

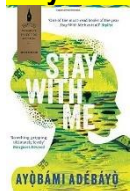
Full List of Titles Available

**The secret son by Jenny Ackland (327 pages)**



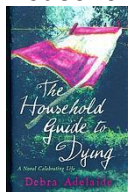
An Australian historian determined to find the truth, a stolen inheritance, a wishing tree, a long-lost grandmother, and an unlikely sweetheart come together in a dazzlingly original, audacious and exhilarating novel about love, honour and belonging, and what it means to be a good person.

**Stay with me by Ayobami Adebayo (304 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-audio available )**



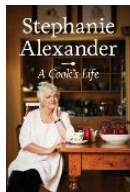
Yejide and Akin have been married since they met and fell in love at university. Though many expected Akin to take several wives, he and Yejide have always agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage--after consulting fertility doctors and healers, trying strange teas and unlikely cures--Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time--until her family arrives on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant, which, finally, she does, but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine. An electrifying novel of enormous emotional power, *Stay with Me* asks how much we can sacrifice for the sake of family.

**Household guide to dying by Debra Adelaide (386 pages)**



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 (362 pages)**



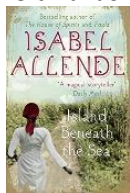
With "The Cook's Companion" front and centre in half a million kitchens, Stephanie Alexander is the very definition of a household name. Each day thousands turn to her 'food bible' for the most reliable recipes and advice. *A Cook's Life* is a very personal account of one woman's uncompromising commitment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

**Wild lavender by Belinda Alexandra (624 pages)**



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.

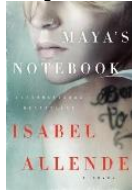
**Island beneath the sea by Isabel Allende (457 pages, LP Edition available)**



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 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.

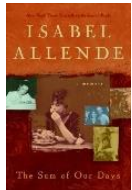
Against the merciless backdrop of sugar cane fields, the lives of Tete and Valmorain grow ever more intertwined. When the bloody revolution of Toussaint Louverture arrives at the gates of Saint Lazare, they flee the island that will become Haiti for the decadence and opportunity of New Orleans. Spanning 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 (387 pages)**



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.

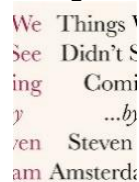
**Sum of our days by Isabel Allende (301 pages)**



In this heartfelt memoir, Isabel Allende reconstructs the painful reality of her own life in the wake of tragic loss—the death of her daughter, Paula. Recalling the past thirteen years from the daily letters the author and her mother, who lives in Chile, wrote to each other, Allende bares her soul in a book that is as exuberant and full of life as its creator. She recounts the stories of the wildly eccentric, strong-minded, and eclectic tribe she gathers around her that becomes a new kind of family.

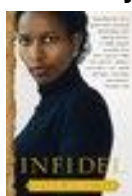
Throughout, Allende shares her thoughts on love, marriage, motherhood, spirituality and religion, infidelity, addiction, and memory.

**Things we didn't see coming by Steve Amsterdam (174 pages)**



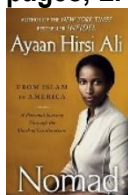
It's the anxious eve of the millennium. The car is packed to capacity, and as midnight approaches, a family flees the city in a fit of panic and paranoid, conflicting emotions. The ensuing journey spans decades and offers a sharp-eyed perspective on a hardscrabble future, as a boy jettisons his family and all other ties 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 (353 pages)**



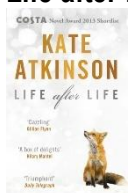
Infidel shows the coming of age of this distinguished political superstar and champion of free speech as well as the development of her beliefs, iron will, and extraordinary determination to fight injustice. Raised in a strict Muslim family, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female mutilation, brutal beatings, adolescence as a devout believer during the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four troubled, unstable countries ruled largely by despots. She escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands, where she earned a college degree in political science, tried to help her tragically depressed sister adjust to the West, and fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam as a member of Parliament. Under constant threat, demonized by reactionary Islamists and politicians, disowned by her father, and expelled from family and clan, she refuses to be silenced.

**Nomad : a personal journey through the clash of civilizations by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (277 pages, LP Edition available)**



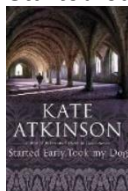
Ayaan Hirsi Ali caused a worldwide sensation with her gutsy memoir INFIDEL. Now, in NOMAD, she tells of coming to America to build a new life, an ocean away from the death threats made against her by European Islamists, the strife she witnessed and the inner conflict she suffered. It is the story of 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 (622 pages)**



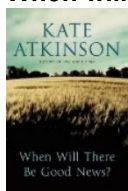
On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. Sadly, she dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least,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

**Started early, took my dog by Kate Atkinson (350 pages)**



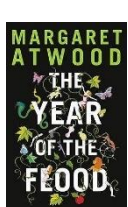
A day like any other for security chief Tracy Waterhouse, until she makes a purchase she hadn't bargained for. One moment of madness is all it takes for Tracy's humdrum world to be turned upside down, the tedium of everyday life replaced by fear and danger at every turn. Witnesses to Tracy's Faustian 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.

**When will there be good news by Kate Atkinson (352 pages)**



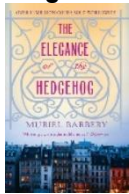
Three lives come together in unexpected and deeply thrilling ways. In rural Devon, six-year-old Joanna Mason witnesses an appalling crime. Thirty years later the convicted man is released from prison. In Edinburgh, sixteen-year-old Reggie works as a nanny for Dr Hunter who has gone missing and Reggie 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 (436 pages, LP edition available)**



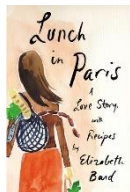
In this freestanding companion novel to Booker Prize-winning author Atwood's Oryx and Crake, characters shift in time and space as the environmentalist Gardeners plan for a new world amid devastation by a pandemic virus. Bernadette Dunne and Katie MacNichol narrate, conveying hope for this society poised 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 (320 pages)**



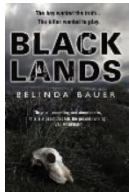
In a bourgeois apartment building in Paris, we encounter Renée, an intelligent, philosophical, and cultured concierge who masks herself as the stereotypical uneducated super to avoid suspicion from the building's pretentious inhabitants. Also living in the building is Paloma, the adolescent daughter 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 (310 pages, LP edition available)**



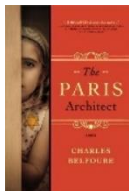
Part love story, part wine-splattered cookbook, *Lunch in Paris* is a deliciously tart, forthright and funny story of falling in love with a Frenchman and moving to the world's most romantic city - not the Hollywood version, but the real Paris, a heady mix of blood sausage and irregular verbs. From gutting 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.

**Blacklands by Belinda Bauer (346 pages, LP 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 imagined.

**The Paris architect by Charles Belfoure (371 pages)**



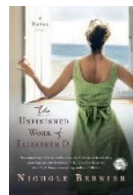
In 1942 Paris, architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money-- and maybe get him killed. All he must do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs 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 Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett (121 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely (from J. R. Ackerley, Jean Genet, and Ivy Compton-Burnett to the classics) and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large.

**The unfinished work of Elizabeth D by Nichole Bernier (336 pages)**



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 (178 pages)**



Shadow Boxing is a collection of ten linked stories in the life of a boy growing up in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy in the 1960s. A beautifully rendered time capsule, it captures a period of decay, turmoil and change through innocent unblinking eyes.

**Between a wolf and a dog by Georgina Blain (272 pages)**



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 ex-husband, 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.

**Lola Bensky by Lily Brett (267 pages)**



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.

**You Gotta Have Balls** by Lily Brett (296 pages)



into a new greeting card line. She likes women, but she doesn't like the way they can be so competitive with each other. She's thinking of starting a group for smart women to encourage and care about each other, so they'll collectively gain more power for themselves and others. And Ruth's always believed she practises what she preaches. But Ruth's about to meet the woman who will turn her assumptions of sisterly solidarity on their head—a buxom sixty-something with one eye for business and another for Ruth's father...

**Lion: a long way home** by Saroo Brierley (288 pages, DVD available)



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 (418 pages)



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.

**People of the book** by Geraldine Brooks (385 pages)



When Hanna Heath gets a call in the middle of the night in her Sydney home about a precious medieval manuscript that has been recovered from the smouldering ruins of war-torn Sarajevo, she knows she is on the brink of the experience of a lifetime. A renowned book conservator, she must now make her way to Bosnia to start work on restoring the Sarajevo Haggadah - a Jewish prayer book - to discover its secrets and piece together the story of its miraculous survival. But the trip will also set in motion a series of events that threaten to rock Hanna's orderly life, including her encounter with Ozren Karamen, the young librarian who risked his life to save the book.

**Secret chord** by Geraldine Brooks (384 pages)



Peeling away the myth to bring the Old Testament's King David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his 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. The Secret Chord provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikhal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.

**Tumbledown manor** by Helen Brown (291 pages)



The windows rattle. The roof leaks. Every surface cries out to be stripped, painted, or polished. But for writer Lisa Trumperton, the dilapidated manor house that once belonged to her great-grandfather is far more than the sum of its battered parts. It's the chance for a new start on her own terms. The fact that it's in the Melbourne countryside of her Australian homeland, far from the deceitful ex-husband she just left behind in New York...well, that's a bonus.

**The longing** by Candice Bruce (359 pages)



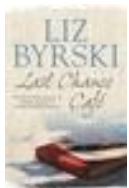
Everything here was eventually tainted, Ellis thought. In Australia in the 1840s, the lives of two very different women intersect. Ellis MacRorie is shipped to Victoria from her Scottish homeland by her bankrupt father; Leerpeen Weelan, her Aboriginal servant known as Louisa, has lost her tribe in a 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.

**Speechless : a year in my father's business** by James Button (246 pages)



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.

**Last chance café** by Liz Bryski (381 pages)



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.

