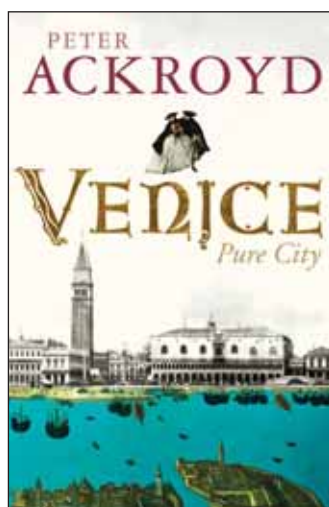


THE Independent Book Guide

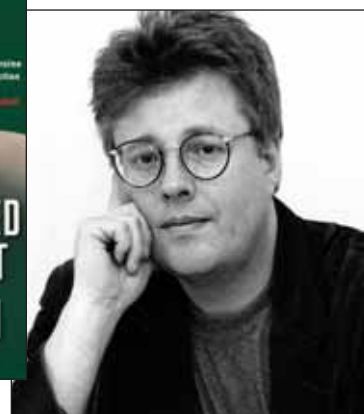
Wonderful books selected by members of
the New South Wales Independent Booksellers' Group

SUMMER 2009



VENICE Peter Ackroyd

A portrait, richly filled with stories, of one of the world's most glittering and beautiful cities. From the pen of this most evocative of writers, we follow Venice's growth from being a great mercantile empire to the tourist invasions of today. We learn of the merchants on the Rialto, of the Jews in the Ghetto, of the Doges and the lions of Venice. We wonder at the mosaics of St Marks and at the number of islands in the Venetian lagoon, each with their own industry. We read of the scandals and seducers and of the constant battle against the encroaching sea. \$69.95



THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST Stieg Larsson

The final installment in *The Millennium Trilogy*, which began with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* followed by *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, shows no sign of slowing the pace! Those left breathless by the 2nd Volume, should re-read the end before embarking on *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* so no time is lost in backtracking. Lisbeth Salandar, hell bent on revenge, and Mikael Blomkvist, on the brink of exposing secrets that will shake the Swedish Government to its foundations, reunite and finally there is a chance for truth and justice to prevail. \$32.95

Photo: David Lagerlöf, Expo

For more Non-Fiction, see pages 19-21

For more Fiction, see pages 6-11



THE NSW INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS' GROUP

Back row (l-r): Sue Watt (Wahroonga), Wendy Whitton (Leura), Tom Whitton (Leura), Ian Moir (Lane Cove), David Cockerill (Mudgee), Richard Hogan (Warriewood)
 Front Row (l-r): Margaret Rose (Camberay), Julie Cockerill (Mudgee), Rosemary Moir (Lane Cove), Philip Bray (Balmain), Jan Ekins (Epping), Scott Whitmont (Lindfield)

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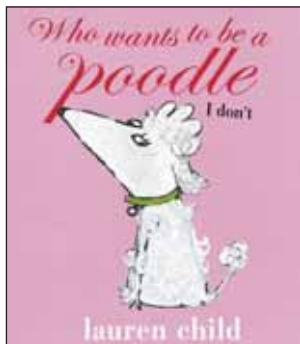
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| 3 | Six of the Best | 13-14 | Crime and Mystery | | Philip Bray on The Power of Books |
| 4-5 | Food and Gardening | | Peter Temple Interview | 26-31 | Children and Young Adults |
| | Jenny Ferguson's Special Year | 15-17 | Golden Dagger Award | | Helping Young Children to Read |
| 6-11 | Fiction | 18 | Marvellous Miscellany | | Children's Bestsellers |
| | Audio Books | 19-21 | Humour | | What to Read After the Twilight series |
| | Our Bestsellers | 22-23 | Non-Fiction and History | 32 | Seven of the Best |
| | Golden Oldies | | Gerald Stone feature | | |
| | Ian Moir on Fiction | | The Prize Winners | | |
| | NSW Independents | | Reading Groups' Book of the Year | | |

Australian title

This Guide quotes Australian Recommended Prices. Every effort will be made to have stock of every featured book but supply cannot be guaranteed. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained herein is correct but no responsibility is accepted for any errors.

Six of the best to whet your appetite...

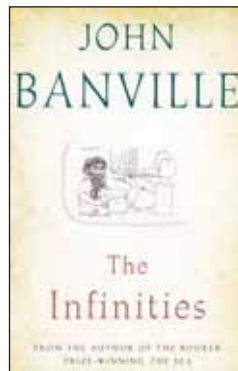


WHO WANTS TO BE A POODLE? I DON'T

Lauren Child

No dog worth her salt wants to be a pampered poodle trapped in a perfumed penthouse and Trixie Twinkle Toes is no exception. Yearning for adventure in the real world, she seizes a chance to

escape and experience some danger. Delightfully written and illustrated by the award-winning author of *Charlie and Lola*, this book will be loved by anyone who has ever wanted to jump in a puddle with their good shoes on. \$24.95 For more Children's books, see pages 26-31



THE INFINITIES John Banville

Set during one long languid midsummer day, old Adam lies inert in his bed after a stroke. Family members have gathered for the occasion, yet all relationships seem to be at breaking point. Adam has his own problems grappling with the concept of the infinite and with unsettling recollections. Will the story evolve as anticipated, or will the gods be unable to resist

interfering with mortals' lives. With deliciously bawdy humour, we look at the wonderful plight of being human. \$32.99 For more Fiction, see page 6

Have you visited our website?
www.independentbookguide.com.au



GRAND OBSESSIONS

The Life and Work of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin

Alasdair McGregor

A new biography tracing the lives of two individuals of great talent and vision, from their childhoods and meeting in Chicago, through their battles in Australia and their swansong in India. The

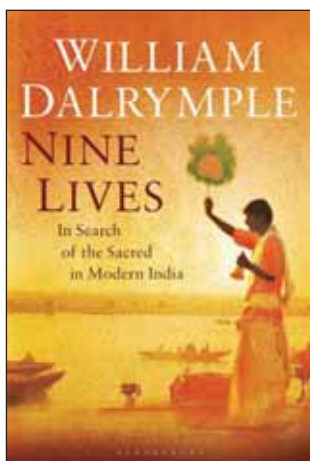
story of the Griffins is also the portrait of a pioneering woman. \$69.95 For more Biography, see pages 24-28



WOMEN OF FLOWERS Leonie Norton

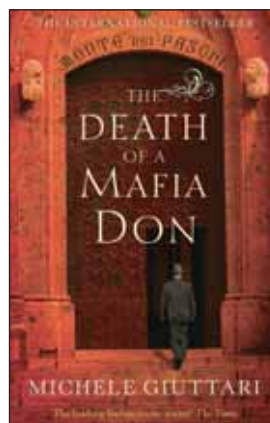
Focusing on the rich and extensive holdings of albums, sketchbooks and paintings in the National Library of Australia, this beautiful book pays homage to the female artists who drew and painted the wildflowers and plants of Australia. Each chapter includes a brief biography of an artist

followed by wonderful examples of their art. \$34.95 For more Marvellous Miscellany, see pages 15-17



NINE LIVES William Dalrymple

William Dalrymple has been exploring India, her people and her cultures for 25 years. In this book he tells the stories of nine very different Indians. Each story is exquisite and mesmerising in itself. Together they form a remarkable picture of a remarkable country. \$35.00 More Marvellous Miscellany, see pages 15-17



THE DEATH OF A MAFIA DON Michele Giuttari

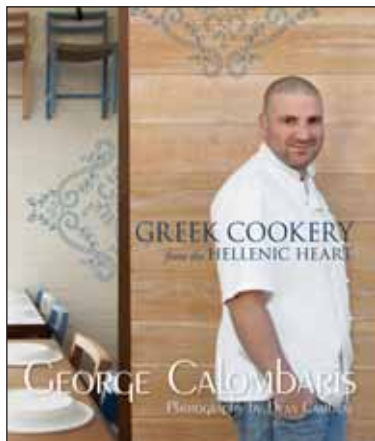
Florence Police Chief Michele Giuttari creates a complicated story of plotting, disloyalty, crime and violence. From an action-packed beginning, a web of corruption in high places leading from Florence to Sicily to Rome offers a fictional insight into the secret world of the Mafia. \$29.99

For more Crime and Mystery, see pages 13-14

...and see another Seven of the Best on the back cover

GREEK COOKERY FROM THE HELLENIC HEART

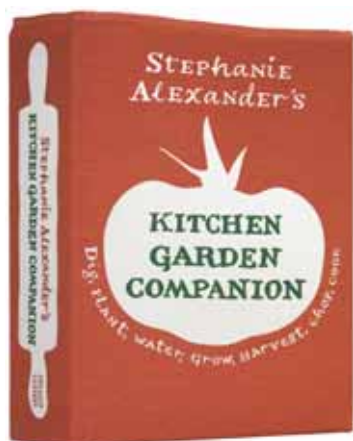
George Calombaris



George's second cookbook is testament to the love and respect he has for his Greek heritage and family. Based on the mood generated in a Greek taverna, a place for family and friends to gather, George focuses on the peasant cuisine and generosity of heart that he sees as the core of the Hellenic Republic. \$50.00 🇦🇺

KITCHEN GARDEN COMPANION

Stephanie Alexander

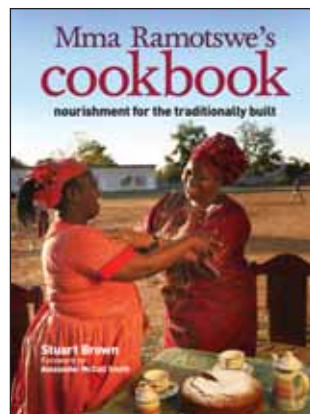


The complete guide to growing and cooking your own food. Detailed information on no less than 73 vegetables, herbs and fruits from planting and cultivating to harvesting and eating. Including 250 recipes, this is a lasting resource for every household. An inspirational title from one of our premier food writers. What a superb book! \$125.00 🇦🇺

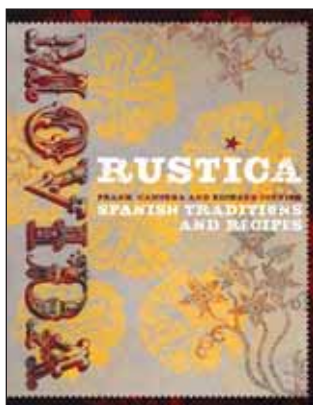
MMA RAMOTSWE'S COOKBOOK

Stuart Brown

Introduced by Alexander McCall Smith, this cookbook returns us to the irresistible world of the *No.1 Ladies Detective Agency*. Filled with traditional recipes collected in Botswana, you can cook your way into Precious Ramotswe's kitchen with stews, fruitcakes and all manner of sumptuous delicacies. Wake up your senses with the tantalising spices, aromas and flavours of Africa. The perfect gift for readers of *The No. 1 Ladies* series. \$39.95



Some people like to paint pictures, or do gardening, or build a boat in the basement. Other people get a tremendous pleasure out of the kitchen, because cooking is just as creative and imaginative an activity as drawing, or wood carving, or music. ~Julia Child



MOVIDA RUSTICA

Frank Camorra

Chef Frank Camorra returns to his native Spain in this, his companion book to the very popular and award winning *MoVida*. Frank showcases many traditional as well as innovative recipes that are inspired by his travels through the cities, towns and countryside of Spain. Share his passion for the culture in which the food is grown, prepared and eaten. \$59.95 🇦🇺



One must know combinations, one must have a true knowledge of food to be in the moment. ~Charlie Trotter

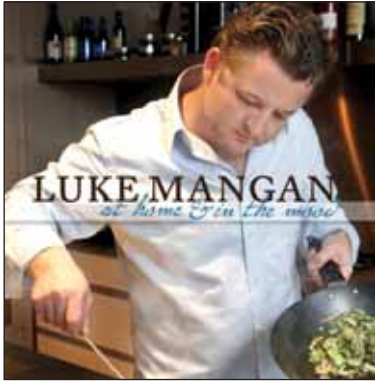
THE SONGS OF SAPA

Luke Nguyen

The Vietnamese people have a deep connection with their food and this beautiful book, part cookbook, part travelogue, is bursting with vibrant, colourful photographs. Luke, chef and co-author of *Secrets of the Red Lantern*, returns to Vietnam to discover the best of Vietnam's diverse regional cooking. He is invited into the homes of locals and meets their food experts and home cooks, capturing the essence of this way of life in this visually stunning book with more than 100 recipes. \$69.95 🇦🇺



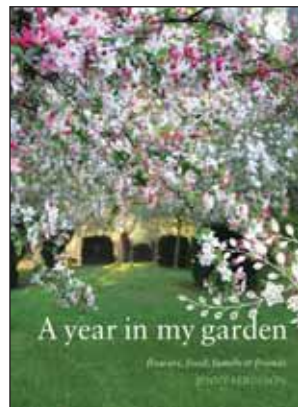
AT HOME AND IN THE MOOD Luke Mangan



Luke is internationally recognised as one of Australia's leading chefs and his culinary adventures take him around the world. In this, his latest book, he emphasises what he considers to be his favourite type of cooking, that of entertaining family and friends at home with uncomplicated, easy to prepare food. Included in this beautifully photographed volume are chapters on entertaining with wine, coffees and teas of the world. \$59.95 🇦🇺

BOURKE STREET BAKERY Paul Allen & David McGuinness

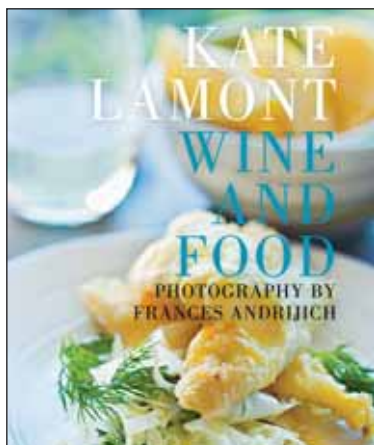
Hip, trendy, tiny but fabulous! This bakery in the leafy suburb of Surry Hills has garnered a reputation for great bread and pastries that sees its customers queuing patiently to taste their delectable treats. Now you can learn from these masters how they create these wonderful sourdoughs and flaky pastries. It is aimed at novice bakers with clear and concise instructions but includes recipes to dazzle the most experienced baker or pastry chef. \$69.95 🇦🇺



A YEAR IN MY GARDEN Jenny Ferguson

Lavishly illustrated throughout, this beautiful and heart warming book takes us into the private world of Jenny Ferguson at 'Whitley' in the Southern Highlands where she has restored and revived an established garden where old trees providing a background to the new plantings. The gardening year begins in January, and each month brings challenges and delights which are all beautifully described, with personal anecdotes about her dogs, her friends and her recipes for entertaining using produce from the garden. A perfect gift. \$59.95 🇦🇺

WINE AND FOOD Kate Lamont



Drawing upon her experience as both a winemaker and chef, Kate explores the art of wine and food matching in her gorgeous new cookbook. The chapters are arranged according to wine types and flavours with each chapter featuring complementary recipes. \$55.00 🇦🇺

A Special Year

Meet Jenny Ferguson, chef, children's author and inspired gardener

We were recently able to chat with Jenny Ferguson who wrote the charming memoir, *A Garden, a Pig, and Me*, which was a record of a year in her life creating and restoring 'Torryburn', an old garden in the Hunter Valley which was open to the public.

