

Full List of Titles Available

The secret son by Jenny Ackland

An Australian historian determined to find the truth, a stolen inheritance, a wishing tree, a long-lost grandmother, and an unlikely sweetheart come together in a dazzlingly original, audacious and exhilarating novel about love, honour and belonging, and what it means to be a good person

Household guide to dying by Debra Adelaide

Author and domestic advice columnist, Delia Bennet is diagnosed with cancer. Researching and writing her final household guide, Delia is forced to confront the pieces of herself she left behind. She learns that what matters is not the past but the present - which the art of dying is all about truly living.

A cook's life by Stephanie Alexander

With *The Cook's Companion* front and centre in half a million kitchens, Stephanie Alexander is the very definition of a household name. Each day thousands turn to her 'food bible' for the most reliable recipes and advice. *A Cook's Life* is a very personal account of one woman's uncompromising commitment to good food, and of how it shaped her life and changed the eating habits of a nation.

Wild lavender by Belinda Alexandra

In this second book by an Australian author, *Wild Lavender* follows the journey of Simone Fleurier. It moves from the backstreets of Marseilles to the music theatres of Paris, from the countryside of Provence to decadent pre-war Berlin and jazz age New York.

Island beneath the sea by Isabel Allende

(Large print edition available)

Born a slave on the island of Saint-Domingue, Zarite - known as Tete - is the daughter of an African mother she never knew and one of the white sailors who brought her into bondage. Though her childhood is one of brutality and fear, Tete finds solace in the traditional rhythms of African drums and the voodoo loas she discovers through her fellow slaves. When twenty-year-old Toulouse Valmorain arrives on the island in 1770, it's with powdered wigs in his trunks and dreams of financial success in his mind. But running his father's plantation, Saint Lazare, is neither glamorous nor easy. Against the merciless backdrop of sugar cane fields, the lives of Tete and Valmorain grow ever more intertwined. When the bloody revolution of Toussaint Louverture arrives at the gates of Saint Lazare, they flee the island that will become Haiti for the decadence and opportunity of New Orleans. There, Tete finally forges a new life - but her connection to Valmorain is deeper than anyone knows and not so easily severed. Spanning four decades, *'Island Beneath the Sea'* is the moving story of one woman's determination to find love amid loss, to offer humanity though her own has been so battered, and to forge her own identity in the cruellest of circumstances.

Maya's notebook by Isabel Allende

The author of *'The House of the Spirits'* returns with a gritty yet transcendent tale of teenage addiction. The narrator and protagonist of *'Maya's Notebook'* is a 19 year-old-girl who grows up in Berkeley, California, and falls into a life of drug addiction and crime. To rescue Maya, and save her from the criminal types pursuing her, Maya's Chilean grandmother sends her to a remote island off the southern coast of Chile. Here she lives among a traditional rural people, the Chilote, who speak an older form of Spanish and have remained largely isolated from the

materialism, crime, and fast-paced contemporary life which is our own. The book alternates between the narrative in the US and that on Chiloe, the island, with the two strands of the story unfolding at the same time. This new book is very different from Isabel's previous historical novels: a contemporary setting; an American (of Latino descent) teenage drug addict as the protagonist and narrating voice; a realistic style of writing rather than a magical realistic one (Chiloe exists, and one can visit it). Maya's voice is modelled on that of Isabel's teenage granddaughter, a native of the Bay area (San Francisco, Berkeley).

Sum of our days by Isabel Allende

Memoir from Chilean novelist on friends, family and life in her adopted home of California. Isabel describes in an exceptionally vivid, human and deeply personal way her life in California where she has lived for more than 25 years.

Things we didn't see coming by Steve Amsterdam

It's the anxious eve of the millennium. The car is packed to capacity, and as midnight approaches, a family flees the city in a fit of panic and paranoid, conflicting emotions. The ensuing journey spans decades and offers a sharp-eyed perspective on a hardscrabble future, as a boy jettisons his family and all other ties in order to survive as a journeyman in an uncertain landscape. By turns led by love, larceny, and a new sexual order, he must avoid capture and imprisonment, starvation, pandemic, and some particularly bad weather

Infidel: my life by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is one of today's most admired and controversial political figures. Ultimately a celebration of triumph over adversity, Hirsi Ali's story tells how a bright, curious, dutiful little girl evolves into a pioneering freedom fighter.

Nomad : a personal journey through the clash of civilizations by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

(Large print edition available)

Ayaan Hirsi Ali caused a worldwide sensation with her gutsy memoir INFIDEL. Now, in NOMAD, she tells of coming to America to build a new life, an ocean away from the death threats made against her by European Islamists, the strife she witnessed and the inner conflict she suffered. It is the story of her physical and emotional journey to freedom - her transition from a tribal mindset that restricts women's every thought and action to life as a free and equal citizen in an open society. Through stories of the challenges she has faced, she shows the difficulty of reconciling the contradictions of Islam with Western values.

Life after life by Kate Atkinson ***New title for 2018***

On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. Sadly, she dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual.

Started early, took my dog by Kate Atkinson ***New title for 2018***

A day like any other for security chief Tracy Waterhouse, until she makes a purchase she hadn't bargained for. One moment of madness is all it takes for Tracy's humdrum world to be turned upside down, the tedium of everyday life replaced by fear and danger at every turn. Witnesses to Tracy's Faustian exchange in the Merrion Centre in Leeds are Tilly, an elderly actress teetering on the brink of her own disaster, and Jackson Brodie who has returned to his home county in search of someone else's roots. All three characters learn that the past is never history and that no good deed goes unpunished. Kate Atkinson dovetails and

counterpoints her plots with Dickensian brilliance in a tale peopled with unlikely heroes and villains. *Started Early, Took My Dog* is freighted with wit, wisdom and a fierce moral intelligence. It confirms Kate Atkinson's position as one of the great writers of our time.

When will there be good news by Kate Atkinson

Three lives come together in unexpected and deeply thrilling ways. In rural Devon, six-year-old Joanna Mason witnesses an appalling crime.

Thirty years later the convicted man is released from prison. In Edinburgh, sixteen-year-old Reggie works as a nanny for Dr Hunter who has gone missing and Reggie seems to be the only person who is worried. Across town, Detective Chief Inspector Louise Monroe is also looking for a missing person, unaware that hurtling towards her is an old friend Jackson Brodie himself on a journey that becomes fatally interrupted.

Year of the flood by Margaret Atwood

(Large print edition available)

In this freestanding companion novel to Booker Prize-winning author Atwood's (margaretatwood.ca) *Oryx and Crake* (2003), characters shift in time and space as the environmentalist Gardeners plan for a new world amid devastation by a pandemic virus. Bernadette Dunne and Katie MacNichol narrate, conveying hope for this society poised for reinvention, while Mark Bramhall reads sermons. Songs performed by Orville Stoeber (with lyrics composed by the author) provide thematic breaks. Provocative and political, funny and inspiring; highly recommended for fans of speculative and literary fiction.

Elegance of the hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

In a bourgeois apartment building in Paris, we encounter Renée, an intelligent, philosophical, and cultured concierge who masks herself as the stereotypical uneducated super to avoid suspicion from the building's pretentious inhabitants. Also living in the building is Paloma, the adolescent daughter of a parliamentarian, who has decided to commit suicide on her thirteenth birthday because she cannot bear to live among the rich. Although they are passing strangers, it is through Renée's observations and Paloma's journal entries that *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* reveals the absurd lives of the wealthy. That is until a Japanese businessman moves into the building and brings the two characters together.

Lunch in Paris by Elizabeth Bard

(Large print edition available)

The chocolate centre flows like dark lava onto the whiteness of the plate. The last ounce of stress drains from my body.... I have discovered the French version of *Death by Chocolate*.' Part love story, part wine-splattered cookbook, *Lunch in Paris* is a deliciously tart, forthright and funny story of falling in love with a Frenchman and moving to the world's most romantic city - not the Hollywood version, but the real Paris, a heady mix of blood sausage and irregular verbs. From gutting her first fish (with a little help from Jane Austen) and battling bad-tempered butchers to discovering heavenly chocolate shops, Elizabeth Bard finds that learning to cook and building a new life as a stranger in an even stranger land have a lot in common. Along the way she learns the true meaning of home - and the real reason French women don't get fat ... Peppered with recipes to die for, this mouth-watering love story is the perfect treat for any woman who has ever suspected that lunch in Paris could change her life.

Arthur and George by Julian Barnes

With *Arthur and George*, Julian Barnes recreates the detailed world of the Edwardian past, and with extraordinary empathy and imagination invites readers into the relationship between two men whose paths would never have crossed but for a terrible miscarriage of justice.

Blacklands by Belinda Bauer

(Large print edition available)

Twelve-year-old Steven Lamb digs holes on Exmoor, hoping to find a body. Every day after school, while his classmates swap football stickers, Steven digs to lay to rest the ghost of the uncle he never knew, who disappeared aged 11 and is assumed to have fallen victim to the notorious serial killer Arnold Avery. Only Steven's Nan is not convinced her son is dead. She still waits for him to come home, standing bitter guard at the front window while her family fragments around her. Steven is determined to heal the widening cracks between them before it's too late. And if that means presenting his grandmother with the bones of her murdered son, he'll do it. So the boy takes the next logical step, carefully crafting a letter to Arnold Avery in prison. And there begins a dangerous cat-and-mouse game between a desperate child and a bored serial killer. A game that will have more terrifying consequences than Steven could ever imagine.

The Paris architect by Charles Belfoure

In 1942 Paris, architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money-- and maybe get him killed. All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs the money, and outwitting the Nazis who have occupied his beloved city is a challenge he can't resist. When one of his hiding spaces fails horribly, and the problem of where to hide a Jew becomes terribly personal, Lucien can no longer ignore what's at stake.

The unfinished work of Elizabeth D by Nichole Bernier

Summer vacation on Great Rock Island was supposed to be a restorative time for Kate, who'd lost her close friend Elizabeth in a sudden accident. But when she inherits a trunk of Elizabeth's journals, they reveal a woman far different than the cheerful wife and mother Kate thought she knew. The complicated portrait of Elizabeth—her troubled upbringing, and her route to marriage and motherhood—makes Kate question not just their friendship, but her own deepest beliefs about loyalty and honesty at a period of uncertainty in her own marriage. The more Kate reads, the more she learns the complicated truth of who Elizabeth really was, and rethinks her own choices as a wife, mother, and professional, and the legacy she herself would want to leave behind. When an unfamiliar man's name appears in the pages, Kate realizes the extent of what she didn't know about her friend, including where she was really going on the day she died. Set in the anxious summer after the September 11th attacks, this story of two women—their friendship, their marriages, private ambitions and fears—considers the aspects of ourselves we show and those we conceal, and the repercussions of our choices.

Shadow boxing by Tony Birch

Overlapping stories about Michael Byrne, an ethnically marginal, working-class boy growing up in the inner suburb of Fitzroy in the 1960s.

Between a wolf and a dog by Georgina Blain ***New title for 2018***

Ester is a family therapist with an appointment book that catalogues the anxieties of the middle class: loneliness, relationships, death. She spends her days helping others find happiness, but her own family relationships are tense and frayed. Estranged from both her sister, April, and

her exhusband, Lawrence, Ester wants to fall in love again. Meanwhile, April is struggling through her own directionless life; Lawrence's reckless past decisions are catching up with him; and Ester and April's mother, Hilary, is about to make a choice that will profoundly affect them all. Taking place largely over one rainy day in Sydney, and rendered with the evocative and powerful prose Blain is known for, *Between a Wolf and a Dog* is a celebration of the best in all of us -- our capacity to live in the face of ordinary sorrows, and to draw strength from the transformative power of art. Ultimately, it is a joyous tribute to the beauty of being alive.

Boy in the striped pyjamas by John Boyne

Lines may divide us, but hope will unite us ...Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas. Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

Lola Bensky by Lili Brett

Lola Bensky is a nineteen-year-old rock journalist who irons her hair straight and asks a lot of questions. A high-school dropout, she is not sure how she got the job - but she has been sent by her Australian newspaper right to the heart of the London music scene at the most exciting time in music history: 1967. Lola spends her days planning diets and interviewing rock stars. In London, Mick Jagger makes her a cup of tea, Jimi Hendrix propositions her and Cher borrows her false eyelashes. At the Monterey International Pop Festival, Lola props up Brian Jones and talks to Janis Joplin about sex. In Los Angeles, she discusses being overweight with Mama Cass and tries to pluck up the courage to ask Cher to return those false eyelashes. Lola has an irrepressible curiosity, but she begins to wonder whether the questions she asks these extraordinary young musicians are really a substitute for questions about her parents' calamitous past that cannot be asked or answered. As Lola moves on through marriage, motherhood, psychoanalysis and a close relationship with an unexpected pair of detectives, she discovers the question of what it means to be human is the hardest one for anyone to answer. Drawing on her own experiences as a young journalist, the author has created an unforgettable character in the unconventional and courageous Lola.

You Gotta Have Balls by Lily Brett

An unforgettable, heartwarming story of embracing life, *You Gotta Have Balls* is a funny, moving triumph from the highly inventive Australian author Lily Brett.

Along way home or Lion by Saroo Brierley *** New for 2018***

When Saroo Brierley used Google Earth to find his long-lost home town half a world away, he made global headlines. Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia. Despite being happy in his new family, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. When he was a young man the advent of Google Earth led him to pore over satellite images of the country for landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of

searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for. Then he set off on a journey to find his mother.

Caleb's crossing by Geraldine Brooks

The narrator of Caleb's Crossing is Bethia Mayfield, growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans. Restless and curious, she yearns after an education that is closed to her by her sex. As often as she can, she slips away to explore the island's glistening beaches and observe its native Wampanoag inhabitants. At twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a tentative, secret friendship that draws each into the alien world of the other. Bethia's minister father tries to convert the Wampanoag, awakening the wrath of the island's strongest pawaaw, against whose ritual magic he must test his own beliefs.

People of the book by Geraldine Brooks

Stories of hope amidst darkness, compassion amidst cruelty, are all bound together by the discoveries made by a young Australian woman restoring an ancient Hebrew book. A gripping and moving novel about war, art, love and survival.

Secret chord by Geraldine Brooks

Traces the arc of King David's journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

Tumbledown manor by Helen Brown

A witty, entertaining novel about a woman who leaves the rat race for a quiet life restoring an old mansion, from the bestselling author of Cleo.

The longing by Candice Bruce

Everything here was eventually tainted, Ellis thought. In Australia in the 1840s, the lives of two very different women intersect. Ellis MacRorie is shipped to Victoria from her Scottish homeland by her bankrupt father; Leerpeen Weelan, her Aboriginal servant known as Louisa, has lost her tribe in a bloody act of violence. Forced to marry a man she does not love, and isolated from all society, Ellis is resigned to a wretched life on the remote Western District homestead of Strathcarron. After the tragic death of two babies, she is ready to give up altogether. Although Louisa has endured unspeakable suffering, she becomes an unprecedented source of guidance, friendship and strength for Ellis. When the American Romantic landscape painter, sketcher and collector Sanford P. Hart comes to stay at Strathcarron, the two women are transformed forever - in both enriching and devastating measures. More than 150 years later, ambitious curatorial assistant Cornelia, researching an exhibition on S. P. Hart for the National Gallery of Victoria, makes a remarkable discovery that has the potential to rewrite history. However, it is not Hart's paintings that offer a glimpse into the untold events of nineteenth-century rural Australia, but rather something very rare . . . The Longing is a novel about loss, finding home and the significance of history - what is recorded and those events that remain undiscovered.

Last chance café by Liz Bryski

Margot detests shopping malls. Any distraction is welcome, and the woman who has chained herself to the escalator, shouting about the perils of consumerism, is certainly that. She recognises Dot immediately - from their time campaigning for women's rights, and further back still, to the heyday of the Sydney Push when Margot married Laurence. Dot is in despair at the

abandonment of the sisterhood, at the idea of pole dancing as empowerment and the sight of five year-olds with false eyelashes and padded bras. She's still a fierce campaigner, but these days she isn't sure where to direct her rage. Margot's despair is quieter; a haunting resentment that her youthful ambitions have always been shelved to attend to the needs of others. And as the two women turn to the past for solutions for the future, Margot's family is in crisis. Laurence sets off on a journey in a bid to repress his grief, daughter Lexie loses the job that has been her life for twenty years, and her younger sister Emma hides her pain with shopping binges that plunge her into debt. Once again, with aching empathy, Liz Byrski assembles a fallible cast of characters who are asking the questions we ask ourselves. What does it mean to grow older? Are we brave enough to free ourselves from the pressure to stay young? And is there ever a stage in life when we can just be ourselves?