**Battle for Lone Pine** by David W. Cameron (385 pages)



This is the first book solely dedicated to a key battle -- 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.

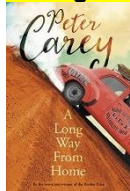
David W. Cameron has pulled together first-hand accounts from the men and women involved (including from the Turkish army) to detail what transpired and to follow some of their personal stories throughout the ordeal. By including the stories of non-combatants, such as engineers, nurses, sappers, commanders 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.

**So many selves** by Gabrielle Carey (212 pages)



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.

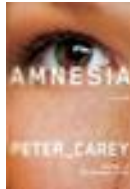
**A long way from home** by Peter Carey (357 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)



Irene Bobs loves fast driving. Her husband is the best car salesman in rural south eastern Australia. Together with Willie, their lanky navigator, they embark upon the Redex Trial, a brutal race around the continent, over roads no car will ever quite survive. A Long Way from Home is Peter Carey's late style masterpiece; a thrilling high speed story that starts in one way, then takes you to another place altogether.

Set in the 1950s in the embers of the British Empire, painting a picture of Queen and subject, black, white and those in-between, this brilliantly vivid novel illustrates how the possession of an ancient culture spirals through history - and the love made and hurt caused along the way.

**Amnesia** by Peter Carey (376 pages)

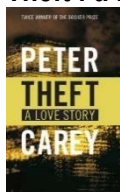


It was a spring evening in Washington DC; a chilly autumn morning in Melbourne; it was exactly 22.00 Greenwich Mean Time when a worm entered the computerised control systems of hundreds of Australian prisons and released the locks in many places of incarceration, some of which the hacker could not have 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 (269 pages)



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 (278 pages)



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.

**Please don't leave me here** by Tania Chandler (305 pages)



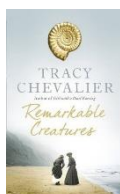
Is Brigitte a loving wife and mother, or a cold-blooded killer? Kurt Cobain stands at the top of the stairs, wearing the brown sweater. 'Please don't leave me,' she yells up at him. But it's too late; he's turning away as the tram slows for the stop out on the street. Then she's lying on the road. Car 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.

**Yesterday's houses** by Mavis Cheek (371 pages)



A classic Cheek comedy of manners that will delight her many fans. When sixteen-year-old Marianne Flowers is invited to a party in a genteel house she has no idea that the house and what she experiences there - including the stately bathroom - will change her life. Not to mention the boy who introduces her to red wine, sophisticated conversation and an apparently liberated future. But when marriage to Charles turns out to be far from liberating, Marianne finds her escape in literature, and realises there is a whole bright world unfolding before her. How will this new, independently minded Marianne find her place?

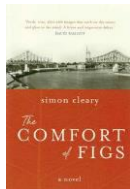
**Remarkable Creatures** by Tracy Chevalier (352 pages, e-audio available)



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.

**The comfort of figs by Simon Cleary (334 pages)**



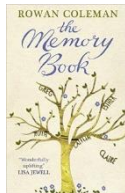
Three young men work on the construction of an iconic steel bridge that will transform a sleepy country town. Labouring high above the river in dangerous conditions, close bonds develop between them. But one slip alters their lives forever. A generation later, Robbie, a young landscaper, grapples with his difficult relationship with his father whose past is inextricably linked with the famous cantilevered bridge and 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 (266 pages, LP copy available)**



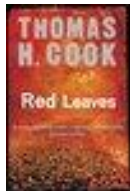
A young English biographer is working on a book about the late writer, John Coetzee. He plans to focus on the years from 1972-1977 when Coetzee, in his thirties, is sharing a run-down cottage in the suburbs of Cape Town with his widowed father. This, the biographer senses, is the period when he was 'finding 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.

**The memory book by Rowan Coleman (384 pages)**



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 (300 pages)**



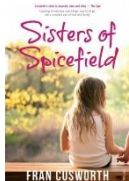
Eric Moore has a prosperous business, a comfortable home, a stable family life in a quiet town. Then, on an ordinary night, his teenage son Keith babysits Amy Giordano, the eight-year-old daughter of a neighbouring family. The next morning Amy is missing, and Eric isn't sure his son is innocent. In his desperate attempt to hold his family together by proving his - and the community's - suspicions wrong, Eric finds himself in a vortex of doubt and broken trust. What should he make of Keith's strange behavior? Of his wife's furtive phone calls to a colleague? Of his brother's hints that he knows things he's afraid to say?

**Warning : the story of Cyclone Tracy** by Sophie Cunningham (306 pages)



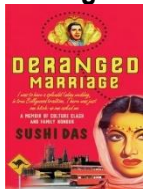
The sky at the top end is big and the weather moves like a living thing. You can hear it in the cracking air when there is an electrical storm and as the thunder rolls around the sky...When Cyclone Tracy swept down on Darwin at Christmas 1974, the weather became not just a living thing but a killer. 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.

**Sisters of Spicefield**, by Fran Cusworth (304 pages)



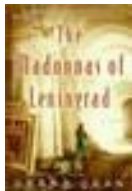
Jessica and Matt Davidson, professional, middle-class Australians, have four beautiful children; three from IVF. When they donate one leftover embryo, it's a gift of thanks to the world for their luck; an offering to the fates. Seven years after this gift, the Davidsons have lost their youngest child 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 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 (304 pages)



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, a custom which aims to join two families in economic prosperity, though the reality is not always so blissful.

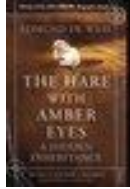
**Madonnas of Leningrad** by Debra Dean (228 pages)



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

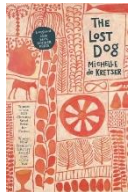
shelter in the building's basement--stowed away countless treasures, leaving the painting's frames in place as a hopeful symbol of their ultimate return. Amid the chaos, Marina found solace in the creation of a memory palace, in which she envisioned the brushstroke of every painting and each statue's line and curve.

**The Hare with amber eyes by Edmond De Waal (354 pages)**



264 wood and ivory carvings, none of them bigger than a matchbox: Edmund de Waal was entranced when he first encountered the collection in his great uncle Iggy's Tokyo apartment. When he later inherited the 'netsuke', they unlocked a story far larger and more dramatic than he could ever have imagined. From a burgeoning empire in Odessa to fin de siècle Paris, from occupied Vienna to Tokyo, Edmund de Waal traces the netsuke's journey through generations of his remarkable family against the backdrop of a tumultuous century.

**The lost dog by Michelle De Kretser (345 pages)**



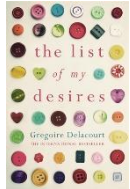
Tom Loxley is holed up in a remote bush shack trying to finish his book on Henry James when his beloved dog goes missing. What follows is a triumph of storytelling. The Lost Dog loops back and forth in time to take the reader on a spellbinding journey into worlds far removed from the present tragedy. Set in present-day Australia and mid-twentieth century India, here is a haunting, layered work that brilliantly counterpoints new cityscapes and their inhabitants with the untamed, ancient continent beyond. With its atmosphere of menace and an acute sense of the unexplained in any story, it illuminates the collision of the wild and the civilised, modernity and the past, home and exile.

**Questions of travel by Michelle De Kretser (480 pages)**



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.

**The list of my desires by Gregoire Delacourt (224 pages)**



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 (352 pages)**



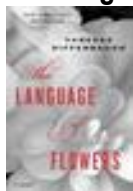
Love can make a person do crazy things...A city girl with a morbid fear of deep water, Torre DeRoche is not someone you would ordinarily find adrift in the middle of the stormy Pacific aboard a leaky sailboat -- total crew of two -- struggling to keep an old boat, a new relationship and her floundering 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.

**The happiness show by Catherine Deveny (304 pages)**



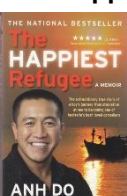
She ached for him. She longed for him. She missed the way he made her feel and how funny and smart and sexy she felt with him. And young. She missed the version of herself that she had left behind. At thirty-eight, Lizzie Quealy thinks she has things sorted: a happy relationship, a couple of gorgeous 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 (367 pages)**



A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, The Language of Flowers beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past. The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life, and when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.

**The happiest refugee by Anh Do (232 pages)**



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. But nothing -- not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, disease or dehydration as they drifted for days -- could quench their desire to make a better life in the country they had dreamed about. Life in Australia was hard, an endless succession of back-breaking work, crowded rooms, ruthless landlords and make-do everything. But there was a loving extended family, and always friends and play and something to laugh about for Anh, his brother Khoa and their sister Tram. Things

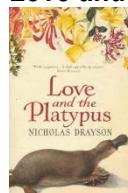
got harder when their father left home when Anh was thirteen -- they felt his loss very deeply and their mother struggled to support the family on her own.

**All the light we cannot see** by Anthony Doerr (521 pages)



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 (341 pages)



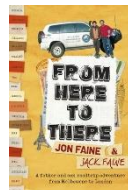
In 1883 young British naturalist William Caldwell arrives in Australia with a mission: to determine for the scientific record whether the platypus really does lay eggs. His journey leads to an examination of the obsessive nature of scientific enquiry and its consequences, and the wonders of nature and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

**Salvation Creek** by Susan Duncan (400 pages)



At age 44, Susan Duncan appeared to have it all. Editor of two of Australia's top selling women's magazines, a happy marriage, a jet setting lifestyle covering stories from New York to Greenland, rubbing shoulders with Hollywood royalty, the world was her oyster. But when her beloved husband and brother died within three days of each other, her glittering life shattered. In shock, she zipped on her work face and soldiered on—until one morning 18 months later when she simply could not get out of bed. Heartbreaking, funny, and honest, this is the story of a woman who found the courage not only to walk away from a successful career and begin again, but to beat the odds in her own battle for survival and find a new life—and love—in a tiny waterside idyll cut off from the outside world. From the terrifying first step of quitting the job that had always anchored her to abandoning herself to a passionate affair, Duncan never flinches from the truth or loses her wicked sense of humour—even when she finds a paradise on earth only to discover that it may be too late.