Jenny's new book, *A Year in My Garden*, is about her new/old garden, Whitley, in the Southern Highlands. When we asked Jenny about what motivates her writing, she had this to say:

Why?

I write to express a point of view – to make sense of things and to capture the moment (which disappears so quickly). Writing is a wonderful way of distilling and articulating thoughts that go around in circles inside one's head. Writing captures and makes concrete the invisible threads of our daily thoughts. Without writing, these would disappear forgotten and forever. I also write so that my little grand-daughters will have something to remember me by when I am gone.

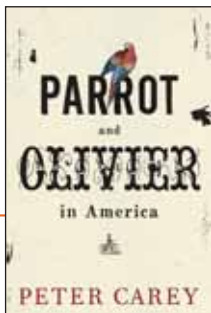
How?

A Year in My Garden evolved paragraph by paragraph, day by day and month by month, noting all the little things – the flowers that were in bloom, the birds, and the weather. Everything that happened in that year took on a special meaning because I had made that year a special one for me.

In 2010, I will have two illustrated chapter stories published (*Pound Dogs* and *Eyes in the Dark*) for 8-12 year olds. I am currently working on another cookbook: a lifetime's collection of more than 200 tried and true, timeless recipes, photographed in a home and garden setting.

PARROT AND OLIVIER IN AMERICA Peter Carey

Peter Carey, twice winner of the Booker Prize, gives us a dazzling reinvention of Alex De Tocqueville's famous journey to America. Olivier sets sail for the New World supposedly to study its prisons, but in reality to avoid another revolution. Parrot goes with him as spy, protector and foe. This is a tender story of an improbable friendship while also being riotously funny. \$49.95 🇺🇸



AUTHOR PROFILE Peter Carey

It all started with *The Fat Man in History* in 1974. After four novels had been rejected the wonderfully titled short-story collection made Peter Carey an overnight success.

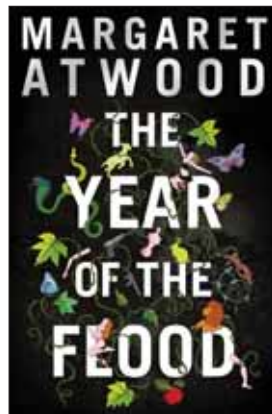
From 1976 Carey worked part-time at a variety of jobs and had the time and energy to pursue literature obsessively. During this period he wrote *War Crimes*, *Bliss*, *Illywacker* and *Oscar and Lucinda*.

Illywacker was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and *Oscar and Lucinda* won it. Both *Bliss* and *Oscar and Lucinda* were made into successful films. In 1990 he moved to New York and while teaching part-time he completed several highly regarded novels culminating in *The True History of the Kelly Gang* which was a best-seller and won Carey his second Booker Prize.

In 2003 he became Director of Creative Writing at Hunter College and has continued to publish.

Recent titles include *My Life as a Fake* which was inspired by the Ern Malley hoax, *Theft* and *His Illegal Self*.

Carey aficionados are eagerly awaiting his latest title *Parrot and Olivier in America*.

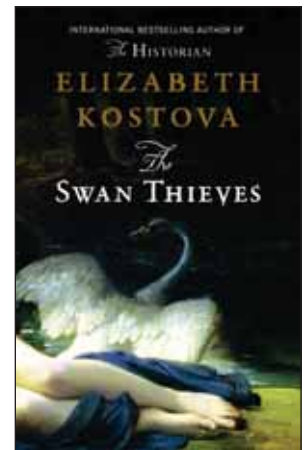


THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD Margaret Atwood

A new Margaret Atwood novel is indeed a treat, as it is always a completely fresh experience. *The Year of the Flood* is a worthy successor to *Oryx and Crake*, both sitting uncomfortably close to a possible future reality. Only a few humans have survived a great natural disaster, among them: Toby, one of God's Gardeners; Ren, a young trapeze artist; her bioartist friend Amanda; some members of the corrupt Corpsecorps and the murderous Painballers. Dark, tender, violent, thoughtful, with an uneasy humour, this intriguing story reaches an unexpected and affecting denouement. \$45.00

THE SWAN THIEVES Elizabeth Kostova

It has been a four year wait for this novel from Elizabeth Kostova, author of the bestselling *The Historian*. Psychiatrist, Andrew Marlow's orderly life is disrupted when he is asked to take on Robert Oliver as a patient. This renowned painter had been intercepted whilst lunging at a painting with a pocket knife in the National Gallery of Art. Marlow, himself a painter, becomes intent on discovering what secrets plague Oliver which leads him in turn to the women Oliver is closest to. This beautifully written and crafted novel is also a book about love – first love, unexpected love and the last love of a lifetime – and will delight all Kostova's readers. \$32.99



AUTHOR PROFILE Elizabeth Kostova



Elizabeth Kostova, author of the page turning novel *The Historian*, based on the Dracula legends, is an American writer with Eastern European roots.

As a child, her family lived in Ljubljana, Slovenia and the family travelled widely across Europe. It was in her early childhood that her fascination and interest in the Dracula legend began as her father used to retell the vampire myths and legends. She also used to listen to Balkan folk music and as an undergraduate at Yale even directed a Slavic chorus.

It wasn't until 1994, when hiking through the Appalachian Mountains, that she was reminded of the Dracula storytelling moments with her father, and became interested in writing her own version of the legend. She began with the idea of a father telling his daughter the Dracula story but with Dracula somehow listening in.

The Historian was the fastest selling hardback debut novel in US history.

Her second novel, *The Swan Thieves*, deals with obsession and the power of art and history, through the story of psychiatrist Andrew Marlowe.

HER FEARFUL SYMMETRY Audrey Niffenegger

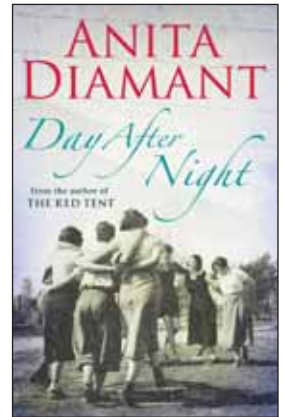


From the author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, this haunting novel tells of identical twins who enjoy an obsessive closeness. They inherit Aunt Elspeth's flat overlooking

Highgate cemetery in London, in a building that they share with their late aunt's lover, an agoraphobic crossword setter, and the ghost of their aunt. A strange tale of secrets, lost love and the search for identity. \$32.95

DAY AFTER NIGHT Anita Diamant

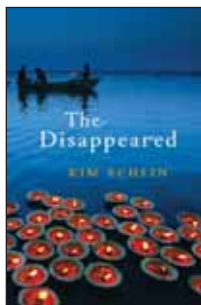
From the bestselling author of *The Red Tent* comes this moving and dramatic novel about the bonds of internment, culture, religion and friendship. At the end of WWII, thousands of concentration camp survivors and Jewish partisans headed for their ancestral homeland in Israel. Told through the eyes of four very different young women as they confront the challenge of recreating themselves in a strange new country, this worthy novel is based on the extraordinary true story of the rescue of over 200 prisoners from the Atlit internment camp - a prison for 'illegal' immigrants run by the British military in Palestine. \$32.99



An unread story is not a story; it is little black marks on wood pulp. The reader, reading it, makes it live: a live thing, a story.

~Ursula Le Guin

THE DISAPPEARED Kim Echin

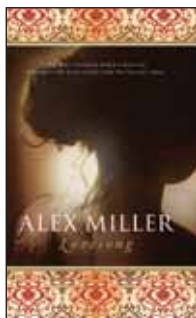


Anne falls in love with Serey, an exile from Cambodia. However Serey returns to his homeland to find his family in the aftermath of Pol Pot's regime. Then nothing is heard

from him. After a decade Anne goes searching. A powerful, intense, and tender novel about love and loss set against the backdrop of Cambodia's savage killing fields. \$29.99

LOVESONG Alex Miller

Alex Miller has written a deeply moving story of a married couple whose life in suburban Melbourne hides a tragic past. John Patterner, a young Australian tourist stumbles on a Tunisian restaurant on the outskirts of Paris, run by the beautiful Sabiha and her aunt. Their love story, related years later to a world-weary Melbourne author, is one of great passion, betrayal and cultural misunderstanding. \$39.99



Independent Bestsellers Jan-Oct 2009

FICTION

There were eight standout best-sellers over this period. Two of these titles also appear on chain bookstore bestseller lists but the remaining six depended largely on the knowledge of independent booksellers to get them started and then word-of-mouth recommendations to help their continued sales.

- 1 *The Elegance of The Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery
- 2 *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson
- 3 *Breath* by Tim Winton
- 4 *The Girl Who Played With Fire* by Stieg Larsson
- 5 *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer
- 6 *The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas
- 7 *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry
- 8 *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak



It is interesting to note that three of the top eight are by Australian authors.

NON-FICTION

In non-fiction there were also eight standout bestsellers and Barack Obama led the way.

- 1 *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama
- 2 *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge
- 3 *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama
- 4 *Heaven and Earth* by Ian Plimer
- 5 *Feed Me Now* by Bill Granger
- 6 *The House At Salvation Creek* by Susan Duncan
- 7 *The SMH Good Food Guide*
- 8 *A Lion Called Christian* by Bourke and Rendell

Two other titles which sold well in some areas were: *Charles Kingsford Smith* by Peter Fitzsimons and *D-Day* by Anthony Beevor.



AUTHOR PROFILE Anita Shreve



Photo: Deborah Feingold

When her novel *The Pilot's Wife* was chosen by Oprah for her Book Club in March 1999, Anita Shreve rocketed to stardom and her books have now sold millions worldwide.

Her previous five novels had sold in respectable numbers and *The Weight of Water* was shortlisted for the 1998 Orange Prize, but the Oprah recognition was a touch of gold.

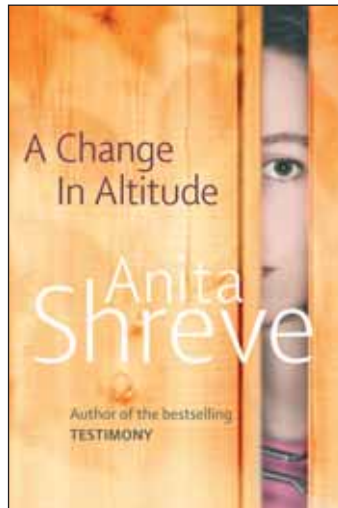
Shreve began writing when a high school teacher, worked for three years as a journalist in Nairobi and taught creative writing in college during the 1990s. She has published sixteen novels and several works of non-fiction on motherhood and children's health.

Her fiction is often set in the New England area of the US and contains a recurring theme of the difficulties of male/female relationships. The hardships of marriage, for women in particular, adultery and the ramifications of jealousy and the oppression of domestic abuse are brought to light via her characters.

An early interest in the struggles involved in family situations was apparent in her non-fiction titles: *Remaking Motherhood: How Working Mothers are Shaping our Children's Future* and *Women Together Women Alone: The Legacy of the Consciousness-Raising Movement*.

Her fiction has carried these concerns to a much broader audience.

A CHANGE IN ALTITUDE Anita Shreve



Having spent three years as a magazine writer in Kenya, Anita Shreve has based her latest novel in Africa. It is the story of a young professional couple based in Nairobi who, with a group of friends, take on the challenge of climbing Mt. Kenya where disaster strikes. An absorbing story assisted by Shreve's effective evocation of 1970s Kenya. A great read. \$32.99

Writing is easy. You only need to stare at a piece of blank paper until your forehead bleeds.

—Douglas Adams

AND ANOTHER THING Eoin Colfer

Prior to his death, Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* 'trilogy' admitted that "*Mostly Harmless* (fifth in the series) is a very bleak book...I would love to finish...on a more upbeat note". Eoin Colfer is the ideal choice of author

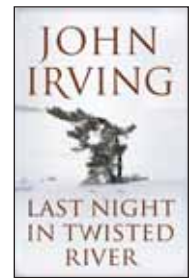


for the long-awaited sixth book. Originality and quirky humour are trademarks of his other fiction, including the brilliant *Artemis Fowl* series. \$39.95

LAST NIGHT IN TWISTED RIVER

John Irving

Spanning five decades, this great sprawling book is John Irving at his best. The story is quite Dickensian and there are echoes of Irving's *The World According to Garp* and *Cider House Rules*. There are also echoes of his own life which he perhaps signals with the line, "Somehow what struck him about Daniel's fiction was that it was both autobiographical and not autobiographical at the same time". \$35.00

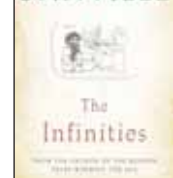


THE MAN IN THE WOODEN HAT Jane Gardam

For those who read, and doubtless loved, the author's previous book, *Filth*, about Edward Feathers QC, this wonderful book about Elizabeth who became Betty, the love of Edward's life, expands and enriches the story of their life together. Through their ups and downs Betty wrestles with Edward's steady undemonstrative love and her attraction to his rival, Terry Veneering QC. \$39.95



JOHN BANVILLE



THE INFINITIES John Banville

The new book from this Booker Prize winner. See our review in *Six of the Best* on the page 3.

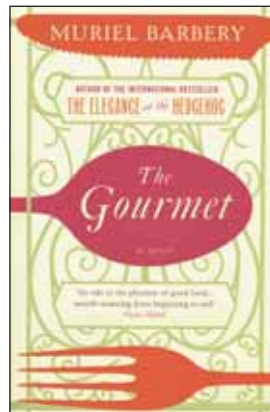


THE LACUNA Barbara Kingsolver

Her first novel in nearly ten years. See our review in *Seven of the Best* on the back page.