Speechless : a year in my father's business by James Button

James Button grew up immersed in the Australian Labor Party as the son of the street-fighting Senator John Button, an environment that encouraged him to become a political journalist and then a speechwriter for former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. His firsthand experiences are collected in this highly personal account of the rough and tumble world of modern politics and the growing disenchantment with Australia's Labor Party. Button describes how politics took a detrimental toll on his own family, revealing that the death of his brother haunted their father--who in turn blamed the tragedy on his all-consuming absorption of politics. This moving memoir paints a colorful picture of the machinations of government and shows how far the party has strayed from the idealism and pragmatism of previous generations, ending on a hopeful note for the party's revival.

Battle for Lone Pine by David W. Cameron

Surprisingly, as we near the 100th anniversary of the legendary Gallipoli campaign, this is the first book solely dedicated to one of its key battles -- that at Lone Pine, where Australian and Turkish soldiers fought an ultimately futile battle that claimed thousands of lives in incredibly close quarters. Seven Victoria Crosses were earned by Australia's Anzacs in the intense four days of fighting, in pursuit of a flawed strategy to distract Turkish forces from larger incursions, which themselves failed. David W. Cameron has pulled together first-hand accounts from the men and women involved (including from the Turkish army) to detail what transpired and to follow some of their personal stories throughout the ordeal. By including the stories of non-combatants, such as engineers, nurses, sappers, commanders and more, he not only gives due credit to those who laboured in support of the troops, but provides a wider understanding of the mammoth undertaking of such warfare. Many Australians travel to the Lone Pine Memorial and Cemetery each year to commemorate Anzac Day and remember the fallen -- this work of popular history highlights the fate of those who fought on the very ground where they gather.

So many selves by Gabrielle Carey

An Australian memoir reflecting on the period when the author and Kathy Lette wrote *Puberty Blues*, how it felt to be a celebrity at aged 20, and the impact the book's success had on their friendship.

Amnesia by Peter Carey

It was a spring evening in Washington DC; a chilly autumn morning in Melbourne; it was exactly 22.00 Greenwich Mean Time when a worm entered the computerised control systems of hundreds of Australian prisons and released the locks in many places of incarceration, some of which the hacker could not have known existed. Because Australian prison security was, in

the year 2010, mostly designed and sold by American corporations the worm immediately infected 117 US federal correctional facilities, 1,700 prisons, and over 3,000 county jails. Wherever it went, it travelled underground, in darkness, like a bushfire burning in the roots of trees. Has a young Australian woman declared cyber war on the United States? Or was her Angel Worm intended only to open the prison doors of those unfortunates detained by Australia's harsh immigration policies? Did America suffer collateral damage? Is she innocent? Can she be saved?

Theft : a love story by Peter Carey

In Peter Carey's novel, *Theft: A Love Story*, we meet Butcher Bones (real name Michael Boone), a formerly famous artist who is now drinking himself silly, involved in a messy divorce, broke, homeless, and without access rights to see his son. He is looking after his idiot savant brother Hugh (as he has done since they were kids in Bacchus Marsh) and having to act as a caretaker for his patron's rural property in northern New South Wales. Then Marlene arrives – she is lovely, an expert in the work of the famous artist Jacques Leibovitz, and comes from Benalla to boot. It's Love...

A world of other people by Steven Carroll

Set in 1941 during the Blitz, *A World of Other People* traces the love affair of Jim, an Australian pilot in Bomber Command, and Iris, a forthright Englishwoman finding her voice as a writer. The young couple, haunted by secrets and malign coincidence, struggles to build a future free of society's thin-lipped disapproval. The poet T.S. Eliot, with whom Iris shares firewatching duties, unwittingly seals their fate with his poem 'Little Gidding', one of the famous Four Quartets.

Death of Bunny Munro by Nick Cave

Bunny Munro sells beauty products and the scent of adventure to the lonely housewives of England's south coast. Set adrift by his wife's death he hits the road one last time - with his young son in tow. As Bunny swaggers from door-to-door hawking his wares and feeding his libido, nine-year-old Bunny Junior waits in the car seeking the comfort of his mother's ghost and watching his father self-destruct. Haunted by his appetites, jealous husbands and a serial killer in a devil suit, Bunny Munro is a desperate man. And he's going to die. Stylish, angry and engrossing, *The Death of Bunny Munro* is at once blackly comic, raw with heartache and bursting with Nick Cave's hallmark wit and lyricism.

Please don't leave me here by Tania Chandler

Is Brigitte a loving wife and mother, or a cold-blooded killer? Kurt Cobain stands at the top of the stairs, wearing the brown sweater. 'Please don't leave me,' she yells up at him. But it's too late; he's turning away as the tram slows for the stop out on the street. Then she's lying on the road. Car tyres are going past, slowly. Somebody is screaming. A siren howls. Sweet voices of little children are singing 'Morningtown ride'. Nobody knows why she was in the east of the city so early on the morning she was left for dead by a hit-and-run driver. It was the Thursday before Christmas 1994, and police discovered the body of a man beaten to death in her apartment. Fourteen years later, Brigitte is married to the detective who investigated the murder, which she claims to have lost her memory of in the car accident. They have young twins, and seem to be a happy family. Until the reopening of the cold case. *Please Don't Leave Me Here* is about loss, love and lies. It is about pain, fear, and memory. And, above all, it is about letting go.

Yesterday's houses by Mavis Cheek

Mavis Cheek is at the height of her powers in this poignant, funny account of a woman's journey to freedom, independence and good-quality plumbing.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier

In the year of the 150th anniversary of *Origin of Species*, set in a town where Jane Austen was a frequent visitor, Tracy Chevalier once again shows her uncanny sense for the topical. Set in the early nineteenth century, at a windswept beach along the English coast. From the moment Mary Anning is struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear she is marked for greatness. When she uncovers unknown dinosaur fossils in the cliffs near her home, she sets the scientific world alight, challenging ideas about the world's creation and stimulating debate over our origins. In an arena dominated by men, however, Mary is soon reduced to a serving role, facing prejudice from the academic community, vicious gossip from neighbours, and the heartbreak of forbidden love. Luckily Mary finds an unlikely champion in prickly, intelligent Elizabeth Philpot, a middle-class spinster who is also fossil-obsessed. Despite their differences in age and background, Mary and Elizabeth discover that, in struggling for recognition, friendship is their strongest weapon. *Remarkable Creatures* is a stunning novel of how one woman's gift transcends class and gender to lead to some of the most important discoveries of the nineteenth century. Above all, it is a revealing portrait of the intricate and resilient nature of female friendship.

Look who's morphing by Tom Cho

Look Who's Morphing is a collection of funny, playful, often outlandish fictions in which, along with his extended family, the central character undergoes a series of transformations, shape-shifting through figures drawn from film and television, music and books, porn flicks and comics. He is Godzilla, a Muppet, and Whitney Houston's bodyguard; the Fonz, a robot, a Ford Bronco 4x4 – and, as a climax, a fifty-five metre tall guitar-wielding cock rock star, who performs for the people of Tokyo, and an adoring troupe of sexy fans.

Careless people by Sarah Churchwell

Since its publication in the spring of 1925, *The Great Gatsby* has become one of the recognized masterpieces of the twentieth century, beloved by readers across the world and regularly named one of the greatest novels ever written in English. Now comes a book which tells of the mayhem, and the surprising story behind the novel, exploring in newly rich detail the relation of Fitzgerald's masterpiece to the chaotic world he in which he lived. *Careless People* is a fascinating reconstruction of the crucial months during which Fitzgerald returned to New York in the autumn of 1922 - the parties, the drunken weekends at Great Neck, Long Island, the drives back into the city to the jazz clubs and speakeasies, the casual intersection of high society and organized crime and the growth of celebrity culture of which the Fitzgeralds themselves were the epitome.

The comfort of figs by Simon Cleary

Three young men work on the construction an iconic steel bridge that will transform a sleepy country town. Labouring high above the river in dangerous conditions, close bonds develop between them. But one slip can alters their lives forever. A generation later, Robbie, a young landscaper, grapples with his difficult relationship with his father whose past is inextricably linked with the famous cantilevered bridge and also battles to save his future with his girlfriend Freya, after a violent assault by a stranger sends her spiralling into herself.

Summertime by J.M. Coetzee

(Large print edition available)

A young English biographer is working on a book about the late writer, John Coetzee. He plans to focus on the years from 1972-1977 when Coetzee, in his thirties, is sharing a run-down cottage in the suburbs of Cape Town with his widowed father. This, the biographer senses, is the period when he was 'finding his feet as a writer'. Never having met Coetzee, he embarks on a series of interviews with people who were important to him - a married woman with whom he had an affair, his favourite cousin Margot, a Brazilian dancer whose daughter had English lessons with him, former friends and colleagues. From their testimony emerges a portrait of the young Coetzee as an awkward, bookish individual with little talent for opening himself to others. Within the family he is regarded as an outsider, someone who tried to flee the tribe and has now returned, chastened. His insistence on doing manual work, his long hair and beard, rumours that he writes poetry evoke nothing but suspicion in the South Africa of the time. Sometimes heartbreaking, often very funny, *Summertime* shows us a great writer as he limbers up for his task. It completes the majestic trilogy of fictionalised memoir begun with *Boyhood* and *Youth*.

The memory book by Rowan Coleman

The name of your first-born. The face of your lover. Your age. Your address...What would happen if your memory of these began to fade? Is it possible to rebuild your life? Raise a family? Fall in love again? When Claire starts to write her Memory Book, she already knows that this scrapbook of mementoes will soon be all her daughters and husband have of her. But how can she hold on to the past when her future is slipping through her fingers...?

Red leaves by Thomas H Cook

In this affecting crime novel from Edgar-winning Thomas Cook, a prosperous businessman, Eric, watches his safe world disintegrate. When an eight year old girl disappears while being babysat by Eric's teenage son, many believe the boy is the obvious suspect.

Meaning of night by Michael Cox

Set in Victorian England, the narrator confesses to a murder he's committed, and to those he hopes to commit. This novel is set in a world of opium, brothels, revenge and murder.

Warning : the story of Cyclone Tracy by Sophie Cunningham

When Cyclone Tracy swept down on Darwin at Christmas 1974, the weather became not just a living thing but a killer. Tracy destroyed an entire city, left seventy-one people dead and ripped the heart out of Australia's season of goodwill. For the fortieth anniversary of the nation's most iconic natural disaster, Sophie Cunningham has gone back to the eyewitness accounts of those who lived through the devastation—and those who faced the heartbreaking clean-up and the back-breaking rebuilding. From the quiet stirring of the service-station bunting that heralded the catastrophe to the wholesale slaughter of the dogs that followed it, Cunningham brings to the tale a novelist's eye for detail and an exhilarating narrative drive. And a sober appraisal of what Tracy means to us now, as we face more—and more destructive—extreme weather with every year that passes.

Sisters of Spicefield, by Fran Cusworth

Jessica and Matt Davidson, professional, middle-class Australians, have four beautiful children; three from IVF. When they donate one leftover embryo, it's a gift of thanks to the world for their luck; an offering to the fates. Seven years after this gift, the Davidsons have lost their youngest child Eeny to a genetic condition, and the family is struggling with this grief. Jessica and Matt's relationship is strained; their relationship with their oldest child is fraught, and beneath these

tensions flow the currents of anger and shame connected to Eeny's death. A new girl starts at the children's school, and Jessica realises that this child, Mia, is her biological offspring; the embryo born of she and Matt's donation years before. Exploring the big issues of who gets to decide/comment on/directly influence u the parenting and care of children. Can we push aside the tug of a biological bond, or not, can we create a bond where there isn't one? And, ultimately, celebrating family of every kind.

Deranged marriage by Sushi Das

An affectionate, often hilarious, memoir of growing up in London in the 1970s in an Indian household, and avoiding an arranged marriage. 'From the age of fourteen, I was aware my parents expected me to have an arranged marriage, a big Bollywood wedding. There was just one hitch: nobody asked me.' Sushi Das grew up in 1970s London - a culturally messed-up time. Feminists were telling women they could be whatever they wanted, skinheads were yelling at foreigners to go home and punk music was urging revolt. Amid the social upheaval, Sushi was trapped by Indian tradition - and a looming arranged marriage she would do almost anything to avoid. But how do you turn your back on centuries of tradition without trashing your family's honour? How do you escape your parents' stranglehold without casting off their embrace? And how do you explain to your strict dad why there's a boy smoking in his living room and another one lurking in the garden? Breaking free meant migrating to the other side of the world, only to find life in Australia was just as culturally confusing. This insightful, often hilarious memoir lifts the curtain on one of the oldest traditions of Eastern culture u a custom which aims to join two families in economic prosperity, though the reality is not always so blissful.

Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

Her granddaughter's wedding should be a time of happiness for Marina Buriakov. But the Russian emigre's descent into Alzheimer's has her and her family experiencing more anxiety than joy. As the details of her present-day life slip mysteriously away, Marina's recollections of her early years as a docent at the State Hermitage Museum become increasingly vivid. When Leningrad came under siege at the beginning of World War II, museum workers--whose families were provided shelter in the building's basement--stowed away countless treasures, leaving the painting's frames in place as a hopeful symbol of their ultimate return. Amid the chaos, Marina found solace in the creation of a memory palace, in which she envisioned the brushstroke of every painting and each statue's line and curve.

The Hare with amber eyes by Edmond De Waal ***New title for 2018***

The Ephrussi were a grand banking family, as rich and respected as the Rothschilds, who "burned like a comet" in nineteenth-century Paris and Vienna society. Yet by the end of World War II, almost the only thing remaining of their vast empire was a collection of 264 wood and ivory carvings, none of them larger than a matchbox. The renowned ceramicist Edmund de Waal became the fifth generation to inherit this small and exquisite collection of netsuke. Entranced by their beauty and mystery, he determined to trace the story of his family through the story of the collection. The netsuke—drunken monks, almost-ripe plums, snarling tigers—were gathered by Charles Ephrussi at the height of the Parisian rage for all things Japanese. Charles had shunned the place set aside for him in the family business to make a study of art, and of beautiful living. An early supporter of the Impressionists, he appears, oddly formal in a top hat, in Renoir's Luncheon of the Boating Party. Marcel Proust studied Charles closely enough to use him as a model for the aesthete and lover Swann in Remembrance of Things Past. Charles gave the carvings as a wedding gift to his cousin Viktor in Vienna; his children were allowed to play with one netsuke each while they watched their mother, the Baroness

Emmy, dress for ball after ball. Her older daughter grew up to disdain fashionable society. Longing to write, she struck up a correspondence with Rilke, who encouraged her in her poetry. The Anschluss changed their world beyond recognition. Ephrussi and his cosmopolitan family were imprisoned or scattered, and Hitler's theorist on the "Jewish question" appropriated their magnificent palace on the Ringstrasse. A library of priceless books and a collection of Old Master paintings were confiscated by the Nazis. But the netsuke were smuggled away by a loyal maid, Anna, and hidden in her straw mattress. Years after the war, she would find a way to return them to the family she'd served even in their exile. In *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, Edmund de Waal unfolds the story of a remarkable family and a tumultuous century. Sweeping yet intimate, it is a highly original meditation on art, history, and family, as elegant and precise as the netsuke themselves.

The lost dog by Michelle De Kretsner

Set in present-day Australia and mid-20th century India. *The Lost Dog* is a mystery and a love story, an exploration of art and nature, a meditation on ageing and the passage of time. A gripping contemporary novel which examines the weight of history as well as different ways of understanding the world.