**From here to there** by Jon Faine (384 pages)



An intelligent, humorous travel tale that is also the story of a tender father-son relationship from ABC Local Radio's legendary broadcaster Jon Faine. 'Somehow, I convinced myself it was a good idea. Somehow, I convinced myself that it was do-able. Now I shake my head. 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.

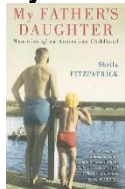
**The great Gatsby** by F Scott Fitzgerald (233 pages, DVD available)



Young, handsome and fabulously rich, Jay Gatsby is the bright star of the Jazz Age, but as writer Nick Carraway is drawn into the decadent orbit of his Long Island mansion, where the party never seems to end, he finds himself faced by the mystery of Gatsby's origins and desires. Beneath the shimmering surface of his life, Gatsby is hiding a secret: a silent longing that can never be fulfilled. And soon, this

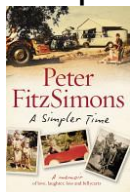
destructive obsession will force his world to unravel. In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald brilliantly captures both the disillusionment of post-war America and the moral failure of a society obsessed with wealth and status. But he does more than render the essence of a time and place, for in chronicling Gatsby's tragic pursuit of his dream, Fitzgerald re-creates the universal conflict between illusion and reality.

**My father's daughter** by Sheila Fitzpatrick (272 pages)



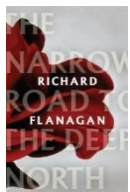
A personal memoir by the daughter of journalist and radical historian Brian Fitzpatrick, this meditation reveals a complex portrait of an Australian family against a Cold War backdrop. Told with piercing insight, this recollection chronicles Sheila's relationship with her father as it fades from girlhood adoration to adolescent scepticism, resulting in her fleeing Melbourne for Oxford to start a new life. Candid and moving, this narrative is a vivid evocation of an Australian childhood and a mature realization that one cannot fully escape one's roots.

**A simpler time** by Peter Fitzsimons (416 pages, LP copy available)



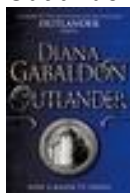
A memoir of love, laughter, loss and billycars. It still amazes me what they allowed us to do without their supervision or help while remaining deeply loving parents. Climb trees from the age of four or five? No problem. Drive the tractor from the age of eight or nine onwards? Good luck to you. Haul 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.

**Narrow road to the deep north** by Richard Flanagan (467 pages)



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 Dorrig 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, Dorrig 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.

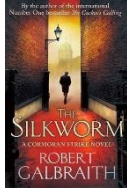
**Outlander** by Diana Gabaldon (864 pages, E-Audio available)



1946, and Claire Randall goes to the Scottish Highlands with her husband Frank. It's a second honeymoon, a chance to learn how war has changed them and to re-establish their loving marriage. But one afternoon, Claire walks through a circle of standing stones and vanishes into 1743, where the first person she meets is a British army officer - her husband's six-times great-grandfather. Unfortunately, Black Jack Randall is not the man his descendant is, and while trying to escape him, Claire falls into the hands of a gang of Scottish outlaws and finds herself a Sassenach - an outlander - in danger from both Jacobites and Redcoats. Marooned amid danger, passion and violence, her

only chance of safety lies in Jamie Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior. What begins in compulsion becomes urgent need, and Claire finds herself torn between two very different men, in two irreconcilable lives.

**The silkworm by Robert Galbraith (456 pages)**



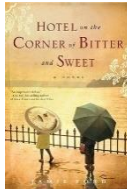
When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days—as he has done before—and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that 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 (415 pages, LP Edition available, DVD available)**



On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears. Husband-of-the-Year Nick isn't doing himself any favours with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife's head, but passages from Amy's diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents—the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceptions, and inappropriate behaviour. Nick is oddly evasive, and he's definitely bitter—but is he really a killer?

**The hotel on the corner of bitter and sweet by Jamie Ford (290 pages)**



In 1986, Henry Lee joins a crowd outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japan town. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has discovered the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps during World War II. As the owner displays and unfurls a Japanese parasol, Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl from his childhood in the 1940s—Keiko Okabe, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors. After Keiko and her family were evacuated to the internment camps, she and Henry could only hope that their promise to each other would be kept. Now, forty years later, Henry explores the hotel's basement for the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot even begin to measure. His search will take him on a journey to revisit the sacrifices he has made for family, for love, for country.

**The man who left too soon: the biography of Stieg Larsson by Barry Forshaw (294 pages)**



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, 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.

**We are all completely beside ourselves** by Karen Joy Fowler (310 pages)



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.

**Mia culpa** by Mia Freedman (180 pages)



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.

**All that I am** by Anna Funder (384 pages)



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 wilfully blind.

**Old filth** by Jane Gardam (260 pages)



Sir Edward Feathers has progressed from struggling young barrister to wealthy expatriate lawyer to distinguished retired judge, living out his last days in comfortable seclusion in Dorset. The engrossing and moving account of his life, from birth in colonial Malaya, to Wales, where he is sent as a "Raj orphan," to Oxford, his career and marriage, parallels much of the 20th century's torrid and twisted history.

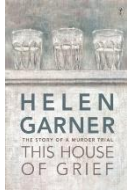
**The spare room** by Helen Garner (195 pages)



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 (300 pages)



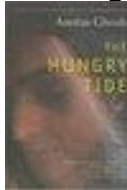
On the evening of 4 September 2005, Father's Day, Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother, Cindy, when his car left the road and plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven and two, drowned. Was this an act of revenge or a tragic accident? The court case became Helen Garner's obsession. She followed it on its protracted course until the final verdict.

**Still Alice** by Lisa Genova (336 pages, DVD available)



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 hungry tide** by Amitav Ghosh (333 pages)



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.

**The signature of all things** by Elizabeth Gilbert (582 pages)



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.

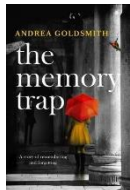
**What came before** by Anna George (272 pages)



'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 over 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 (400 pages)**



Nina Jameson, an international consultant on memorial projects, has been happily married to Daniel for twelve years. When her life in London 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.

**Piano lessons by Anna Goldsworthy (243 pages)**



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 (201 pages)**

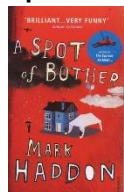
The London season is in full fling at the end of the 1920s, but the Honourable Phryne Fisher—she of the grey-green eyes and diamante garters—is tiring of polite conversations with retired colonels and dances with weak-chinned men. When the opportunity presents itself, Phryne decides it might be amusing to try her hand at becoming a lady detective in Australia. Immediately upon settling into Melbourne's Hotel Windsor, Phryne finds herself embroiled in mystery. From poisoned wives and cocaine smuggling, to police corruption and rampant communism—not to mention erotic encounters with the beautiful Russian dancer, Sasha de Lisse—*Cocaine Blues* charts a crescendo of steamy intrigue, culminating in the Turkish baths of Little Lonsdale Street.



**The lieutenant by Kate Grenville (301 pages)**

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.

**Spot of bother by Mark Haddon (390 pages)**



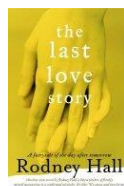
George Hall doesn't understand the modern obsession with talking about everything. 'The secret of contentment, George felt, lay in ignoring many things completely.' Some things in life, however, cannot be ignored. At fifty-seven, George is settling down to a comfortable retirement, building a shed in his garden, reading historical novels, listening to a bit of light jazz. Then Katie, his tempestuous daughter, announces that she is getting remarried, to Ray. Her family is not pleased - as her brother Jamie observes, Ray has 'strangler's hands'. Katie can't decide if she loves Ray or loves the wonderful way he has with her son Jacob, and her mother Jean is a bit put out by all the planning and arguing the wedding has occasioned, which get in the way of her quite fulfilling late-life affair with one of her husband's former colleagues. And the tidy and pleasant life Jamie has created crumbles when he fails to invite his lover, Tony, to the dreaded nuptials. Unnoticed in the uproar, George discovers a sinister lesion on his hip, and quietly begins to lose his mind. The way these damaged people fall apart - and come together - as a family is the true subject of Mark Haddon's disturbing yet very funny portrait of a dignified man trying to go insane politely.

**Certain Admissions: A beach, a body and a lifetime of secrets by Gideon Haigh (320 pages)**



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?

**The last love story by Rodney Hall (256 pages)**



Set in the near future, after a violent uprising, a city is divided in two. In City North, a brutal and paranoid regime takes control. Across the Friendship Bridge in City South, the citizens are rich, thriving and free. Though the border between the two cities is tightly controlled, people from City North still make desperate attempts to smuggle themselves south in search of a better life. In this harsh political environment, a dangerous relationship begins. A man and a woman from opposite sides of the divided city fall in love. Haunting, suspenseful, simple as a fairytale, this is a story about the bonds of love and loyalty. The lovers will be tested in a way that neither of them could have imagined.

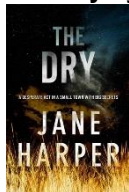


**There should be more dancing by Rosalie Ham (345 pages)**

Margery Blandon 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.

**The Dry by Jane Harper (352 pages, E-Audio available)**



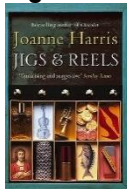
Luke Hadler turns a gun on his wife and child, then himself. The farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily. If one of their own broke under the strain, well... When Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk returns to Kiewarra for the funerals, he is loath to confront the people 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...

