

A Free Newsletter for Abbey's Customers  
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**ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP**  
**Abbey's wins Australian Metropolitan Bookshop of the Year**  
 Abbey's was recently awarded this honour, chosen from over 180 independent bookshops from around Australia.

**Mother's Day - Sunday 10 May**

This year is shaping up to be a great year for new books. Our shelves are bursting with terrific new titles which would enhance any mother's day. Firstly I can unreservedly recommend a title already reviewed by both Adrian and Lindy, Paul Torday's **The Girl on the Landing** (Tp \$32.99). Other than the delightfully whimsical Alexander McCall Smith's *Number One Detective Agency* titles, (the 10th one is now available, **Tea Time for the Traditionally Built** Hb \$34.99), this is the first time since I was pregnant that I have finished a novel in one day. It opens with a couple spending the weekend with friends in a rambling old mansion in Ireland. Michael passes a painting on the landing and is intrigued by what seems to be a shady image of a girl in a green dress. The next day when he shows the painting to his wife, the image is no longer there. At various points in the novel, a young woman with blazing dark eyes wearing a green dress appears to him, and seemingly to no-one else. The story unfolds slowly, yet it is haunting and compelling, if a little over the top in the ending.



Lindy recommends: "Debra Adelaide's **A Household Guide to Dying** (Pb \$22.99), a warm and delightful story about the most unlikely topic - impending death by cancer - which by turns is sad, joyous and life-affirming - a marvellous read! I still think you can't go past **The Good Mayor** (Pb \$27.99) by Andrew Nicholl - the perfect novel, wonderful characters in a believable setting (even with a touch of magic realism) and very satisfying to read. Or Marion Halligan's **Valley of Grace** (Pb \$29.95), a meditative and gentle novel about mothers and children, set in contemporary Paris. Or the charming, rediscovered novel by Madeleine St John, **The Women in Black** (Pb \$29.95), which is an exquisite dissection of the lives of women shop assistants in an exclusive department store in 1950s Sydney."



There is a new A S Byatt novel due this month, **The Children's Book** (Tp \$34.95). This is a marvellous, gripping, panoramic novel of family secrets, set against a backdrop of a bohemian, artistic, late Victorian and Edwardian world, about the damage wrought by writers of children's books on their children - about predators and innocents, war and peace, art and society.



In her achingly funny, heartbreaking childhood memoir, **The Weight of Silence** (Pb \$29.99), Catherine Therese takes the reader inside her head and upside down on a unique emotional roller-coaster from picking her belly button in her backyard in Blacktown, pulling her hair out standing on her head, to the stage; hiding inside her wardrobe interpreting silence, to the bedroom of a boy with half a thumb and to the labour ward, in an unforgettable story of remembering, forgetting, pretending, of becoming who you are. **Due May** **The Slap** by Christos Tsiolkas (Tp \$32.95) continues to win awards and I notice it doing the rounds at my local primary school, and in the hands of parents everywhere. Confronting and compelling.



Due in paperback this month is Aravind Adiga's 2008 *Booker Prize*-winning **The White Tiger** (\$24.95). A fascinating insight into modern life in India, where an ambitious driver commits murder in order to break free of the caste system and join the ranks of the wealthy. *Ann*

See page 3 for some great Mother's Day specials

Dr Ian Plimer will be at Abbey's, Tuesday 12 May 3.30pm

**Heaven and Earth**  
**Global Warming**

**The Missing Science**

Dr Ian PLIMER 360pp Pb ~~\$39.95~~ during May \$29.95  
 Plimer argues that carbon dioxide is not a pollutant, it is plant food. And plants support the whole chain of life. Plimer looks at past climate changes on our ever-changing planet and how they are driven by galactic, supernoval, solar, orbital and tidal events. Past climate changes have been faster and greater than anything that is being measured or predicted. Past sea level changes have been quicker and greater than modern changes. The atmosphere and oceans have natural buffers that prevent runaway greenhouse and acid oceans. If there were no natural buffers, then in the past (when atmospheric carbon dioxide was 25 to 100 times the current level) we should have had a runaway greenhouse and acid oceans. We didn't. Plimer gives an overview of how the planet works and how climate changes in response to major planetary processes.



Come and meet Dr Plimer who will be signing his controversial new book, and taking questions on Tuesday 12 May at 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

**Miles Franklin Shortlist**

**Breath**

Tim WINTON 268pp Pb \$24.95  
 This is a story about the wildness of youth - the lust for excitement and terror, the determination to be extraordinary, the wounds that heal and those that don't.



**The Pages**

Murray BAIL 224pp Hb \$34.95  
 On a family sheep station, Wesley Antill spent years toiling away in one of the sheds, writing philosophy. After his death, Erica, a philosopher, is sent from Sydney to appraise his work, finding 'the pages' piled amongst handfuls of wool and wheat sacks in the woolshed. (Pb due June \$23.95)



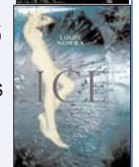
**The Slap**

Christos TSIOLKAS 485pp Tp \$32.95  
 At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own. This event has a shocking ricochet effect on a group of friends and relatives who are all directly or indirectly influenced by the slap.



**Ice**

Louis NOWRA 336pp Tp \$32.95  
 An iceberg has been towed into Sydney Harbour. It is the 19th century and Malcolm McEacharn throws himself into audacious schemes, shipping refrigerated meat to Britain and electrifying Melbourne, but is haunted by the loss of his wife.



**Wanting**

Richard FLANAGAN 208pp Hb \$35.00  
 Inspired by real events, this is the story of an aboriginal girl, Mathinna, who is adopted as a curiosity by Lady Jane Franklin, wife of the famous arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, who disappears whilst seeking the North-West passage.



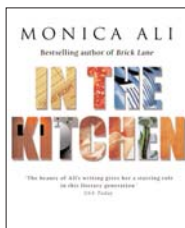
Winner announced 18 June

**James Murray Book Launch - 30 April**

James Murray, one-time Religious Correspondent for *The Australian*, has written a sequel to his book of childhood memories in Melbourne (called **The Paradise Tree**, which we launched here at Abbey's). The new book is called **The Judas Tree: Reflections on a Turbulent Life: 16 to 38**. Blanche d'Alpuget will launch this at Abbey's Bookshop at 6.30pm on Thursday 30 April.