Questions of travel by Michelle De Kretser

A dazzling, compassionate and deeply moving novel from one of world literature's rising stars. A mesmerising literary novel, *Questions of Travel* charts two very different lives. Laura travels the world before returning to Sydney, where she works for a publisher of travel guides. Ravi dreams of being a tourist until he is driven from Sri Lanka by devastating events. Around these two superbly drawn characters, a double narrative assembles an enthralling array of people, places and stories - from Theo, whose life plays out in the long shadow of the past, to Hana, an Ethiopian woman determined to reinvent herself in Australia. Award-winning author Michelle de Kretser illuminates travel, work and modern dreams in this brilliant evocation of the way we live now. Wonderfully written, *Questions of Travel* is an extraordinary work of imagination - a transformative, very funny and intensely moving novel.

The list of my desires by Gregoire Delacourt

What would it take to change your life? Jocelyne is 47. She lives in a small provincial French town, runs her own dressmaking shop, has been married to the same man for what seems like an eternity, has had two children and lives a very ordinary existence. In fact so ordinary that she is beginning to wonder what happened to her, to all those dreams she had when she was seventeen. Then comes the chance to change her life completely but should she? For when Jocelyne begins to look at her life and its small pleasures her friendship with the twins who run the hairdresser next door, her weekends away, her sewing blog she realises that maybe ordinary isn't so bad. Until the decision is taken out of her hands. *The List of my Desires* is a wonderfully heart-warming novel about what we value in life and the search for happiness.

Love with a chance of drowning by Torre DeRoche

Love can make a person do crazy things. . . A city girl with a morbid fear of deep water, Torre DeRoche is not someone you would ordinarily find adrift in the middle of the stormy Pacific aboard a leaky sailboat -- total crew of two -- struggling to keep an old boat, a new relationship and her floundering sanity afloat. But when she meets Ivan, a handsome Argentinean man with a humble sailboat and a dream to set off exploring the world, Torre has to face a hard decision: watch the man she's in love with sail away forever, or head off on the watery journey with him. Suddenly the choice seems simple. She gives up her sophisticated city life, faces her fear of water (and tendency towards seasickness) and joins her lover on a year-long voyage across

the Pacific. Set against a backdrop of the world's most beautiful and remote destinations, *Love with a Chance of Drowning* is a sometimes hilarious, often moving and always breathtakingly brave memoir that proves there are some risks worth taking.

The happiness show by Catherine Deveny

She ached for him. She longed for him. She missed the way he made her feel and how funny and smart and sexy she felt with him. And young. She missed the version of herself that she had left behind. At thirty-eight, Lizzie Quealy thinks she has things sorted: a happy relationship, a couple of gorgeous kids, a steadfast best friend and a career she loves. But when Lizzie bumps into Tom, an old flame from her globe-trotting twenties, her life begins to unravel. Tom is her 'unfinished business': the man she might have spent her life with, if things had gone a little bit differently. Ten years on, the spark is still there -- but how far is Lizzie prepared to go to recapture it, and at what cost? Set in Melbourne, London and Bali, via Tokyo and the Trans-Siberian Express, *The Happiness Show* is a refreshingly honest story of love, fidelity and the messiness of second chances. Sexy and hilarious, it explores the rules and taboos of contemporary relationships -- and what happens when they stand in the way of one woman's pursuit of happiness.

The language of flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

The Language of Flowers, Vanessa Diffenbaugh's mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable young woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

The happiest refugee by Anh Do

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. This book tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination - a big life with big dreams. Anh's story will move and amuse all who read it.

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr

Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in.

Love and the platypus by Nicholas Drayson

In 1883 young British naturalist William Caldwell arrives in Australia with a mission: to determine for the scientific record whether the platypus really does lay eggs. His journey leads to an examination of the obsessive nature of scientific enquiry and its consequences, and the wonders of nature and love.

Salvation Creek by Susan Duncan

This is the biography of a woman who found the courage not to walk away from a successful career and begin again, but to beat the odds in her own battle for survival.

Broken by Ilsa Evans

Domestic violence is an all too familiar story. But the complexity of a damaged relationship is often hard to understand for those who have no experience of it. Ilsa Evans is a writer, who until now has been better known for books that tell the lighter side of domestic life. Now though she's written a searing account of a damaged marriage. It's partly inspired by her own past experience of abuse.

From here to there by Jon Faine

In April 2008, Jon Faine and his son Jack closed their door on their Melbourne home and leaving jobs, studies, family and friends, took six months and went overland to London in their trusty 4-wheel-drive. This intelligent and funny recount of the countries they visited, people they met and trouble they got into, is also the story of a tender father-son relationship.

The great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

A social satire and a milestone in 20th century literature, 'The Great Gatsby' peels away the layers of the glamorous twenties in the U.S. to display the coldness and cruelty at its heart.

My father's daughter by Sheila Fitzpatrick

How does a daughter tell the story of her father? Sheila Fitzpatrick was taught from an early age to question authority. She learnt it from her father, the journalist and radical historian Brian Fitzpatrick. But very soon, she began to turn her questioning gaze on him. Teasing apart the many layers of memory, Fitzpatrick reveals a complex portrait of an Australian family against a Cold War backdrop. As her relationship with her father fades from girlhood adoration to adolescent scepticism, she flees Melbourne for Oxford to start a new life. But it's not so easy to escape being her father's daughter. My Father's Daughter is a vivid evocation of an Australian childhood; a personal memoir told with the piercing insight of a historian.

A simpler time by Peter Fitzsimons

(Large print edition available)

A memoir of love, laughter, loss and billycarts It still amazes me what they allowed us to do without their supervision or help while remaining deeply loving parents. Climb trees from the age of four or five? No problem. Drive the tractor from the age of eight or nine onwards? Good luck to you. Haul on the hoist to pull the half-ton bins filled with oranges off the trailer? Yes. Take your bike out on the Pacific Highway and ride to school? Just be careful, but okay ... Their rough reckoning was that if we thought we could do something, we probably could - and if we thought we couldn't do something, we probably still could, if we applied ourselves. Peter FitzSimons's account of growing up on the rural outskirts of Sydney in the 1960s is first and foremost a tribute to family. But it is also a salute to times and generations past, when praise was understated but love unstinting; work was hard and values clear; when people stood by each other in adversity. Above all, in the FitzSimons home, days were for doing. In this rollicking and often hilarious memoir, Peter describes a childhood of mischief, camaraderie, eccentric characters, drama - and constant love and generosity. The childhood of a simpler time.

Narrow road to the deep north by Richard Flanagan

What would you do if you saw the love of your life, whom you thought dead for a quarter of a century, walking towards you? Richard Flanagan's story, of Dorrigo Evans, an Australian doctor haunted by a love affair with his uncle's wife, journeys from the caves of Tasmanian trappers in the early twentieth century to a crumbling pre-war beachside hotel; from a Thai jungle prison to a Japanese snow festival; from the Changi gallows to a chance meeting of lovers on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Taking its title from 17th-century haiku poet Basho's travel journal, *The Narrow Road To The Deep North* is about the impossibility of love. At its heart is one day in a Japanese slave labour camp in August 1943. As the day builds to its horrific climax, Dorrigo Evans battles and fails in his quest to save the lives of his fellow POWs, a man is killed for no reason, and a love story unfolds.

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon *** **New title for 2018*****

The year is 1945. Claire Randall, a former combat nurse, is just back from the war and reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when she walks through a standing stone in one of the ancient circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach—an "outlander"—in a Scotland torn by war and raiding border clans in the year of Our Lord...1743. Hurlled back in time by forces she cannot understand, Claire is catapulted into the intrigues of lairds and spies that may threaten her life, and shatter her heart. For here James Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior, shows her a love so absolute that Claire becomes a woman torn between fidelity and desire—and between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives.

The silkworm by Robert Galbraith

When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days—as he has done before—and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were to be published, it would ruin lives—meaning that there are a lot of people who might want him silenced. When Quine is found brutally murdered under bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer, a killer unlike any Strike has encountered before.

Gone girl by Gillian Flynn

What are you thinking, Amy? The question I've asked most often during our marriage, if not out loud, if not to the person who could answer. I suppose these questions stormcloud over every marriage: What are you thinking? How are you feeling? Who are you? What have we done to each other? What will we do? Just how well can you ever know the person you love? This is the question that Nick Dunne must ask himself on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police immediately suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they aren't his. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. So what did really happen to Nick's beautiful wife? And what was left in that half-wrapped box left so casually on their marital bed? In this novel, marriage truly is the art of war.

The hotel on the corner of bitter and sweet by Jamie Ford *****New title for 2018*****

In the opening pages of Jamie Ford's stunning debut novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Henry Lee comes upon a crowd gathered outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has made

an incredible discovery: the belongings of Japanese families, left when they were rounded up and sent to internment camps during World War II. As Henry looks on, the owner opens a Japanese parasol. This simple act takes old Henry Lee back to the 1940s, at the height of the war, when young Henry's world is a jumble of confusion and excitement, and to his father, who is obsessed with the war in China and having Henry grow up American. While "scholarshipping" at the exclusive Rainier Elementary, where the white kids ignore him, Henry meets Keiko Okabe, a young Japanese American student. Amid the chaos of blackouts, curfews, and FBI raids, Henry and Keiko forge a bond of friendship - and innocent love - that transcends the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors. And after Keiko and her family are swept up in the evacuations to the internment camps, she and Henry are left only with the hope that the war will end, and that their promise to each other will be kept. Forty years later, Henry Lee is certain that the parasol belonged to Keiko. In the hotel's dark dusty basement he begins looking for signs of the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot begin to measure. Now a widower, Henry is still trying to find his voice - words that might explain the actions of his nationalistic father; words that might bridge the gap between him and his modern, Chinese American son; words that might help him confront the choices he made many years ago. Set during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* is an extraordinary story of commitment and enduring hope. In Henry and Keiko, Jamie Ford has created an unforgettable duo whose story teaches us of the power of forgiveness and the human heart.

The man who left too soon by Barry Forshaw

His three novels are violent, terrifying, brilliantly written, and have sold millions of copies around the world, but Stieg Larsson was not able to witness their international success. Since he died in 2004 the author of the Millennium trilogy has received international fame with dizzying speed. But when one looks a little deeper at the man behind these phenomenal novels, it is clear that his life would be remembered as truly extraordinary even had his trilogy never been published. Larsson was a workaholic: a political activist, photographer, graphic designer, a respected journalist, and the editor of numerous science fiction magazines. At night, to relax, he wrote crime novels. By the time of his death at the age of 50 he had completed *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, the third book featuring the hypnotic Lisbeth Salander. His relentless personality and political convictions did not make life easy. He famously took on some dangerous neo-Nazi opponents, making for much speculation that his enemies, who often told him that his days were numbered, may have a hand in his premature demise. This difficult man, brilliant and multifaceted, is the subject of a penetrating biography and a celebration of his remarkable life and books.

We are all completely beside ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler

Meet the Cookes: mother and dad, brother Lowell, sister Fern, and our narrator, Rosemary, who begins her story in the middle. She has her reasons. I spent the first eighteen years of my life defined by this one fact: I was raised with a chimpanzee. It's never going to be the first thing I share with someone. I tell you Fern was a chimp and already you aren't thinking of her as my sister. But until Fern's expulsion, I'd scarcely known a moment alone. Rosemary was not yet six when Fern was removed. Over the years, she's managed to block a lot of memories. With some guile, she guides us through the darkness, leading us deeper into the mystery she has dangled before us.

Thirteen moons by Charles Frazier

This is an unforgettable work of fiction by an American master. Will Cooper, the classic American soul, is swept along as the wild beauty of the nineteenth century gives way to the telephones, automobiles and railways of the twentieth century.

Mia culpa by Mia Freedman

When Mia Freedman talks, people listen. Perhaps not her husband. Or her children. But other people. Women. Mia has a knack for putting into words the dilemmas, delights and dramas of women everywhere. The new rules for dating in the internet-romance age? Yep, tricky stuff. Things are not what they used to be. And sex talk at the dinner table? Appropriate or not? Perhaps not, unless in an educational capacity and even then some things are best left unsaid. . . And what about Botox, Brazilians, and boobs that are not as fabulous as they once were? With intrepid curiosity and a delicious sense of humour, Mia navigates her way through the topics - great and small - of modern life. Mia Culpa is funny, moving and just like one long, wonderful dinner-party conversation.

All that I am by Anna Funder

All That I Am is a masterful and exhilarating exploration of bravery and betrayal, of the risks and sacrifices some people make for their beliefs, and of heroism hidden in the most unexpected places. When eighteen-year-old Ruth Becker visits her cousin Dora in Munich in 1923, she meets the love of her life, the dashing young journalist Hans Wesemann, and eagerly joins in the heady activities of the militant political Left in Germany. Ten years later, Ruth and Hans are married and living in Weimar Berlin when Hitler is elected chancellor of Germany. Together with Dora and her lover, Ernst Toller, the celebrated poet and self-doubting revolutionary, the four become hunted outlaws overnight and are forced to flee to London. Inspired by the fearless Dora to breathtaking acts of courage, the friends risk betrayal and deceit as they dedicate themselves to a dangerous mission: to inform the British government of the very real Nazi threat to which it remains willfully blind. All That I Am is the heartbreaking story of these extraordinary people, who discover that Hitler's reach extends much further than they had thought.

Old filth by Jane Gardam

Old Filth was a Raj orphan who was sent "home" from the East to be fostered and educated in England. This novel, shortlisted for the Orange Prize in 2005, tells his story, from his birth to his old age.

The Spare Room by Helen Garner

Nicola comes to stay with her friend Helen in Melbourne to receive treatment she believes will cure her advanced cancer. From the moment Nicola steps off the plane, Helen becomes her nurse, her protector, her guardian angel and her stony judge. The Spare Room tells a story of compassion and rage as the two women - one sceptical, one stubbornly serene - negotiate their way through Nicola's gruelling treatments.

This house of grief by Helen Garner

Anyone can see the place where the children died. You take the Princes Highway past Geelong, and keep going west in the direction of Colac. Late in August 2006, soon after I had watched a magistrate commit Robert Farquharson to stand trial before a jury on three charges of murder, I headed out that way on a Sunday morning, across the great volcanic plain. On the evening of 4 September 2005, Father's Day, Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother, Cindy, when his car left the road and plunged into

a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession. She followed it on its protracted course until the final verdict. In this utterly compelling book, Helen Garner tells the story of a man and his broken life. She presents the theatre of the courtroom with its actors and audience, all gathered for the purpose of bearing witness to the truth, players in the extraordinary and unpredictable drama of the quest for justice. This House of Grief is a heartbreaking and unputdownable book by one of Australia's most admired writers.

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Alice Howland is a 50-year-old cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics, with grown children and a satisfying marriage to an academic, when she starts to experience fleeting forgetfulness and disorientation. She initially attributes these episodes to normal aging or menopause. But as her symptoms worsen, she sees a neurologist and is given the diagnosis that will change her life forever: early-onset Alzheimer's disease. With no cure or treatment, Alice struggles to overcome her shock and find meaning and purpose in her everyday life as her sense of self is gradually stripped away, leaving her unable to continue in her profession, take care of herself, recognise her loved ones or even understand that she has a neurodegenerative disease. Without memory or hope, Alice is forced to live in the moment, which is in turns maddening, beautiful and terrifying.

The hungary tide by Amitav Ghosh *****New title for 2018*****

Off the easternmost corner of India, in the Bay of Bengal, lies the immense labyrinth of tiny islands known as the Sundarbans, where settlers live in fear of drowning tides and man-eating tigers. Piya Roy, a young American marine biologist of Indian descent, arrives in this lush, treacherous landscape in search of a rare species of river dolphin and enlists the aid of a local fisherman and a translator. Together the three of them launch into the elaborate backwaters, drawn unawares into the powerful political undercurrents of this isolated corner of the world that exact a personal toll as fierce as the tides.

Eat, pray, love by Elizabeth Gilbert

Elizabeth Gilbert emerges battered and bewildered from a bitter divorce and turbulent love affair, and realises it is time to pursue her own journey in search of three things she has been missing: pleasure, devotion and balance. Slowly happiness begins to creep up on her as she travels to Rome, India and Bali.