THE GOURMET Muriel Barbery

Muriel Barbery's previous book, the hugely popular *Elegance of the Hedgehog*, was quirky and charming, propelling Barbery into the top ten best-selling authors in the world. *Gourmet* is certainly quirky but more fascinating than charming. The story is told from the very different viewpoints of the characters. The main protagonist is a world famous and feared food critic. He is certainly not a lovable character but Barbery gradually and compellingly draws the reader into the story. \$27.95



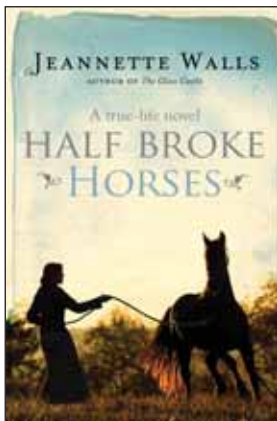
LANTERNS ON THEIR HORNS Radhika Jha



This is a wonderfully warm and gentle story about life in rural India. Manoj gives up his PhD to work with his wife at an institute looking to perfect the artificial insemination of an Indian cow with European bull sperm so she produces more milk to end local poverty. In the village of Nandgaon the simple Ramu sneaks off to marry the beautiful Laxmi who is considered tainted by her father's suicide. The two unlikely couples meet and what is at stake is not a cow or a village but the identity of India itself. \$29.95

HALF BROKE HORSES Jeanette Walls

One of the most enjoyable books this year is based on the life of Jeannette Walls' grandmother, an amazingly resourceful and determined woman. Lily was born in 1901, on a property in the dry country of West Texas. By the age of 6, she was helping her father break horses and became the mainstay of the family as her gently born mother struggled with the harsh life. When she was 15, Lily rode 500 miles on her pony Patch, alone, to get to a job teaching in a one teacher school. So began the life of an adventurous woman who learnt to drive a car, fly a plane and ran a vast ranch in Arizona. \$32.99



Ian Moir from Moirs Bookshop in Lane Cove remembers some works of fiction that have enriched his life

When I was about 12, the first 'grown-up' book I really enjoyed was *The Thirty Nine Steps*, by John Buchan, one of the first spy/thrillers set just before the start of the First World War. I remember this as a wonderful chase book with our hero, Richard Hannay being pursued from England to Scotland and back again, just in time to foil the Boche's evil plan.

I have always loved Charles Dickens for his ability to transport his readers to the world he inhabited. Everyone knows of his more popular books *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*, and they and many others are full of wonderfully drawn characters, often with names that are almost self portraits. The Dickens that took my imagination as a teenager was *Barnaby Rudge*, set at a time of civil unrest in London. The story runs from unsolved murder to conspiracy, blackmail and other crimes. Families feud, apprentices plot against their masters and mobs rampage through the streets. Barnaby, a retarded youth wanders through this exploding landscape with his raven, 'Grip'. A disturbing tale of historical realism and gothic melodrama.

W. Somerset Maugham is a master of the short story genre. He wrote a number of splendid novels but it is his ability with the shorter fiction that has kept his name alive. Many stories are set in far flung outposts of the British Empire, while others are set in Britain, yet all focus on a relatively minor incident. The stories are often tragic and point out the failings and foibles of the human race.

Every few years I re-read Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour* trilogy. Based largely on his own wartime experiences, we follow the adventures of Guy Crouchback through his officer courses, commando training, then from the Middle East to the disaster of Crete. Finally, Guy ends up in Yugoslavia as part of a British Mission to assist the Partisans. Full of high comedy and crowded with extraordinary characters, this book comes alive for me at every reading.

A favourite book of more recent vintage is *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. Set in India during the State of Internal Emergency in the mid-seventies, we follow the lives of four people who together survive the bleakness and uncertainty of the times. The book is packed with enduring images both of the events and of the vast range of unforgettable characters.

AUDIO BOOKS



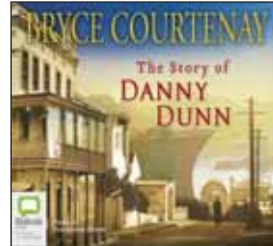
MAO'S LAST DANCER Li Cunxin

What an amazing story this is! From bitter poverty in Mao's China to international stardom and then becoming a Melbourne stockbroker. Now, of course, also a highly acclaimed and inspiring film. \$39.95 CD 🐣



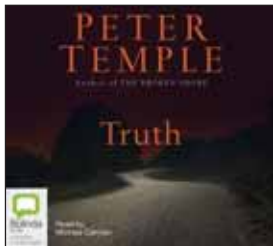
THE FIVE GREATEST WARRIORS Matthew Reilly

It began with *Six Stories*. Now Jack West Jr. must race against his many enemies to set in place the remaining pieces of 'The Machine'. As with all Reilly's books, the action and adventure are non-stop. \$49.95 CD 🐣



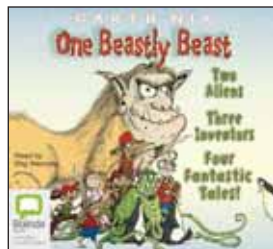
THE STORY OF DANNY DUNN Bryce Courtenay

Bryce Courtenay has firmly established himself as one of Australia's greatest storytellers. *Danny Dunn* is set in Sydney's inner suburbs with pubs, gambling and corruption taking centre stage. Full of great characters! \$49.95 CD 🐣



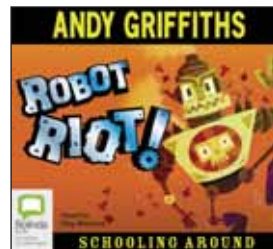
TRUTH Peter Temple

This follows *The Broken Shore* for which Peter Temple won the prestigious CWA Golden Dagger Award. At the close of a long day, Inspector Villani stands in the bathroom of a luxury apartment high above the city. In the glass bath, a young woman lies dead. So begins *Truth*, a novel about a man, a family, a city, murder, love, corruption, honour and deceit. \$39.95 CD 🐣



ONE BEASTLY BEAST Garth Nix

Four fantastic stories from this Australian bestselling fantasy author, featuring rude pirates, enchanted penguins, strange inventions and a very, very beastly beast. Wonderful holiday listening! \$24.95 CD 🐣



ROBOT RIOT! SCHOOLING AROUND Andy Griffiths

This is the fourth instalment in the riotous *Schooling Around* series from Australia's best-selling author for children. Hugely funny and worth many listenings! \$24.95 CD 🐣

*Enjoy a good book
with your eyes closed**

Audio books for children too

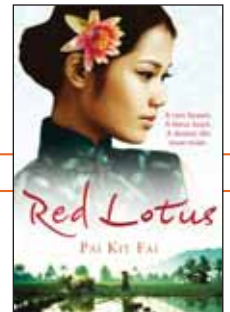
**but keep them open while you're driving or ironing!*

AUTHOR PROFILE Pai Kit Fai

Though contracted by a London publisher for worldwide publication, Pai Kit Fai is, in fact, an octogenarian by the name of Geoff Pike, who lives in Sydney's northern suburbs! He has friends in Bryce Courtenay and Bradley Trevor Greive, has studied Chinese holistic medicine and written many books about it. He is also a master of Chinese martial arts.

Most of his research for *Red Lotus* was done over some 30 years of living and working in the Far East, much of it in Hong Kong and Macao. He was born in England but married into one of Hong Kong's founding Dynasties.

Pai Kit Fai is the Chinese name given to him by an aunt.

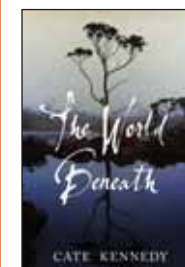


RED LOTUS Pai Kit Fai

A novel set in 1920s China, this is the story of Yipp Mann, an elderly spice farmer and Siu Sing, the beautiful Eurasian girl he purchases as his concubine. One of those wonderful novels that transports you into another world. \$32.99 🐣

THE WORLD BENEATH Cate Kennedy

Rich and Sandy, once environmental activists together, are long separated. Rich decides to take Sophie, the fifteen year-old daughter he barely knows, on an ill-conceived trek into the Tasmanian wilderness. He finds only antagonism from Sophie,



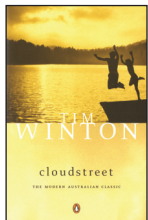
disorientation and fear. Kennedy's language is exquisite as she brings the three characters and the wilderness to life. \$32.95 🐣

Golden Oldies

We readers are really spoilt for choice. There are always so many wonderful new books to tempt us – those in this Guide for instance.

Because of this it is easy to lose sight of all the superb books published in past years. We thought we'd list some, only some, of the fiction titles we love to recommend. Nice idea, but there are so many possibilities. Essentially these lists are just the tip of the iceberg and your bookseller will happily suggest more.

AUSTRALIAN FICTION

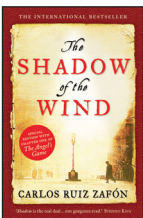
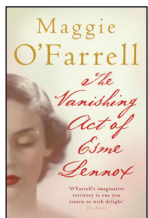


In no particular order:

Cloudstreet by Tim Winton
The Vivisector by Patrick White
Lilian's Story by Kate Grenville
Eucalyptus by Murray Bail
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
Oscar and Lucinda by Peter Carey

Also, several of David Malouf's and Helen Garner's books were in the mix.

INTERNATIONAL FICTION



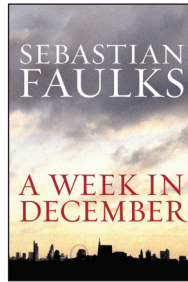
In no particular order:

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry
Catch 22 by Joseph Heller
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
Perfume by Patrick Suskind
The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell
Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Love In The Time of Cholera by Gabriel Marquez

We wish you good reading!

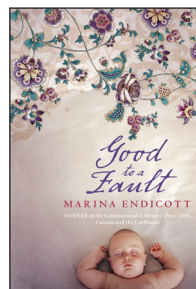
A WEEK IN DECEMBER Sebastian Faulks

A powerful contemporary novel from the author of *Birdsong*, which brings together a marvellous cast of characters. The central character, John Veals, is a wonderfully Dickensian character of shady deals and boundless ambition. His tentacles of influence extend to MPs, a care worker, a Scottish convert to Islam, footballers, and ...oh Faulks can write! \$32.95



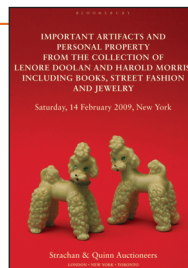
GOOD TO A FAULT Marina Endicott

This compassionate novel explores what happens when Clara Purdy, middle-aged, unmarried and unfulfilled, takes three young children and their unappealing grandmother into her home while their mother is treated for cancer. Her once orderly life is thrown into chaos and confusion. There is humour and wisdom in an otherwise appalling situation. \$27.99



IMPORTANT ARTIFACTS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY... Leonore Shapton

In this charming novel, a marvellously invented auction catalogue of 325 items vividly reveals the story of a failed love affair. From first meeting to final separation, the progress and rituals of intimacy are seen through the couple's accumulated memorabilia. What emerges is a love story in all its tenderness and struggle. \$32.99



New South Wales Independent Book sellers Group



We are a group of like-minded independent booksellers who first came together in 1978 at the suggestion of Philip Bray, who also founded a similar group in Melbourne in 1979. The object of getting together was to provide mutual support and to share our book knowledge enabling us to provide better, more professional, service to our customers. We meet every month to this end.

Partly as a result of groups such as ours, independent bookselling is far stronger in Australia than it is in the U.K. or the U.S.A. In those countries, bookselling is unhealthily dominated by chain bookstores resulting in far less diversity.

Is it possible to be a member of a group and still be independent?

Definitely, yes. To be independent does not require a vow of isolation! While we share information and co-operate on projects such as this guide, we celebrate our independence. Each of our shops is very different, reflecting both the areas we serve and our own personalities.

How were the books in this guide selected?

The books came from around the world and from publishers of all sizes, ranging from huge international companies to tiny local ones. We asked the publishers to submit to us a list of their best books for Summer 09/10. We then put those lists 'under the microscope' and selected, essentially, the best of the best.

We hope you enjoy reading this guide and have found it useful. Let us know if you have any feedback so that we can make the next *Independent Book Guide* even better! Our contact details are on page 2.



AUTHOR PROFILE Stella Rimington

Dame Stella Rimington is uniquely well-placed to write spy/mystery novels. Between 1969 and 1990 she worked in all three branches of the British Secret Service. In 1990 she was promoted to Deputy Director General and from 1992 to 1996 was the first female Director General.

Born in London in 1935 her family eventually settled in the Midlands. Dame Stella spent her last summer of secondary school working as an au pair in Paris. It is not known whether this helped her later work.

She controversially espoused increased public transparency in the service. In 1993, MI5 published a 36 page booklet revealing details of MI5's activities as well as the identity and photographs of Rimington. In 2005 she spoke out against national ID cards. After retiring she wrote a very frank autobiography *Open Secret* and has since published five novels.

AUTHOR PROFILE Ian Rankin



Ian Rankin has become one of Scotland's best known writers of fiction, particularly for his Inspector Rebus novels, which have been published internationally to great acclaim and translated into thirty languages. The seventeenth and purportedly final Rebus book, *Exit Music* was released in 2007. Rankin's novels are recognized as the initiators of the *Tartan Noir* genre of Scottish crime fiction. They are largely set in Edinburgh, where Rankin lives with his family, so he is writing about familiar territory.

His early years were spent in a variety of occupations including swineherd, taxman, journalist, musician and Literature tutor at Edinburgh University. He was recently appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Edinburgh.

Since his publishing debut Rankin has completed at least 25 novels, two collections of short stories, non-fiction and, recently, a graphic novel *Dark Entries*. Awards and praise for his writing abound, particularly from the Crime Writers Association (UK) and the Mystery Writers of America, culminating in the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger Award for lifetime achievement.

Ten of the Rebus stories have been televised and Rankin has been involved in several BBC documentaries dealing with evil, crime and his character, John Rebus.

His most recent book is *The Complaints*, which introduces a great new character, Malcolm Fox. Read our review on the opposite page.

AUTHOR PROFILE John Irving



John Irving grew up without ever meeting his biological father. He was born in New Hampshire while his father was serving in WWII and his parents divorced two years later.

As a boy he suffered from a learning disability and was notably withdrawn. This latter trait he attributes to a love of solitude. Solitude, he believes, has helped his writing, along with wrestling from which he learned discipline and perseverance. Wrestling features strongly in *The World According to Garp* which was his breakthrough novel.