**In the Kitchen**

Monica ALI 480pp Tp \$32.95  
 "Who ends up in the kitchen, Gabe?" "Misfits," he said, "psychos, exiles, culinary artists, and people who just need a job." This is Ali's stunning follow-up to **Brick Lane** (Pb \$24.95). It opens with a mysterious death in the cellars of a smart, cosmopolitan hotel and over the course of the ensuing pages, peels back the layers of polyglot London to reveal the melting pot which exists below. Once again it confirms Ali not only as a great modern storyteller but also an acute observer of the vagaries of contemporary culture. *Due May*



**The Selected Works of T S Spivet**

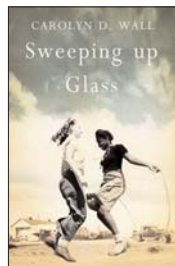
Reif LARSEN 388pp Tp \$34.95  
 T S Spivet is a 12-year-old genius mapmaker who lives on a ranch in Montana. His father is a silent cowboy and his mother is a scientist who, for the last 20 years, has been looking for a mythical species of beetle. His brother has gone, his sister seems normal but might not be, and his dog - Verywell - is going mad. It's odd, but then families are. T S makes sense of it all by drawing beautiful, meticulous maps kept in innumerable colour-coded notebooks: maps of the countryside, maps of his family's behaviour, animal and plant life. He is brilliant, and the Smithsonian Institution agrees, though when they telephone with news that he has won a major scientific prize, they don't suspect for a minute that he is 12 years old. So begins T S's life-changing adventure, fleeing in the dead of night, riding freight trains 2,000 miles across America to reach the awards dinner, the fame, the secret-society membership and the TV appearances that beckon. But is this what he wants? Do maps and lists explain the world? And why are adults so strange? *Due May*

**Nocturnes**

Kazuo ISHIGURO 240pp Tp \$29.99  
 In a sublime story cycle, Ishiguro explores ideas of love, music and the passing of time. From the Piazzas of Italy to the Malvern Hills, a London flat to the 'hush-hush floor' of an exclusive Hollywood hotel, the characters we encounter range from young dreamers to cafe musicians to faded stars, all of them at some moment of reckoning. Gentle, intimate and witty, these stories are marked by a haunting theme: the struggle to keep alive a sense of life's romance, even as one gets older, relationships flounder and youthful hopes recede. *Due May*

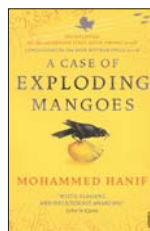
**Sweeping Up Glass**

Carolyn WALL 380pp Pb \$29.95  
 Olivia Harker grew up in brutally segregated, Depression-era Kentucky, the child of an adored father and a disturbed and vindictive mother. Left to her own devices, her black neighbours became her friends and playmates; their parents her guardian angels. Now running a ramshackle grocery store with her beloved grandson and her difficult, widowed mother, Olivia has no idea of the long shadow cast by events of her childhood. When she finally becomes party to a decades-old mystery, she must get to grips with past betrayals before fighting to save her family, her community and her life. Wall has a strong, fresh narrative voice that doesn't let go.



**A Case of Exploding Mangoes**

Mohammed HANIF 304pp Pb \$24.95  
 There is an ancient saying that when lovers fall out, a plane goes down. This is the story of one such plane. Why did a Hercules C130, the world's sturdiest plane, carrying Pakistan's military dictator General Zia ul Haq, go down on 17 August, 1988? Was it because of: mechanical failure; human error; the CIA's impatience; a blind woman's curse; generals not happy with their pension plans; or the mango season? Here are the facts: A military dictator reads the Quran every morning as if it was his daily horoscope. Under Officer Ali Shigri carries a deadly message on the tip of his sword. His friend Obaid answers all life's questions with a splash of eau de cologne and a quote from Rilke. A crow has crossed the Pakistani border illegally. As young Shigri moves from a mosque hall to his military barracks, before ending up in a Mughal dungeon, there are questions that haunt him: What does it mean to betray someone and still love them? How many names does Allah really have? Who killed his father, Colonel Shigri? Who will kill his killers? Teasing, provocative and very funny, Hanif's debut novel takes one of the subcontinent's enduring mysteries and spins a tale as rich and colourful as a beggar's dream. *Due May*



**The Writing on My Forehead**

Haji NAFISA 320pp Tp \$32.99  
 Fate, in the form of tragedy, has finally caught up with Saira Qader, a free-spirited and rebellious Muslim-American of Indo-Pakistani descent, who finds herself caught in a struggle between her family's traditions and her desire for independence. As she tells her own story, she weaves in the tales of her family, beginning with one grandfather's scandalous infidelity, another grandfather's work in the struggle for Indian Independence and an English teacher's quest for personal independence in newly formed Pakistan. As Saira learns more about her past, she understands what she never wanted to admit - that fate is not something she can avert with her own actions and faith is not a matter of intellectual preference. *Due May*



**City of Thieves**

David BENIOFF 416pp Pb \$22.99  
 Four months into the siege of Leningrad, the city is starving. 17-year-old Lev fears for his life when he is arrested for looting the body of a dead German paratrooper, while his charismatic cellmate Kolya, a handsome young soldier arrested for desertion, seems bizarrely unafraid. Dawn brings, instead of the execution squad, an impossible challenge. Lev and Kolya can find a dozen eggs for an NKVD colonel to use for his daughter's wedding cake, and live. Or fail, and die. In the depths of the coldest winter in history, through a city cut off from all supplies and suffering appalling deprivation, man and boy embark on an absurd hunt. Their search will take them through desolate, lawless Leningrad and the devastated countryside surrounding it, in the captivating journey of two men trying to survive against desperate odds.

