in earlier pages here – *Donkey*). Now is the perfect time to check out their debut album *Cansei Der Ser Sexy*.

## The Triffids Re-issue CDs

## BEAUTIFUL WASTE AND OTHER SONGS • BLACK SWAN • BORN SANDY DEVOTIONAL • CALENTURE • IN THE PINES • TREELESS PLAIN



Thank God for the Aria Hall of Fame! At last, claims that The Triffids are as important as Rolf Harris have official acknowledgement. And with this acknowledgement, the concluding instalments of Liberation's lavish Triffids reissues can finally be released here (they've been available in the UK for ages – imagine that, Australia the last to know).

The appearance of *Beautiful Waste*, a collection of EPs and B-sides and *The Black Swan* mean that – aside from some charming pre-Hot label singles, a couple of tracks on compilations, a few fascinating self-released early cassettes, a live album and several UK B-sides – anyone who needs to check that The Triffids really deserve to be in that illustrious hall with Dragon and Max Merritt has the band's entire output on six collections to help them make up their mind, from the band-out-of-time arcania of *Treeless Plain* to the running-out-of-time dervish desperation of *The Black Swan*. Out-takes, piss-takes, cover versions, cover-ups, B-sides, the point sides, and pages and pages and pages of scribbled clues and red herrings, this is a trove to be treasured. Without this we'd never have known that *Calenture* was once to have been called 'Holy Water Sports'. Thanks Liberation! And thanks Arias! ML

## Proper Box Sets



Were \$49.95. Now \$34.95 each

Proper Records UK produces a legendary series of amazing value 4CD sets from the greatest artists of the 20th century. And at Readings we are happy to present a selection of their best selling box sets at the crazy price of \$34.95 each. These normally retail for \$49.95. That's 30% off! But these are only available at this price whilst stock lasts.

*Swing De Paris/Django Reinhardt*  
*Bluegrass Bonanza/Various*  
*Dawn of Doo Wop/Various*  
*Good News 100 Gospel Greats/Various*  
*Broke Black & Blue Anthology of Blues Music/Various*  
*Lady Sings/Billie Holiday*  
*It's Easy to Remember/Bing Crosby*  
*Original Soul Sister/Sister Rosetta Tharpe Farewell to Ireland/Various*  
*Time Was/Dave Brubeck*  
*Early Years/Chet Baker*  
*Monks Mood/Thelonious Monk*  
*King of Chicago Blues/Muddy Waters*  
*Queen Sings/Dinah Washington*  
*King Louis/Louis Armstrong*  
*Piano Power/Oscar Peterson*  
*Boogie Man/John Lee Hooker*  
*Come To Jesus/Mahalia Jackson*  
*Some Folk/Woody Guthrie*  
*Doctor Jazz/Jelly Roll Morton*  
*Dearly Beloved/Ella Fitzgerald*  
*Handful of Keys/Fats Waller*  
*Texas Thunderbolt/Lightnin Hopkins*  
*Classic Rockabilly/Various*  
*Country Folk/Carter Family*  
*Sax Symbol/Sonny Rollins*  
*Golden Years/Glenn Miller*  
*Gypsy Jazz/Various*  
*Way I Feel/Ray Charles*  
*Tupelo Mississippi/Elvis Presley*  
*Flash Early Trane/John Coltrane*  
*With My Little Ukelele In My Hand/Various*  
*Miss Wonderful/Peggy Lee*  
*Cool Cole King Cole Trio Story/Nat King Cole*  
*Getting Funky Birth of New Orleans R&B/Various*  
*King of New Orleans Rock N Roll/Fats Domino Jazz & Velvet/Mel Torme*  
*Young Tony/Tony Bennett*  
*Love & Passion/Edith Piaf*  
*All or Nothing At All/Frank Sinatra / Chattanooga Girl/Bessie Smith*  
*Original Guitar Genius/Charlie Christian*  
*Rockin Memphis (Brand New!)/Various*