**Force of Nature by Jane Harper (326 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019 \*sequel to The Dry, E-Audio available)**



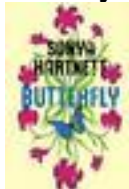
Five women reluctantly pick up their backpacks and start walking along a muddy track. Only four come out on the other side. The hike through the rugged Giralang Ranges is meant to take the office colleagues out of their air-conditioned comfort zone and encourage teamwork and resilience. At least, that's what the corporate retreat website advertises. Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk has a keen interest in the whereabouts of the missing hiker, Alice Russell. Because Alice knew secrets, about the company she worked for and the people she worked with. The four returning women tell Falk a tale of fear, violence and fractured trust during their days in the remote Australian bushland. And as Falk delves into the disappearance of Alice, he begins to suspect some dangers ran far deeper than anyone knew.

**Jigs & reels by Joanne Harris (283 pages)**



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 Sonya Hartnett (214 pages, LP copy 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 (224 pages)



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.

**Plainsong** by Kent Haruf (322 pages)



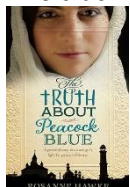
A heartstrong story of family and romance, tribulation and tenacity, set on the High Plains east of Denver. In the small town of Holt, Colorado, a high school teacher is confronted with raising his two boys alone after their mother retreats first to the bedroom, then altogether. A teenage girl—her father 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 humour intact and resonant.

**In her blood** by Annie Hauxwell (261 pages)



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.

**The truth about Peacock Blue** by Rosanne Hawke (235 pages)



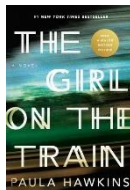
Everything changes for Aster the night her brother dies. Suddenly she's the only hope of the family, and instead of an early marriage to a boy from her small village in Pakistan, her parents decide to send her to the government high school in her brother's place. Aster is excited about this unexpected opportunity for a career, but, as a Christian, she is unprepared for the difficulties of attending a Muslim school: her fellow students are far from welcoming and one of her teachers takes an instant dislike to her. One day, she is accused of intentionally making a spelling mistake to insult the holy prophet. Her teacher is incensed and accuses her of blasphemy. A violent crowd forms outside the school and Aster is taken to jail to be tried later. A young social justice lawyer takes up her case, and Aster's Australian cousin, Maryam, starts an online campaign to free Aster. But will it be enough to save her?

**Into the Water by Paula Hawkins (356 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



'Julia, it's me. I need you to call me back. Please, Julia, it's important...' In the last days before her death, Nel Abbott called her sister. Jules didn't pick up the phone, ignoring her plea for help. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules has been dragged back to the one place she hoped she had escaped for good, to care for the teenage girl her sister left behind. But Jules is afraid. So afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of knowing that Nel would never have jumped. And most of all she's afraid of the water, and the place they call the Drowning Pool...

**Girl on the train by Paula Hawkins (323 pages, DVD available)**



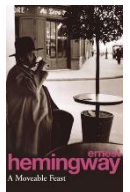
Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. 'Jess and Jason', she calls them. Their life - as she sees it - is perfect. 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 (304 pages)**



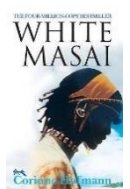
A young Australian woman takes a job at a vast, chaotic emporium of used and rare books in New York City and finds herself caught up in the search for a lost Melville manuscript. This is a literary novel about the eccentricities and passions of booksellers and collectors. Including actual correspondence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

**A moveable feast by Ernest Hemingway (126 pages)**



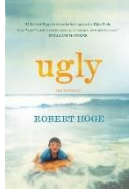
'If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast.' Hemingway's memories of his life as an unknown writer living in Paris in the 1920s are deeply personal, warmly affectionate and full of wit. Looking back not only at his own much younger self, but also at the other writers who shared Paris with him - literary 'stars' like James Joyce, Wyndham Lewis, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein - he recalls the time when, poor, happy and writing in cafes, he discovered his vocation. Written during the last years of Hemingway's life, A Moveable Feast is a lively and powerful reflection of his genius that scintillates with the romance of the city.

**White masai by Corinne Hofmann (320 pages)**



Corinne Hofmann falls in love with a Masai warrior while on holiday with her boyfriend in Kenya. After overcoming all sorts of obstacles, she moves into a tiny shack with him and his mother in his village and spends four years in Kenya. Slowly but surely the dream starts to crumble until she flees back home with her baby daughter born out of the seemingly indestructible love between a white European woman and a Masai.

**Ugly : my memoir by Robert Hoge (304 pages, E-Audio available)**



Robert Hoge was born with a giant tumour on his forehead, severely distorted facial features and legs that were twisted and useless. His mother refused to look at her son, let alone bring him home. But home he went, to a life that, against the odds, was filled with joy, optimism and boyhood naughtiness.

**Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine by Gail Honeyman (390 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-Audio available)**



No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine. Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.

**The tall man: death and life on Palm Island by Chloe Hooper (276 pages)**



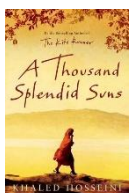
The Tall Man is the story of Palm Island, the tropical paradise where one morning Cameron Doomadgee swore at a policeman and forty minutes later lay dead in a watch-house cell. It is the story of that policeman, the tall, enigmatic Christopher Hurley who chose to work in some of the toughest and wildest 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.

**And the mountains echoed by Khaled Hosseini (404 pages)**



Afghanistan, 1952. Abdullah and his sister Pari live with their father and step-mother 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 skulls 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.

**A thousand splendid suns by Khaled Hosseini (372 pages)**



The book, which spans a period of over 40 years, from the 1960s to 2003, focuses on the tumultuous lives and relationship of Mariam and Laila, two Afghan women. Mariam, an illegitimate child, suffers from the stigma surrounding her birth and the abuse she faces throughout her marriage. Laila, born a generation later, is

comparatively privileged during her youth until their lives intersect and she is also forced to accept a marriage proposal from Rasheed, Mariam's husband.

**Oranges & sunshine by Margaret Humphries (383 pages, DVD available)**



In 1986 Margaret Humphreys, a social worker from Nottingham, investigated a woman's claim that, aged four, she had been put on a boat to Australia by the British government. At first incredulous, Margaret discovered that this was just the tip of an enormous iceberg. Up to 150,000 children had been deported from Britain and shipped off to a 'new life' in distant parts of the Empire, right up until 1970.

Many were told that their parents were dead, and their parents were told that their children had been adopted. In fact, for many children it was to be a life of horrendous physical and sexual abuse far away from everything they knew. Margaret and her team helped reunite thousands of families before it was too late, brought authorities to account, and worldwide attention to an outrageous miscarriage of justice.

**This is how by M J Hyland (377 pages)**



This Is How, is a psychologically probing and deeply moving account of a man at odds with the world. Patrick Oxtoby is a perpetual outsider longing to find his niche. When his fiancé breaks off their engagement, Patrick leaves home and moves to a remote seaside village. Despite his hopes for a new and better life, Patrick struggles to fit in or make the right impression. He can't shake the feeling that his new friends are conspiring against him, further fracturing his already fragile personality and prompting him to take a course of action that permanently alters the course of his life. This Is How is a mesmerizing and meticulously drawn portrait of a man whose unease in the world as it is leads to his tragic undoing. With breathtaking wisdom and astute insight into the human mind, Hyland's latest is a masterpiece that arouses horror and sympathy in equal measure.

**An American in Oz by Sara James (310 pages)**



No one thought Sara James, a 30 Rock habitue and Manhattanite through and through, would move to Australia after a long and successful fast-track career reporting from around the globe. But move she did, when her Australian husband Andrew wanted to come home, in a journey that sees her morph from a big-city anchor and correspondent to a small-town mum living an Australian country life. It is an odyssey filled with drama and adventure, both personal and professional, intentional and accidental. We see Australia through New York eyes, and follow Sara's adventures as she faces head on the challenges of everyday life in a new country with two children, one of whom has special needs.

**Paint your wife by Lloyd Jones (306 pages)**



Once, long ago when the men were away at the war, Alma began painting portraits of the women of the town in lieu of payment for catching all the rats. His special favorite was Alice, who returned his attentions. Her husband George came home from the war and set out to prove his love and reclaim his wife by shifting a hill with a wheelbarrow to improve the view. Now, decades later, Alma's 'in lieu of' payment is revived so that an abandoned mother living in a depressed town can make her way. For the other townspeople looking to escape various corners of despair, drawing classes provide the answer. For when you draw, the only thing that matters is what lies before you.

**Leap by Myfanwy Jones (336 pages)**



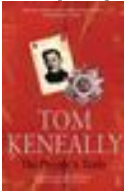
Joe lives - despite himself. Driven by the need to atone for the neglect of a single tragic summer's night, he works at nothing jobs and, in his spare time, trains his body and mind to conquer the hostile environment that took his love and smashed up his future. So when a breathless girl turns up on the doorstep, why does he let her in? Isn't he done with love and hope? On the other side of the city, graphic designer Elise is watching her marriage bleed out. She retreats to the only place that holds any meaning for her - the tiger enclosure at the zoo - where, for reasons she barely understands, she starts to sketch the beautiful killers. Leap is a beautiful urban fairytale about human and animal nature, and the transformative power of grief.

**Nine days by Toni Jordan (245 pages)**



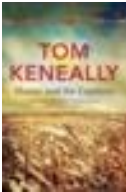
It is 1939 and although Australia is about to go to war, it doesn't quite realise yet that the situation is serious. Deep in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Richmond it is business - your own and everyone else's - as usual. And young Kip Westaway, failed scholar and stablehand, is living the most 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. 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.

**The people's train by Thomas Keneally (408 pages)**



The People's train is firmly based in the truth. From the Russian uprising of 1905 to the early 1910s, several 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 (323 pages)**



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 (352 pages)



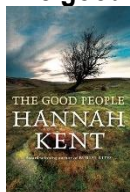
Once, Rich and Sandy were environmental activists, part of a world-famous blockade in Tasmania to save the wilderness. Now, twenty-five years later, they have both settled into the uncomfortable compromises of middle age - although they've gone about it in very different ways. About the only thing they 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 (353 pages)



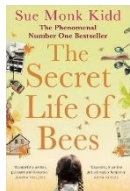
A brilliant literary debut, inspired by a true story: the final days of a young woman accused of murder in Iceland in 1829. Set against Iceland's stark landscape, Hannah Kent brings to vivid life the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm 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.