**The Biographer**

Virginia DUGAN 326pp Pb \$23.95  
 Greer Gordon lives in Italy with Mischa Svoboda, a driven Czech-born painter with a booming international reputation. She and Mischa met when his debut show at the small Melbourne art gallery where Greer then worked created a sensation. Their explosive love affair caused Greer to abandon her husband, job and autocratic boss Verity, sever all contact with home and embark on a nomadic life with Mischa. 25 years later, Tony, a young American art critic, has been researching a biography of Mischa and arrives in their small hilltop community. Greer is consumed by anxiety, fearing the biographer may have unearthed something that happened as a consequence of her meeting Mischa, a buried secret she had intended to write out of her life story. Greer and Tony play out a gripping cat-and-mouse game in which she tries to glean who he has spoken to and what, if anything, he knows, while he lets drop, with calculated casualness, graded snippets of information designed to keep her guessing. As her hand is forced, Greer embarks on a tense journey of her own. Through Tony's artful interrogations and her own diary, she is compelled to put her youthful self on trial. In the process she makes a life-changing discovery.



**Up a Tree in the Park at Night with a Hedgehog**

Robert SMITH 224pp Pb \$23.95  
 Who can you trust when you can't even trust yourself? Benton Kirby's life hasn't exactly gone to plan. This is hardly surprising, however, as he never really had one in the first place. Armed with a philosophy degree, a dead fiancé, a brother who drives Death around London in his black cab and a girlfriend with a history of suicidal pets, Benton - ambitionless and emotionally disengaged - embarks, for no apparent reason, on an affair with a beautiful, sexually adventurous, Korean virgin. Following a strange snowballing of even stranger events, he finds himself, at last, exactly not where he ever imagined he would be, up a tree at night in the park with a hedgehog.



**Never Stop Looking**

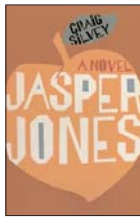
Sarah JACKMAN 416pp Pb \$22.95  
 Six years after her husband disappeared without trace, Abbie Silvas still searches for him obsessively. Unwilling to leave her Vauxhall flat for any length of time, just in case he comes back, she lives a strange, museum-like half-life, still waiting for Nick's return, still wondering what happened to him. But the fragile balance of her world is set to change, when Owen moves into the flat above. Newly separated, Owen too is dealing with the sudden loss of family life. Missing his children desperately, he becomes drawn to his lonely neighbour, intrigued by her sad story. Could Owen and his children's arrival prove the catalyst that will enable Abbie to let go of Nick, heal, and move on? But Abbie and Nick's marriage was not the perfect union she remembers. Abbie is finding it increasingly hard to paper over the cracks in her memories. And the intrusion of Owen and his children will force her to confront feelings and memories that have long been frozen...

## Jasper Jones

Craig SILVEY

368pp Tp \$29.99

Late on a hot summer night in the tail end of 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of 13, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him through town and to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion as he locks horns with his tempestuous mother; falls nervously in love and battles to keep a lid on his zealous best friend, Jeffrey Lu. And in vainly attempting to restore the parts that have been shaken loose, Charlie learns to discern the truth from the myth, and why white lies creep like a curse. In the simmering summer where everything changes, Charlie learns why the truth of things is so hard to know, and even harder to hold in his heart. *Due May*

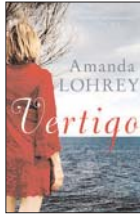


## Vertigo

Amanda LOHERY

160pp Pb \$19.95

Luke and Anna decide on a sea-change. They leave the city, fleeing a past and a future that fill them with fear. On the coast they discover a natural world that is both destructive and rejuvenating. Events sweep them up and they must confront what they have tried to put behind them. This is a fable of love and awakening, a bush pastoral about the unexpected way emotions can return and life can change. *Due May*

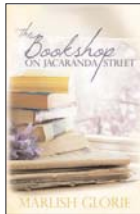


## The Bookshop on Jacaranda Street

Glorie MARLISH

268pp Pb \$29.95

Meet the Budd-Doyles: a suburban family in shambles, and about to unravel further as Helen abandons the family home and buys a second-hand bookshop from a man in a pub - leaving her bewildered, junk-collecting husband Arnold to sort out his life. But he can't. Enter Gabriel, one of their sons, wreaking havoc as he pushes his father to sell off the accrued junk of a lifetime. Add a little sibling rivalry with his brother Vivian fresh home and licking his wounds from a life in the far north - and watch the fireworks on Jacaranda Street. This is a brilliant black comedy by a unique new Australian voice, its world peopled by an extensive cast of misfits - eccentrics, innocents, cranks and pariahs - and driven by an inexorable urge to make order out of chaos. *Due May*

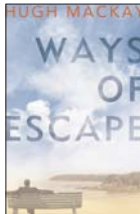


## Ways of Escape

Hugh MACKAY

320pp Tp \$32.99

This is the fifth novel from the pen of Australia's best-selling social analyst. Set in a typical contemporary suburb, this is the first-person story of Tom, a clinical psychologist who is losing patience with his affluent, perfection-seeking clients. Divorced and struggling with professional burnout, he's open to the possibility of radical change. He allows himself to become reckless with a client intent on seducing him, leading to a charge of professional misconduct and the humiliating prospect of deregistration. He is caught up in the disappearance of a neighbour who had recently left his wife and children. And a light-hearted distraction comes in the form of an offer to write for a motoring magazine - an experience Tom finds liberating. Two streams of Tom's life then intersect when he agrees to advise one of the candidates for election as chancellor at a boutique university. Three people are contesting the election: a corporate lawyer who has recently crossed swords with a relative of Tom's, the charismatic proprietor of a chain of real estate agencies, and an eminence grise on the academic staff. *Due May*

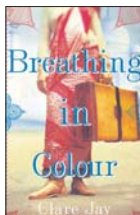


## Breathing in Colour

Clare JAY

288pp Pb \$22.99

"Your child is missing - presumed dead." Hours after receiving the phone call that every mother dreads, Alida Salter flies to India to search for her backpacker daughter. The discovery of disturbing collages in Mia's hotel makes Alida suspect a connection between the disaster that fractured their relationship 13 years ago, and Mia's recent, mysterious disappearance. Mia is no ordinary girl. Growing up with the sensory condition synaesthesia - where she sees the world in a kaleidoscope of shapes, colours and smells - she has gone through life with the vivid imagination of an artist, but for years she has shouldered an overwhelming burden of guilt. It has been a difficult relationship, but now comes the toughest test of all... Alida must find the courage to trust her maternal instincts, or lose her daughter forever. *Due May*