Irving's *Garp* and *Cider House Rules* were adapted to successful films. "Cider House", he says, "took two producers, four directors and thirteen years!"

AUTHOR PROFILE Barbara Kingsolver

In her years as an author Barbara Kingsolver has combined her fiction and non-fiction writings with a social commentary. She is regarded as much a social activist as she is an author and she holds very strong beliefs on the way America exerts itself on the world.

She was a successful author in her own right before she was picked up by Oprah Winfrey in 2000 when her book the *Poisonwood Bible* was made Oprah's book of the month, selling more than two million copies. With this success Kingsolver endowed the Bellwether Prize for Fiction to encourage literature of social change, whilst continuing to write herself.

Her latest novel is *The Lacuna*, reviewed on the back page.



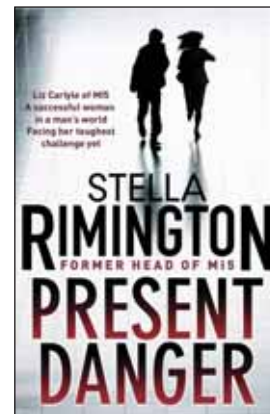
Photo: Annie Griffiths Bell



STARDUST Joseph Kanon

From the acclaimed author of *The Good German* and *Los Alamos* comes this gripping tale of old Hollywood and post-war espionage. It is 1945. Ben Collier returns from war to find that his brother Daniel, a celebrated film-maker, has died in mysterious circumstances. Is it suicide, or murder? Beneath the shiny surface of the movie business lies a much darker world of secrets. Even the biggest stars and star-makers are vulnerable as old loyalties are put to the test. Kanon writes with style, suspense and substance and can be compared with Le Carré and Greene. \$32.99

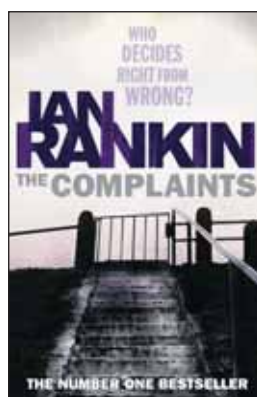
PRESENT DANGER Stella Rimington



Former MI5 director Stella Rimington bases this, her fifth spy thriller, in Belfast where secret agent Liz Carlyle has been sent to infiltrate a republican group opposed to the peace process. Great character development with a plot that twists and turns. This is as good a spy thriller as you are likely to read this summer. \$32.95

THE COMPLAINTS Ian Rankin

Behind the scenes in the Edinburgh Police Department there is a section called The Complaints and Conduct Dept., where cops investigate other cops – not a popular job. Inspector Malcolm Fox, middle-aged with an unhappy private life – a sick father and a disturbed sister – is called in to investigate a cop suspected of being ‘bent’. For the fans, Fox is not Rebus, but is as good as; same high standards and a bit rough around the edges. We are hoping this will be the start of a major new series. \$32.99



When a murder is satisfied, it isn't the beginning of the story; it's the middle. We shouldn't forget that fact because murder has ripples. You never go back to being the same. ~Ian Rankin

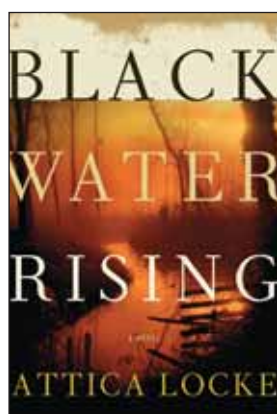
Dagger Awards

The Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger is awarded each year to an author whose book is judged to be the best work of crime writing of the year.

THIS YEAR'S SHORTLIST

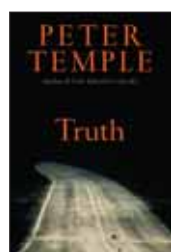


When Will There Be Good News?
by Kate Atkinson
In the Dark *by* Mark Billingham
Hit and Run *by* Lawrence Block
A Whispered Name *by* William Brodric
The Coroner *by* MR Hall
Dark Times in the City *by* Gene Kerrigan
...And THE WINNER of the 2009 award is:
A Whispered Name *by* William Brodric



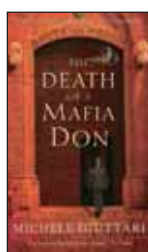
BLACK WATER RISING Attica Locke

A gripping first novel set in Houston, Texas. Jay Porter has just hung out his shingle, preparing to become the lawyer he always set out to be, when one evening he saves a woman from drowning and opens up a Pandora's box of political chicanery. Steeped in the atmosphere of regional race and class divisions, her secrets put Jay in danger and he is caught up in a murder investigation. The mystery penetrates deep into the upper echelons of Houston's corporate power and threatens every aspect of his life. Attica Locke has created a likeable and convincing new character, with a radical past he'd like to forget. \$32.99



TRUTH Peter Temple

See our review in **Seven of the Best** on page 32, and read our interview with the Gold Dagger winner overleaf. 🇦🇺



DEATH OF A MAFIA DON Michele Giuttari

The new thriller from the author of *A Death in Tuscany*. See our review in **Six of the Best** on page 3.



Photo: Candy Bryce

PETER TEMPLE: ON WRITING AND THE FOOTY

In lots of ways, Peter Temple is an ordinary bloke. He has dogs who love to bark at passers-by, loves watching the footy. Like me, he barracks for St Kilda, something which threatens to derail our book conversation, and he enjoys a good chat. He lives in the provincial city of Ballarat, not through some dramatic turn of events but through happenstance. Peter's wife, then newly graduated in law, found work in Ballarat and Peter was able to commute to his lecturer's job at RMIT.

Although Peter Temple comes over as an ordinary bloke, he is a best-selling, prize-winning author – and that is far from ordinary.

Peter gets labelled as a "crime writer" but sees himself as a writer of no particular genre. His books certainly encompass the big themes of life – power struggles, political machinations, loyalty, love and treachery – and these, of course, often result in crimes.

The first novel Peter finished (there were a few abandoned) was the first Jack Irish novel and it was intended to be a stand-alone. It was only after he had written *An Iron Rose* that it was put to him that he should write another Jack Irish. Similarly, Peter resisted the idea of writing a sequel to his Golden Dagger-winning *The Broken Shore*.

"In the end, *Truth* turned out to be a companion piece to *The Broken Shore*," he says.

Peter's writing begins with a protagonist and not a plot. While there might be a big idea/theme in the background, essentially he looks to get a full understanding of his central character. He thinks about how the character will fit in with this circumstance or react to that event, and how the character's interests and actions reflect the type of person he is. Having got to know a character so well, he says there is a sense of loss when the book is finished, as if a friend is suddenly not there. But the sense of freedom which finishing a book brings is also like going on holiday. Peter finds starting a new Jack Irish novel like returning home after a long absence: there is a certain comfort in the familiar. And so, almost by happenstance, the characters reappear.

When I put it to Peter that writing must be both very fulfilling and very unforgiving, he begins by saying that he doesn't find writing at all fulfilling. "Starting a novel is like seeing a mountain from afar and not really believing it can be reached and scaled. I come to the task with a feeling of hopelessness."

Over the nine novels, he has found that there is a certain pattern to his writing: rejecting what has been written, being depressed about it, starting again, returning to discarded efforts and finding them acceptable.

So why write? "Because writers have to write. They cannot *not* write. We are like serial entrepreneurs. Even if you are a serial failure, you have to keep doing it." When pressed, however, Peter concedes that there are nice moments, for example, when a particular phrase or sentence seems "to work quite well". And yes, "taken overall writing is a pleasurable activity".

These days authors are asked to not only write but to do interviews, attend writers' festivals, do book signings and much more. How does Peter, a self-described recluse by nature, handle this? Pretty well really. As a former university lecturer, he is accustomed to standing up in front of "strangers". He also feels readers have the right to see authors. So he tackles these activities enthusiastically and feels somewhat humbled by the interest people take and the enjoyment he is able to provide.

Peter will also tell you that in writing, knowing when to finish is very important. That being so, we will have to leave the proposition that St Kilda actually won the Grand Final to another time.

~ Philip Bray

FORBIDDEN FRUIT Kerry Greenwood

The fifth entertaining and delicious adventure of Corinna Chapman, baker extraordinaire. Corinna has a multitude



of problems to solve, from Romeo and Juliet run-aways to a group of extreme vegans, overzealous carol singers and stray donkeys. But she can still whip up some wonderful new recipes. \$22.99 🇦🇺

TRUE BLUE David Baldacci

'Mace' Perry, discredited cop, is back on the streets and looking for retribution. Young lawyer Roy Kingman finds the body of a female partner of his new firm. The two team up and, as their investigation gathers pace, expose a darker side of the America's capital. \$32.99



THE LOST ART OF GRATITUDE Alexander McCall Smith

Another splendid story in the *Sunday Philosophy Club Series*. Isabel Dalhousie, mother, philosopher and newly engaged, has had a number of irons in the fire in each of her adventures. Her approach to problems reminds us of the value of the lost art of gratitude. \$32.99



THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST Stieg Larsson

The last book in the Millennium Trilogy. See our review on page 1.



BOTANICA MAGNIFICA

Portraits of the World's Most Extraordinary Plants and Flowers

Jonathan M. Singer

This is a truly magnificent, truly stunning collection of photographs in large scale and exquisite detail in a manner reminiscent of Old Master paintings. **Until Christmas, we can offer this wonderful, slip-cased volume for \$250 – a saving of \$100 on the normal \$350!** The photographer, Jonathan M. Singer, is a Hasselblad Laureate Award winner and the book is from the renowned art publisher Abbeville. \$250.00 (until Christmas)

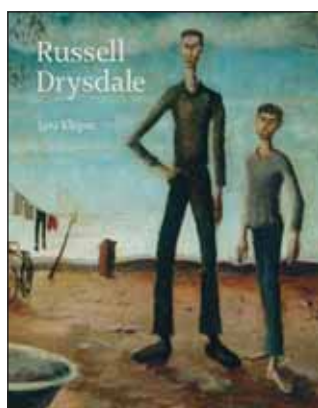
A YEAR IN ARCHITECTURE A YEAR IN FASHION

These beautiful hardbacks each have 365 superb photographs on their topic. Every other page has space to write in, if you wish, so the books become 'any year' diaries. But really, you or the lucky gift recipient can simply drool over the photographs! \$65.00 each



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Two great reference works for the price of one! **For a limited time, we are able to offer free, with every purchase of the new Macquarie Dictionary, a hardback Macquarie Concise Thesaurus worth \$49.95!** The new edition of Australia's own dictionary has thousands of new entries reflecting the changes in the English language both here and overseas. \$129.95 🇺🇸



RUSSELL DRYSDALE Lou Klepac

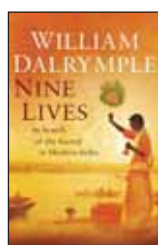
A superb new edition of a classic Australian art book tracing the career of this remarkably gifted artist. More than 160 colour plates illustrate his work and there is a new introduction from Lou Klepac. \$125.00 🇺🇸

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great gift ideas and
treasures for all at your
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LONELY PLANET'S BEST IN TRAVEL 2010



Featuring over 300 destinations and experiences with top picks for every month of the year. A great gift for someone who plans to travel but hasn't got to the 'this is where I'm going' stage. What could be better than having the combined expertise of the Lonely Planet team at your fingertips. \$24.99 🇺🇸



NINE LIVES William Dalrymple

A compelling, page-turning mixture of travel and biography. See our review on page 3. \$35.00



WOMEN OF FLOWERS Leonie Norton

See our review of this superb and beautiful book on page 3. \$34.95 🇺🇸

LOVE VINTAGE Nicole Jenkins



Love Vintage takes the reader on a visual and literary journey through the annals of 20th century fashion design. With beautiful photography and elegant text, it reveals both the recurring themes of fashion and the distinct features and innovations of each era. It covers both glamorous and everyday garments and despite the apparent complexity of some, shows how each was perfectly designed to suit the occasion for which it was worn. \$49.95 🍷

DEAR ME

A Letter to My Sixteen Year Old Self
What if you could write a letter to yourself at age 16? What would you say? In *Dear Me: A Letter to My Sixteen-Year-Old Self* well-known celebrities including actors, pop stars, authors and film directors do just that. Ranging from compassionate to hilarious, these letters give the reader a glimpse into the lives of teenagers who would later become world-wide stars including Debbie Harry, Stephen Fry and Emma Thompson . \$24.99



TAO TE CHING ON THE ART OF HARMONY Laozi (trans Chad Hansen)



A beautiful addition to a series of silk-covered, illustrated classic philosophical texts, which include *The Art Of War* and *The Art of the Samurai*. Written over 2500 years ago, these teachings and concepts from the Chinese sage and founder of Taoism are finding an increasing readership in the West. They are intended to help us achieve transcendence and a life of integrity and balance. \$49.99

A film by JANE CAMPION Director of THE PIANO

Abbie
Cornish

Ben
Whishaw

Buy a Vintage Classics edition of "Bright Star" by JOHN KEATS from selected stores between 25th November – 18th December, 2009 to receive a Free Double Pass* to an advance screening of Jane Campion's new film *Bright Star*.