# Classical CDs



## Special of the Month

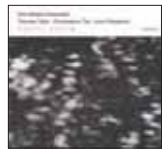
### AUDIVI VOCEM

#### The Hilliard Ensemble

Cat. No. ECM1936

Normally \$32.95

Special price for August \$24.95



For more than 30 years, the Hilliard Ensemble has been Britain's pre-eminent

vocal group. With a repertoire ranging from Perotin to Erriki-Sven Tüür, from Guillaume de Machaut to German composer Heiner Goebbels, this outstanding group has been the benchmark in their field. On this new recording, they move effortlessly through these wonderful works of sixteenth-century Latin church music from Thomas Tallis, Christopher Tye and John Sheppard. Recorded in the splendid acoustics of Sankt Gerold, the beauty of this recording is unmistakable. Every track on this CD is beautifully sung and if I had to nominate my favourites I would say the pieces from the *Missa Sine Nominee* from Christopher Tye are the standouts. But in a disc of this quality, you can't really say that one is better than the other. All in all, one of the outstanding classical releases of the year. This special price is for August only – limited stock available. *Phil Richards is from Readings Carlton.*

### SCHUBERT PIANO SONATAS

#### Tessa Birnie

ABC 476 6479



'Australian Master' is a new ABC series which will feature prominent Australian artists. The first set in this new series is pianist Tessa Birnie. Though New Zealand born, Birnie settled in Sydney and formed the much admired Sydney Camerata Chamber Orchestra. Central to her repertoire were the piano works of Schubert and much of this three disc set shows what a fine exponent she was of his great sonatas, and the charming moment musicaux. The final disc of

the set is a collection of smaller works by Chopin, John Field, Fauré and Schumann's *Kinder-scenen* which Birnie plays with great musical insight without losing sight of charm and simplicity of these pieces. This set is highly recommended. Apparently the next set in this new series is to be the opening concerto from the Sydney Opera House in 1973 with Sir Charles Mackerras, the SSO and Birgit Nilsson.

*Maurice Smith buys classical music for the City of Boroonara Library Service*

## Classical Specials

### TAKEMITSU: PLAYED BY JOHN WILLIAMS

#### Esa-Pekka Salonen, London Sinfonietta

Cat. No. SK46720. Was \$29.95.

Now \$14.95

### JOHN WILLIAMS: THE ULTIMATE GUITAR COLLECTION.

Cat. No. 5154002000.

Was \$29.95. Now \$19.95 (2 CDs)

This month we feature two recordings by the great Australian classical guitarist John Williams. The first recording is the music of Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu. This CD is a mixture of guitar and orchestra, guitar and alto flute and solo guitar. From the opening piece *To the Edge of Dream* for guitar and orchestra, to the closing *Vers, l'arc-en-ciel, Palma* for the Oboe d'amore, guitar and orchestra, we are treated to a series of pieces that demonstrate what a wonderful composer Takemitsu is – and in combination with the genius of John Williams, it makes for a fantastic listening experience.

The second recording is a 2 CD set that features a host of well known pieces such as *Cavatina, Asturias* and *Concierto de Aranjuez*, to name but a few – and also gems such as Scott Joplin's *The Entertainer, Gnossienne no. 1* by Erik Satie and Enoch Sontonga's *Nikosi Sikel'v Afrika*. These recordings, 41 tracks over 2 CDs, recorded all over the world, really do give an excellent musical picture of the career of John Williams. As with any John Williams CD, the playing is masterful. So if you are looking for a place to start your classical guitar collection then these two CDs are a good place to start. N.B. Both of these titles are in limited quantities

## Alia Vox Sale

Readings is also offering 12 best-seller titles from the Alia Vox range at the reduced price of \$19.95.

These titles normally retail at \$29.95 and are great value at this price. Titles include: *Elizabethan Consort Music* (AV9804); *La Folia 1490-1701* (AV9805); *El Cant de la Sibilla* (AV9806); *Missa Bruxel-lensis* (AV9808); *Bach: Sonaten für Viola da gamba* (AV9812); *Ostinato* (AV9820); *Tous les matins du monde soundtrack* (AV9821); *Ninna Nanna: Lullabies* (AV9826); *Marais: Pièces de Virole* (AV9828); *Vivaldi: La Viola da gamba in Concerto* (AV9835); *Boccherini: Fandango & Sinfonie* (AV9845); *Orient Occident* (AV9848).