## American Rust

Philipp MEYER

328pp Tp \$33.00

Given the current financial crisis and its comparisons with the Great Depression, this is a rather timely piece about lost ambitions and desperate acts in a contemporary America. The lives and locations that intersect in this debut novel brings to mind a range of stories, written and sung, from Steinbeck through to Springsteen. This is the story of Isaac English and Billy Poe, whose desire to escape their decaying, post-industrial small town suffers a violent setback in the book's opening. From this, Isaac goes on a hobo-like journey on the edge of society, while Billy stays in the unforgiving heartland. The events that follow, moving not unlike a good piece of crime fiction, bring readers into the lives of friends and family, whose hope and uncertainty flesh out the novel. Meyer's style has been compared to Cormac McCarthy and his characters to those of Denis Lehane, but this story feels original and the author's compassion for those who tread his pages lifts the book away from its bleak origins. *Due May Adrian*



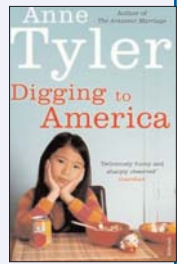
## Specials - while stocks last

### Digging to America

Anne TYLER 330pp Pb

was \$23.95 now **\$11.95**

Friday August 15th, 1997. Two tiny Korean babies are delivered to Baltimore to two families with nothing in common. First there are the Donaldsons, decent Brad and homespun Bitsy and a host of relatives, taking delivery with characteristic American razzmatazz. Then there are the Yazdans, pretty, nervous Ziba and carefully assimilated Sami, with his elegant, Iranian-born, widowed mother Maryam, receiving their little bundle with wondering discretion. Every year, on the anniversary of 'Arrival Day' the two families celebrate together, with increasingly elaborate competitive parties, as tiny, delicate Susan and wholesome, stocky Jin-ho, take roots and become American...



### The View from Castle Rock

Alice MUNRO 349pp Pb

was \$24.95 now **\$11.95**

A young boy, taken to Edinburgh's Castle Rock to look across the sea to America, catches a glimpse of his father's dream. Scottish immigrants experience love and loss on a journey that leads them to rural Ontario. Wives, mothers, fathers and children move through uncertainty, ambivalence and contemplation in these stories of hopes, adversity and wonder.



### The Tenderness of Wolves

Stef PENNEY 440pp Tp

was \$29.95 now **\$12.95**

1867, Canada. As winter tightens its grip on the isolated settlement of Dove River, a man is brutally murdered and a 17-year-old boy disappears. Tracks leaving the dead man's cabin head north towards the forest and the tundra beyond. In the wake of such violence, people are drawn to the township - journalists, Hudson's Bay Company men, trappers, traders - but do they want to solve the crime, or exploit it? Penney deftly weaves adventure, suspense, revelation and humour into a panoramic historical romance, an exhilarating thriller, and a keen murder mystery.

### Non-Fiction

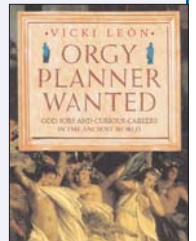
### Orgy Planner Wanted

Odd Jobs and Curious Careers in the Ancient World

Vicki LEON 272 Hb

was \$34.95 now **\$24.95**

2,000 years ago, the denizens of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds performed a diverse and challenging array of tasks to earn their daily bread. Personal entral-reader to the emperor; war-象troop commander; mopper-up of dead gladiators; armpit-hair plucker; curse-tablet maker; orgy planner: these are just a few of the career opportunities that beckoned for, or at times terrified, our forebears. Leon describes 150 ancient occupations - from the glittering to the gory, from the strangely familiar to the entirely strange and entirely unfamiliar.



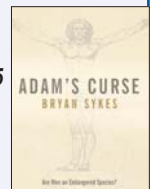
### Adam's Curse

Are Men an Endangered Species?

Bryan SYKES 310pp Tp

was \$27.95 now **\$12.95**

Sykes investigates the ultimate evolutionary crisis: a man-free future. How is it possible that the Y chromosome, which separated the sexes and allowed humans to rise to the apex of the animal kingdom, also threatens to destroy sexual reproduction altogether?



## The Last American Man

Elizabeth GILBERT 288pp Pb \$24.99

At the age of 17, Eustace Conway ditched the comforts of his suburban existence to escape to the wild. Away from the crushing disapproval of his father, he lived alone in a tepee in the mountains. Everything he needed he built, grew or killed. He made his clothes from deer he killed and skinned before using their sinew as sewing thread. But he didn't stop there. In the years that followed, he stopped at nothing in pursuit of bigger, bolder challenges. He travelled the Mississippi in a handmade wooden canoe; he walked the 2,000 mile Appalachian Trail; he hiked across the German Alps in trainers; he scaled cliffs in New Zealand. One Christmas, he finished dinner with his family and promptly upped and left - to ride his horse across America. From South Carolina to the Pacific, with his little brother in tow, they dodged cars on the highways, ate road kill and slept on the hard ground. Now, more than 20 years on, Eustace is still in the mountains, residing in a thousand acre forest where he teaches survival skills and attempts to instil in people a deeper appreciation of nature.



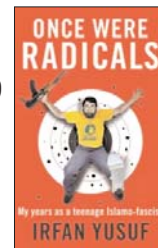
## Once Were Radicals

### My Years as a Teenage Islamo-fascist

Irfan YUSUF

Pb \$26.99

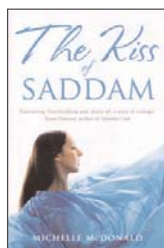
What happens when a nice Muslim Australian boy considers joining the jihad in Afghanistan? Yusuf grew up in John Winston Howard's electorate in the leafy suburbs of Sydney. He should have been thinking about girls and cars, but instead became convinced he should die for a Muslim cause. And in the process he discovered he couldn't learn the Koran from boofy-headed blokes brandishing sticks, and he couldn't quite stomach extra-halal meat killed on an uncle's farm. This is a hilarious, irreverent memoir of cultural confusions, community politics and outright mischief making - with a deeper message. *Due May*



## The Kiss of Saddam

Michelle McDONALD 248pp Pb \$34.95

After growing up in a privileged and cosmopolitan Iraq during the 1950s and 1960s, Selma Masson is plunged into a world of despair and intrigue when she discovers first-hand the brutality of her country's dictator. While Iraqi Ambassador to Spain, her husband is imprisoned and tortured by the Hussein government. For Selma, securing his freedom will mean an unforgettable encounter with Saddam Hussein. Now an Australian citizen, she has told her story to McDonald - this book grew out of the friendship between these two women from very different cultures. The story of Selma's incredible journey shows just what one woman will do to save the people she loves.