Bright Star

A thing of beauty is a joy forever



* While stocks last

Check the Classification

ROADSHOW FILMS

IN CINEMAS 26 DECEMBER 2009

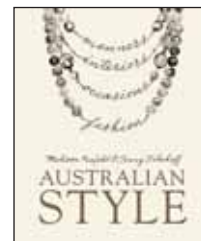
Harpurcollins



A VENETIAN JOURNAL Tessa Kiros

A Venetian Journal by Tessa Kiros is an intimate look at the most romantic city in the world. Peppered with Tessa's favourite recipes; a look at some of her memorable eating experiences; fragments from her journals and stunning photographs of Venice make this book the perfect gift for food lovers and travelers alike. With places for memorabilia and space for your own thoughts, this is a book to wrap your arms around and treasure. \$39.95 🐾

AUSTRALIAN STYLE Melissa Penfold & Jenny Tabakoff

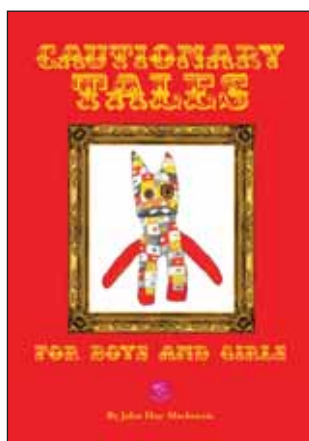


Well-known Australian style-masters Melissa Penfold and Jenny Tabakoff guide us mere mortals through the minefield of style. Both

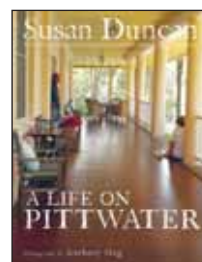
amusing and insightful, this work covers subjects from fashion, manners, husband-control and interior decoration, right down to fool-proof excuses. You don't need money or beauty to be stylish, but you do need this book. \$39.95 🐾

CAUTIONARY TALES FOR BOYS & GIRLS John Hay-Mackenzie

A quirky, fun book which will appeal equally to adults and children. These rhyming 'cautionary tales' have been inspired by the author's watercolours of slightly deranged-looking soft toys as well as the original tales of Hillaire Belloc. Each has an entertaining but pointed moral or lesson, from eating well and obeying parents to caring for others and following the rules for crossing the road. Twelve wicked boys and girls found out too late what could happen if you litter or if you're a spitter! Their awful fates are revealed in this deliciously dark and delightful collection! \$29.95



A LIFE ON PITTWATER Susan Duncan



Readers of *Salvation Creek* already know of Tarangau, Duncan's magical home in Lovett Bay. Susan presents her distinctive way of life with

text (and recipes) which describe the quintessentially Australian life in her Pittwater community with warmth and humour, whilst stunning photography captures its unique beauty. This is a glorious lifestyle gift book with true heart. \$59.95 🐾

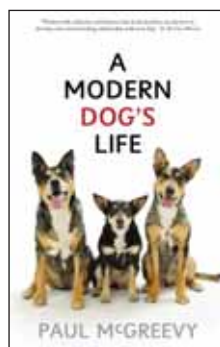
FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY, LOVE & LAUGHTER Geoff Blackwell (Ed.)



A brand new collection of stunning images from the 'Moments of Intimacy, Laughter & Kinship' (M.I.L.K.) competition. These 150 pictures are poignant, far-reaching and incredibly intimate, brilliantly showing our worldwide common language of human interaction. \$60.00

GIVE A GIFT VOUCHER
Not sure what to buy?
We have vouchers
which can be used
Australia-wide!

A MODERN DOG'S LIFE Paul McGreevy



Written by a vet and animal behaviourist, this book offers a new approach to owning and training a dog. Full of practical tips and advice, it is the perfect book for any-

one wanting to understand why dogs behave as they do and how to meet their needs for fun and exercise. \$34.95

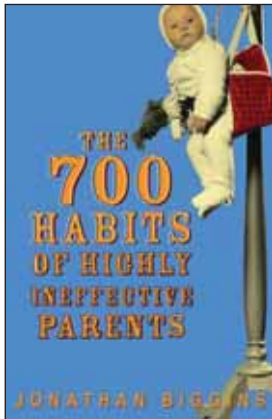
PARLOUR GAMES FOR MODERN FAMILIES



Myfanwy Jones & Spiri Tsintziras

A super book bursting with games of logic and memory, wordplay, card games and role playing.

All you'll need are a pack of cards, a dice, paper and pencil to provide hours of fun and entertainment for anyone from 4 to 104. A perfect present for everyone. \$35.00



700 HABITS OF HIGHLY INEFFECTIVE PARENTS

Jonathan Biggins

Jonathan Biggins explores the world of the ineffective parent, that dismal figure traditionally held responsible for all the sins of their ungrateful progeny. Yes, it is Mums and Dads who created history's long line of miscreants from Attila the Hun to Pol Pot, and Kyle Sandilands to George W. Who created those depressed lumps trapped in dead-end lives, spending thousands on therapy, ambition thwarted? The ineffective parent. \$27.99 🇺🇸

AUTHOR PROFILE

Jonathan Biggins



Jonathan Biggins is a man of many talents.

He writes; books, articles and scripts. He performs on stage; plays, revues, operas. He broadcasts; hosting the arts panel show 'Critical Mass' and ABC 702's afternoon programs.

Jonathan was born (1960) and raised in Newcastle. He attended Newcastle Boys High which he says was "a fairly intimidating place to be if you weren't great at sports or maths. However once I joined the debating team and went on to win State Finals, things started to look up".

Jonathan's latest book is reviewed on this page.

THE POCKET BOOK OF BOOSH

Julian Barratt & Noel Fielding



Incredibly funny, visually dynamic, surreal and wildly creative, *Boosh* is like nothing else on television. Join all your favourite Boosh characters in a journey for space and time. An ideal gift for under 30s. \$29.95

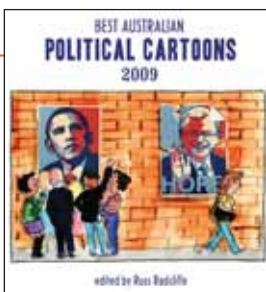
UP IN THE BLOCK HOLE

Warwick Todd

It was a shock to all when after ten years away from the Aussie team Warwick Todd was recalled for the 2009 ashes tour. Having sold his baggy green on ebay and spending almost all the advance for this book, Toddy has written his diary of the Ashes tour with excruciating detail. This behind-the-scenes look at the tour is refreshingly frank. \$29.95 🇺🇸



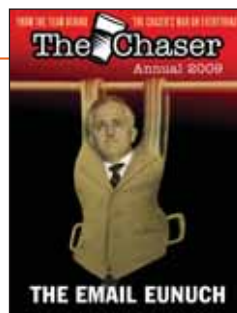
Visit our website for easy ordering and gift-giving:
www.independentbookguide.com.au



BEST AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL CARTOONS 2009

Russ Radcliffe (Ed.)

A momentous year and a perennial favourite examines the Rudd/Obama era. All the usual suspects, including Spooner, Moir, Leak, Petty and Tandberg, give us a subversive first draft of history. \$29.95 🇺🇸



THE CHASER ANNUAL 2009

The essential guide to understanding current events, politics and popular culture. There's an equal chance the reader will laugh themselves sick or be grossly offended! A perfect gift for someone you don't know well. \$29.95 🇺🇸

STRINE

Afferbeck
Lauder

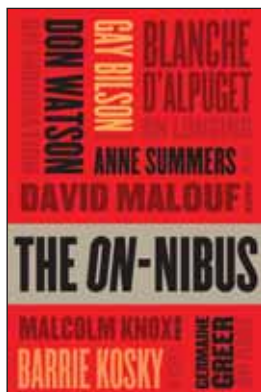
Do you sign on the dotted lion? Is your tea nature Orpheus Rocker?

Then you need the new collected volume of Afferbeck Lauder's groundbreaking observations of Australian speech: *Let Stalk Strine* and *Nose Tone Unturned*. With the original illustrations by Al Teregs, this is essential reading for air fridge Strines and new Strines alike. (Also includes *Fraffly Well Spoken* and *Fraffly Suite*, Lauder's guide to the strangled dialect of the English upper class.) \$29.95 🇺🇸

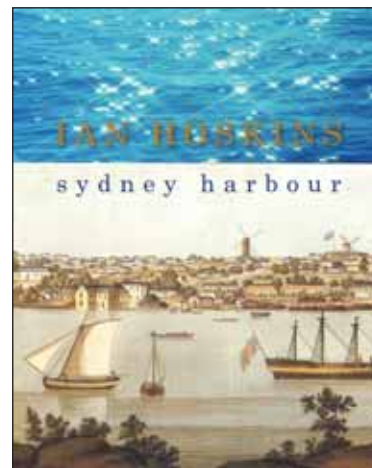


THE ON-NIBUS

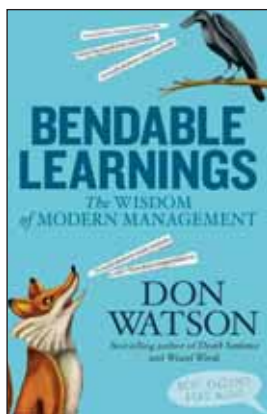
In 2008 the *ON* series of essays were released. There were 8 essays, ten thousand words in length, by famous Australian authors discussing the eight topics of rage, experience, longing, ecstasy, indignation, digestion, obsession and luck. With contributions from some of Australia's greatest thinkers; people like Don Watson (*On Indignation*), Germaine Greer (*On Rage*), and also David Malouf, Gay Bilson, Barrie Koskey, Blanche d'Alpuget, Malcolm Knox and Anne Summers, these separate essays have now been compiled into one volume, making a wonderful gift. \$29.99 🇺🇸



SYDNEY HARBOUR Ian Hoskins



At last! A really good book on Sydney Harbour. Famed throughout the world and enjoyed by millions, 'The Harbour' is nonetheless largely taken for granted. By word, picture and map Ian Hoskins takes us from the times of the Gameragel and Gadigal to now, giving us a real sense of the history, magic and beauty of this wonderful stretch of water. A must-have for every Sydney-sider. \$49.95 🇺🇸



BENDABLE LEARNINGS Don Watson

The language of modern management has transformed everyday communication into nonsense. You must talk about uptake and outcomes, outputs and inputs, key performance indicators and drivers. And don't forget 'customer experience' even if your 'customers' are in fact patients in a hospital! This language is deliberately obscure and falsely scientific. But fear not. With eagle eye and ascerbic wit Watson rides to our rescue in this delicious book. \$32.95 🇺🇸



AUTHOR PROFILE Don Watson

Don Watson has come a long way from the farm in Gippsland to becoming one of Australia's keenest observers and writers. When you meet him you can see the laconic man that he is and this translates beautifully into his writing.

Don began his career as an academic historian and wrote three books on Australian history during this time. But then he changed course and began a collaboration with Max Gillies writing political satire and moonlighting as political speech writer for John Cain, former Victorian Premier, before taking the position as speech writer to Paul Keating in 1992.

Don wrote a biography of Paul Keating, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart* and it won numerous awards around the country and propelled him towards the pinnacle of non-fiction writers in Australia.

His years involved in politics seems to have left him with a level of frustration at the political and managerial speech that has pervaded our vernacular. He wrote the *Dictionary of Weasel Words* (2004) and most recently, *Bendable Learnings: the Wisdom of Modern Management*.

This is his way of exposing the double speak and jargon that means so little but is spoken so much today. You will laugh, yet it is sobering when you consider this is now regular everyday speech.

CHEATING DEATH Dr Sanjay Gupta

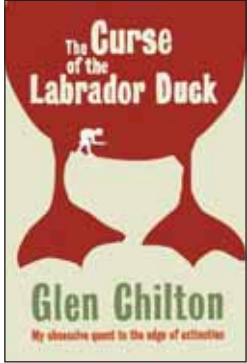
Our understanding of the human body's survival capabilities is changing alongside the modern medical miracles which new technologies bring us. Gupta shares stories of triumph where would-be tragedies are averted, leading to healthy, productive lives. This is sure to appeal to readers of *The Brain That Changes Itself*. \$32.95



1492 The Year Our World Began Felipe Fernández- Armesto

See our review in *Seven of the Best* on the back page. \$35.00

THE CURSE OF THE LABRADOR DUCK Glen Chilton



From the wilds of Nova Scotia to the neglected bowels of decrepit museums, Chilton is in relentless pursuit of evidence of the extinct Labrador

Duck. And the curse? You'll have to read this engaging adventure to find out. Chilton's obsessive quest to uncover the mysteries of this enigmatic bird is recorded in a wonderful blend of travel writing, science and detection. During his 82,000 mile journey, accompanied by a motley series of companions, he risks heavy-metal poisoning in Russia, swims naked in a glacier-fed stream, corresponds with a millionaire murderer and narrowly avoids arrest in New York. \$35.00

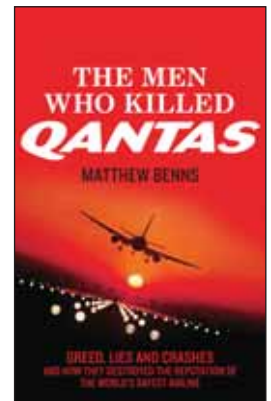


FISHES OF THE OPEN OCEAN Julian Pepperell

Ten years in the making, this beautifully presented book is the definitive guide to ocean fish. Combining a marine biologist's knowledge with an angler's enthusiasm, Julian Pepperell describes all major species from marlin to drift fish and their marine environment. Over three hundred lavish illustrations, photographs and distribution maps make this perfect for anyone with a love of the sea and its finny inhabitants. \$59.95 🇦🇺

THE MEN WHO KILLED QANTAS Matthew Benns

One of our most treasured commercial icons is put under the microscope. The Flying Kangaroo has had to contend with a variety of dramas since its early years, including design flaws which were hushed up after planes fell out of the sky. In this book, Matthew Benns, a journalist with the *Sun Herald* with years of experience in the travel arena, takes us into the Qantas boardroom to learn of the golden parachutes handed out to executives while aircraft maintenance was passed offshore in an effort to save money. This is a book that every Australian airline passenger will want to read. \$34.95 🇦🇺



ENJOYING SYDNEY: three super full colour guides!



SYDNEY'S BEST HARBOUR AND COASTAL WALKS
For this new edition the walks have all been re-walked and updated. Includes a new walk from Patonga to Pearl Beach. \$29.95 🇦🇺



SYDNEY'S BEST DOG WALKS, PARKS AND PLACES TO PLAY
Choose from a wide variety of suburban areas across Sydney so all the family can have fun. \$29.95 🇦🇺



SYDNEY'S BEST BEACHES AND ROCK BATHS
Sydney's best 100 beaches are presented in this new guide with orientation maps and detailed maps for the larger beaches. \$29.95 🇦🇺

...as well as the BLUE MOUNTAINS and SURFING NSW

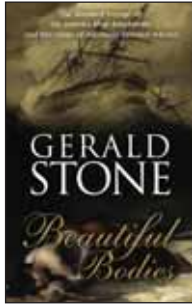


BLUE MOUNTAINS BEST BUSHWALKS
This new edition includes classic walks and also quieter tracks that few people know and some historic, almost forgotten walks. Local nature photographer, Scott Townsend, complements the detailed descriptions with over 150 full colour photos. \$29.95 🇦🇺



SURFING NSW
This full colour guide showcases the best breaks from Fingal Point to Ben Boyd National Park. Illustrated throughout and with navigational maps every destination is described in detail including where to eat, drink and sleep and even what to do if there's no surf. \$34.95 🇦🇺

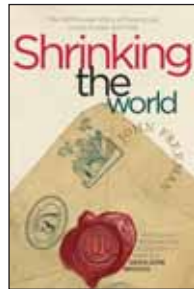
BEAUTIFUL BODIES Gerald Stone



From one of Australia's best known journalists comes this riveting story from our penal history, the disastrous 1833 shipwreck of the *Amphitrite*, carrying 102 female prisoners to our shores to be used as colonial breeding stock. Rescued from historical oblivion, their amazing and tragic stories are now masterfully recreated. \$34.99 🇺🇸

SHRINKING THE WORLD John Freeman

Subtitled 'The 4000 year story of how email came to rule our lives', this is both a history and a plea for more sociable communication. Freeman takes us from carrier pigeon to computer mouse, through telegram, newspapers, synchronised time and railway networks. This is a fascinating and engaging history. \$34.95



WHAT THE DOG SAW and other adventures Malcolm Gladwell

From criminality to dog training to ketchup, Malcolm Gladwell takes everyday subjects and shows us surprising new ways of looking at the world. *What the Dog Saw* is Gladwell at his very best, asking questions and seeking answers in his inimitable style.