**The good people** by Hannah Kent (384 pages)



Nóra Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheál. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference. Unable to care for the child alone, Nóra hires a fourteen-year-old servant girl, Mary, who soon hears the whispers in the valley about the blasted creature causing grief to fall upon the widow's house. Alone, hedged in by rumour, Mary and her mistress seek out the only person in the valley who might be able to help Micheál. For although her neighbours are wary of her, it is said that old Nance Roche has the knowledge. That she consorts with Them, the Good People. And that only she can return those whom they have taken...

**Secret life of bees** by Sue Monk Kidd (336 pages)



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. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sister, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna.

**The dinner** by Herman Koch (309 pages)



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 must 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.

**The Trauma Cleaner: One Woman's Extraordinary Life in the Business of Death, Decay, and Disaster by Sarah Krasnostein (272 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



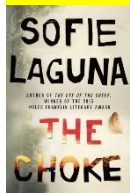
Husband, father, drag queen, sex worker, wife. Sarah Krasnostein's *The Trauma Cleaner* is a love letter to an extraordinary ordinary life. In Sandra Pankhurst she discovered a woman capable of taking a lifetime of hostility and transphobic abuse and using it to care for some of society's most in-need people. Sandra Pankhurst founded her trauma cleaning business to help people whose emotional scars are written on their houses. From the forgotten flat of a drug addict to the infested home of a hoarder, Sandra enters properties and lives at the same time. But few of the people she looks after know anything of the complexity of Sandra's own life. Raised in an uncaring home, Sandra's miraculous gift for warmth and humour in the face of unspeakable personal tragedy mark her out as a one-off.

**Girl in translation by Jean Kwok (307 pages, LP copy available)**



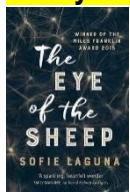
When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life-like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight 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.

**The Choke by Sofie Laguna (371 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-Audio available)**



A mesmerising, harrowing and ultimately uplifting novel from the 2015 Miles Franklin winner. Abandoned by her mother as a toddler and only occasionally visited by her volatile father who keeps dangerous secrets, Justine is raised solely by her Pop, an old man tormented by visions of the Burma Railway. Justine finds sanctuary in Pop's chooks and *The Choke*, where the banks of the Murray River are so narrow they can almost touch—a place of staggering natural beauty that is both a source of peace and danger. Although Justine doesn't know it, her father is a menacing criminal and the world she is exposed to is one of great peril to her. She has to make sense of it on her own—and when she eventually does, she knows what she has to do.

**The eye of the sheep by Sofie Laguna (308 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-Audio available)**



Meet Jimmy Flick. He's not like other kids. He finds a lot of the adult world impossible to understand - especially why his Dad gets so angry with him. Jimmy's mother Paula is the only one who can manage him. She teaches him how to count sheep so that he can fall sleep. She holds him tight enough to stop his cells spinning. It is only Paula who can keep Jimmy out of his father's way. But when Jimmy's world falls

apart, he has no one else to turn to. He alone, must navigate the unfathomable world and make things right.

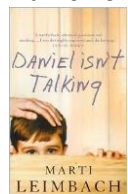
**Go set a watchman** by Harper Lee (278 pages)



Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch - 'Scout' - returns home from New York City to visit her aging 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.

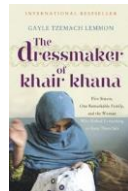
Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in a painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past - a journey that can be guided only by one's conscience.

**Daniel isn't talking** by Marti Leimbach (281 pages)



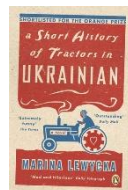
Melanie Marsh is an American living in London married to Stephen, the perfect Englishman, who knew the minute he saw her that she was to be his future. But when their youngest child is diagnosed with autism their marriage starts to unravel at great speed. Stephen runs back into the arms of his previous girlfriend while Melanie does everything in her power to help her son and keep her family together. *Daniel Isn't talking* is a passionate and darkly humorous novel that explores a mother's determination to help her child.

**The dressmaker of Khair Khana** by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon (288 pages)



When the Taliban seized control of Kabul, they banished Kamila Sidiqi and other professional women to virtual house arrest. Fired from her teaching job, she faced another deep crisis when her father and brother fled the city, leaving her as the sole support of herself and her five siblings. With an aplomb that her country's self-righteous conquerors could never emulate, Kamila became the industrious dressmaker and home-bound businesswomen who fed the family and nurtured her embattled neighbours.

**A short history of tractors in Ukrainian** by Marina Lewycka (326 pages)



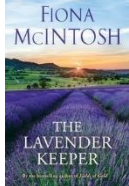
Two years after my mother died, my father fell in love with a glamorous blonde Ukrainian divorcée. He was eighty-four and she was thirty-six. She exploded into our lives like a fluffy pink grenade, churning up the murky water, bringing to the surface a sludge of sloughed-off memories, giving the family ghosts a kick up the backside. Sisters Vera and Nadezhda must aside a lifetime of feuding to save their émigré engineer father from voluptuous gold-digger Valentina. With her proclivity for green satin underwear and boil-in-the-bag cuisine, she will stop at nothing in her pursuit of Western wealth. But the sisters' campaign to oust Valentina unearths family secrets, uncovers fifty years of Europe's darkest history and sends them back to roots they'd much rather forget.

**The bad mother's handbook** by Kate Long (365 pages)



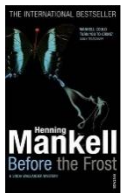
"The Bad Mother's Handbook" is the story of a year in the lives of Charlotte, Karen and Nan, none of whom can quite believe how things have turned out. Why is it all so difficult? Why do the most ridiculous mistakes have the most disastrous consequences? When are you too old to throw up in a flowerbed after too much vodka? When are you too young to be a mother? Both hilarious and wise, it is a clear-eyed look at motherhood - and childhood - in its many guises, from the moment the condom breaks to the moment you file for divorce or, more optimistically, from the moment you hear your baby's first cry to the moment you realize that there are as many sorts of mother as there are children, and that love sometimes is the most important thing of all.

**The Lavender Keeper** by Fiona McIntosh (461 pages)



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, their home overrun by soldiers, their lavender fields in disarray. Lisette Forestier is on a mission of her own: to work her way into the heart of a senior German officer – and to bring down the Reich in any way she can. What Luc and Lisette hadn't counted on was meeting each other. When they come together at the height of the Paris occupation, German traitors are plotting to change the course of history. But who, if anyone, can be trusted? As Luc and Lisette's emotions threaten to betray them, their love may prove the greatest risk of all.

**Before the frost** by Henning Mankell (470 pages)



In this latest atmospheric thriller, Kurt Wallander and his daughter Linda join forces to search for a religious fanatic on a murder spree. Just graduated from the police academy, Linda Wallander returns to Skane to join the police force, and she already shows all the hallmarks of her father--the maverick approach, the flaring temper. Before she even starts work she becomes embroiled in the case of her childhood friend Anna, who has inexplicably disappeared. As the case her father is working on dovetails with her own, something far more dangerous than either could have imagined begins to emerge. They soon find themselves forced to confront a group of extremists bent on punishing the world's sinners.

**Red Sparrow** by Jason Matthews (464 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, DVD available)



In contemporary Russia, state intelligence officer Dominika Egorova has been drafted to become a "Sparrow"—a spy trained in the art of seduction to elicit information from their marks. She's been assigned to Nathaniel Nash, a CIA officer who handles the organization's most sensitive penetration of Russian intelligence. The two young intelligence officers, trained in their respective spy schools, collide in a charged atmosphere of tradecraft, deception, and inevitably, a forbidden spiral of carnal attraction that threatens their careers and the security of America's valuable mole in Moscow.

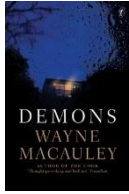
**Winter of our disconnect** by Susan Maushart (296 pages, LP available)



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.

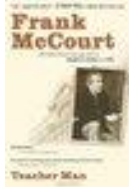
Just exactly as fish inhabit a pond. Gracefully. Unblinkingly. And utterly without consciousness or curiosity as to how they got there. Susan's experiment with her family was a major success and she found that having less to communicate with, her family is communicating more.

**Demons by Wayne Macauley (230 pages)**



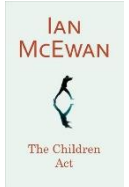
It is the middle of winter. Four middle-aged couples make the journey down the Great Ocean Road to a remote beach house. Without phones, internet, or television, they plan to sit around the fireplace for the weekend, telling stories that might explain the passage of their own lives. Nothing goes to plan. 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.

**Teacher man by Frank McCourt (272 pages)**



McCourt's long-awaited book about how his thirty-year teaching career shaped his second act as a writer. Nearly a decade ago Frank McCourt became an unlikely star when, at the age of sixty-six, he burst onto the literary scene with *Angela's Ashes*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of his childhood in Limerick, Ireland. Then came *'Tis*, his glorious account of his early years in New York. Now, here at last, is McCourt's long-awaited book about how his thirty-year teaching career shaped his second act as a writer. *Teacher Man* is also an urgent tribute to teachers everywhere.

**The Children Act by Ian McEwan (216 pages)**



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, 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 (166 pages)**



It is July 1962. Florence is a talented musician who dreams of a career on the concert stage and of the perfect life she will create with Edward, an earnest young history student at University College of London, who unexpectedly wooed and won her heart. Newly married that morning, both virgins, Edward and Florence arrive at a hotel on the Dorset coast. At dinner in their rooms they struggle to suppress their worries about the wedding night to come. Edward, eager for rapture, frets over Florence's response to his advances and nurses a private fear of failure, while Florence's anxieties run deeper: she is overcome by sheer disgust at the idea of physical contact, but dreads disappointing her husband when they finally lie down together in the honeymoon suite.