### HANDEL: WATER MUSIC, MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS. Jordi Savall.

Alia Vox. SACD hybrid

AVSA9860. \$19.95.

One of the stand-out recordings from Jordi Savall's Astree/Auvidis period and part of Alia Vox's new and ongoing project to re-release and re-master the complete back catalogue. Never before has Handel's *Water Music* sounded so joyously rustic. Re-mastered in February 2008 and available as an SACD hybrid (playable on all CD players) at the temporarily reduced price of \$19.95. CK

### INVOCATION A LA NUIT Jordi Savall

Alia Vox AV9871. 2 CD set. \$19.95



This generously filled 2CD set has been released to mark the tenth anniversary of Jordi

Savall's wonderful Alia Vox label. The title, *Invocation A la Nuit*, is a tribute to the special qualities of silence that night creates. Most of the Alia Vox albums were recorded between the hours of 1am and 4am, endeavouring to distill some of this atmosphere during recording sessions. The first disc is totally comprised of vocal music, the second is instrumental. The result is a rich and varied musical journey ranging from the middle ages to the present day. The tracks are not only taken from the past 10 years of Alia Vox's recording history, but also feature some unreleased recordings and future albums, plus some examples of the Astree catalogue (1975 to 1996). Issued in a

deluxe digipack including a 133 page booklet in English, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Catalan which includes the complete current Alia Vox catalogue. This is the perfect warm-up album to the Savall family and Hesperion XXI's much anticipated tour of Australia later this year for Musica Viva.

*Catherine Koerner is from Readings Hawthorn*

### PURCELL: FANTASIAS FOR THE VIOLS (1680)

#### Hesperion XX, Jordi Savall

Alia Vox. SACD hybrid

AVSA9859 \$19.95.

Another stand-out recording from Jordi Savall's Astree/Auvidis period, the Purcell *Fantasias* were originally released in 1994. These performances capture some of the special night ambience Savall strives for, with a Zen-like quality that would be perfectly suitable for meditation. Re-mastered in February this year and available as a SACD hybrid (playable on all CD players) at the temporarily reduced price of \$19.95. CK

## NAXOS NEW RELEASES FOR AUGUST

*Bach, J.C.: Keyboard Concertos,*

*Op. 13, Nos. 2, 4 / Bach, J.C.F.: Keyboard Concertos, B. C29, C30*

*The Music Collection, Cat. No.*

*8570474 \$9.95; Bottesini Col-*

*lection: Vol. 2, Duo concertant on*

*themes from Bellini's I Puritani,*

*Double Bass Concertino in C minor,*

*Thomas Martin, Matthew Gibson*

*Cat. No. 8570398 \$9.95.*

*Breton, T: Piano Trio in E-major /*

*4 Spanish Pieces LOM Piano Trio.*

*Cat. No. 8570713 \$9.95*

*Busoni, F.: Piano Music, Vol. 4 Wolf*

*Harden. Cat. No. 8570543 \$9.95.*

*Guitar Recital: Works by Sor,*

*Ibert, Villalobos, Tarrega etc.*

*Rafael Aguirre. Cat. No. 8572064*

*\$9.95. Guitar Recital: Works by*

*Mau, Rodrigo, Tansman, Ponce.*

*Marcin Dyalla. Cat. No. 8572060*

*\$9.95 Ives, C.: Songs, Vol. 3*

*Various performers.*

*Cat. No. 8559271 \$9.95*

*Karłowicz, M.: Symphonic Poems,*

*Antoni Wit. Cat. No. 8570452*

*\$9.95 Pilati, M.: Concerto for*

*Orchestra, Suite for Strings and*

*Piano. Tomas Nemeč, Adriano. Cat.*

*No. 8570873 \$9.95 Scarlatti, D.: Keyboard Sonatas Vol. 10. Colleen*

*Lee. Cat. No. 8570511 \$9.95.*

*Also available: 2008 Naxos*

*catalogue, with sampler CD.*

*(Cat. No. 8572058, \$4.95).*

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Christopher Paolini

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