The signature of all things by Elizabeth Gilbert

Set in the 19th century, The Signature of All Things follows the fortunes of the brilliant Alma Whittaker as she comes into her own within the world of plants and science. As Alma's careful studies of moss take her deeper into the mysteries of evolution, the man she loves draws her in the opposite direction, into the realm of the spiritual, the divine and the magical. Alma is a clear-minded scientist; Ambrose is a Utopian artist. But what unites this couple is a desperate need to understand the workings of this world, and the mechanism behind all life.

What came before by Anna George

'My name is David James Forrester. I'm a solicitor. Tonight, at 6.10, I killed my wife. This is my statement.' In Melbourne's inner west, David sits in his car, dictaphone in hand. He's sick to his stomach but determined to record his version of events. His wife Elle hovers over her own lifeless body as it lies in the laundry of the house they shared. David thinks back on their relationship - intimate, passionate, intense - and what led to this terrible night. From her eerie vantage point, Elle traces the sweep of their shared past too. Before David, she'd enjoyed a

contented life - as a successful filmmaker, a much-loved aunt and friend. But in the course of two years, she was captivated and then undone by him. Not once in those turbulent times did she imagine that her alluring, complex husband was capable of this. Dark, atmospheric and gripping, *What Came Before* is a stunning literary thriller about the risks you take when you fall in love.

The memory trap by Andrea Goldsmith

A novel about memory, music, friendship, family rifts and reconciliation, this is an intelligent, compelling read set in Melbourne. Nina Jameson, an international consultant on memorial projects based in London, has been happily married to Daniel for twelve years. When her life falls apart she accepts a job in her hometown of Melbourne. There she joins her sister, Zoe, embroiled in her own problems with Elliot, an American biographer of literary women. And she finds herself caught up in age-old conflicts of two friends from her past: the celebrated pianist Ramsay Blake and his younger brother, Sean. All these people have been treading memory's thin ice for far too long. Nina arrives home to find work, loves and entrenched obsessions under threat. A rich and compelling story of marriage, music, the illusions of love and the deceits of memory, *THE MEMORY TRAP*'s characters are real, flawed and touchingly human.

Piano lessons by Anna Goldsworthy

'Marvellous. Enlightenment and joy on every page' - Helen Garner loved this book. Anna Goldsworthy's memoir left me awed, inspired and humbled.' - Alice Pung. In this remarkable memoir, Anna Goldsworthy recalls her first steps towards a life in music, from childhood piano lessons with a local jazz muso to international success as a concert pianist. As she discovers passion and ambition, and confronts doubt and disappointment, she learns about much more than tone and technique. This is a story of the getting of wisdom, tender and bittersweet. With wit and affection, Goldsworthy captures the hopes and uncertainties of youth, the fear and exhilaration of performing, and the complex bonds between teacher and student. An unforgettable cast of characters joins her: her family; her friends and rivals; and her teacher, Mrs Sivan, who inspires and challenges her in equal measure, and who transforms what seems an impossible dream into something real and sustaining.

Cocaine blues by Kerry Greenwood

This is the first of the classic Phryne Fisher mystery series, featuring our delectable heroine, cocaine, communism and adventure. Phryne leaves the tedium of the English high society for Melbourne and never looks back.

The lieutenant by Kate Grenville

In her novel *The Lieutenant* Kate Grenville once again visits the period of white Australian settlement to create her characters Daniel Rooke, a First Fleet soldier and astronomer, and Tagaran, a young Aboriginal girl he befriends. Daniel Rooke is taken up with his own interests, often going off to his makeshift observatory where he can be alone with his thoughts. His interest in languages takes over when he makes contact with Tagaran and between them they try to make sense of the place they find themselves in, between cultures.

Marley & Me by John Grogan

Marley & Me, by American author John Grogan, is an engaging biography that uses the story of a crazy dog as a framework for talking about his life, love and the struggles of beginning a marriage, starting a family and making the most of every moment.

Water for elephants by Sarah Gruen

(Large print edition available)

When his parents are killed in a traffic accident, Jacob Jankowski hops a train after walking out on his final exams at Cornell, where he had hoped to earn a veterinary degree. The train turns out to be a circus train, and since it's the Depression, when someone with a vet's skills can attach himself to a circus if he's lucky, Jacob soon finds himself involved with the animal acts—specifically with the beautiful young Marlena, the horse rider, and her husband, August. Jacob falls for Marlena immediately, and the ensuing triangle is at the center of this novel, which follows the circus across the states. Jacob learns the ins and outs of circus life, in this case under the rule of the treacherous Uncle Al, who cheats the workers and deals roughly with patrons who complain about blatant false advertising and rip-off exhibits. Jacob and Marlena are attracted to each other, but their relationship is fairly innocent until it becomes clear that August is not merely jealous but dangerously mentally deranged. Old-fashioned and endearing, this is an enjoyable, fast-paced story told by the older Jacob, now in his nineties in a nursing home.

Sold by Brendan Gullifer

In the midst of the global financial crisis, with mortgage stress and property prices dipping, it's probably timely to look into the murky world of the residential property boom and the main players in that market over the past decade—the ubiquitous real estate agent. Gullifer's novel exposes a lot of what we suspected might be the level of integrity of the real estate world.

Spot of bother by Mark Haddon

This is the author's second novel, following *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. In *A Spot of Bother*, George Hall is convinced that the eczema on his thigh is cancer and is unable to deal with his daughter's wedding, his wife's affair, and his son's homosexuality. Funny and perceptive, if not uplifting.

Certain Admissions by Gideon Haigh

Who killed Beth Williams? On a warm evening in December 1949, two young people met by chance under the clocks at Melbourne's Flinders Street railway station and decided upon a spontaneous night on the town. The next morning, one of them, twenty-year-old typist Beth Williams, was found dead on Middle Park beach. When police arrested the other, Australians were transfixed: twenty-four year-old John Bryan Kerr was a son of the establishment -- a suave and handsome commercial radio star educated at Scotch College. There were three 'sensational' trials after which Kerr was sentenced to hang, based on an unsigned confession. Amidst a frenzy of public outcry his sentence was subsequently commuted to twenty years imprisonment. Kerr always maintained his innocence and became a Pentridge celebrity and poster boy for rehabilitation. More than fifty years after the event another man confessed on his deathbed to the crime, and two other unsolved murders, outing himself as an untried serial killer. But could he be believed? Compelling and brilliantly evoked, *Certain Admissions* is stranger than any crime fiction. It's a real-life story of murder, corruption, blood ties and social history that will leave you guessing long after the final page.

The last love story by Rodney Hall

Rodney Hall, and Australian author, sets his novel in the future, in a harsh political environment, in a divided city where two people from opposite sides fall in love.

The taste of memory by Marion Halligan

Australian author Marion Halligan's biography talks about the way we live, as expressed in our relationship with food and gardens. This book celebrates the great oral tradition of cooks throughout time who pass on recipes out of love for friends and food.

There should be more dancing by Rosalie Ham

Margery Bandon was always a principled woman who found guidance from the wisdom of desktop calendars. She lived quietly in Gold Street, Brunswick for sixty years until events drove her to the 43rd floor of the Tropic Hotel. As she waits for the crowds in the atrium far below to disperse, she contemplates what went wrong; her best friend kept an astonishing secret from her and she can't trust the home help. It's possible her firstborn son has betrayed her, that her second son, Morris, might have committed a crime, her only daughter is trying to kill her and her dead sister Cecily helped her to this, her final downfall. Even worse, it seems Margery's life-long neighbour and enemy now demented always knew the truth. *There Should be More Dancing* is a story of Margery's reckonings on loyalty, grief and love.

Blood witness by Alex Hammond

One man's search for justice and redemption plunges him into the violent world of Melbourne's underbelly. Defence lawyer Will Harris is reluctantly drawn into a bizarre murder trial. A terminally ill man claims to have witnessed the brutal crime - in a vision. But the looming trial is more than just a media circus: it's Will's first big case since the tragic death of his fiancée. With the pressure mounting, Will's loyalties are split when his fiancée's sister is charged with drug trafficking. The strain of balancing both cases takes its toll and Will finds himself torn between following the law and seeking justice. *Blood Witness* is a dark powerful thriller from a talented new voice.

The unbroken line by Alex Hammond

Melbourne defence lawyer Will Harris's fledgling law firm is struggling to get off the ground when he is the target of a vicious, anonymous attack. It's a clear message to back off, but from whom? Meanwhile, he's under siege at work: his links to the grey world of judicial back channels are being closely examined. With bills mounting and against his better instincts, Will agrees to defend the troubled teenage son of a family friend. Before long he's risking his own ethical code, playing off both sides of the law in the search for the truth. It's not until he stumbles upon a mysterious document known as Hawk's Covenant that Will begins to understand the powerful grip of history over current-day Melbourne. The violence of the past casts a long shadow: one that lives and breathes and is prepared to kill to keep its secrets.

The Dry by Jane Harper ***New for 2018***

Luke Hadler turns a gun on his wife and child, then himself. The farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily. If one of their own broke under the strain, well... When Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk returns to Kiewarra for the funerals, he is loath to confront the people who rejected him twenty years earlier. But when his investigative skills are called on, the facts of the Hadler case start to make him doubt this murder-suicide charge. And as Falk probes deeper into the killings, old wounds start bleeding into fresh ones. For Falk and his childhood friend Luke shared a secret... A secret Falk thought long-buried... A secret which Luke's death starts to bring to the surface...

Jigs & reels by Joanne Harris

Each tale in this enchanting collection is a surprise and a delight, melding the poignant and the possible with the outrageous, the magical, and, sometimes, the eerily haunting. Whether she's

exploring the myth of beauty, the pain of infidelity, or the wonder of late-life romance, Joanne Harris once again proves herself a master of the storyteller's trade.

Butterfly by Sonia Hartnett
(Large print edition available)

Here is Plum Coyle, on the threshold of adolescence, striving to be new. Her fourteenth birthday is approaching: her old life and her old body will fall away, and she will become graceful, powerful, at ease. The strength in the objects she stores in a briefcase under her bed - a crystal lamb, a yoyo, an antique watch, a penny - will make sure of it. Over the next couple of weeks, Plum's life will change. Her beautiful neighbour Maureen will begin to show her how she might fly. The older brothers she adores - the charismatic Justin, the enigmatic Cydar - will court catastrophe in worlds that she barely knows exist. And her friends - her worst enemies - will tease and test, smelling weakness. They will try to lead her on and take her down. Whoever forgets what happens when you're fourteen? *Butterfly* is a gripping, disquieting, beautifully observed novel that confirms Hartnett as one of Australia's finest writers.

Golden boys by Sonia Hartnett

With their father, there's always a catch . . . Colt Jenson and his younger brother Bastian have moved to a new, working-class suburb. The Jensons are different. Their father, Rex, showers them with gifts - toys, bikes, all that glitters most - and makes them the envy of the neighbourhood. To Freya Kiley and the other local kids, the Jensons are a family from a magazine, and Rex a hero - successful, attentive, attractive, always there to lend a hand. But to Colt he's an impossible figure in a different way: unbearable, suffocating. Has Colt got Rex wrong, or has he seen something in his father that will destroy their fragile new lives. Sonya Hartnett's new novel for adults is an unflinching and utterly compelling work from one Australia's finest writers.

Plainsong by Kent Haruf *** New title for 2018***

A heartstrong story of family and romance, tribulation and tenacity, set on the High Plains east of Denver. In the small town of Holt, Colorado, a high school teacher is confronted with raising his two boys alone after their mother retreats first to the bedroom, then altogether. A teenage girl—her father long since disappeared, her mother unwilling to have her in the house—is pregnant, alone herself, with nowhere to go. And out in the country, two brothers, elderly bachelors, work the family homestead, the only world they've ever known. From these unsettled lives emerges a vision of life, and of the town and landscape that bind them together—their fates somehow overcoming the powerful circumstances of place and station, their confusion, curiosity, dignity and humor intact and resonant. As the milieu widens to embrace fully four generations, Kent Haruf displays an emotional and aesthetic authority to rival the past masters of a classic American tradition. Utterly true to the rhythms and patterns of life, *Plainsong* is a novel to care about, believe in, and learn from.

In her blood by Annie Hauxwell

Everyone is hooked on something. It's not that easy to kick the money habit. After the world meltdown forces London's bankers to go cold turkey, people look elsewhere for a quick quid: the old fashioned East End. So when investigator Catherine Berlin gets an anonymous tip-off about a local loan shark, the case seems straightforward -- until her informant is found floating in the Limehouse Basin. In another part of town, a notorious doctor is murdered in his surgery, and his entire stock of pharmaceutical heroin stolen. An unorthodox copper is assigned to the case, and Berlin finds herself a reluctant collaborator in a murder investigation. Now Berlin has seven days to find out who killed her informant, why the police are hounding her and, most

urgently of all, where to find a new -- and legal -- supply of the drug she can't survive without. Smart, stylish and fast-paced, *In Her Blood* heralds the arrival of a remarkable new talent in crime fiction.

The truth about Peacock Blue by Rosanne Hawke

Everything changes for thirteen-year-old Aster the night her brother dies. Suddenly she's the only hope of the family, and instead of an early marriage to a boy from her small village in Pakistan, her parents decide to send her to school instead of her brother.

Girl on the train by Paula Hawkins

Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. 'Jess and Jason', she calls them. Their life - as she sees it - is perfect. If only Rachel could be that happy. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Now Rachel has a chance to become a part of the lives she's only watched from afar. Now they'll see; she's much more than just the girl on the train.

The secret of lost things by Sheridan Hay

A young Australian woman takes a job at a vast, chaotic emporium of used and rare books in New York City and finds herself caught up in the search for a lost Melville manuscript. This is a literary novel about the eccentricities and passions of booksellers and collectors.

A moveable feast by Ernest Hemingway

Begun in the autumn of 1957 and published posthumously in 1964, Ernest Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast* captures what it meant to be young and poor and writing in Paris during the 1920s. A correspondent for the *Toronto Star*, Hemingway arrived in Paris in 1921, three years after the trauma of the Great War and at the beginning of the transformation of Europe's cultural landscape: Braque and Picasso were experimenting with cubist form; James Joyce, long living in self-imposed exile from his native Dublin, had just completed *Ulysses*; Gertrude Stein held court at 27 Rue de Fleurus, and deemed young Ernest a member of *une gneration perdue*; and T.S. Eliot was a bank clerk in London. It was during these years that the as-of-yet unpublished young writer gathered the material for his first novel *The Sun Also Rises*, and the subsequent masterpieces that followed.

Among these small, reflective sketches are unforgettable encounters with the members of Hemingway's slightly rag-tag circle of artists and writers, some also fated to achieve fame and glory, others to fall into obscurity. Here, too, is an evocation of the Paris that Hemingway knew as a young man - a map drawn in his distinct prose of the streets and cafes and bookshops that comprised the city in which he, as a young writer, sometimes struggling against the cold and hunger of near poverty, honed the skills of his craft.

A Moveable Feast is at once an elegy to the remarkable group for expatriates that gathered in Paris during the twenties and a testament to the risks and rewards of the writerly life.

White masai by Corinne Hofmann

It's an astonishing story of love at first sight. She was white, well-educated, from wealthy Switzerland. He was a Masai warrior from a remote village in the poorest part of Kenya. They didn't speak the same language, they knew nothing about each other, yet, from the first glance, they just clicked.

Ugly : my memoir by Robert Hoge

Robert Hoge was born with a massive tumour, severely distorted facial features, legs that were twisted and useless, and a mother who didn't think she could take her son home. His life could have been achingly sad, but with his family he filled it with joy, optimism and the naughtiness of boyhood.

The tall man : death and life on Palm Island by Chloe Hooper

The Tall Man is the story of Palm Island, the tropical paradise where one morning Cameron Doomadgee swore at a policeman and forty minutes later lay dead in a watch-house cell. It is the story of that policeman, the tall, enigmatic Christopher Hurley who chose to work in some of the toughest and wildest places in Australia, and of the struggle to bring him to trial. Above all, it is a story in luminous detail of two worlds clashing - and a haunting moral puzzle that no reader will forget.

A long way down by Nick Hornby

Disgraced TV presenter plans to jump off the top of a tower block on New Year's Eve. Three others turn up and crash his private party. All of them have the same idea and bring their own reasons.