Sophisticated, surprising and always entertaining. \$32.95

Life, love and tragedy on the doomed ship *Amphitrite*

Meet **Gerald Stone**, the author of a gripping new history of early white Australia

Given his contribution to the Australian media, you could be forgiven for assuming that Gerald Stone was a 'dinky di' Aussie. He was raised, however, in Columbus, Ohio and later worked as a copy boy for *The New York Times*. From such a humble professional start, Gerald went on to become best known as the founding producer of the Australian version of 60 Minutes and editor-in-chief of *The Bulletin* magazine.

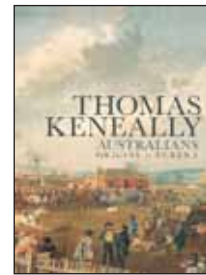


After migrating here, Stone reported for News Limited in Vietnam in the late '60s. His TV career began with *This Day Tonight* in 1967 and culminated in his becoming news director for the Nine Network and later head of current affairs for the Fox Network and then, Channel 7.

It was as he embarked on his third career, however, that he caught the collective attention of the bookselling fraternity. With his journalist's experience at research and analysis, Gerald Stone has proved to be a talented author of non-fiction and of history. His last two books, *1932* and *Who Killed Channel 9?* were both huge bestsellers.

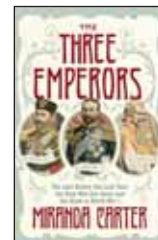
Now, with *Beautiful Bodies*, he has provided a vivid picture of the outcast white women of our early settlement. His spine-chilling account of the doomed women of the small convict ship *Amphitrite* is singular and insightful and makes one grateful that he has moved from TV production to the world of writing!

AUSTRALIANS Origins to Eureka (Vol 1) Thomas Keneally



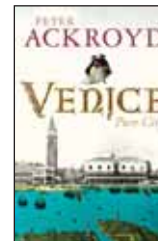
A wonderful and entertaining look at the first period of white settlement in Australia. Too often historical figures are cardboard cutouts, but Keneally has breathed life into the rich cast of characters that inhabit this history. It is indeed a new history of Australia and we look forward to the next volume in the trilogy. \$59.99 🇺🇸

THE THREE EMPERORS Miranda Carter



See our review of this fascinating history on the back page. \$59.95

VENICE Peter Ackroyd



Another wonderful read from Peter Ackroyd. See our review on page 1. \$69.95

GIFT VOUCHERS

If you aren't sure of someone's tastes a Gift Voucher is a safe alternative. The 9 shops featured in this Guide accept each others vouchers and we also sell and redeem Australian Booksellers Association Vouchers which can be used Australia-wide!



The Indie Award

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey won this year's Indie Book of the Year award in convincing fashion, and takes home the \$15,000 of prize money on offer.

This award is entirely funded by Australian independent booksellers and is just one of the ways in which 'The Indies' encourage and nurture Australian writing and writers.

Now in its second year, this award is decided by a popular vote of independent bookshops Australia wide. It is split into four categories: Fiction, Children's book, Debut Fiction and Non-Fiction.

A panel of booksellers and keen readers judge the entries to announce the four category winners, and then Australian Independent booksellers are polled and vote for the most popular book of the year.

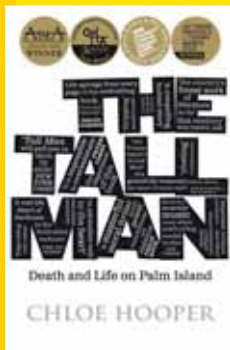
The four category winners are:

Non-Fiction: *The Tall Man* by Chloe Hooper

Debut Fiction: *The Virtuoso* by Sonia Orchard

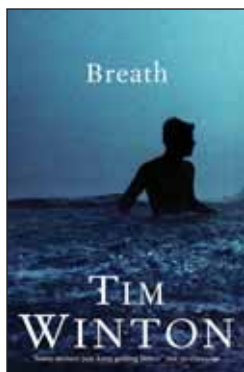
Children's book: *Pearl Verses the World* by Sally Murphy and Heather Potter

Fiction: *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey



The Miles Franklin Award

The Miles Franklin award was established as a bequest of Australian author Miles Franklin to ensure that Australian literature flourished. She understood the hardships of being an author in Australia, and wanted to encourage more Australian authors. It is awarded for the novel of the year which is of "the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases". It was first awarded in 1954 to Patrick White for *Voss*. The prize is \$42,000.

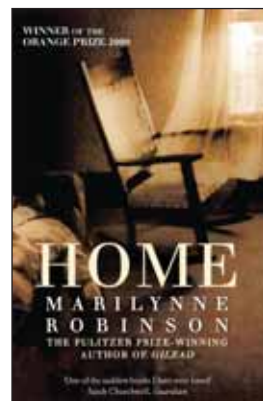


In 2009 the shortlist was:
Breath by Tim Winton
Ice by Louis Nowra
The Pages by Murray Bail
The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas
Wanting by Richard Flanagan

The winner for 2009 is *Breath* by Tim Winton. This is the fourth time he has won the award, (having also won for *Shallows*, *Cloudstreet* and *Dirt Music*), and puts him at the pinnacle of Australian literature.

Previous winners of the Miles Franklin are:
The Time We Have Taken by Steven Carroll, 2008
Carpentaria by Alexis Wright, 2007
The Ballad of Desmond Kale by Roger McDonald, 2006
The White Earth by Andrew McGahan, 2005

The Orange Prize for Fiction



The Orange Prize is rather exclusive, being open only to women. It was established by a number of journalists and publishers who felt disenfranchised with the apparent lack of female prize winners in prestigious awards like the Man Booker and they set about altering that imbalance.

It was established in 1995 and the first winner was Helen Dunmore for her novel *A Spell of Winter*. The Orange prize is worth £30,000 to the winner

and is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

This year the shortlist was:

Scottsboro by Ellen Feldman

The Wilderness by Samantha Harvey

The Invention of Everything Else by Samantha Hunt

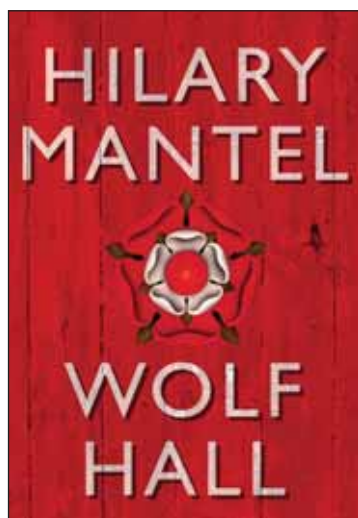
Molly Fox's Birthday by Deirdre Madden

Home by Marilynne Robinson

Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsie

Home by Marilynne Robinson is the 2009 winner.

The Man Booker Award



First awarded in 1969 to PH Newby for his novel *Something to Answer For* the Man Booker is possibly the most sought after award in literature. It is awarded to works of literary fiction written by a citizen of the British Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

There is a long list announced early in the year and then that is culled to create the shortlist of authors. In 2009 the shortlist included:

The Children's Book *by* A.S. Byatt
Summertime *by* J.M Coetzee
The Quickening Maze
by Adam Foulds
Wolf Hall *by* Hilary Mantel
The Glass Room *by* Simon Mawer
The Little Stranger *by* Sarah Waters

And the winner of 2009 was Hilary Mantel for Wolf Hall

Wolf Hall is the story of the rise to prominence of Thomas Cromwell in the Tudor court in the 1520s. With beautiful narrative, the political intrigue and the power struggles that were constantly brewing in the court of Henry VIII are detailed.

The prize is worth £50,000 but also valued are the sales increases that go with the fame of winning this most prestigious award. Last years winner of the Man Booker prize, Aravind Adiga for *The White Tiger* became the fastest selling winner since the awards inception.

The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction



The Pulitzer Prize for fiction is now one of 21 awards that the Pulitzer Foundation award in the areas of American journalism, photography, literature, drama and music. It is from a bequest of two million dollars that Joseph Pulitzer bestowed on Columbia University in 1917.

The finalists for 2009 were:
The Plague of Doves *by* Louise Erdrich
All Souls *by* Christine Schutt
Olive Kitteridge *by* Elizabeth Strout

And the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was awarded to Elizabeth Strout for Olive Kitteridge.

Reading Groups: Book of the Year



Reading groups have a long history and are becoming even more popular, and for good reason. At the very least they provide opportunities for stimulating discussion but they very often develop into close-knit friendship groups. The fact that the members commit to meet together regularly overcomes the problem we all tend to have of 'I just didn't get around to it'.

We asked some of our reading groups to tell us which book had stimulated the most discussion this year. In almost every case the answer was *The Slap*, for reasons illustrated in the following comments from one group:

"So far this year we have read *The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas, *Infidel* by Ayan Hirsi Ali, *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, *Fugitive Pieces* by Anne Michaels, *Of Human Bondage* by Somerset Maugham, *Breath* by Tim Winton, *Rules for Old Men Waiting* by Peter Pouncey and *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery.

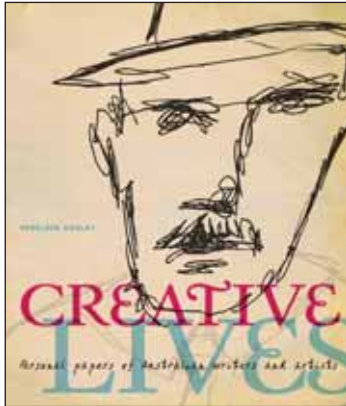
The general consensus was that we all enjoyed *White Tiger*, *Of Human Bondage* and *Breath* and agreed on their essential themes and their significance for us. We were also united after reading *Infidel* in our concerns about the rights of women, genital mutilation and the devastation to human lives that politics can cause.

But it was *The Slap* that prompted the most discussion. It raised issues for us of class, parenting styles and boundaries – whether we could set them or not and the implications of this on our children. It prompted discussions of generational change and double standards. We didn't much like the characters – was that because we are all closer to 60 than 40 and that this book reflected society as it is today and not as it was in 'our day' when we were bringing up our small children?

Food for thought, and challenging discussion.

We were also challenged in a different way by *Rules for Old Men Waiting*; this book prompted a discussion about what we would do if we were coming to the end of our lives, would we be prompted to write and if so what about. How would we structure our last weeks?"

~ Rachael Haggett



CREATIVE LIVES Personal Papers of Australian Writers and Artists
Penelope Hanley

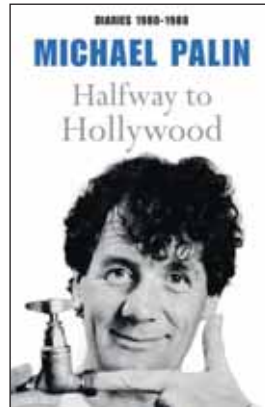
A beautiful, highly illustrated production from the National Library of Australia. The author has extracted from the Library's archives a sense of the world inhabited by each creative artist, together with selected photographs, quotes and memorabilia. The reader is privy to fascinating insights into the lives and works of great Australian literary figures such as Miles Franklin, Xavier Herbert, Eleanor Dark, Patrick White, Rosemary Dobson and Dorothy Hewett. \$39.95 🇦🇺

HALFWAY TO HOLLYWOOD

Diaries 1980 to 1988

Michael Palin

Michael Palin has kept a diary since the late 1960s when he was beginning to make a name for himself as a TV scriptwriter. Following his very successful first volume of diaries we now have the next instalment. In this second volume, Michael covers the period where the ties that bound the Pythons were loosened, they performed their last show together and began to forge their separate careers. Another engaging and absorbing read from our favourite explorer. \$55.00



AUTHOR PROFILE
Michael Palin



Michael Palin was born in Sheffield in 1943 to the manager of a toilet paper factory and the daughter of the High Sheriff of Nottingham – really, this is true, not a Monty Python sketch!

He went to Shrewsbury, a small private school, appearing in many form plays and discovering 'The Goons' on radio. This show was instrumental in shaping Monty Python.

At Oxford, he wrote and performed skits for The Seedy Entertainers. Then with Terry Jones he wrote a sketch which was loaned to Cambridge Footlights of which John Cleese and Graham Chapman were members.

In 1966 Palin and Jones were recruited into the writing team of the *Frost Report* joining Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bill Oddie, John Cleese, Eric Idle and Graham Chapman. Oh, to have been a fly on the wall!

He has appeared in too many small screen and large screen roles to list but many of us have fond memories of his role as Ken Pile, the animal loving assassin in *A Fish called Wanda*.

In 1980 Palin was asked to contribute to the BBC series *Great Railway Journeys of the World*. His episode proved to be the most popular of the series which obviously led to all the other wonderful travel series which he has fronted.

His latest book is *Halfway To Hollywood*, reviewed on this page.