## The Letters of George and Elizabeth Bass

Miriam ESTENSEN

176pp Hb \$45.00

In August 1800, George Bass returned to England after five years in the British colony of New South Wales. Gifted, ambitious and impatient with the limitations of a naval career, he took leave from the navy to purchase a ship of his own and organise a commercial venture to Sydney. He also met Elizabeth Waterhouse, and fell very much in love. They were married on 8 October 1800. On 9 January 1801, George Bass sailed for Australia. For the next two years, and across two oceans, letters were the only link between George and Elizabeth Bass. His were brief, dashed across the page with an impatient hand, embedded with tantalising references to his life at sea or the colony of New South Wales and filled with love for his wife. Hers were many pages of small, neat script with news of her friends and family, her own thoughts and pursuits, and her yearning for a husband who would never return. The separate worlds in which George and Elizabeth lived also come to life in their letters: an England of domestic chatter and streets filled with soldiers awaiting a Napoleonic invasion; in contrast to the hot humid coastal towns of Brazil, where Bass sought to sell his merchandise and took on board firewood, fresh water and tobacco. Rich in detail and deeply personal, these letters provide a uniquely vivid and intimate portrait of the lives of these two young people and the era in which they lived.

## Rimbaud

### The Double Life of a Rebel

Edmund WHITE 208pp Hb \$45.00

Poet and prodigy Arthur Rimbaud led a life that was startlingly short, yet dramatically eventful and accomplished. His long poem *Un Saison d'Enfer* (1873) and his collection *Illuminations* (1886) are central to the modern canon. Having sworn off writing at the age of 21, Rimbaud drifted around the world, ultimately dying from an infection contracted while gun-running in Africa. He was 37. White brilliantly explores the young poet's relationships with his family and his teachers, as well as his notorious affair with the older and more established poet Paul Verlaine. He reveals the sometimes elusive, sometimes blatant, themes of sexual taboo that haunt Rimbaud's works, offering incisive interpretations of the poems and his own artful translations to bring us closer to this great and mercurial poet.



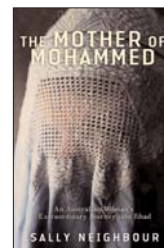
## The Mother of Mohammed

### An Australian Woman's Extraordinary Journey into Jihad

Sally NEIGHBOUR

304pp Tp \$34.99

Born and raised in Mudgee, New South Wales, Rabiah Hutchinson seems an unlikely jihadist. But this former country girl turned marijuana-smoking beach bunny and hippy backpacker is a veteran of the global holy war. To Western intelligence analysts, she is "the matriarch of radical Islam" or, in the words of a former CIA agent, "the Elizabeth Taylor of the jihad". Hutchinson spent four years working as a doctor in a mujahidin hospital and orphanage on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border during the Afghan jihad in the early 1990s. She had later returned to Afghanistan under the Taliban and married a leading al Qaeda ideologue and member of Osama bin Laden's inner circle. Her fellow jihadists know her as "Umm Mohammed" - the mother of Mohammed. Today Hutchinson is one of the most watched women in the world. She believes she's under 24-hour surveillance, her home and telephone bugged. She is officially designated as "a threat to national security" and prevented from travelling abroad because she might "destabilise foreign governments", in the words of the assessment by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. So who is this mysterious, black-veiled, woman with the broad Australian accent and fiery Scottish temperament, who has Western governments so unnerved? This is her story. *Due May*



## Six Months in Sudan

### A Young Doctor in a War-Torn Village

James MASKALYK 352pp Tp \$34.95

Maskalyk set out for the contested border town of Abyei, Sudan, in 2007 as a Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) newest medical doctor in the field. Equipped with his experience as an emergency physician in a downtown hospital and his desire to understand the hardest parts of the world, Maskalyk's days were spent treating malnourished children, fending off a measles epidemic, and staying out of the soldiers' way. Worn raw in the struggle to meet overwhelming needs with inadequate resources, he returned home six months later more affected by the experience, the people, and the place, than he had anticipated. Starting from a blog that he wrote from his hut in Sudan, this is a story about humans: the people of Abyei who suffer its hardship because it is their home, and the doctors, nurses and countless volunteers who leave their homes with the tools to make another's life easier to endure. With great hope and insight, Maskalyk illuminates a distant place - its heat, its people, its poverty and its war - to inspire possibilities for action. *Due May*



## Not Becoming My Mother

### And Other Things She Taught Me Along the Way

Ruth REICHL

128pp Hb \$26.99

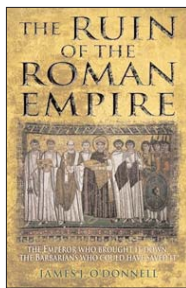
Growing up in Cleveland, Miriam Brudno dreamed of becoming a doctor, like her father. But when she announced this, her parents said, "You're no beauty, and it's too bad you're such an intellectual. But if you become a doctor, no man will ever marry you." Instead, at 20, Miriam opened a bookstore, a profession everyone agreed was suitably ladylike. She corresponded with authors all over the world, including philosophers like Bertrand Russell, political figures like Max Eastman and novelists like Christopher Marlowe. It was the happiest time of her life. Aged nearly 30 when she finally married, she fulfilled expectations, settled down, left her bookstore behind and started a family. But conformity came at a tremendous cost. With labour-saving devices to aid in household chores, there was simply not enough to fill the days. Miriam - and most of her friends - were smart, educated women who were often bored, miserable and silently rebellious. On what would have been Miriam's 100th birthday, Reichl opens up her mother's diaries for the first time and encounters a whole new woman. Looking to her mother's letters and diaries, Reichl confronts the painful transition she made from a hopeful young woman to an increasingly unhappy older one and realises the tremendous sacrifices she made to make sure her daughter's life would not be as disappointing as her own. *Due May*