And the mountains echoed by Khaled Hosseini

So, then. You want a story and I will tell you one...Afghanistan, 1952. Abdullah and his sister Pari live with their father and stepmother in the small village of Shadbagh. Their father, Saboor, is constantly in search of work and they struggle together through poverty and brutal winters. To Abdullah, Pari - as beautiful and sweet-natured as the fairy for which she was named - is everything. More like a parent than a brother, Abdullah will do anything for her, even trading his only pair of shoes for a feather for her treasured collection. Each night they sleep together in their cot, their heads touching, their limbs tangled. One day the siblings journey across the desert to Kabul with their father. Pari and Abdullah have no sense of the fate that awaits them there, for the event which unfolds will tear their lives apart; sometimes a finger must be cut to save the hand. Crossing generations and continents, moving from Kabul, to Paris, to San Francisco, to the Greek island of Tinos, with profound wisdom, depth, insight and compassion, Khaled Hosseini writes about the bonds that define us and shape our lives, the ways in which we help our loved ones in need, how the choices we make resonate through history and how we are often surprised by the people closest to us.

A thousand splendid suns by Khaled Hosseini

Propelled by the same superb instinct for storytelling that made *The Kite Runner* a beloved classic, A Thousand Splendid Suns is at once an incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith, and the salvation to be found in love.

Oranges and sunshine by Margaret Humphries

The book that exposed the scandal of Britain's forgotten and abused child migrants, previously published as [*Empty Cradles. Made into a film in 2011.*](#)

Carry me down by M J Hyland

This is a heartrendingly domestic work, full of compassion for the most ordinary of our human frailties.

This is how by M J Hyland

When his fiancée breaks off their engagement, Patrick Oxtoby leaves home and moves to a boarding house in a seaside town. But in spite of his hopes and determination to build a better life, nothing goes to plan and Patrick is soon driven to take a desperate and chilling course of action.

An American in Oz by Sara James

The warm, uplifting and funny chronicle of one woman's journey from glamorous, globe-trotting New York television correspondent to a small-town mum grappling with Australian country life - an odyssey filled with drama and adventure, both personal and professional, both intentional and accidental. Meet the steel magnolia in the Australian bush.

Paint your wife by Lloyd Jones

Written by a New Zealand author, *Paint your wife* is a colourful and quirky picture of a desperate town, peopled with some delightful and eccentric characters and some strange incidents.

Leap by Myfanwy Jones

A few weeks after finishing their final exams high school sweethearts have an argument at a party. Joe wants to go - Jen begs him to stay. They fight in the corridor, following their usual script, and then he walks out and leaves her. A few hours later she dies...Three years on, after burning up his own dreams for the future, Joe is working in dead-end jobs and mentoring a wayward teenager not dissimilar from his younger self. Driven by the need to make good, he spends all his spare time doing parkour under an inner-city bridge, training his mind and body to conquer the hostile urban environment that took his love and blighted his future...Somewhere else, a middle-aged woman, Elise, is treading water in her life as her marriage breaks up. We watch as she retreats to the only place that holds any meaning for her - the tiger enclosure at Melbourne Zoo, where, for reasons she barely understands, she starts painting the tigers and forms a close connection to them...Joe is broken by grief, but the outside world won't let him hide forever. A cool and bewitching girl turns up on the doorstep of his share house, somehow painfully familiar to him. Then there is the skateboarding chef at the bar where he works, the girl with the Cossack-blue eyes, who wants to be his friend. And someone going by the Facebook tag Emily Dickinson wants to reminisce about his dead girlfriend and won't leave him alone...Can Joe staunch the flooding return of desire - or is it time to let go of the past? And will he make the nine-foot leap from girder to pillar or does he want to fall too?...While at its heart is a searing absence, *Leap* is driven by an unstoppable and exhilarating life force, and the eternally hopeful promise of redemptive love. Funny, moving, quirky and original, *Leap* is an effortlessly enjoyable novel that quietly creeps up on you until its final jaw-dropping pages and a narrative twist that will take your breath away...

Nine days by Toni Jordan

It is 1939 and although Australia is about to go to war, it doesn't quite realise yet that the situation is serious. Deep in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Richmond it is business - your own and everyone else's - as usual. And young Kip Westaway, failed scholar and stablehand, is living the most important day of his life. Kip's momentous day is one of nine that will set the course for each member of the Westaway clan in the years that follow. Kip's mother, his brother Francis and, eventually, Kip's wife Annabel and their daughters and grandson: all find their own turning points, their triumphs and catastrophes, in days to come. But at the heart of all their stories is Kip, and at the centre of Kip's fifteen-year-old heart is his adored sister Connie. They hold the threads that will weave a family. In *Nine Days* Toni Jordan has harnessed all the spiky wit, compassion and lust for life that drew readers in droves to *Addition*

and Fall Girl. Ambitious in scope and structure, triumphantly realised, this is a novel about one family and every family. It is about dreams and fights and sacrifices. And finally, of course, it is - as it must be - about love.

Coode by Vivienne Kelly

The narrator is Isabel, an attractive, intelligent woman reflecting on her life and family, whom we follow from her first marriage to her awareness of limitations brought by middle-age.

The people's train by Thomas Keneally

The People's train is firmly based in the truth. From the Russian uprising of 1905 to the early 1910s, a number of Russian victims of the Okhrana, the Tsarist secret police, came to Queensland. They were socialists and revolutionaries.. Two main characters feature: Artem (F.A.) Sergeiev, about 34 years of age, an educated peasant and a veteran agent of Lenin's, is narrator of the Australian section of the book. Paddy Dykes, who becomes Artem's bodyguard. Paddy is an admirable fellow, a reader, a former union official whose family hardships make him believe that capitalism can't be negotiated with. Becomes the narrator of Artem's coming Russian adventures. For in February 1917, an anti-Tsarist revolution begins in Russia, and Artem and Paddy resolve to return via Vladivostok.

Shame and the captives by Thomas Keneally

Will keeping the Japanese, Korean and Italian POWs of the Second World War alive in Australia keep Australian POWs alive and well wherever they are? Like The Daughters of Mars and all his best work, what this novel does so brilliantly is to explore the intimacies and extraordinary aspects of ordinary lives being played out against grand world events. And this time, the events take place on home turf. It is about the lives of the farmers, townspeople and soldiers training and working for this cataclysmic international event that is taking place at a distance. This is not the Western Front but a NSW farming community having to deal with 'the enemy'. Many of the townspeople and soldiers have husbands, sons, brothers who are away at war, missing, imprisoned or perhaps dead. The moral quandary they have is deciding how to treat these POWs in their midst.

The world beneath by Cate Kennedy

Once, Rich and Sandy were environmental activists, part of a world-famous blockade in Tasmania to save the wilderness. Now, twenty-five years later, they have both settled into the uncomfortable compromises of middle age - although they've gone about it in very different ways. About the only thing they have in common these days is their fifteen-year-old daughter, Sophie. When the perennially restless Rich decides to take Sophie, who he hardly knows, on a trek into the Tasmanian wilderness, his overconfidence and her growing disillusion with him set off a chain of events that no one could have predicted. Instead of respect, Rich finds antagonism in the relationship with Sophie; and, in the vast landscape he once felt an affinity with, he encounters nothing but disorientation and fear. Ultimately, all three characters will learn that if they are to survive, each must traverse not only the secret territories that lie between them but also those within themselves.

Burial rites by Hannah Kent

A brilliant literary debut, inspired by a true story: the final days of a young woman accused of murder in Iceland in 1829. Set against Iceland's stark landscape, Hannah Kent brings to vivid life the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm to await execution. Horrified at the prospect of housing a convicted murderer, the family at first avoids Agnes. Only Toti, a priest Agnes has mysteriously chosen to be her

spiritual guardian, seeks to understand her. But as Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and their daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story they've heard. Riveting and rich with lyricism, *BURIAL RITES* evokes a dramatic existence in a distant time and place, and asks the question, how can one woman hope to endure when her life depends upon the stories told by others?

The good people by Hannah Kent ***New title for 2018***

Hedged in by gossip and joined by their desperation, three women in nineteenth-century Ireland are drawn together in the hope of rescuing a child from a superstitious community, determined to rid itself of the strange and unknowable. Bereft after the loss of her husband, Nora finds herself alone and caring for her young grandson Micheal--a boy whom she recalls as having been a happy and healthy infant but now, in the wake of both his mother's and grandfather's deaths, can neither speak nor walk. Mary, a servant girl from more rural parts, comes to the valley to help Nora just as the rumors are spreading: the talk of unexplained misfortunes and illnesses, and the theory that deformed Micheal is a changeling, a fairy child to blame for the bad luck the valley has endured since his arrival. Determined to banish the evil in Micheal, Nora and Mary enlist the help of the elderly Nance, a recluse and wanderer once revered by her neighbors for her healing powers, but now condemned as a fraud and a threat by the new priest in town. As the trio's situation grows more dire, their folkloric practices become increasingly daring--culminating, at last, in a stunning and irreversible act that will put all their lives in danger. Terrifying, thrilling, and wholly original, *THE GOOD PEOPLE* is a startling examination of absolute belief and superstition taken to their extremes, of the universal yearning to belong, and of love, both tender and harsh

Secret life of bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed.

The dinner by Herman Koch

Paul Lohman and his wife Claire are going out to dinner with Paul's brother Serge, a charismatic and ambitious politician, and his wife Babette. Paul knows the evening will not be fun. The restaurant will be over-priced and pretentious, the head waiter will bore on about the organically certified free-range this and artisan-fed that, and almost everything about Serge, especially his success, will infuriate Paul. But as the evening wears on it becomes clear that tonight's dinner will be even more difficult than usual. There is something the two couples have to discuss. It's about their teenage sons and the very bad thing they have been doing. And it's about how far two sets of parents will go to save their children from the consequences of their actions.

Night games : sex, power and sport by Anna Krien

The Pies beat the Saints and the city of Melbourne was still cloaked in black and white crepe paper when the rumour of a pack rape by celebrating footballers began to surface. By morning, the head of the sexual crimes squad confirmed to journalists that they were preparing to question two Collingwood players ... And so, as police were confiscating bed sheets from a townhouse in Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, the trial by media began. In the tradition of Helen Garner's *The First Stone* comes another closely observed, controversial book about sex, consent and power. At the centre of it is Anna Krien's account of the rape trial of a footballer. Krien offers a balanced and fearless look at the dark side of footy culture -- the world of Sam Newman, Ricky Nixon, Matty Johns, the Cronulla Sharks and more. What does a young footballer do to cut loose? At night, some play what they think of as pranks, or games. Night

games involving women. These games sometimes involve consensual sex, but sometimes they don't, and sometimes they fall into a grey area. Both a courtroom drama and a riveting piece of first-person narrative journalism, this is a breakthrough book from one of the young leading lights of Australian writing.

Girl in translation by Jean Kwok

(Large print edition available)

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life-like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition-Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

Girl with the dragon tattoo by Steig Larsson

(Large print edition available)

Disgraced magazine owner and journalist Mikael Blomkvist is facing criminal charges, following the botched publication of an investigative piece on a business tycoon called Wennerstrom. Meanwhile, Henrik Vanger, the 82-year-old patriarch of the Vanger Corporation, is living out his days surrounded by duplicitous family members, and dwelling on the unsolved murder of his 16-year-old granddaughter, Harriet. Lisbeth Salander, a private investigator, is hired by Vanger to assess Blomkvist as a potential researcher into his family's 40 year old mystery.

Aloft by Chang-Rae Lee

Aloft is a witty social critique of contemporary suburban America and a deft portrait of a man struggling to balance his responsibility with his freedom.

Go set a watchman by Harper Lee

Maycomb, Alabama. 26 year old Jean Louise Finch, Scout, returns home from New York City to visit her ageing father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt.

Daniel isn't talking by Marti Leimbach

This is a powerful novel exploring the effects of autism on a young family, written by an author who has experienced the condition within her immediate family.

The dressmaker of Khair Khana by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

The Dressmaker of Khair Khana, written by a former reporter for ABC News, tells the story of a fearless young entrepreneur who brought hope to the lives of dozens of women in war-torn Afghanistan.

A short history of tractors in Ukrainian by Marina Lewycka

Two feuding sisters team to save their father, an elderly widower (and author of a book on tractors) from the very young, voluptuous Valentina, who is attempting to seduce him and his money.

The bad mother's handbook by Kate Long

A story of three generations of mothers: Nan who suffers from memory loss; Nan's daughter Karen who learns about her scandalous birth while reconciling with her ex-husband; and finally Charlotte, Karen's daughter whose teen pregnancy makes all the characters learn something new about motherhood.

Lucy family alphabet by Judith Lucy

In amongst the gags Judith explores the people her parents were and the impact of finding out - at twenty-five - that she was adopted. We meet Judith's birth mother by learn that ultimately it was her very unusual parents who made her who she is today.

Somme Mud by E P F Lynch

Somme Mud tells of the devastating experiences of Edward Lynch, a young Australian private soldier (18 when he enlisted) during the First World War when he served with the 45th battalion of the Australian Infantry Forces on the Western Front at the Somme, which saw the most bloody and costly fighting of the war. Told with dignity, candour and surprising wit, it is a testament to the power of the human spirit, a moving true story of humanity and friendship.

The Lavender Keeper by Fiona McIntosh

Lavender farmer Luc Bonet is raised by a wealthy Jewish family in the foothills of the French Alps. When the Second World War breaks out he joins the French Resistance, leaving behind his family's fortune.

Death in a truffle wood by Pierre Magnan

Set in Provence, like other Magnan novels, this murder mystery is full of quirky characters, not least Roseline the truffle hunting pig who plays an important role in the detection. Complicated, gruesome and absolutely absorbing, this is one wood you do not want to get lost in.

All my enemies by Barry Maitland

Just before Kolla is to start her new job, a young woman is found viciously murdered in a leafy, well-heeled suburb, and the grotesque details of the slaughter appear to be well rehearsed, even theatrical. Assigned to the case, Kolla's only improbable lead draws her to a local amateur drama group. Once in their orbit, she is lured into a piece of theatre, over which, increasingly, she has little control. In *All My Enemies*, Brock and Kolla find themselves in a tangled web of secrets, lies and murder.

Stiff by Shane Maloney

Shane Maloney is one of Australia's most popular novelists. His Murray Whelan series of comic thrillers is characterised by compelling plots, a strong sense of humour, an acute ear for the Australian idiom and one of the most unlikely protagonists in contemporary crime fiction.

Before the frost by Henning Mankell

Kurt Wallander, now joined by his daughter Linda, attempts to make sense of an array of seemingly disconnected and motiveless crimes. This Swedish murder mystery explores the father-daughter relationship, religious fanaticism, the search for meaning, and the ultimately unknowability of human beings, whether friends, family, or oneself.

Driving under the influence by Jenna Martin

Chelsea has had a rough week. After a few great years of professional triumphs and personal stability, she suddenly finds herselfandmdash;at the grand old age of 28andmdash;homeless,

jobless and single. Cheating on her boyfriend with her boss probably wasn't the brightest idea. Salvation comes in the form of her father, Gary 'Turbo' Turbiton, a once major but now fading star of stage and screen, who offers her a job as his assistant while he travels Australia promoting his recent autobiography. Chelsea adores her Dad but she knows from years of family road trips just what this 'job' will entail: hours and hours of mindless bush trivia, pit stops to ridiculous local landmarks and pointed interrogations about what she's doing with her life. All the while John Denver will warble endlessly on the CD player. Resigned to her fate and without a better she says yes. The promo tour takes the two of them across Australia, from a family wedding in Darwin to a pig farm in Port Fairy, from a chance encounter in Tenterfield to an impromptu karaoke night in Yackandandah. Along the way there are unplanned detours they have to face as they both struggle with that eternal life question: what happens next? With its light touch and sassy humour, *Driving Under the Influence* is a charming look at growing up, growing old and what fathers and daughters can learn from each other.