GRAND OBSESSIONS
Alisdair McGregor

The story of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony



Griffin. Read our review in *Six of the Best* on page 3. \$69.95

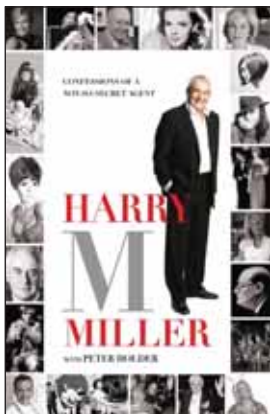
**I am not a great cook,
I am not a great artist,
but I love art, and I love
food, so I am the perfect
traveller.**

–Michael Palin

CONFESSIONS OF A NOT-SO-SECRET-AGENT

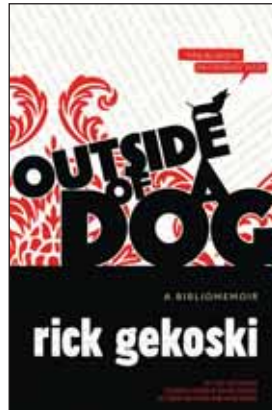
Harry M Miller

At 75, one of the most influential men of the Australian media and entertainment industry in the past 40 years feels it is time to reveal the behind-the-scenes stories of his successes and failures, his clients and his personal life. The showbiz impresario does not disappoint with his frank and witty anecdotes from having worked with the likes of Louis Armstrong, Sammy Davis Jr., the Rolling Stones, Barry Humphries and Lindy Chamberlain. With many personal life lessons openly shared, this is a thoroughly entertaining and revealing memoir. \$45.00 🇦🇺



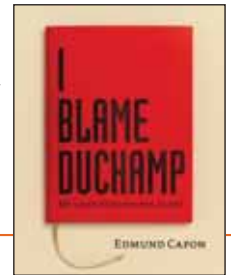
OUTSIDE OF A DOG A Bibliomemoir Rick Gekoski

As Groucho Marx said, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." From the bestselling author of *Tolkien's Gown* comes this captivating and highly amusing account of the 25 books that have influenced his life. Gekoski's list includes works from authors as diverse as Dr. Seuss, Tom Wolfe, J.D. Salinger, Sigmund Freud and D.H. Lawrence. His selection – and his memoir of reading them – provides a unique and witty book dedicated to the possibility that we are what we read. A delight for all bibliophiles! \$32.95



I BLAME DUCHAMP Edmund Capon

In this sweeping collection of essays, Edmund Capon describes his lifelong fascination with art and artists who have, over centuries, enlightened us and challenged the way we see the world. Featuring more than 50 beautiful reproductions of paintings and drawings from diverse collections, this is a fascinating insight into the mind of one of the liveliest thinkers of our time. \$49.95 🐾



The books that changed my life are all the biographies I've read. They give you a window into someone else's life.

~Julie Corletto, Australian Diamonds netballer

The Power of Books

Philip Bray writes about how particular books enriched and influenced his life.

As a young boy I used to devour books in the same way many youngsters still do. Among my favourites were the Secret Seven, Biggles and Norah of Billabong. Even though Norah was perhaps my first love, essentially my interest was in the story rather than the language and ideas.

I had to wait for a wonderful teacher and Shaw's *St Joan* and Shakespeare's *Richard II* to begin appreciating language and ideas – and theatre! Then in the school library I discovered a book full of beautiful phrases and sentences, wonderful characters, love, hardship and a story which reinforced my family's values of honesty and loyalty. *How Green Was My Valley* still moves me today over 50 years on.

Later came Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. This powerful evocation of grinding poverty, struggle, unfairness and human desperation lit a fire in my belly for a just and civil society. At a school reunion I discovered that many of my contemporaries had been similarly affected. Perhaps this was "the" book of my generation.

The Costs of Economic Growth (E. Mishan) informed me of the fallacy of GDP as a measure of progress and made me an economics sceptic.

Then came the book which most changed my life. Jane Jacobs' *Death and Life of Great American Cities* challenged the accepted wisdoms of 1950s/1960s town planning. It was Jane Jacobs then who brought me, in 1967, to the 'slum' of Balmain and in turn to my becoming Deputy Mayor of Leichhardt and taking part in two revolutionary changes in Local Government in general and in Leichhardt in particular.

Now that is life changing!

Jane could also be said to have indirectly brought about the establishment of Brays Books. And 40 years on...

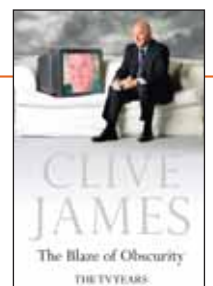
That is the timeless power of books – to present ideas and emotions, to set our brains and our feelings in motion, to change our lives!

FOR RICHER, FOR POORER Victoria Coren



An entertaining journey into the world of the professional poker player. The daughter of humourist Alan Coren, Victoria has inherited much of her father's wit. Starting with illegal cash games, she graduated to the more glamorous world of Las Vegas' gambling casinos and learnt to deal with triumph, loneliness, heartbreak and defeat. \$34.95

THE BLAZE OF OBSCURITY The TV Years Clive James



Clive has a way with words – whatever the medium. His adventures with the written word before, during and after his time on the small screen are well known. But for many people, especially in the UK, he is regarded as a TV presenter first and foremost – for his news, interviews, 'postcards' from around the world and much more. This latest addition to his memoirs illuminates this chapter of his life. \$34.99 🐾

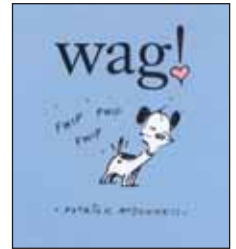


RIDE YOUR TRACTOR MR CROC

Jo Lodge

The *Mr. Croc* series is absolutely delightful and a favourite for under fives. Combining colourful and vibrant illustrations, this is a very sturdy novelty farm that includes Mr Croc himself in the form of a soft toy, and his beloved tractor which is a cardboard marvel. Mr Croc can go about all of his farmyard chores, including having tremendous fun riding his tractor! He has many animal friends that help him around the farm and little ones love getting involved in all of the fun. The sturdy tabs and pop ups make this book ideal for eager little hands! \$28.99

WAG! Patrick McDonnell



This is the heartwarming story of Earl, the dog who can't help wagging his tail at everything: a bowl of food, a big walk and pats. Mooch, his best friend, knows that all these things have something in common – love. This gorgeous, charming picture book is a 'must-have' for all young dog fans! \$24.99

helping young children learn to read

Bronwyn Richens from Brays Books for Kids in Balmain suggests some great books to start with

Reading gives us all so much pleasure and opens up so many new, exciting worlds, that it is only natural that we want our children to be able to share in this joy.

Educationalists have spent untold hours researching and developing theories on how children learn to read and they find exactly what we all quickly learn – children love rhyme, rhythm and repetition! And lovely pictures of course.

Most important of all however is the enjoyment you bring to reading together. As you cuddle up together, laughing, delighting and wondering in each new world – exploring each page, each illustration, each turn of phrase – the magic of reading is revealed to your child. You know you have succeeded when your child says, "more mummy; read it again daddy."

A few of our picks for early reading pleasure:

Hairy Maclary from Donaldson Dairy *by* Lynley Dodd
My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes *by* Eve Sutton
Where is the Green Sheep *by* Mem Fox
Moo, Baa La La La *by* Sandra Boynton
Hooray for Fish *by* Lucy Cousins
Duck in the Truck *by* Jez Alborough
And don't forget Dr Seuss for non-stop rhyming fun!

THE NEXT STAGE: FIRST CHAPTER BOOKS

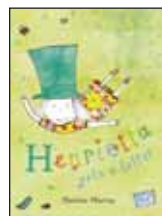
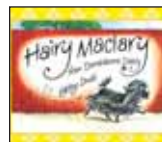
Following your child's interests is a good way to find the right chapter book to read aloud with your child. There are always new series being developed around popular childhood interests such as dinosaurs, fairies, pirates and pets.

Some of our recommended books are:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory *by* Roald Dahl
Henrietta Gets a Letter *by* Martine Murray
Tashi *by* Anna Fienberg
Dragon Blood Pirates *by* Dan Jerris
Magic Faraway Tree *by* Enid Blyton
Pearlie in the Park *by* Wendy Harmer
Selby's Secret *by* Duncan Ball

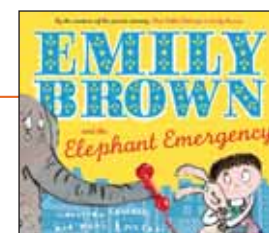
Pick books that you like to read – favourites from your childhood, ones that make you laugh or cry, books that have fun language, fun pictures, things that interest you and your child.

...and your local independent bookseller can give you many more suggestions!



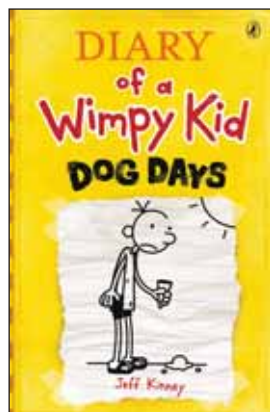
WANTED: THE PERFECT PET

Once upon a time, there lived a boy called Henry. What Henry wanted more than anything in the whole wide world... more than chips... more than a cowboy costume... more than an all-expenses-paid trip to the moon... was a DOG. A lovable tale of adventure and friendship and the lengths to which some will go to find it. \$24.95



EMILY BROWN AND THE ELEPHANT EMERGENCY

This delightful new book explores the importance of allowing your children the freedom to explore the world around them. Emily Brown, Stanley the bunny and Matilda the elephant love to go on adventures, but as soon as they get to the exciting part, Matilda's mummy worries and rings on the Emergency Telephone! \$28.99



DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 4: DOG DAYS Jeff Kinney

School's out, the sun is shining and Greg Heffley is indulging in his ultimate summer fantasy – endless video games inside with the blinds drawn. Unfortunately, his mother's idea of summer fun includes a lot more outdoor exertion and family togetherness. So whose vision will win out this year? This best-selling blogger-style novel series, written in cartoon and diary format, has become hugely popular with 10-14 year olds. Loved by everyone, but particularly good for reluctant readers. \$14.95

EDIE AMELIA AND THE MONKEY SHOE MYSTERY Sophie Lee



Edie Amelia Sparks is an exceptionally tidy young girl with exceptionally untidy parents. Whilst going through her most special possessions she discovers her favourite shoe is missing. Her best friend and her dog help Edie Amelia solve the mystery and also help her father get his job back at the University of Wobblebottom. A colourfully imaginative story for young readers 7+. \$12.99 🐾

AUTHOR PROFILE Jeff Kinney

Jeff Kinney (b 1971), the American author of the bestselling *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, has spent his whole life wanting to be a cartoonist - despite being very slow at drawing! He designed his own comic strip in college but couldn't get it syndicated, so went on to support himself with design and computer programming work.

He spent nearly six years developing the concept for *Wimpy Kid*, which was originally published online, on Funbrain.com (the USA's premier educational 'fun and games' site, used by families and teachers). This online journal, with its appealing stick figure cartoons and very believable (and inadvertently funny) protagonist, became hugely popular and paved the way for printed publication to begin in 2007.

Now one of the best loved series for 10-14 year olds, it has struck a real chord, both with kids experiencing their growing pains and adults vividly recalling their own. The books hold particular appeal for young reluctant readers, who find the 'diary and doodle' format much more accessible than a conventional novel.

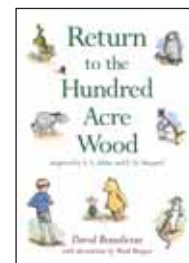
Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.
~Maya Angelou

THE GOBLIN AND THE EMPTY CHAIR Mem Fox

In a time long past in a land far away, a family has suffered an unspeakable loss. A lonely goblin has been watching and knows how to help. Will the family let him? This is a modern fairytale about family, friendship and compassion from Mem Fox and exquisitely illustrated by Lea and Diane Dillon. \$24.95 🐾



RETURN TO THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD David Benedictus



It has been eighty years since Winnie the Pooh first graced the pages to delight children worldwide. David Benedictus now takes us back to the hundred acre wood for more new adventures with Winnie, Eeyore, Piglet and the rest of the woodland friends. Officially endorsed by the Milne family, this will delight a new generation of children. \$29.95

THIS IS AUSTRALIA Miroslav Sasek

This is the 17th book in Sasek's *This is...* series of picture books, first published in 1970 and now updated. He arrives in Australia via a 'Qantas big bird' ready to explore our 'space age Opera House', the outback and most of our capital cities. A charming, playful portrait of our country from this wonderful Czech artist. \$34.95



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS Mandy Foot

See our review in *Seven of the Best* on the back page. \$24.99



RUNNING WITH HORSES Alison Lester

In this beautifully illustrated story from Alison Lester, ten year old Nina lives above the palace stable, famed for dancing white stallions. One day her world changes dramatically and she and her father have to flee over the mountains with the stallions. A book to treasure. For 5+. \$29.95 🐾



THE BATTLE FOR RONDO (Rondo 3) Emily Rodda

When the door to the magical world of Rondo is opened by an old music box, Leo and his cousin Mimi are plunged into dangerous and exciting adventures fighting against Rondo's evil Blue Queen. Now, in this last thrilling story, the cousins and their magical friends find that a daring plan, a reckless quest and a mysterious prophecy will test them to the limit as they battle to end the Queen's power forever. Full of imagination and excitement, this series by a much loved Australian author has been devoured by readers aged 8-11. \$34.99 🐉

BATTLE BOY: BLOOD AXE AND DESTROY TROY Charlie Carter



These are the latest stories in the great new series *Battle Boy*. Perfect for all those *Zac Power* fans, *Battle Boy* books follow the adventures of Napoleon Smythe as he travels through time to observe famous battles. We join Napoleon as he travels through time and space with the help of amazing gadgets and crazy robots. Perfect for 7 to 10 year olds. \$9.99 each

CATCHING FIRE Suzanne Collins

This eagerly anticipated sequel picks up where *The Hunger Games* left off. Katniss Everdeen won against all odds and she has plenty of food and creature comforts. But now the Capitol is angry and wants revenge. With rumours of rebellion, will Katniss bow to the Capitol's harsh rules or become a figurehead for the coming war? Sit down, strap yourself in and prepare to be blown away by this gripping tour de force! \$18.99



DRAGON BLOOD PIRATES Books 13 - 18 Dan Jerris



The next six books in this very popular series from Captain Dan Jerris and his trusty illustrator Rory Walker. Al and his best friend Owen face more perils of the sea and more dastardly foes in their latest adventures. "Arrrrr!" \$12.99 each

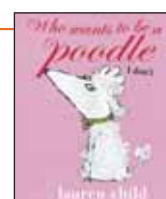
And some giveaways*
me hearties:
~ tattoos
~ Arrrtivities booklet
~ Dragon Blood
Pirates Book 1

*while stocks last!