## The Ruin of the Roman Empire The Emperor Who Brought It Down

**The Barbarians Who Could Have Saved It**  
James O'DONNELL 384pp Hb \$65.00

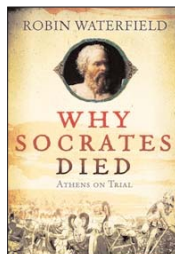
What really marked the end of the Roman Empire? O'Donnell's magnificent new book takes us back to the sixth century and the last time the Empire could be regarded as a single community. Two figures dominate his narrative: Theodoric the "barbarian", whose civilised rule in Italy with his philosopher minister Boethius might have been an inspiration; and in Constantinople, Justinian, who destroyed the Empire with his rigid passion for orthodoxy and his restless inability to secure his frontiers with peace. The book closes with Pope Gregory the Great, the polished product of ancient Roman schools, presiding over a Rome in ruins. *Due May*



## Why Socrates Died

**Athens on Trial**  
Robin WATERFIELD 304pp Hb \$55.00

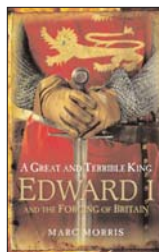
Socrates' trial and death together form an iconic moment in Western civilisation. The picture we have of it - created by his immediate followers and perpetuated in countless works of literature and art ever since - is that a noble man was put to death in a fit of folly by the ancient Athenian democracy. But an icon, an image, is not reality. The trial was, in part, a response to troubled times - a catastrophic war and turbulent social changes - and so provides a good lens through which to explore the history of the period; the historical facts allow us to strip away some of the veneer that has for so long denied us glimpses of the real Socrates.



## A Great and Terrible King Edward I and the Forging of Britain

Marc MORRIS 352pp Pb \$27.95

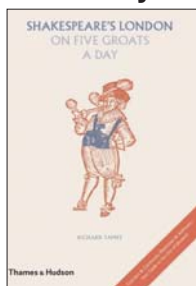
This is the first major biography for a generation of a truly formidable king. Edward I is familiar to millions as 'Longshanks', conqueror of Scotland and nemesis of Sir William Wallace ('Braveheart'). Edward was born to rule England, but believed that it was his right to rule all of Britain. His reign was one of the most dramatic of the entire Middle Ages, leading to war and conquest on an unprecedented scale, and leaving a legacy of division that has lasted from his day to our own. In his astonishingly action-packed life, Edward defeated and killed the famous Simon de Montfort in battle; travelled across Europe to the Holy Land on crusade; conquered Wales, extinguishing forever its native rulers, and constructed, at Conwy, Harlech, Beaumaris and Caernarfon, the most magnificent chain of castles ever created. After the death of his first wife he erected the Eleanor Crosses - the grandest funeral monuments ever fashioned for an English monarch. *Due May*



## Shakespeare's London on Five Groats a Day

Richard TAMES 152pp Hb \$39.95

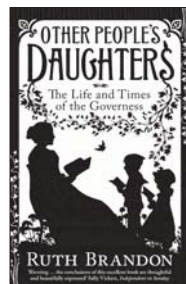
This fact-packed guide provides all the practical advice needed to get the most out of travelling four centuries back in time to explore booming London - a city of courtiers, cut-throats, merchants, beggars, lawyers, dramatists, apprentices, and adventurers. Based on the works of Tudor authors and contemporary pamphlets, letters, maps, wills, and legal records, this delightful guide provides all the reader needs to know when visiting Shakespeare's London at the turn of the 16th century. *Due May*



## Other People's Daughters

**The Life and Times of the Governess**  
Ruth BRANDON 336pp Pb \$27.00

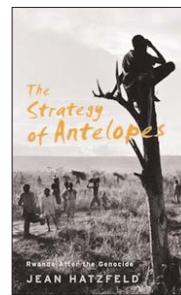
If a 19th century lady had neither a husband to support her nor money of her own, almost her only recourse was to live in someone else's household and educate their children - in particular, their daughters. Marooned within the confines of other people's lives, neither servants nor family members, governesses occupied an uncomfortable social limbo. And being poor and insignificant, their papers were mostly lost. But a few journals and letters have come down to us, giving a vivid record of what it was to be a lone professional woman at a time when such a creature officially did not exist. *Due May*



## The Strategy of Antelopes Rwanda After the Genocide

Jean HATZFELD 256pp Pb \$26.99

In two acclaimed previous works, the noted French journalist Jean Hatzfeld offered a profound, harrowing witness to the unimaginable pain and horror of the mass killings of one group of people by another in Rwanda. Here, he talks with both the Hutus and Tutsis he'd come to know; some of the killers who had been released from prison or returned from Congolese exile, and the Tutsi escapees who must now tolerate them as neighbours. How are they managing with the process of reconciliation? In their hearts is it possible? The enormously varied and always surprising answers he gets suggest that the political ramifications of the international community's efforts to insist on resolution after these murderous episodes are incalculable. This is an astonishing exploration of the pain of memory, the nature of hope, and the difficulties of eradicating grief. *Due May*



## The Bridge

**A Journey Between Orient and Occident**  
Geert MAK 160pp Pb \$24.95

Istanbul's Galata Bridge has spanned the Golden Horn since the 6th century AD, connecting the old city with the more Western districts to the north. But the bridge is a city in itself, peopled by merchants and petty thieves, tourists and fishermen, and at the same time a microcosmic reflection of Turkey as the link between Asia and Europe. Mak introduces us to the woman who sells lottery tickets, the cigarette vendors and the best pickpockets in Europe. He tells us about the pride of the cobbler and the tea-seller's homesickness. And he describes the role of honour in Turkish culture, the temptations of fundamentalism and violence, and the urge to survive, even in the face of despair. These stories of the bridge's denizens are interwoven with vignettes illuminating moments in the history of Istanbul and Turkey and shedding light on Turkey's relationship with Europe and the West, the Armenian question, the migration from the Turkish countryside to the city and the demise of the Ottoman Empire. *Due May*