Winter of our disconnect by Susan Maushart

(Large print edition available)

For any parent who's ever IM-ed their child to the dinner table - or yanked the modem from its socket in a show of primal parental rage - this account of one family's self-imposed exile from the Information Age will leave you ROFLing with recognition. But it will also challenge you to take stock of your own family connections, to create a media ecology that encourages kids - and parents - to thrive. When journalist and commentator Susan Maushart first decided to pull the plug on all electronic media at home, she realised her children would have sooner volunteered to go without food, water or hair products. At ages 14, 15 and 18, her daughters and son didn't use media. They inhabited media. Just exactly as fish inhabit a pond. Gracefully. Unblinkingly. And utterly without consciousness or curiosity as to how they got there. Susan's experiment with her family was a major success and she found that having less to communicate with, her family is communicating more. At the simplest level, *The Winter of Our Disconnect* is the story of how one family survived six months of wandering through the desert, digitally speaking, and the lessons learned about themselves and technology along the way. At the same time, their story is a channel to a wider view - into the impact of new media on the lives of families, into the very heart of the meaning of home.

Demons by Wayne Macauley

It is the middle of winter. Four middle-aged couples make the journey down the Great Ocean Road to a remote beach house. Without phones, internet, or television, they plan to sit around the fireplace for the weekend, telling stories that might explain the passage of their own lives. Nothing goes to plan. As a storm rolls in, the implications of what they reveal to each other grow more shocking, and soon torrential rain cuts the party off from the outside world. Some stories aren't meant to be shared, and there are consequences that come with the truth. An extraordinary and unexpected psychological thriller.

Teacher man by Frank McCourt

Although not as narrative as *Angela's ashes* or *'Tis*, *Teacher Man* is the memoir of a man who drifted into a profession he was meant for, and later blossomed into the writer we are all thankful for.

The Children Act by Ian McEwan

A brilliant, emotionally wrenching new novel from the author of *Atonement* and *Amsterdam*. Fiona Maye, a leading High Court judge, renowned for her fierce intelligence and sensitivity is called on to try an urgent case. For religious reasons, a seventeen-year-old boy is refusing the

medical treatment that could save his life. Time is running out. She visits the boy in hospital â€" an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. But it is Fiona who must ultimately decide whether he lives or dies and her judgement will have momentous consequences for them both.

On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan

Ian McEwan has based his novel about a disastrous wedding night on the entirely plausible assumption that the course of two lives can be determined by the events contained in one lousy hour.

Saturday by Ian McEwan

The action of the novel occupies a single day, in the run-up to the second Iraq war. The immediate theme of the book is about how to live in London today, at a time of increasing international tension and under terrorist attack.

Solar by Ian McEwan

(Large print edition available)

Michael Beard is a Nobel prize-winning physicist whose best work is behind him. Trading on his reputation, he speaks for enormous fees, lends his name to the letterheads of renowned scientific institutions and half-heartedly heads a government-backed initiative tackling global warming. A compulsive womaniser, Beard finds his fifth marriage floundering. But this time it is different: she is having the affair, and he is still in love with her. When Beard's professional and personal worlds collide in a freak accident, an opportunity presents itself for Beard to extricate himself from his marital mess, reinvigorate his career and save the world from environmental disaster. Ranging from the Arctic Circle to the deserts of New Mexico, SOLAR is a serious and darkly satirical novel, showing human frailty struggling with the most pressing and complex problem of our time. A story of one man's greed and self-deception, it is a profound and stylish new work from one of the world's great writers.

St Kilda blues by Geoffrey McGeachin

Melbourne's first serial killer is at work and only one man can stop him. It's 1967, the summer of love, and in swinging Melbourne Detective Sergeant Charlie Berlin has been hauled out of exile in the Fraud Squad to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl, the daughter of a powerful and politically connected property developer. As Berlin's inquiries uncover more missing girls he gets an uneasy feeling he may be dealing with the city's first serial killer. Berlin's investigation leads him through inner-city discothèques, hip photographic studios, the emerging drug culture and into the seedy back streets of St Kilda. The investigation also brings up ghosts of Berlin's past, disturbing memories of the casual murder of a young woman he witnessed in dying days of WW11. As in war, some victories come at a terrible cost and Berlin will have to face an awful truth and endure an unimaginable loss before his investigation is over. St Kilda Blues is the third novel in the Charlie Berlin series.

So many ways to begin by Jon McGregor

In this British novel, David Carter becomes a museum curator in Coventry. Like his meticulous files, his life is ordered, known and understood until his Aunt Julia begins to suffer from dementia and reveals the truth about his birth. Jon McGregor explores what happens when our lives fail to take the turns we expect, and the ways we learn to let go of the people we might have been.

Between us women of letters by Michaela

Writing a letter can be an act of confession or celebration, while receiving one can bring joy, insight and vivid memories. Ambassadors for correspondence Marieke Hardy and Michaela McGuire have lured some of our best and brightest to the literary afternoons of Women of Letters to write and read missives of all kinds.

The good life by Jay McInerney

This novel captures a few weeks on either side of the September 11 attacks in two couples' lives. It is a story of love, family, loss and conflicting desires.

Those Faraday girls by Monica McInerney

When the youngest of five lively sisters announces that she is pregnant at sixteen, her four sisters vow to stand by her and help raise her child until she reaches school-age. But five years after young Maggie's birth, one of the sisters does the unthinkable, and tears the family apart.

A man's got to have a hobby by William McInnes

It is his father's sense of the absurd and love of playing jokes that William believes was behind his decision to become an actor. While this Australian biography will make you laugh out loud at McInnes' dry wit and humorous recollections, you will also be touched by his homage to his family and in particular his father. It is about the importance of family, letting go of the past and treasuring the gifts it has passed on.

Worse things happen at sea by William McInnes

In William's first book *A MAN'S GOT TO HAVE A HOBBY* he wrote about family life in the 1960s with humour, affection and honesty. *WORSE THINGS HAPPEN AT SEA* does the same for family life in the 2000s; written by William and Sarah in a way that many Australians can relate to and enjoy. This book celebrates the wonderful, messy, haphazard things in life - bringing home babies from hospital, being a friend, a parent, son or daughter, and dog obedience classes. It's about living for twenty years in the family home, raising children there, chasing angry rabbits around the backyard, and renovations that never end. It is also about understanding that sometimes you have to say goodbye; that is part of life too. Illustrated throughout with Sarah Watt's photographs of family life and beautiful, everyday objects.

The good life by Hugh Mackay

You hear that insistent message, echoing through the philosophical traditions of East and West: treat other people the way you'd like to be treated. The basic message never alters, whether your moral heritage is Socratic, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Buddhist, humanistic or anything in between. Social researcher and psychologist Hugh Mackay has spent 40 years asking Australians about their lives, loves, hopes, ambitions, fears and passions. In *The Good Life*, he asks and answers the ultimate question: What makes a life worth living? His conclusion, drawn from his research, is provocative and passionately argued. A good life is not measured by security, wealth, status, achievement or levels of happiness. A good life is determined by our capacity for selflessness and our willingness to connect with those around us in a meaningful and useful way. Hugh looks at the numerous ways we get distracted from this central purpose. He examines the utopian complex, which describes our dangerous desire for perfection, and the false expectation that life will unfold according to our carefully laid plans. He highlights the things that lead us along paths to pain and confusion, notably our willingness to sacrifice others on the altar of our personal desires and ambitions. As with Hugh's previous

works of non-fiction, *The Good Life* is a book that will start conversations, ignite arguments and possibly change the way we live our lives.

Infiltration by Colin McLaren

Infiltration tells the story of two of the bloodiest decades in organised crime, when the police ethos was to shoot first and ask questions later. For two years police detective Colin McLaren disappeared off the face of the earth, eventually surfacing in Griffith as a dodgy art dealer with a pretty girlfriend, and talking his way into the Mafia. For days, weeks, then months and years, Colin eats with them, sits in their homes and cuddles their kids, all the while climbing the N'Dranghetta, finally befriending the Griffith Godfather, Antonio Romeo.

Lovesong by Alex Miller

(Large print edition available)

Seeking shelter in a Parisian cafe from a sudden rainstorm, John Patterner meets the exotic Sabina and his carefully mapped life changes forever.

These foolish things by Deborah Moggach

When an over-worked London doctor is driven beyond endurance by his disgusting and difficult father-in-law, his prayers seem to be answered when his entrepreneurial cousin sets up a retirement home in Bangalore. Travel and set-up are inexpensive, staff willing and plentiful, and the British pensioners can enjoy hot weather and take mango juice with their gin.

The hundred foot journey by Richard Morais

The story of Hassan Haji, a boy from Mumbai, who ends up opening a restaurant in a quiet French village thus triggering a culinary war with the fancy haute cuisine place opposite.

Currawalli Street by Christopher Morgan

A beguiling celebration of the extraordinary in ordinary people's lives, this gently moving and beautifully written novel tells the stories of the people of one street, across the generations. We all have secret lives. And we are all pretty good at keeping them secret. With simplicity and great beauty, this novel reveals the echoes between past and present through the story of one ordinary street and its families, from the pre-war innocence of early 1914 to the painful and grim consequences of the Vietnam War. In 1914, Thomas, the young rector, questions his faith and falls in love; his sister Janet, a dutiful spinster, hides a surprising secret; and their neighbor, Rose, is burdened with visions of the coming hell. In 1972, Jim, a soldier fresh from Vietnam, returns home to Currawalli Street to find that death has a way of seeping in everywhere; Patrick, looked after by his elderly wife, Mary, can't relinquish his former identity; and always there is the boy up in the tree, watching them all and keeping note. In only three short generations, working horses and wagons are lost to cars, wood-fired ovens are replaced with electric stoves, and the lessons learned at such cost in the Great War seem forgotten. But despite all the changes, the essential human things remain: there will always be families and friends reaching out for connection; people will always have secrets to keep hidden from view; and desire and love are as inevitable as war and violence. This deep, rich, and satisfying tale links families and neighbors, their lovers and friends, in a powerful and moving dance through time.

The husband's secret by Liane Moriarty

"To be opened in the event of my death" With one swift, vicious movement, she sliced the envelope open, and pulled out a handwritten letter. love you and the girls... so sorry to leave you with this... cannot bear... *The Husband's Secret* is a funny, heartbreaking novel of

marriage, grief, love and secrets. When her husband announces he's in love with her best friend, painfully shy Tess picks up her young son and returns to her mother's house. There she begins an unexpected affair with an old flame. Rachel is a woman in her sixties consumed by grief and anger at the loss of her daughter twenty years earlier. When her son announces he is taking her beloved grandson overseas, Rachel begins a descent into deeper bitterness and pain. Cecilia is the quintessential "I don't know how she does it" woman. A devoted mother to three daughters, she runs her household like clockwork, is President of the P&C, owns an extremely successful Tupperware business and is happy in her fifteen-year marriage. Until she discovers a letter in their attic labelled: "To my wife Cecilia, to be opened in the event of my death"... Her husband's secret is a bombshell beyond all imagining with repercussions across the lives of all three women.

Monsoon by Di Morrissey

Family saga set at the start of the 18th century in England, East Africa and Arabia. Following the lives of the three sons of Hal Courteney, who are drawn inexorably to Africa. The adventure and excitement take place on the ocean but gradually the brothers are seduced by Africa.

The forgotten garden by Kate Morton

A founding, an old book of dark fairy tales, a secret garden, an aristocratic family, a love denied, and a mystery provide a captivating, atmospheric and compulsively readable story of the past, secrets, family and memory.

Speak memory Vladimir Nabokov ***New title for 2018***

'Speak, memory' said Vladimir Nabokov. And immediately there came flooding back to him a host of enchanting recollections - of his comfortable childhood and adolescence, of his rich, liberal-minded father, his beautiful mother, an army of relations and family hangers-on and of grand old houses in St Petersburg and the surrounding countryside in pre-revolutionary Russia. Young love, butterflies, tutors and a multitude of other themes thread together to weave an autobiography which is itself a work of art.

12 years a slave by Solomon Northup

The story that inspired the major motion picture, with an introduction by the bestselling author of *Wench*, Dolen Perkins-Valdez, *Twelve Years a Slave* is a harrowing, vividly detailed, and utterly unforgettable account of slavery. Solomon Northup was an entrepreneur and dedicated family man, father to three young children, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Alonzo. What little free time he had after long days of manual and farm labor he spent reading books and playing the violin. Though his father was born into slavery, Solomon was born and lived free. In March 1841, two strangers approached Northup, offering him employment as a violinist in a town hundreds of miles away from his home in Saratoga Springs, New York. Solomon bid his wife farewell until his return. Only after he was drugged and bound did he realize the strangers were kidnappers-that nefarious brand of criminals in the business of capturing runaway and free blacks for profit. Thus began Northup's horrific life as a slave. Dehumanized, beaten, and worked mercilessly, Northup suffered all the more, wondering what had become of his family. One owner was savagely cruel and Northup recalls he was "indebted to him for nothing, save undeserved abuse." Just as he felt the summer of his life fade and all hope nearly lost, he met a kindhearted stranger who changed the course of his life.

The ship of brides by Jojo Moyes

This is the fictional account of four Australian war brides who set off for England in 1946 aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious.

Sunnyside by Joanna Murray-Smith

Written by one of Australia's pre-eminent playwrights, this is a sizzling contemporary novel that with wit, tenderness and chilling suspense, enters the dark heart of the Australian bourgeoisie.

True north : the story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack by Brenda Niall

Growing up in suburban Perth in the 1920s, the two Durack girls were fascinated by tales of the pioneering past of their father and grandfather overlanding from Queensland in the 1880s and setting up four vast cattle stations in the remote north. A year spent together on the stations in their early twenties ignited in the sisters a lifelong love of the Kimberley, along with a growing unease about the situation of the Aboriginal people employed there. Through war, love affairs, children and eventual old age, the Duracks continued to write and paint – their closely intertwined creative lives always shaped by the enduring power of the Kimberley region. With unprecedented access to hundreds of private family letters, unpublished memoirs, diaries and family papers, Brenda Niall gets to the heart of a uniquely Australian story that spans the twentieth century.

Floodtide by Judy Nunn

(Large print edition available)

Floodtide is a brilliant observation of turbulent times in the mighty 'Iron Ore State' - Western Australia. The novel traces the fortunes of four men and four families over four memorable decades: The prosperous post-war 1950s, the turbulent 60s, the avaricious 70s and the corrupt 80s and the birth of 'WA Inc'.

Maralinga by Judy Nunn

(Large print edition available)

During the darkest days of the Cold War, in the remote wilderness of a South Australian desert, the future of an infant nation is being decided . . . without its people's knowledge. A British airbase in the middle of nowhere; an atomic weapons testing ground; an army of raw youth, led by powerful and ambitious men, make a cocktail for disaster. Such is Maralinga in the spring of 1956. Maralinga is also a story of love; a love so strong that it draws the adventurous young English journalist Elizabeth Hoffman half way around the world in search of the truth. And Maralinga is a story of the heartbreak brought to the innocent First Australians who had walked their land unhindered for forty thousand years. Maralinga . . . a desolate place, a dangerous place, where history demands an emerging nation choose between hell and reason!

Mother, missing by Joyce Carol Oates

This is the story of a woman coming to terms with the violent death of her mother, and uncovering all the hidden secrets stowed away over the years.

Dreams of my father by Barak Obama

[I]n New York ... Barack Obama learns that his father--a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man--has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey--first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance"--Container.

The vanishing act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell

This is the story of Esme, a woman who was edited out of her family's history and of the secrets that came to light when, sixty years later, she is released from care, and a young woman, Iris, discovers the great aunt she never knew she had.

Be near me by Andrew O'Hagan

When an English priest takes over a small Scottish parish, not everyone is ready to accept him, and before the summer is out his quiet life is the focus of public hysteria. *Be Near Me* is a novel of art and politics, love and change, and a book about the way we live now.

Sisters of mercy by Caroline Overington

This is the haunting story of two sisters - one has vanished, the other is behind bars. Snow Delaney was born a generation and a world away from her sister, Agnes. Until recently, neither even knew of the other's existence. They came together only for the reading of their father's will - when Snow discovered, to her horror, that she was not the sole beneficiary of his large estate. Now Snow is in prison and Agnes is missing, disappeared in the eerie red dust that blanketed Sydney from dawn on September 23, 2009. With no other family left, Snow turns to crime journalist Jack Fawcett, protesting her innocence in a series of defiant letters from prison. Has she been unfairly judged? Or will Jack's own research reveal a story even more shocking than the one Snow wants to tell?