GHOST HUNTER Chronicles of Ancient Darkness 6 Michelle Paver

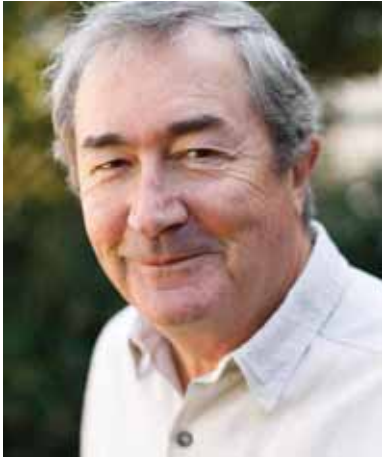
As winter approaches, Torak attempts to fulfill his destiny by journeying to the mountain lair of the terrifying Eagle Owl Mage. This author's passion for the distant past brings the Neolithic era to vivid life. This is the last in a spellbinding series combining history, adventure and magic. For readers aged 10-13. \$29.99



WHO WANTS TO BE A POODLE? I DON'T Lauren Child

Delightful! See our review in Six of the Best on page 3. \$24.95

AUTHOR PROFILE John Flanagan



Born in 1944, John Flanagan is a Sydney boy born and bred. He took to writing early and after a career in advertising he eventually found himself writing television scripts. Famously, he co-wrote the hit television series *Hey Dad* which ran for over 200 episodes from 1987 to 1994.

In 2004 he took to writing medieval fantasy for children with his first book the *Ruins of Gorlan*. John never envisaged the success that would come from the *Ranger's Apprentice*.

Now he is world renowned, published in over twenty countries and he has sold over one million copies of the series worldwide. John's novels regularly feature on the *New York Times* best seller list and he is always a fixture on the local best sellers list as well.

Halt's Peril (reviewed on this page) is the ninth volume of the *Ranger's Apprentice* series.

HALT'S PERIL John Flanagan

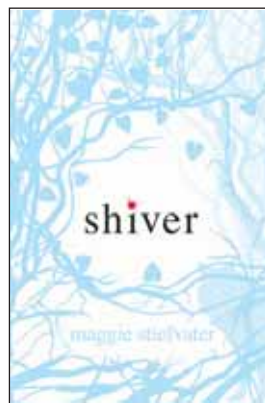


In *Halt's Peril*, Halt and his companions are chasing Tennyson, the false prophet of the Outsider cult and his followers who escaped justice in Clonmel. Will the archery skills of Halt and his friend Will be enough to save them in a duel with the Genovesans? Read on to find out! \$16.95 🇺🇸

TALLOW Karen Brooks



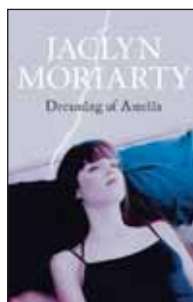
On the edge of a mystical border, close to a canal-laced city, a humble candle maker rescues a child who he raises as his apprentice. Slowly the art of candlemaking becomes something much more sinister. Linger in the shadows, enemies watch and wait. This is a great story of intrigue, magic and love. \$27.95 🇺🇸



SHIVER Maggie Stiefvater

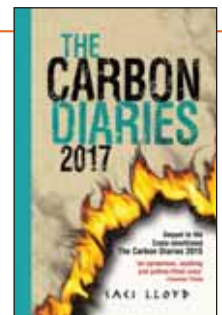
An unusual novel that is beautifully written. The reader is plunged into two worlds – that of Grace, nearly taken by wolves as a toddler; and Sam, the werewolf who saves her, instigating a friendship between girl and wolf. Everything changes when Grace meets Sam in his human form. Sam's impermeable ties with the wolf world don't just affect Grace, but her friends and family. People are still being taken, and life altering decisions must be made. A fast paced novel of danger, discovery and romance for anyone 13+. \$29.99

DREAMING OF AMELIA Jaclyn Moriarty



Amelia and Riley are bad kids. The other teens and teachers at their new high school are transfixed by them. The big question is who are they? This novel is an intriguing work of gothic fiction about ghosts, love, passion and insanity – and about the last year of high school, when you realise that the future is right at your feet! \$16.99

THE CARBON DIARIES 2017 Saci Lloyd



Lloyd's previous book, *The Carbon Diaries 2015*, was described as "An uproarious, scathing and pathos-filled romp – *Adrian Mole* does the apocalypse". This is another hugely entertaining novel with Laura Brown now at university and playing gigs all over the place with her band, The Angels. \$17.99 🇺🇸

OUR SPECIAL
ORDER SERVICE

Would you like a book which we don't have on our shelves? No problem. We are able to order from small and large publishers in Australia and around the world and we deal with some of the world's biggest book wholesalers.

It is all part of being good independent booksellers!

Our Bestselling Children's books Jan-Sept 2009

Far and away our top sellers were the *Twilight* series by Stephanie Meyer. As that series is now completed, we thought it would be useful to provide a guide to "What to read after Twilight" (page 31).

Series of books are often very popular with both boys and girls so it is not surprising that another ten series feature in our top sellers:

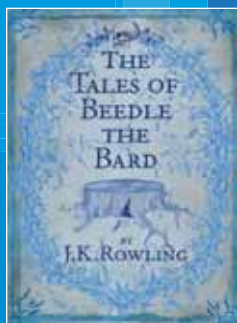


They are:

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid *by* Jeff Kinney
The Henderson Boys *by* Robert Muchamore
Zac Power *by* H.I. Larry
Cherub *by* Robert Muchamore
Skulduggery Pleasant *by* Derek Landy
The Magic Ballerina *by* Darcey Bussell
The 39 Clues *by* various authors
Harry Potter *by* J.K. Rowling
Grug *by* Ted Prior
Rainbow Magic *by* Daisy Meadows



Other than books in series there is a lovely mixture of new titles and old favourites among our bestsellers:



- 1 Evernight *by* Claudia Gray
- 2 The Very Hungry Caterpillar *by* Eric Carle
- 3 Imagine *by* Alison Lester
- 4 Where Is The Green Sheep *by* Mem Fox
- 5 Ten Little Fingers *by* Mem Fox
- 6 Tales of Beedle The Bard *by* J.K. Rowling
- 7 Possum Magic *by* Mem Fox
- 8 Thomas The Tank Engine *by*
- 9 The Gruffalo *by* Julia Donaldson
- 10 Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy *by* Lynley Todd
- 11 Dear Zoo *by* Rod Campbell

AUTHOR PROFILE Stephanie Meyer



The story of Meyer's success reads like the unlikely plot of a novel. A mother of three young sons wakes from a dream on June 2, 2003. The characters of her dream are so vivid she is compelled to write about them. So began the *Twilight* phenomenon!

The plot for *Twilight* was invented during the day throughout swimming lessons and potty training. The actual writing was done at night.

Meyer's vivid characters, two star-crossed lovers, struck an immediate chord with the publishers at Little Brown and, as they say, the rest is history.

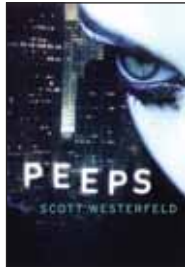
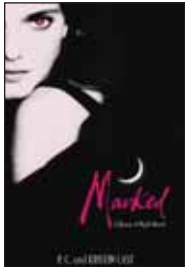
The sequel to *Twilight*, *New Moon* followed and then came the third of the series, *Breaking Dawn* which sold an extraordinary 1.3 million copies in the first 24 hours!

If you are a budding writer Stephanie's words may well inspire you to not just dream!

"Though I had a million things to do, I stayed in bed, thinking about the dream. Unwillingly, I eventually got up and did the immediate necessities, and then put everything that I possibly could on the back burner and sat down at the computer to write – something I hadn't done in so long that I wondered why I was bothering!"

The Next Day: what to read after *Twilight*...

Jenny Gorman and Olivia O'Flynn at Megalong Books have sunk their teeth into some great reads



So – everyone you know between the ages of twelve and twenty has read the *Twilight* series (and possibly fallen in love with a vampire) – and you need to know what to give them next. Here's our list of the best of the rest!

+ For the Purists Can't get enough of vampires in particular? Recently christened 'Bit Lit', this genre is currently riding a huge wave of popularity. Some good series include:

The House of Night by PC and Kristin Cast: When Zoey is 'marked' – a sign that she has the potential to move from human to vampire – she becomes a student at the House of Night School. *

Evernight by Claudia Gray: It's Romeo and Juliet meets the 21st Century, at a co-ed boarding school for the undead.

Vampire Diaries by L J Smith: Golden girl Elena finds herself trapped between warring vampire brothers when she meets the handsome but haunted Stefan. Now an *OC* style TV series.

Tantalize by Cynthia Leitich Smith: A vampire themed restaurant is bound to attract some unusual customers, right? Say, people with red eyes and others who howl at the moon?

Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan: A visit to a freak show leads to strange circumstances, including Darren's transformation into a half vampire, in this funny but satisfyingly macabre tale. The movie, renamed *The Vampire's Assistant* will be released here in January.

Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead: Breaking hearts is generally messy – but when the evil guys are hell-bent on recruiting you and love bites aren't just a euphemism, forbidden romance seems like a piece of cake.*

Otherworldlies by Jennifer Kogler: Struggling to come to terms with the many unusual traits she has been developing, vampire-to-be Fern gets caught in the middle of a dangerous and centuries old battle.

Peeps by Scott Westerfeld: With a parasitical vampire disease, sarcasm and just enough horror, this will make you laugh, cringe and want the ability to scale ten metre high walls too.*

+ For the Romantics Want some romance mixed in with your adventure, possibly featuring otherworldly creatures, or maybe just a touch of magic? Try:

Swoon by Nina Malkin: True love becomes truly terrifying when Dice must exorcise a demon ghost who is also the boy of her dreams.

Evermore by Alyson Noel: Since the car crash that killed her family, Ever can hear the thoughts of others – all except those of the handsome new boy at school. And he's hiding more than just his thoughts...

Fallen by Lauren Kate: Lucinda meets the gorgeous Daniel at reform school, only to discover he is a fallen angel and that the pair have spent lifetimes finding and losing each other. Can they change destiny this time?



+ For the Fans of Faerie If your tastes in fantasy run toward the gothic, then try the following:

Tithe: a Modern Faerie Tale by Holly Black: Kaye saves the life of an exotic man and is plunged into an inhuman world, with darkness at its heart. A brilliant read featuring irrational mothers, abandoned subway stations and the ever present allure of romance, by the author of the *Spiderwick Chronicles*. *

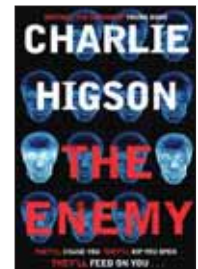
Wicked Lovely by Melissa Marr: Invisible faeries walk the mortal world. When their King attempts to seduce a human girl, his discovery that she can see faerie beings puts many things – including her life – on the line.

Wings by Aprilynne Pike: Enchanting and remarkable, *Wings* will make you want to sprout a pair of your own.

Knife by R J Anderson: Knife woke in a cold sweat, trapped and flightless. Her

worst fears had come to pass. Humans had put her in a box, and now they had come to torment her...

+ For the Thriller Junkies If you'd prefer a little gore and a lot of riveting excitement, we'd suggest:



Immortals Trilogy by Cassandra Clare: Mysterious demon hunters, underworld New York, and a forbidden love story. What more could you want?

Poison Study by Maria V Snyder: A murder conviction, illicit romance and a job description that includes possible death every day. This addictive novel will make you keep coming back for the antidote.*

The Enemy by Charlie Higson: A virus has killed much of the world's adult population, turning the rest into flesh craving zombies. A gang of children and young teens begin a desperate journey across London, in search of a rumoured safe house.*

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: A futuristic government has chosen entertainment over humanity and teens fight for their lives on national TV. A searing novel with hidden cameras, romance, physical adventure and death around every corner.

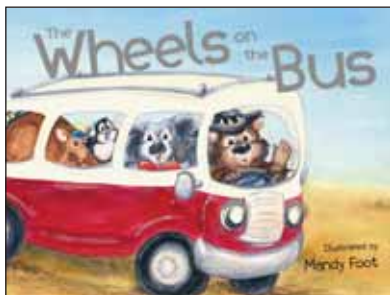
Gone by Michael Grant: Think futuristic *Lord of the Flies*. When everyone over the age of fifteen disappears, a new world order emerges among the young survivors, some of whom have developed scary mutant powers.

Liar by Justine Larbalestier: A thrilling, compulsive and original story, that will have you questioning what you know and grasping for the truth until the very last page. *

Happy reading! ~ Jenny and Olivia

*NB We realise that precocious younger readers will also be attracted to this list. Please note that titles marked * have content we consider unsuitable for readers under 13.

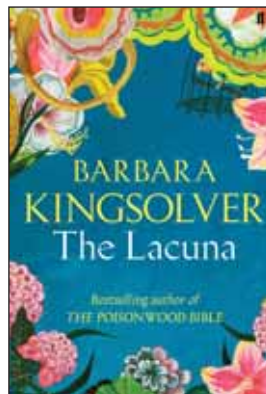
Seven of the best to whet your appetite...



THE WHEELS ON THE BUS Mandy Foot

We all know the wheels on the bus go round and round, but where do they go? Find out as Koala, Kangaroo and Wombat take us

on this whimsical tour of Australia, presented in bright, eye-catching illustrations by Mandy Foot. Fun for youngsters bringing the often sung (and much loved) song to life. Searching for the hidden lizard on every page is sure to keep those wheels moving. \$24.99 🐣 [For more Children's books, see pages 26-31](#)

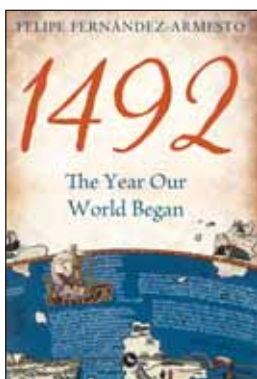


THE LACUNA Barbara Kingsolver

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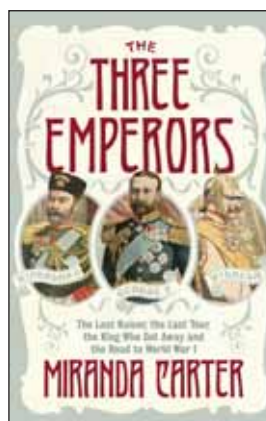
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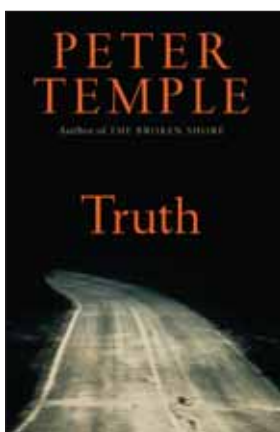
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