**St Kilda blues by Geoffrey McGeachin (304 pages)**



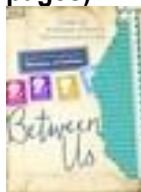
Melbourne's first serial killer is at work and only one man can stop him. It's 1967, the summer of love, and in swinging Melbourne Detective Sergeant Charlie Berlin has been hauled out of exile in the Fraud Squad to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl, the daughter of a powerful and politically 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 WW1. 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 (352 pages)



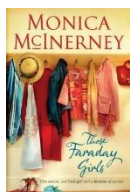
In this British novel, David Carter becomes a museum curator in Coventry. Like his meticulous files, his life is ordered, known and understood until his Aunt Julia begins to suffer from dementia and reveals the truth about his birth. Jon McGregor explores what happens when our lives fail to take the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

**Between us women of letters** by Marieke Hardy (Editor), Michaela McGuire (Editor) (368 pages)



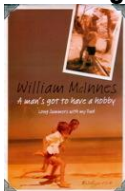
Writing a letter can be an act of confession or celebration, while receiving one can bring joy, insight and vivid memories. Ambassadors for correspondence Marieke Hardy and Michaela McGuire have lured some of our best and brightest to the literary afternoons of Women of Letters to write and read missives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

**Those Faraday girls** by Monica McInerney (400 pages)



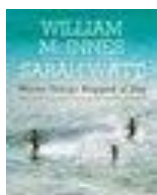
When the youngest of five lively sisters announces that she is pregnant at sixteen, her four sisters vow to stand by her and help raise her child until she reaches school-age. But five years after young Maggie's birth, one of the sisters does the unthinkable, and tears the family apart.

**A man's got to have a hobby** by William McInnes (281 pages)



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 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 (256 pages)



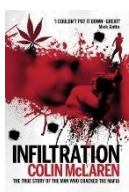
*Worse things happen at sea* does the same for family life in the 2000s; written by William and Sarah in a way that many Australians can relate to and enjoy. This book celebrates the wonderful, messy, haphazard things in life - bringing home babies from hospital, being a friend, a parent, son or daughter, 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.

**The good life by Hugh Mackay (272 pages)**



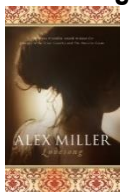
"No one can promise you that a life lived for others will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction, but it's certain that nothing else will." Hugh Mackay has spent his entire working life asking Australians about their values, motivations, ambitions, hopes and fears. Now, in *The Good Life*, he addresses the ultimate question: What makes a life worth living? His conclusion is provocative. The good life is not the sum of our security, wealth, status, postcode, career success and levels of happiness. The good life is one defined by our capacity for selflessness, the quality of our relationships and our willingness to connect with others in a useful way.

**Infiltration : The True Story of the Man Who Cracked the Mafia by Colin McLaren (291 pages)**



*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 (354 pages, LP copy available)**



Seeking shelter in a Parisian cafe from a sudden rainstorm, John Patterner meets the exotic Sabiha and his carefully mapped life changes forever. Resonant of the bestselling *Conditions of Faith*, Alex Miller's keenly awaited new novel tells the deeply moving story of their lives together, and of how each came undone by desire.

**These foolish things by Deborah Moggach (288 pages)**



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 (272 pages, DVD available)**



"That skinny Indian teenager has that mysterious something that comes along once a generation. He is one of those rare chefs who is simply born. He is an artist." And so, begins the rise of Hassan Haji, the unlikely gourmand who recounts his life & journey in Richard Morais' charming novel, *The Hundred-Foot Journey*.

**Currawalli Street by Christopher Morgan (304 pages)**

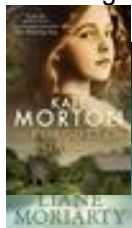


A beguiling celebration of the extraordinary in ordinary people's lives, this gently moving and beautifully written novel tells the stories of the people of one street, across the generations. We all have secret lives. And we are all pretty good at keeping them secret. With simplicity and great beauty, 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.

**Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty (460 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, DVD available)**



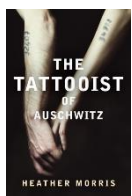
A murder... A tragic accident... Or just parents behaving badly? What's indisputable is that someone is dead. Madeline is a force to be reckoned with. She's funny, biting, and passionate; she remembers everything and forgives no one. Celeste is the kind of beautiful woman who makes the world stop and stare, but she is paying a price for the illusion of perfection. New to town, single mum Jane is so young that another mother mistakes her for a nanny. She comes with a mysterious past and a sadness beyond her years. These three women are at different crossroads, but they will all wind up in the same shocking place. Big Little Lies is a brilliant take on ex-husbands and second wives, mothers and daughters, schoolyard scandal, and the little lies that can turn lethal.



**The husband's secret by Liane Moriarty (416 pages)**

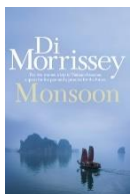
"To be opened in the event of my death" With one swift, vicious movement, she sliced the envelope open, and pulled out a handwritten letter. love you and the girls... so sorry to leave you with this... cannot bear... The Husband's Secret is a funny, heartbreaking novel of marriage, grief, love and secrets.

**The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (288 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her. A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.

**Monsoon by Di Morrissey (468 pages)**



*Monsoon* is a journey into the hearts and memories of those caught in a certain time in a particular place. Sandy Donaldson has been working for a volunteer organisation in Vietnam for the past four years. As her contract nears its end, she is reluctant to leave so she invites her oldest friend, Anna, to come for a holiday and discover its beautiful tourist destinations. Both girls have unexplored links to this country. Sandy's father is a Vietnam vet and Anna's mother was a Vietnamese boat person.

**The forgotten garden by Kate Morton (554 pages)**



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** by Vladimir Nabokov (255 pages)



'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 (240 pages, DVD available, E-Audio available)



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 band of criminals in the business of capturing runaway and free blacks for profit.



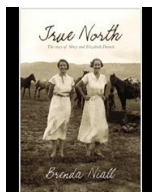
**The ship of brides** by Jojo Moyes (482 pages)

The year is 1946, and all over the world, young women are crossing the seas in the thousands en route to the men they married in wartime - and an unknown future. In Sydney, Australia, four women join 650 other brides on an extraordinary voyage to England, aboard the HMS Victoria, which also carries not just arms and aircraft but 1,000 naval officers and men. Rules of honour, duty, and separation are strictly enforced, from the aircraft carrier's captain down to the lowliest young stoker. But the men and the brides will find their lives intertwined in ways the Navy could never have imagined.

**Sunnyside** by Joanna Murray-Smith (396 pages)

Alice and Harry Haskins move to Sunnyside, a beach side suburb, where affluent, educated men and women buffer themselves against disaffection and boredom with big houses, swimming pools, cocktail parties and tennis tournaments. Their seemingly perfect world is threatened by the revelation of best friend Molly's affair with the pool-man.

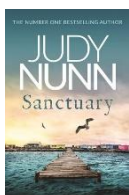
**True north : the story of Mary and Elizabeth Durack** by Brenda Niall (291 pages)



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

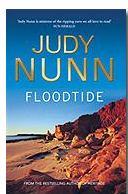
access to hundreds of private family letters, unpublished memoirs, diaries and family papers, Brenda Niall gets to the heart of a uniquely Australian story that spans the twentieth century.

**Sanctuary by Judy Nunn (421 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



On a barren island off the coast of Western Australia, a rickety wooden dinghy runs aground. Aboard are nine people who have no idea where they are. Strangers before the violent storm that tore their vessel apart, the instinct to survive has seen them bond during their days adrift on a vast and merciless ocean. Fate has cast them ashore with only one thing in common ...fear. Rassen the doctor, Massoud the student, the child Hamid and the others all fear for their lives. But in their midst is Jalila, who appears to fear nothing. The beautiful young Yazidi woman is a mystery to them all. While they remain undiscovered on the deserted island, they dare to dream of a new life . . .But forty kilometres away on the mainland lies the tiny fishing port of Shoalhaven. Here everyone knows everyone, and everyone has their place. In Shoalhaven things never change. Until now . . .

**Floodtide by Judy Nunn (647 pages, LP available)**



A brilliant observation of turbulent times in the mighty 'Iron Ore State' - Western Australia, Floodtide traces the fortunes of four men and four families over four memorable decades: the prosperous post-war 1950s when childhood is idyllic & carefree in the small, peaceful city of Perth....The turbulent 60s when youth is caught up in the conflict of the Vietnam War & free love reigns...The avaricious 70s when Western Australia's mineral boom sees the rise of a new young breed of aggressive entrepreneurs...The corrupt 80s and the birth of 'WA Inc', when the alliance of greedy politicians & powerful businessman brings the state to its knees, even threatening the downfall of the federal government.

**Maralinga by Judy Nunn (512 pages. LP available)**



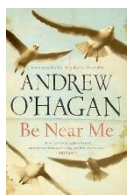
During the darkest days of the Cold War, in the remote wilderness of a South Australian desert, the future of an infant nation is being decided . . . without its people's knowledge. A British airbase in the middle of nowhere; an atomic weapons testing ground; an army of raw youth, led by powerful and 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!

**Dreams of my father by Barak Obama (442 pages)**



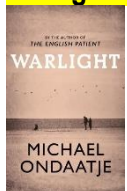
The son of a black African father and a white American mother, Obama was only two years old when his father walked out on the family. Many years later, Obama receives a phone call from Nairobi: his father is dead. This sudden news inspires an emotional odyssey for Obama, determined to learn the truth of his father's life and reconcile his divided inheritance. Written at the age of thirty-three, Dreams from my Father is an unforgettable read. It illuminates not only Obama's journey, but also our universal desire to understand our history, and what makes us the people we are.