Yellow eyes of crocodiles by Katherine Pancol

When her chronically unemployed husband runs off to start a crocodile farm in Kenya with his mistress, Josephine Cortes is left in an unhappy state of affairs. The mother of two-confident, beautiful teenage Hortense and shy, babyish Zoe;-is forced to maintain a stable family life while making ends meet on her meager salary as a medieval history scholar. Meanwhile, Josephine's charismatic sister Iris seems to have it all-a wealthy husband, gorgeous looks, and a tres chic Paris address-but she dreams of bringing meaning back into her life. When Iris charms a famous publisher into offering her a lucrative deal for a twelfth-century romance, she offers her sister a deal of her own: Josephine will write the novel and pocket all the proceeds, but the book will be published under Iris's name. All is well-that is, until the book becomes the literary sensation of the season.

Nineteen minutes by Jodi Picoult

This novel is a riveting, emotionally-charged account of a high-school massacre in the United States and the court case that follows. While Picoult tells us in the first chapter who did the shooting, what the reader needs to know is why.

The feel-good hit of the year by Liam Pieper

Liam Pieper was raised by his bohemian parents to believe in freedom and creativity, and that there's nothing wrong with smoking a little marijuana to make life more interesting. A fast learner, Liam combined hippie self-actualisation with gen Y entrepreneurialism. By his early teens he had a fledgling drug habit, and a thriving business selling pot around the suburbs of Melbourne from the back of his pushbike. He picked up important life skills, like how to befriend a deranged jujitsu master, how to impress his girlfriend's mother by getting arrested in front of her, and how to negotiate pocket money based on how much he was charging his parents for an ounce. But from these highs (chemical, financial and otherwise), Liam's life fell to dramatic lows. The muddled flower child became a petty criminal and an amoral coke monster. After a family tragedy and then his arrest on several counts of possession and trafficking, Liam had to

consider: had it been a mistake to adopt the practices of a counterculture without any of its ethics? Hilarious, compelling and sometimes heartbreaking, *The Feel-Good Hit of the Year* is a memoir about family, addiction and learning how to live with yourself, from a sharp and original new Australian voice.

Her father's daughter by Alice Pung

At twenty-something, Alice is eager for the milestones of adulthood: leaving home, choosing a career, finding friendship and love on her own terms. But with each step she takes she feels the sharp tug of invisible threads: the love and worry of her parents, who want more than anything to keep her from harm. Her father fears for her safety to an extraordinary degree - but why? As she digs further into her father's story, Alice embarks on a journey of painful discovery: of memories lost and found, of her own fears for the future, of history and how it echoes down the years. Set in Melbourne, China and Cambodia, *Her Father's Daughter* captures a father-daughter relationship in a moving and astonishingly powerful way. (sequel to "Unpolished gem")

Unpolished gem by Alice Pung

This memoir is a potent testament of what being an immigrant Australian means to the people who come here to find something better than what they have left behind. Melbourne lawyer Alice Pung's first book is a stunning account of growing up in a Chinese-Cambodian family in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Hello, beautiful! : scenes from a life by Hannie Rayson

I realise that, despite all the references to my longing to be a writer, two things are apparent. The first is that I don't actually do much writing; the second is that my teenage reflections display absolutely no talent for it. My *Diary* is prima facie evidence of self-delusion on a grand scale. A memoir in parts, from one of Australia's best-loved playwrights. Hannie Rayson--writer, mother, daughter, sister, wife, romantic, adventuress, parking-spot optimist--has spent a lifetime giving voice to others in the many roles she has written for stage and television. In her new book, she shines the spotlight on herself. This collection of stories from a dramatic life radiate with the great warmth and humour that has made Hannie one of the best-known playwrights in the country. From a childhood in Brighton to a urinary tract infection in Spain, from a body buried under the house to a play on a tram, *Hello, Beautiful!* captures a life behind the scenes--a life of tender moments, hilarious encounters and, inevitably, drama.

Kitchen table memoirs compiled by Nick Richardson

Whether it is oak, pine, Laminex, varnished, recycled or modernist glass -- in the domestic geography of our daily lives, the kitchen table is a constant. A silent witness to sustenance and solace, deliberation and argument, consolation and celebration. What other piece of furniture has witnessed so much and revealed so little? Here, for the first time, some of Australia's favourite writers and best-loved foodies share their very personal kitchen table memories, complete with gravy stains, bent forks and the odd tale of love and death. From Denise Scott's bitter-sweet recollection of chats around the table with her mother; to Martin Brown's tribute to the unique and forgotten sport of table climbing; to Helen Garner's quest to find the table that fitted her home and reflected her life, this charming anthology celebrates a beloved domestic touchstone where our lives, memories, stories and favourite recipes intersect.

Seduction by M.J. Rose

A hauntingly suspenseful novel about a grieving woman who discovers the long-lost letters of novelist Victor Hugo, awakening a mystery that spans centuries. In 1843, novelist Victor Hugo's

beloved nineteen-year-old daughter drowned. Ten years later, still unable to let go of his grief, Hugo began participating in hundreds of séances to re-establish contact with her. In the process, he claimed to have communed with the likes of Plato, Galileo, Shakespeare, Dante, Jesus - and even the Devil himself. Hugo's transcriptions of these conversations have all been published. Or so it is believed. One set of conversations was hidden by Hugo himself. And have remained hidden for over a hundred and sixty years. Recovering from her own losses, mythologist Jac L'Etoile arrives on the Isle of Jersey - where Hugo conducted the séances - hoping to uncover a secret about the island's Celtic myths. But the man who's invited her there, a troubled soul named Theo Gaspard, has hopes she'll help him discover something quite different - Hugo's lost long conversations with someone called the Shadow of the Sepulcher. What follows is an intricately plotted and atmospheric novel of suspense with a spellbinding ghost story at its heart, by one of America's most gifted and imaginative storytellers.

Shame by Jasvinder Sanghera

The author grew up in Derby and ran away from home at 15 to avoid a forced marriage. Her Indian parents, who came to Britain from the Punjab, refused to have any contact with her for years, and further anguish followed when a sister in an unhappy marriage burnt herself to death.

Tourmaline by Joanna Scott

The Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer serves up a complicated and compelling tale of a family that heads for an island off the Italian coast hoping to make a fortune in jewels but instead becomes embroiled in a mystery surrounding the disappearance of a local girl.

The tea girl of hummingbird lane by Lisa See ***New title for 2018***

A thrilling new novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisa See explores the lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple. Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives. In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. In her biggest seller, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, See introduced the Yao people to her readers. Here she shares the customs of another Chinese ethnic minority, the Akha, whose world will soon change. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city. After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl. Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations. A powerful story about a family, separated by circumstances, culture, and distance, *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.

Secrets of the sea by Nicholas Shakespeare

Following the death of his parents in a car crash, eleven-year-old Alex Dove is sent to school in England. Twelve years on, he returns to his inheritance, a farm in Tasmania. The timeless beauty of the land and his encounter with Merridy, a young woman whose own life has been

marked by tragedy, persuade him to stay. They marry, and he finds himself drawn into the eccentric, often hilarious dynamics of island life. Longing for children, the couple open their home to a disquieting guest, a teenage castaway, whose presence on the farm begins to unravel their tenuously forged happiness, while at the same time offering the prospect of a much greater fulfilment.

Tree palace by Craig Sherborne

Living on the outskirts of society, Shane, Moira, Midge, and young Zara and Rory are searching for shelter. When they find an abandoned bush shack, things start looking up. But fifteen year old Zara has a newborn baby that she's desperate to ignore and before long Shane is in trouble with the police. A moving and lyrical meditation on the meaning of family, for fans of John Steinbeck. Craig Sherborne has written two memoirs, *Hoi Polloi* (2005) and *Muck* (2007), and the novel *The Amateur Science of Love* (2011). He has won several Australian literary awards.

Testimony by Anita Shreve

At a New England boarding school, a sex scandal is about to break. Even more shocking than the sexual acts themselves is the fact that they were caught on videotape. A Pandora's box of revelations, the tape triggers a chorus of voice - those of the men, women, teenagers, and parents involved in the scandal - that details the ways in which lives can be derailed or destroyed in one foolish moment.

So much for that by Lionel Shriver

(Large print edition available)

All his life Shep Knacker has dreamed of leaving New York and living in simplicity in the Third World. Yet he comes to realise that his wife, Glynis, has never been serious about making the change. On the very day that he announces he is leaving for the island of Pemba with or without her, she informs him that she is gravely ill. So he can't leave. If nothing else, Glynis needs his health insurance. But despite their having insurance coverage, the co-payments required for her astronomically expensive treatments systematically deplete Shep's nest egg, and this once well-off small businessman hurtles toward bankruptcy. Lionel Shriver's brilliant and affecting new novel takes a hard look at America's health-care system and asks the uncomfortable question: how much money is one human life worth?

We need to talk about Kevin by Lionel Shriver

At sixteen Kevin kills seven of his fellow high school students and his mother Eva fears that her own shortcomings may have shaped what her son has become. This novel is written as an epistolary.

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey

(Large print edition available)

Late on a hot summer night in the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleepout. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him through town and to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion as he locks horns with his tempestuous mother; falls nervously in love and battles to keep a lid on his zealous best friend, Jeffrey Lu. And in vain attempting to restore the parts that have been

shaken loose, Charlie learns to discern the truth from the myth, and why white lies creep like a curse. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart.

The Rosie project by Graeme Simsion

A first-date dud, socially awkward, and overly fond of quick-dry clothes, Don Tillman has given up on love. Until a chance encounter gives him an idea. He will design a questionnaire--a sixteen-page, scientifically researched questionnaire--to uncover the perfect partner. She will most definitely not be a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker or a late-arriver. Rosie is all these things. She is also fiery and intelligent, strangely beguiling. And looking for her biological father--a search that a DNA expert might just be able to help her with. The Rosie Project is a romantic comedy like no other. It is arrestingly endearing and entirely unconventional, and it will make you want to drink cocktails.

Philomena by Michael Sixsmith

The heartbreaking true story of an Irishwoman and the secret she kept for 50 years. When she became pregnant as a teenager in Ireland in 1952, Philomena Lee was sent to a convent to be looked after as a "fallen woman." Then the nuns took her baby from her and sold him, like thousands of others, to America for adoption. Fifty years later, Philomena decided to find him. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, Philomena's son was trying to find her. Renamed Michael Hess, he had become a leading lawyer in the first Bush administration, and he struggled to hide secrets that would jeopardize his career in the Republican Party and endanger his quest to find his mother. A gripping exposé told with novelistic intrigue, Philomena pulls back the curtain on the role of the Catholic Church in forced adoptions and on the love between a mother and son who endured a lifelong separation.

The last painting of Sara de Vos by Dominic Smith *****New title for 2018*****

This is what we long for: the profound pleasure of being swept into vivid new worlds, worlds peopled by characters so intriguing and real that we can't shake them, even long after the reading's done. In his earlier, award-winning novels, Dominic Smith demonstrated a gift for coaxing the past to life. Now, in *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, he deftly bridges the historical and the contemporary, tracking a collision course between a rare landscape by a female Dutch painter of the golden age, an inheritor of the work in 1950s Manhattan, and a celebrated art historian who painted a forgery of it in her youth. In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke's in Holland, the first woman to be so recognized. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain--a haunting winter scene, *At the Edge of a Wood*, which hangs over the bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now, half a century later, she's curating an exhibit of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive. As the three threads intersect, *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* mesmerizes while it grapples with the demands of the artistic life, showing how the deceptions of the past can forge the present.

Bad behaviour : a memoir of bullying and boarding school by Rebecca Starford

It was supposed to be a place where teenagers would learn resilience, confidence and independence, where long hikes and runs in the bush would make their bodies strong and foster a connection with the natural world. Living in bare wooden huts, cut off from the outside world, the students would experience a very different kind of schooling, one intended to have a strong influence over the kind of adults they would eventually become. Fourteen-year-old

Rebecca Starford spent a year at this school in the bush. In her boarding house fifteen girls were left largely unsupervised, a combination of the worst behaved students and some of the most socially vulnerable. As everyone tried to fit in and cope with their feelings of isolation and homesickness, Rebecca found herself joining ranks with the powerful girls, and participating in various forms of bullying and aggression. Increasingly horrified at her own behaviour, Rebecca soon found herself excluded from this group and subjected to bullying herself. *Bad Behaviour* tells the story of that year, a time of friendship and joy, but also of shame and fear. It explores how those crucial experiences affected Rebecca as an adult and shaped her future relationships, and asks courageous questions about the nature of female friendship. Moving, wise and painfully honest, this extraordinary memoir shows how bad behaviour from childhood, in all its forms, can be so often and so easily repeated throughout our adult lives.

The light between oceans by M. L. Stedman

This is the story of right and wrong, and how sometimes they look the same. 1926. Tom Sherbourne is a young lighthouse keeper on a remote island off Western Australia. The only inhabitants of Janus Rock, he and his wife Isabel live a quiet life, cocooned from the rest of the world. One April morning a boat washes ashore carrying a dead man and a crying infant - and the path of the couple's lives hits an unthinkable crossroads. Only years later do they discover the devastating consequences of the decision they made that day - as the baby's real story unfolds ...

Lost mother by Anne Summers

After her mother's death in 2005, Anne Summers inherits a portrait of her mother as a child. Mesmerised by this image, she finds herself drawn into the story of how the portrait was painted and eventually found its way into her family. She soon learns the artist painted another portrait of her mother; this time as the Madonna. A gripping narrative that is part art history, part detective story and part meditation on the relations between mothers and daughters.

Is it just me? by Chrissie Swan

You know what I want? I want to be able to have fun wherever I am. I want to laugh. All. The. Time. I want to have one holiday every year with my family where we have no plans and nowhere else to be. I want to watch less television and read more books. I want to be able to whinge about never being able to be alone any more, then, after someone organises a hotel room voucher for me, I want to spend the evening eating chips (that I don't like) from a cylinder and missing my children to the point of tears. From weight to wee, children to crap dates, nothing is off limits for Chrissie Swan, self-confessed 'over-sharer'. Celebrity, friendship, love, being a working mum, 'having it all' and the general chaos of life - *Is It Just Me?* is Chrissie at her hilarious, candid and fearless best - smart, sassy, funny. Chrissie is the best girlfriend everyone should have. And with this book, now they can.

Reckoning by Magda Szubanski

Heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory, *Reckoning* is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved performers, tells her story.

Little hut of leaping fishes by Chiew-Siah Tei

Mingzhi is born to be a mandarin: as the formidable Master Chai's first grandson, his life is mapped from the moment of his birth. Torn between two cultures he must make his choice between the past and the future. A sweeping story of rebellion and discovery, *Little Hut of Leaping Fishes* traces one man's journey to find a life of his own in the slipstream of historic change.

The broken shore by Peter Temple

Peter Temple's gift for compelling plots and evocative, compassionately drawn characters has earned him a reputation as the grand master of Australian crime writing.

Truth by Peter Temple

At the close of a long day, Inspector Stephen Villani stands in the bathroom of a luxury apartment high above the city. In the glass bath, a young woman lies dead, a panic button within reach. So begins the sequel to Peter Temple's bestselling masterpiece, *The Broken Shore*, winner of the Gold Dagger for Best Crime Novel. Villani's life is his work. It is his identity, his calling, his touchstone. But now, over a few sweltering summer days, as fires burn across the state and his superiors and colleagues scheme and jostle, he finds all the certainties of his life are crumbling. *Truth* is a novel about a man, a family, a city. It is about violence, murder, love, corruption, honour and deceit. And it is about truth.

Behind the moon by Hsu-Ming Teo

This is the story of three families who discover the meaning of love and friendship. Set in suburban Sydney, the novel traces the lives of three adolescents from different cultural backgrounds who are coping with high school and the weight of parental expectations.

Everyman's rules for scientific living by Carrie Tiffany

The novel is set in Wycheproof, 290 miles North West of Melbourne, where Robert and Jean work together to apply Robert's stringent and certain rules for scientific living to farming. World events, mice plague, wheat rust, history, genetics and personal passion all impeded on Robert's perfect plans.