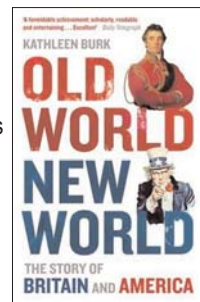


## Old World, New World

**The Story of Britain and America**

Kathleen BURK 898pp Tp \$35.00

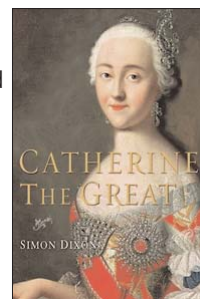
Burk sets out to tell the story of Britain and America across four hundred years, from colonisation to Iraq. There are two strands to this story. The first is the grand narrative that takes in the British colonisation of America and the American Revolutionary War, the American Civil War and the global conflicts of the 20th century. This is the story of America's inevitable eclipse of its former colonial master as a Great Power, and of the enmities and sympathies, the confusions and understandings born along the way. The second strand is quieter but no less fascinating. Displaying a breathtaking command of her subject, Burk examines the relations between the two countries in many other spheres: economic, religious, cultural, social, and even romantic. These two strands taken together make this book an unprecedented achievement. *Due May*



## Catherine the Great

Simon DIXON 416pp Hb \$59.99

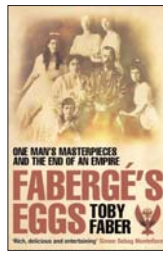
When Catherine II died in St Petersburg in 1796, the world sensed the loss of the most celebrated monarch of Europe - something no one would have predicted at the birth 67 years before of an obscure German Princess, Sophie of Anhalt-Zerbst, later married off to the pathetic heir to the Russian throne. There were few greater transformations of fortune in history. Sophie/Catherine had come to rule in her own right over the largest state in existence since the fall of the Roman Empire. She was branded both a usurper and an assassin when she seized power from her wretched husband in 1762. Yet she survived the initial succession crisis, and went on to occupy the Russian throne for 34 years. In the process, she turned her new empire from peripheral pariah to European great power. Formidably (and self-) educated, she was extremely hard-working, with a commitment to ideas and a charismatic personality. She also flouted the conventions of female rule by consorting openly with 12 successive favourites, each younger than the last. The fact that Catherine was a woman in a position of absolute power generated both the highest admiration and the most vicious satire. *Due May*



## Faberge's Eggs One Man's Masterpieces and the End of an Empire

Toby FABER 352pp Pb \$24.99

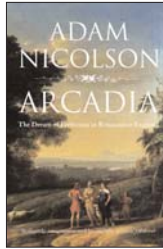
This is the story of Fabergé's Imperial Easter eggs - of their maker, of the tsars who commissioned them, of the middlemen who sold them and of the collectors who fell in love with them. It's a story of meticulous craftsmanship and unimaginable wealth, of lucky escapes and mysterious disappearances, and ultimately of greed, tragedy and devotion. Moreover, it is a story that mirrors the history of 20th century Russia - a satisfying arc that sees eggs made for the tsars, sold by Stalin, bought by Americans and now, finally, returned to post-communist Russia. There is also an intriguing element of mystery surrounding the masterpieces. Of the 50 "Tsar Imperial" eggs known to have been made, eight are currently unaccounted for, providing endless scope for speculation and forgeries. This is the first book to tell the complete history of the eggs, encompassing the love and opulence in which they were conceived, the war and revolution that scattered them, and the collectors who preserved them. *Due May*



## Arcadia The Dream of Perfection in Renaissance England

Adam NICOLSON 400pp Pb \$24.99

"Et in Arcadia Ego I too am in Arcadia". Was England once a better place? Has modernisation destroyed as much as it has improved? And can we see in an earlier Britain a way of living, an Arcadia, which now seems both ideal and remote? Through 16th and 17th century England, the changes of an approaching modernity accelerated. With the growing power of the state, the disruption of the traditional bonds of society, the breaking of communities and the marginalisation of the great families who had once balanced the power of the crown, the new mercantile, individualist world increasingly clashed with the communal and chivalric ideals of the old. To tell this story from the 1520s to the 1640s, Adam Nicolson takes a single great family, the Earls of Pembroke, their wives, children, estates, tenants and allies, and follows their high and glamorous trajectory across three generations of change, nostalgia, ambition, resistance and war. He explores a world in transition, moving from the intrigues, alliances and vendettas of the court to the intricate, everyday business of rural communities managing their affairs in times of stress. *Due May*



## Going Dutch How England Plundered Holland's Glory

Lisa JARDINE 352pp Tp \$32.99

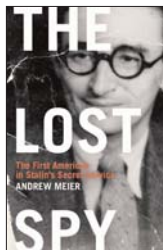
Working backwards from the bloodless revolution that set William and Mary of Orange on the English throne in 1688, this bold and ambitious work redefines the history of cultural and commercial interconnection between two of the world's most powerful trading empires at a time of great intellectual and geographical discovery. Weaving together the lives of the great thinkers of the time, Jardine demonstrates how individuals such as Anton van Leeuwenhoek, Christiaan Huygens and Margaret Cavendish, usually depicted as instances of isolated genius, in fact evolved within a context of easy Anglo-Dutch exchange that laid the groundwork for the European Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution. This fascinating history of big ideas and remarkable individuals denounces the traditional view that the rise of England as a world power took place at the expense of the Dutch, asserting instead that what is usually interpreted as the decline of the Dutch trading empire was in fact a 'passing on' of the baton to a Britain expanding in power and influence. *Due May*