**Be near me by Andrew O'Hagan (278 pages)**



When an English priest takes over a small Scottish parish, not everyone is ready to accept him. He makes friends with two local youths, Mark and Lisa, and clashes with a world he can barely understand. The town seems to grow darker each night. Fate comes calling, and before the summer is out his quiet life is the focus of public hysteria. Meanwhile a religious war is unfolding on his doorstep . . .

**Warlight by Michael Ondaatje (304 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019)**



In a narrative as mysterious as memory itself – at once both shadowed and luminous – Warlight is a vivid, thrilling novel of violence and love, intrigue and desire. It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz and years of war. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women with a shared history, all of whom seem determined now to protect, and educate (in rather unusual ways) Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, and it is this journey – through reality, recollection, and imagination – that is told in this magnificent novel.

**Sisters of mercy by Caroline Overington (302 pages)**



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 (464 pages)**



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 meagre 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 (378 pages)**



In nineteen minutes, you can get revenge. Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens -- until the day its complacency is shattered by a shocking act of violence. In the aftermath, the town's residents must not only seek justice to begin healing but also come to terms with the role they played in the tragedy. For them, the lines between truth and fiction, right and wrong, insider and outsider have been obscured forever. Josie Cormier, the teenage daughter of the judge sitting on the case, could be the state's best witness, but she can't remember what

happened in front of her own eyes. And as the trial progresses, fault lines between the high school and the adult community begin to show, destroying the closest of friendships and families.

**The feel-good hit of the year by Liam Pieper (272 pages)**



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.

**Unpolished gem by Alice Pung (282 pages)**



After Alice Pung's family fled to Australia from the killing fields of Cambodia, her father chose Alice as her name because he thought their new country was a Wonderland. In this lyrical, bittersweet debut memoir & already an award-winning bestseller when it was published in Australia & Alice grows up straddling two worlds, East and West, her insular family and the Australia outside. With wisdom beyond her years and a keen eye for comedy in everyday life, she writes of the trials of assimilation and cultural misunderstanding, and of the tender but fraught relationships between three generations of women trying to live the Australian dream without losing themselves.



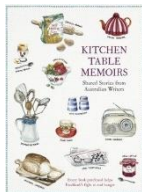
**Her father's daughter by Alice Pung (241 pages, sequel to Unpolished Gem)**

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.

**Hello, beautiful! scenes from a life by Hannie Rayson (259 pages)**

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 (165 pages)



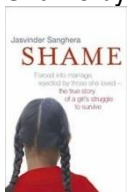
Whether it is oak, pine, Laminex, varnished, recycled or modernist glass -- in the domestic geography of our daily lives, the kitchen table is a constant. A silent witness to sustenance and solace, deliberation and argument, consolation and celebration. What other piece of furniture has witnessed so 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 (373 pages)



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 Sepulchre.

**Shame** by Jasvinder Sanghera (289 pages)



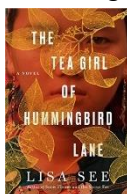
When she was fourteen, Jasvinder Sanghera was shown a photo of the man chosen to be her husband. She was terrified. She'd witnessed the torment her sisters endured in their arranged marriages, so she ran away from home, grief-stricken when her parents disowned her. "Shame" is the heart-rending true story of a young girl's attempt to escape from a cruel, claustrophobic world where family honour mattered more than anything -- sometimes more than life itself. Jasvinder's story is one of terrible oppression, a harrowing struggle against a punitive code of honour -- and, finally, triumph over adversity.

**Tourmaline** by Joanna Scott (288 pages)



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 (384 pages)



This novel 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.

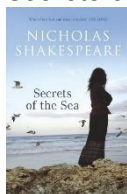
**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer**  
**(251 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, DVD available)**



The war is over. Juliet Ashton is grappling with writer's block when she receives a letter from Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - a total stranger living halfway across the Channel, who has come across her name written in a second-hand book. Juliet begins writing to Dawsey, and in time to everyone in the extraordinary Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. The society tell Juliet about life on the island - and the dark years spent under the shadow of German occupation.

Drawn into their irresistible world, Juliet sets sail for Guernsey, changing her life - and theirs - forever.

**Secrets of the sea by Nicholas Shakespeare (304 pages)**



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 (327 pages)**



Shane, Moira and Midge, along with young Zara and Rory, are 'trants'—itinerants roaming the plains north-west of Melbourne in search of disused houses to sleep in, or to strip of heritage fittings when funds are low. When they find their Tree Palace outside Barleyville, things are looking up. At last, a place in which to settle down. But Zara, fifteen, is pregnant and doesn't want a child. She'd rather a normal life with town boys, not trant life with a baby. Moira decides to step in: she'll look after her

grandchild. Then Shane finds himself in trouble with the local cops... Warmly told and witty, Craig Sherborne's second novel is a revelation—an affecting story of family and rural life.

**Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (368 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, DVD available, E-Audio Available)**



Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program. Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'coloured computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement, 'Hidden Figures' interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

**Testimony by Anita Shreve (305 pages)**



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 (455 pages, LP copy available)**



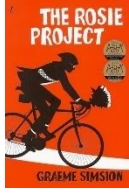
All his life Shep Knacker has dreamed of leaving New York and living in simplicity in the Third World. Yet he comes to realise that his wife, Glynis, has never been serious about making the change. On the very day that he announces he is leaving for the island of Pemba with or without her, she informs 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?

**Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey (397 pages, LP available)**



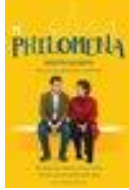
Late on a hot summer night in the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleepout. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is 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 vainly 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 (329 pages)



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 (452 pages, DVD available)



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 (374 pages)



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.

**Bad behaviour : a memoir of bullying and boarding school** by Rebecca Starford (272 pages)



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.

**The light between oceans** by M. L. Stedman (352 pages, DVD available, E-Audio available)



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 (354 pages)



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 (240 pages)



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.

**Reckoning** by Magda Szubanski (400 pages)



Heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory, Reckoning is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved performers, tells her story. In this extraordinary memoir, Magda describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood, haunted by the demons of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family. With courage and compassion, she addresses her own frailties and fears, and asks the big questions about life, about the shadows we inherit and the gifts we pass on.

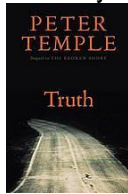
**The broken shore** by Peter Temple (345 pages)



Broken by his last case, homicide detective Joe Cashin has fled the city and returned to his hometown to run its one-man police station while his wounds heal and the nightmares fade. He lives a quiet life with his two dogs in the tumbledown wreck his family home has become. It's a peaceful existence - ideal for the rehabilitating man. But his recovery is rudely interrupted by a brutal attack on Charles Bourgoyne, a prominent member of the local community. Suspicion falls on three young men from the local Aboriginal community. But Cashin's not so sure and as the case unfolds amid simmering

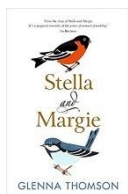
corruption and prejudice, he finds himself holding on to something that it might be better to let go.

**Truth by Peter Temple (287 pages, Sequel to The Broken Shore)**



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.

**Stella and Margie by Glenna Thomson (304 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-Audio available)**



Stella and her mother-in-law Margie are two very different women. Stella is kind, compassionate and just a little chaotic. Margie is prickly, demanding and a stickler for convention. Stella has exciting dreams for the future. Margie has only bitter memories of the past. When Margie needs help recovering from a major operation, Stella offers her a place to stay. With no other options, Margie returns to the family farm where for decades, until Stella's arrival, she was the one in charge. Margie has never made life easy for her daughter-in-law, and that's not going to change now she's been made a guest in her former home. But as the dry summer turns to a beautiful Autumn, the two women gradually form an unlikely bond, as the ambitions, secrets, and tragedies that have shaped their lives are slowly uncovered...

**Everyman's rules for scientific living by Carrie Tiffany (240 pages)**



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 (340 pages)**



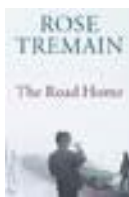
Set in the wild, seamy and extremely strange America of the nineteenth century: a historical novel so brilliantly-written, so richly involving and so touching that you never want it to end. Young Ren is missing his parents and a hand and doesn't know what happened to any of them. So he is beginning to fear that he will never be claimed from his cold New England orphanage: that his dream of a family - of a life - will come to nothing. But one day a glamorous stranger arrives at the orphanage. To Ren's astonishment, the handsome, charming Benjamin Nab says he is his brother. He says he has come to bring him home. And even when his stories grow more and more extraordinary, when he puts Ren's life in danger again and again and sets him first to theft and then to grave-robbing, Ren cannot quite abandon hope. That one day all the hunger and danger and unwanted excitement will be worth it, that he will find a family, at last. But whether Benjamin is to be trusted is another story....

**Daughters in law** by Joanna Trollope (366 pages)



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 (356 pages)



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 (516 pages)



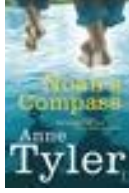
Fourteen-year-old Daniel Kelly is special. Despite his upbringing in working-class Melbourne, he knows that his astonishing ability in the swimming pool has the potential to transform his life, silence the rich boys at the private school to which he has won a sports scholarship, and take him far beyond his neighbourhood, possibly to international stardom and an Olympic medal. Everything Danny has ever done, every sacrifice his family has ever made, has been in pursuit of this dream—but what happens when the talent that makes you special fails you? When the goal that you've been pursuing for as long as you can remember ends in humiliation and loss? Twenty years later, Dan is in Scotland, terrified to tell his partner about his past, afraid that revealing what he has done will make him unlovable. When he is called upon to return home to his family, the moment of violence in the wake of his defeat that changed his life forever comes back to him in terrifying detail, and he struggles to believe that he'll be able to make amends. Haunted by shame, Dan relives the intervening years he spent in prison, where the optimism of his childhood was completely foreign.