The good thief by Hannah Tinti

One handed Ren is rescued from a New England orphanage by a mysterious stranger who immediately sets about using Ren to steal. Ren is forced to live by his wits and to accept whatever fate is thrown at him.

Daughters in law by Joanna Trollope

Rachel loves being at the centre of her large family. She has devoted herself fiercely to bringing up her three sons, and continues to do so now that they are all grown up - and getting married. In return, the boys remain deeply attached to her, and to their father, Anthony, and to their childhood home on the wide, bird-haunted coast of Suffolk. But when her youngest, Luke, gets married, Rachel finds that her control begins to slip away. Other women - her daughters-in-law - are usurping her position, and seem to be becoming more important to her boys than she is. She can no longer rely on her time-honoured role as provider and matriarch. Her daughters-in-law begin to do things in their individual and separate ways, and so, to her bewilderment and grief, do her husband and sons. A crisis brings these subtle rifts to the surface, forcing the whole family to question old assumptions and find a new dynamic, if any of their relationships are going to survive.

The road home by Rose Tremain

Lev is on his way to Britain to seek work, so that he can send money back to Eastern Europe to support his mother and little daughter. He struggles with the mysterious rituals of 'Englishness', and the fashions and fads of the London scene. We see the road Lev travels through Lev's eyes, and we share his dilemmas: the intimacy of his friendships, old and new his joys and sufferings his aspirations and his hopes of finding his way home, wherever home may be.

Barracuda by Christos Tsiolkas

His whole life Danny Kelly's only wanted one thing: to win Olympic gold. Everything he's ever done - every thought, every dream, every action - takes him closer to that moment of glory.

The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas

"What unfolds is a powerful, haunting novel about love, sex and marriage, parenting and children, and the fury and intensity - all the passions and conflicting loyalties - that family can arouse."

The Lost swimmer by Ann Turner *** New for 2018***

Rebecca Wilding, an archaeology professor, traces the past for a living. But suddenly, truth and certainty is turning against her. Rebecca is accused of serious fraud, and worse, she suspects – she knows – that her husband, Stephen, is having an affair. Desperate to find answers, Rebecca leaves with Stephen for Greece, Italy and Paris, where she can uncover the conspiracy against her, and hopefully win Stephen back to her side, where he belongs. There's too much at stake – her love, her work, her family. But on the idyllic Amalfi Coast, Stephen goes swimming and doesn't come back. In a swirling daze of panic and fear, Rebecca is dealt with fresh allegations. And with time against her, she must uncover the dark secrets that stand between her and Stephen, and the deceit that has chased her halfway around the world.

Noah's compass by Anne Tyler

(Large print edition available)

With the humour and poignancy of her classic *The Accidental Tourist* (though with a protagonist who doesn't venture far from home) Anne Tyler's novel tells the story of a year in the life of Liam Pennywell, a man in his sixty-first year. A classical pedant, he's just been 'let go' from his schoolteaching job and downsizes to a tiny out-of-town apartment, where he goes to bed early and alone on his first night. Widowed, re-married, divorced and the father of three daughters, Liam is a man who is proud of his recall but has learned to dodge issues and skirt adventure. An unpleasant event occurs, though, to jolt him out of his certainty. Obsessed with a frightening gap in his memory, he sets out to uncover what happened, and finds instead an unusual woman with secrets of her own, and a late-flowering love that brings its own thorny problems. His ex-wife (sensible Barbara) and daughters worry about him but Liam blunders on. His teenage daughter Kitty is sent to stay - though it's not clear who is minding whom. His middle daughter, Louise, is a born-again Christian with a son called Jonah, but her certainties leave Liam still more perplexed. *Noah's Compass* is about memory and its loss, about incidents and relationships which open up sight lines into a painful past long dead for a man who becomes aware that merely trying to stay afloat may not be enough.

The memory of salt by Alice Melike Ülgezer

Ali's father is a Turkish circus musician performing in Kabul when Ali's mother, a young pediatrician from Melbourne, meets him in a bar. He plays the trumpet, the sax, the flute, hears voices that urge him to violence, sees angels in the skies and djinns in the street, inscribes prayers and invocations on the walls of his room, and across the suburb. Ülgezer offers a remarkable portrait of this crazed visionary, a madman and a mystic, intoxicated with hashish and Sufism, who wrecks the family, but is also an enchanted being. Ali's mother has grown up on Australia's outback frontiers : their courtship takes them from Afghanistan across Iran to Turkey and then to London where Ali is born. The novel is Ali's coming to terms with this meeting of two cultures that are at once so similar and so separate.

Road story by Julianne Van Loon

This gritty, sun drenched novel reveals the tenuousness of love between friends and the dark persuasiveness of addiction and is the winner of 2004 *The Australian/Vogel* Literary Award.

The other side of you by Salley Vickers

Set partly in Rome, the novel explores the theme of redemption through life and art, which has become the hallmark of Salley Vickers' acclaimed work. It traces the boundaries of life, death and the difficult possibility of repentance.

Horrible man : sinister secrets and truths untold : the Portland hair salon murders by Leonie Wallace

It is one of Australia's worst unsolved crimes. On a Friday afternoon as the wind down to the weekend begins, two women are held hostage in a hairdressing salon. They scream and fight for their lives, but they face a killer's frenzied rage. Two unlikely victims and an unlikely crime scene at an unlikely time of day. No motive, no weapon found, no known offender; but, someone, somewhere, knows the truth. It is a long time to keep such a shocking secret - it has now been more than 20 years. Former journalist, Leonie Wallace, traces the lives of those closely connected to this crime including members of the victims' families, witnesses and suspects to present some important and surprising revelations. Also explored are the circumstances that impacted on the inability of police to solve this case. This is a disturbing account, however, it is not just a book about murder. Many more layers exist. It is also a story of great courage and love as those at its epicentre continue their quest for justice and closure.

The glass castle by Jeannette Walls

The author has carved a story with precision and grace out of one of the most chaotic, heart-breaking childhoods. This memoir affirms our faith in the human spirit.

The Night watch by Sarah Waters

Set in London, this stunning novel moves back through the 1940s, through air raids, blacked-out streets, illicit liaisons and sexual adventure, to end with its beginning in 1941. Here is a novel of relationships that offers up subtle twists and surprises.

Chalcot crescent by Fay Weldon

Its 2013 and eighty-year-old Frances (part-time copywriter, has-been writer, one-time national treasure) is sitting on the stairs of No.3, Chalcot Crescent, Primrose Hill, listening to the debt collectors pounding on her front door. From this house she's witnessed five decades of world history - the fall of communism, the death of capitalism - and now, with the bailiffs, world history has finally reached her doorstep. While she waits for the bailiffs to give up and leave, Frances writes (not that she has an agent any more, or that her books are still published, or even that there are any publishers left). She writes about the boyfriends she borrowed and the husband she stole from Fay, about her daughters and their children. She writes about the recession that didn't end, about the rise of NUG the National Unity Government, about ration books, CCTV, National Meat Loaf (suitable for vegetarians) and the new Neighbourhood Watch. She writes about family secrets . . . The problem is that fact and fiction are blurring in Frances's mind. Is it her writer's imagination, or is it just old age, or plain paranoia?

Ya-Yas in bloom by Rebecca Wells

An emotionally charged addition to her previous novels, Rebecca Wells reveals the roots of the Ya-Ya's friendship in the 1930s and roars with all the raw power of Vivi Abbott Walker's 1962 *T-Bird* through sixty years of marriage, child-raising and hair-raising family secrets.

The shadow catcher by Marianne Wiggins

Marianne has written a fiction novel about the complicated life of twentieth century photographer Edward Curtis. Marianne has her own mystery of a dying man in hospital carrying her father's identification. Interweaving narratives from two different eras this is an intelligent novel loaded with social commentary that explores identity, parenthood, the exploitation of Native Americans, and the need we all have to create heroes.

Father Bob : the larrikin priest by Sue Williams

This is the life story of Father Bob Maguire - a rare behind-the-scenes look at the much-loved 'people's priest'. The enigmatic champion of the down-and-out was shaped by a lonely childhood in poor circumstances, an early priesthood that collided with the upheaval of Vatican 11 and working with the army during the Vietnam War. This is a lively portrait of the man behind the resilient social activist and popular media performer who refuses to be defeated by enforced retirement from the parish over which he presided for nearly forty years.

Players by Tony Wilson

Named Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist 2006, Tony Wilson has written a comic novel with a black heart, investigating media, football and cults of celebrity.

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear

The first in a series, we are introduced to Maisie Dobbs, a servant in a Belgravia Mansion. We follow her education at Cambridge, work as a nurse in WW 1, to the setup of her own detective agency. Her first case takes her on the trail of a killer.

Annabel by Kathleen Winter

Kathleen Winter's luminous debut novel is a deeply affecting portrait of life in an enchanting seaside town and the trials of growing up unique in a restrictive environment. In 1968, into the devastating, spare atmosphere of the remote coastal town of Labrador, Canada, a child is born: a baby who appears to be neither fully boy nor fully girl, but both at once. Only three people are privy to the secret: the baby's parents, Jacinta and Treadway, and a trusted neighbor and midwife, Thomasina. Though Treadway makes the difficult decision to raise the child as a boy named Wayne, the women continue to quietly nurture the boy's female side. And as Wayne grows into adulthood within the hyper-masculine hunting society of his father, his shadow-self, a girl he thinks of as "Annabel," is never entirely extinguished.

Breath by Tim Winton

Winner of the Miles Franklin Award 2009, *Breath* is a poignant and moving coming-of-age story set near the fictional south West Australian town of Angelus. This is the same town that featured in Winton's 2004 collection of short stories, *The Turning*.

Eyrie by Tim Winton

Eyrie tells the story of Tom Keely, a man who's lost his bearings in middle age and is now holed up in a flat at the top of a grim highrise, looking down on the world he's fallen out of love with. He's cut himself off, until one day he runs into some neighbours: a woman he used to know when they were kids, and her introverted young boy. The encounter shakes him up in a way that he doesn't understand. Despite himself, Keely lets them in. What follows is a heart-stopping, groundbreaking novel for our times, funny, confronting, exhilarating and haunting,

populated by unforgettable characters. It asks how, in an impossibly compromised world, we can ever hope to do the right thing.

Old School by Tobias Wolff

During his senior year at an elite New England prep school, a young man who had struggled to fit in with his contemporaries finds his life unravelling due to the school's obsession with literary figures and their work.

Cairo by Chris Womersley

Frustrated by country life and eager for adventure and excitement, seventeen-year-old Tom Button moves to the city to study. Once there, and living in a run-down apartment block called Cairo, he is befriended by the eccentric musician Max Cheever, his beautiful wife Sally, and their close-knit circle of painters and poets. As Tom falls under the sway of his charismatic older friends, he enters a bohemian world of parties and gallery openings. Soon, however, he is caught up in more sinister events involving deception and betrayal, not to mention one of the greatest unsolved art heists of the twentieth century: the infamous theft of Picasso's Weeping Woman. Set among the demimonde -- where nothing and nobody is as they seem -- Cairo is a novel about growing up, the perils of first love, and finding one's true place in the world.

Carpentaria by Alexis Wright

Carpentaria by Aboriginal writer Alexis Wright has been chosen as the winner of the 2007 Miles Franklin Literary Award. The novel focuses on the conflict between the Gurfurrit mining company and the people of the fictional port town of Desperance. Alexis Wright has chosen to tell the story using the Aboriginal storytelling voice.

The Swan book by Alexis Wright

The new novel by Alexis Wright, whose previous novel *Carpentaria* won the Miles Franklin Award and four other major prizes including the ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year Award. *The Swan Book* is set in the future, with Aboriginals still living under the Intervention in the north, in an environment fundamentally altered by climate change. It follows the life of a mute teenager called Oblivia, the victim of gang-rape by petrol-sniffing youths, from the displaced community where she lives in a hulk, in a swamp filled with rusting boats, and thousands of black swans driven from other parts of the country, to her marriage to Warren Finch, the first Aboriginal president of Australia, and her elevation to the position of First Lady, confined to a tower in a flooded and lawless southern city. *The Swan Book* has all the qualities which made Wright's previous novel, *Carpentaria*, a prize-winning best-seller. It offers an intimate awareness of the realities facing Aboriginal people; the wild energy and humour in her writing finds hope in the bleakest situations; and the remarkable combination of storytelling elements, drawn from myth and legend and fairy tale.

Dangerous games : Australia at the 1936 Nazi Olympics by Larry Writer

This dramatic tale tells the true story of the twenty-nine Australian amateur sportsmen and three sportswomen who left Circular Quay on the SS *Mongolia* in May 1936 and paid their own way to represent their country at the 'Hitler Olympics'. Using diaries, personal papers, media reports and accounts from family members, along with striking photos from the athletes' own collections, *Dangerous Games* recreates the tension of heats and races; offers a rich picture of life in the Olympic village; and shows how athletes came to realise Hitler's political manipulation of the Games. It reveals the depths of the behind-the-scenes, cutthroat wheeling and dealing, and the heights of American black runner Jesse Owen's gold medal triumph. It also recognises

the actions of our individual Australian team members, some of whom went on to become public figures or war heroes, who believed that sport was the antidote to tyranny.

All the birds singing by Evie Wyld

Who or what is watching Jake Whyte from the woods? Jake Whyte is the sole resident of an old farmhouse on an unnamed island, a place of ceaseless rains and battering winds. It's just her, her untamed companion, Dog, and a flock of sheep. Which is how she wanted it to be. But something is coming for the sheep - every few nights it picks one off, leaves it in rags. It could be anything. There are foxes in the woods, a strange boy and a strange man, rumours of an obscure, formidable beast. And there is Jake's unknown past, perhaps breaking into the present, a story hidden thousands of miles away and years ago, in a landscape of different colour and sound, a story held in the scars that stripe her back. Set between Australia and a remote English island, *All the Birds, Singing* is the story of how one woman's present comes from a terrible past. It is the second novel from the award-winning author of *After the Fire*, *A Still Small Voice*.

Death of a red heroine by Qiu Xiaolong

In this Anthony Award-winning debut, Inspector Chen of Shanghai Police must find the murderer of a national model worker, and then risk his own life and career to see that justice is done.

The high mountains of Portugal by Yann Martel

With this highly anticipated new novel, the author of the bestselling *Life of Pi* returns to the storytelling power and luminous wisdom of his master novel. *The High Mountains of Portugal* is a suspenseful, mesmerising story of a great quest for meaning, told in three intersecting narratives that touch the lives of three different people and their families, and taking us on an extraordinary journey through the last century. We begin in the early 1900s, when Tomas discovers an ancient journal and sets out from Lisbon in one of the very first motor cars in Portugal in search of the strange treasure the journal describes. Thirty-five years later, a pathologist devoted to the novels of Agatha Christie, whose wife has possibly been murdered, finds himself drawn into Tomas's quest. Fifty years later, Senator Peter Tovy of Ottawa, grieving the death of his own beloved wife, rescues a chimpanzee from an Oklahoma research facility and takes it to live with him in his ancestral village in northern Portugal, where the strands of all three stories miraculously mesh together. Beautiful, witty and engaging, Yann Martel's new novel offers us the same tender exploration of the impact and significance of great love and great loss, belief and unbelief, that has marked all his brilliant, unexpected novels.

Scraps of heaven by Arnold Zable

This is Arnold Zable's second work of fiction. It explores the lives of inhabitants of an inner city suburb in post-war Melbourne, revealing the horrors that haunt these lives, and simultaneously the celebration of a new start in a new country.

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

This is a stunning literary thriller in the tradition of Umberto Eco. The discovery of a forgotten book leads to a hunt for an elusive author who may or may not still be alive.

Scattered Pearls by Sohila Zanjani

From Tehran to Melbourne, a powerful memoir of survival *Scattered Pearls* opens in pre-revolutionary Iran, where Sohila Zanjani grew up under the threat of violence, intimidation and control at the hands of her father.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

This is a gripping and moving novel by a young Australian author. Set in Nazi Germany in 1939 it tells the tale of 13 year old Liesel Meminger and uses her love of books and words to weave a tale of cruelty, death, survival, hope and redemption.