**The Lost swimmer** by Ann Turner (368 pages)



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 (288 pages, LP available)**



Noah's compass 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

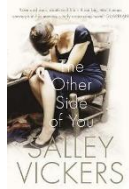
**The memory of salt by Alice Melike Ülgezer (295 pages)**



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 other side of you by Salley Vickers (271 pages)**

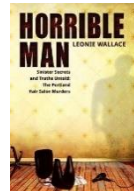


'There is no cure for being alive.' Thus, speaks Dr David McBride, a psychiatrist for whom death exerts an unusual draw. As a young child he witnessed the death of his six-year-old brother and it is this traumatic event which has shaped his own personality and choice of profession. One day a failed suicide, Elizabeth Cruikshank, is admitted to his hospital. She is unusually reticent and it is not until he recalls a painting by Caravaggio that she finally yields up her story. We learn of Elizabeth

Cruikshank's dereliction of trust, and the man she has lost, through David's narration. As her story unfolds, David finds his own life being touched by a sense that the 'other side' of his elusive patient has a strange resonance for him, too.

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

**Leonie Wallace (298 pages)**



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.

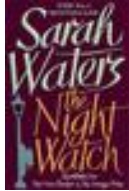
It is a long time to keep such a shocking secret - it has now been more than 20 years. Former journalist, Leonie Wallace, traces the lives of those closely connected to this crime including members of the victims' families, witnesses and suspects to present some important and surprising revelations. 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 (288 pages)**



Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

**The Night watch by Sarah Waters (506 pages)**



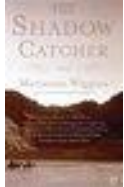
Moving back through the 1940s, through air raids, blacked-out streets, illicit partying, and sexual adventure, to end with its beginning in 1941, *The Night Watch* tells the story of four Londoners - three women and a young man with a past - whose lives, and those of their friends and lovers, connect in tragedy, stunning surprise and exquisite turns, only to change irreversibly in the shadow of a grand historical event.

**Chalcot crescent by Fay Weldon (278 pages)**



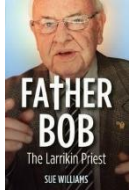
Its 2013 and eighty-year-old Frances (part-time copywriter, has-been writer, one-time national treasure) is sitting on the stairs of No.3, Chalcot Crescent, Primrose Hill, listening to the debt collectors pounding on her front door. From this house she's witnessed five decades of world history - the 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?

**The shadow catcher by Marianne Wiggins (336 pages)**



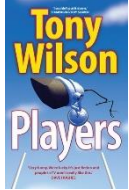
A novel about the complicated life of twentieth century photographer Edward Curtis. Marianne has her own mystery of a dying man in hospital carrying her father's identification. Interweaving narratives from two different eras this is an intelligent novel loaded with social commentary that explores identity,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

**Father Bob: the larrikin priest** by Sue Williams (376 pages)



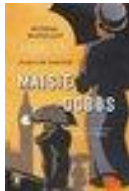
This is the life story of Father Bob Maguire - a rare behind-the-scenes look at the much-loved 'people's priest'. The enigmatic champion of the down-and-out was shaped by a lonely childhood in poor circumstances, an early priesthood that collided with the upheaval of Vatican 11 and working with the army 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 (375 pages)



Ex-Australian rules footballer Ian 'Tickets' Thompson is the bad boy darling of TV's top rating sports show, 'Leather and Lace'. The more offensive he is, the more the fans love him. But how will a million viewers, not to mention the police, react to his unprovoked assault on a homeless man? More to the point, what about his trigger-happy employer, media tycoon Sir Barry Haynes? To Billy Nock, fading champion, icon of fair play and host of the dismally rating rival football show, these are crucial questions. And when it starts to look like there's a scheme afoot to ensure Tickets gets away with it, Billy is spurred to action.

**Maisie Dobbs** by Jacqueline Winspear (309 pages)



Maisie Dobbs isn't just any young housemaid. Through her own natural intelligence—and the patronage of her benevolent employers—she works her way into college at Cambridge. When World War I breaks, Maisie goes to the front as a nurse. It is there that she learns that coincidences are meaningful and the truth elusive. After the War, Maisie sets up on her own as a private investigator. But her very first assignment, seemingly an ordinary infidelity case, soon reveals a much deeper, darker web of secrets, which will force Maisie to revisit the horrors of the Great War and the love she left behind.

**Annabel** by Kathleen Winter (465 pages)



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.

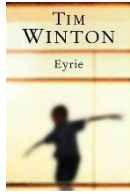
**Breath** by Tim Winton (265 pages, DVD available, E-Audio available)



On the wild, lonely coast of Western Australia, two thrill-seeking and barely adolescent boys fall into the enigmatic thrall of veteran big-wave surfer Sando. Together they form an odd but elite trio. The grown man initiates the boys into a kind of Spartan ethos, a regimen of risk and challenge, where they test themselves in storm swells on remote and shark-infested reefs, pushing each other to the edges of endurance, courage, and sanity. But where is all this heading? Why is their mentor's past such forbidden territory? And what can explain his American wife's peculiar behaviour? Venturing beyond all limits—in relationships, in physical challenge, and in sexual

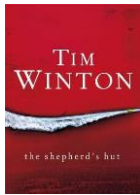
behaviour—there is a point where oblivion is the only outcome. Full of Winton's lyrical genius for conveying physical sensation, *Breath* is a rich and atmospheric coming-of-age tale from one of world literature's finest storytellers.

**Eyrie by Tim Winton (424 pages)**



*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.

**The Shepherd's Hut by Tim Winton (267 pages, NEW TITLE FOR 2019, E-Audio available)**



For years Jaxie Clackton has dreaded going home. His beloved mum is dead, and he wishes his dad was too, until one terrible moment leaves his life stripped to nothing. No one ever told Jaxie Clackton to be careful what he wishes for. And so Jaxie runs. There's just one person in the world who understands him, but to reach her he'll have to cross the vast saltlands of Western Australia. It is a place that harbours criminals and threatens to kill those who haven't reckoned with its hot, waterless vastness. This is a journey only a dreamer - or a fugitive - would attempt. Fierce and lyrical, *The Shepherd's Hut* is a story of survival, solitude and unlikely friendship. Most of all it is about what it takes to keep hope alive in a parched and brutal world.

**Cairo by Chris Womersley (304 pages)**



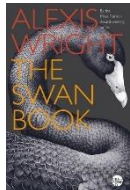
Frustrated by country life and eager for adventure and excitement, seventeen-year-old Tom Button moves to the city to study. Once there, and living in a run-down apartment block called Cairo, he is befriended by the eccentric musician Max Cheever, his beautiful wife Sally, and their close-knit circle 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*.

**Carpentaria by Alexis Wright (520 pages)**



In the sparsely populated northern Queensland town of Desperance, loyalties run deep and battle lines have been drawn between the powerful Phantom family, leaders of the Westend Pricklebush people, and Joseph Midnight's renegade Eastend mob, and their disputes with the white officials of neighbouring towns. Steeped in myth and magical realism, Wright's hypnotic storytelling exposes the heartbreaking realities of Aboriginal life.

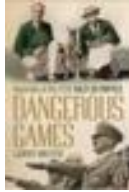
**The Swan book by Alexis Wright (342 pages)**



*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. It offers an intimate awareness of the realities facing Aboriginal people; the wild

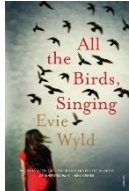
energy and humour in her writing finds hope in the bleakest situations; and the remarkable combination of storytelling elements, drawn from myth and legend and fairy tale.

**Dangerous games : Australia at the 1936 Nazi Olympics** by Larry Writer (338 pages)



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 (240 pages)



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, 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.

**The high mountains of Portugal** by Yann Mantel (332 pages)



*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.

**Scraps of heaven** by Arnold Zable (246 pages)



It's 1958 and Australia is becoming a different place. The Melbourne working-class suburb of Carlton is now home to many immigrant families trying to begin new lives and make sense of the old. Romek and Zofia, liberated from the camps in Poland, work hard at the local market, but their love is in ruins. Bloomfield is king and custodian of Curtin; the resplendent Valerio, stylish and soccer-mad, has just arrived from Italy. Romek and Zofia's skinny twelve-year-old son Josh takes up boxing and

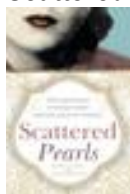
becomes bewitched by the Swedish Girl. But Zofia is tormented, and as she falls further into madness, Josh wonders if she can ever be made whole again.

**The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (487 pages)**



Barcelona, 1945 - just after the war, a great world city lies in shadow, nursing its wounds, and a boy named Daniel awakes on his eleventh birthday to find that he can no longer remember his mother's face. To console his only child, Daniel's widowed father, an antiquarian book dealer, initiates him into the secret of the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, a library tended by Barcelona's guild of rare-book dealers as a repository for books forgotten by the world, waiting for someone who will care about them again. Daniel's father coaxes him to choose a volume from the spiraling labyrinth of shelves, one that, it is said, will have a special meaning for him. And Daniel so loves the novel he selects, *The Shadow of the Wind* by one Julian Carax, that he sets out to find the rest of Carax's work. To his shock, he discovers that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book this author has written. In fact, he may have the last one in existence. Before Daniel knows it his seemingly innocent quest has opened a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets, an epic story of murder, magic, madness and doomed love. And before long he realizes that if he doesn't find out the truth about Julian Carax, he and those closest to him will suffer horribly.

**Scattered Pearls by Sohila Zanjani (320 pages)**



Three generations of Iranian women and their search for freedom. 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. Resolving never to tread in the footsteps of her mother and her grandmother, both survivors of domestic abuse, Sohila tried to find a new life for herself on the other side of the world. But to her horror she discovered that living with her father had been gentle in comparison to the reality of her new married life. Spanning more than a hundred years, *Scattered Pearls* tells the true stories of Sohila, her mother and her grandmother, and the injustice and abuse meted out by the men in their lives. It is a story of cultural misogyny in both Iran and Australia, and of an ongoing search for a loving, equal relationship.

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (584 pages, DVD available)**



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.