## The Lost Spy The First American in Stalin's Secret Service

Andrew MEIER 416pp Hb \$55.00

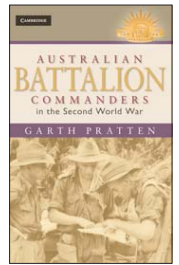
For half a century, the case of Isaiah Oggins, a 1920s New York intellectual brutally murdered in 1947 on Stalin's orders, remained hidden in the secret files of the KGB and the FBI - a footnote buried in the rubble of the Cold War. Then, in 1992, it surfaced briefly, when Boris Yeltsin handed over a deeply censored dossier to the White House. Oggins was one of the first Americans to spy for the Soviets. Based on six years of international sleuthing, Meier traces Oggins' rise in beguiling detail - a brilliant Columbia University graduate sent to run a safe house in Berlin and spy on the Romanovs in Paris and the Japanese in Manchuria - and his fall: death by poisoning in a KGB laboratory. As harrowing as *Darkness at Noon* and as tragic as *Dr Zhivago*, this is one of the great non-fiction detective stories of our time. *Due May*



## Australian Battalion Commanders in the Second World War

Garth PRATTEN 458pp Hb \$59.95

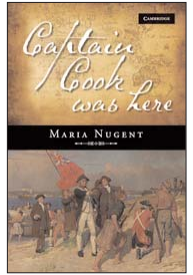
Pratten explores, for the first time, the background, role and conduct of the commanding officers of Australian infantry battalions in World War II. Despite their vital role as the lynchpins of the battlefield, uniting the senior officers with the soldiers who fought, the battalion commanders have previously received scant attention in contemporary military history. This book redresses the balance, providing a gripping, meticulously researched and insightful account that charts the development of Australia's infantry commanding officers from part-time, ill-prepared, amateurs to seasoned veterans who, although still not professional soldiers, deserved the title of professional men of war. Drawing on extensive and original archival material, Pratten recreates battle scenes and brings to light many diverse personalities. It is a story of men confronting the timeless challenges of military leadership, mastering their own fear and discomfort, in order to motivate and inspire their troops to endure the maelstrom of war.



## Captain Cook Was Here

Maria NUGENT 200pp Hb \$39.95

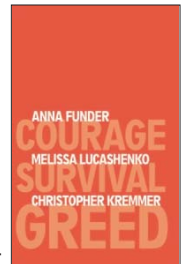
This book is a dramatic and lively account of the encounters between Captain Cook, his crew and the Indigenous people of Australia during the *Endeavour's* first landing at Botany Bay on Australia's east coast in 1770. These encounters were marked by poise, fragility, humanity, intrigue, fear, confusion and regret. The book brings together for the first time all the known surviving objects collected, and all the visual material produced during Cook's time on shore and incorporates them into the history told. The story about cross-cultural encounters in 1770 is complemented by stories told in art, word and performance by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians over two centuries or more. The book includes a rich store of historical and contemporary visual images, which are used to show the way in which the meanings and interpretations of these encounters have changed over time. *Due May*



## Courage, Survival, Greed Sydney PEN Voices: The 3 Writers Project

Anna FUNDER, Melissa LUCASHENKO & Christopher KREMMER 192pp Pb \$24.99

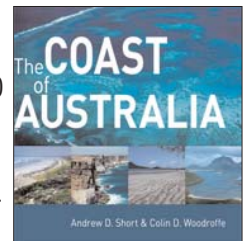
Funder examines the nature of courage in a powerful and moving essay, commemorating the life and work of the 'bravest of the brave', murdered Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, and other remarkable women who have stood up to totalitarian regimes at unthinkable cost to themselves. Australian history is full of images of ingenious settlers battling against the harsh, unforgiving land in order to survive. But is the European notion of 'survival' different from the indigenous one? Aboriginal writer Lucashenko argues eloquently and passionately that it is. Did the notion that 'Greed is Good' die out with the 1980s? Perhaps at no other moment in living memory has greed played such a defining - and damning - role. At once clear-eyed and coruscating, Kremmer contemplates greed from all angles: social, historical, economic and cultural. *Due May*



## The Coast of Australia

Andrew SHORT & Colin WOODROFFE 304pp Hb \$150.00

Australia has one of the longest, most diverse and pristine coastlines in the world. From the oldest rocks on the planet to those that are still evolving, the Australian coast is a dynamic, ever-changing suite of dramatic landforms and productive ecosystems. From iconic beaches such as Bondi and long unbroken sands of the Coorong to the endless curtain of the Nullarbor cliffs along the Great Australian Bight, this illuminating book explores these magnificent landforms, revealing how they formed and continue to change. It details the various coastal systems that operate, including beaches, dunes, estuaries, deltas, rocky coast and coral reefs. Covering 36,000 km of shoreline, this is an engaging exploration of this massive, largely undeveloped and highly variable coastline.



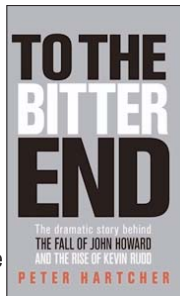
## To the Bitter End

### The Dramatic Story of the Fall of

### John Howard and the Rise of Kevin Rudd

Peter HARTCHER 292pp Tp \$35.00

On 24 November 2007, Australia resoundingly changed government. If you think you know what really happened during that tumultuous year behind the closed doors of the Liberal Party, in the back rooms of the ACTU and deep in the campaign war room of the Labor Party, think again. 2007 was a year to remember in Australian politics. It saw the dramatic fall of John Howard and the unexpected rise of Kevin Rudd. It saw the Liberal Party buckle under the inertia of incumbency and the Labor Party find new discipline and energy. It also saw the union movement at the centre of the most effective and powerful political campaign in years. This is the story of that year. It is about faltering ambition, driving ego, confidences lost and gained. It is about friends and enemies, truth and deception, humiliation and triumph. A penetrating, riveting and above all revealing exploration of a year when the political stakes had never been higher. *Due May*



## The Best Australian Political Writing 2009

Eric BEECHER Tp \$34.99

Edited by Crikey Publisher Eric Beecher, this collection includes razor-sharp commentary on Labor's first year in power; the rise and rise of Malcolm Turnbull, the Apology, and the controversy over the Henson case, climate change and the economic crisis, among others. Here, some of our leading commentators dissect the names, the events and the ideas that shaped an historic year.

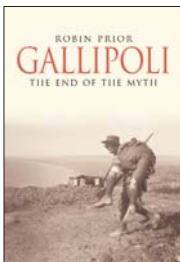


## Gallipoli

### The End of the Myth

Robin PRIOR 304pp Tp \$39.95

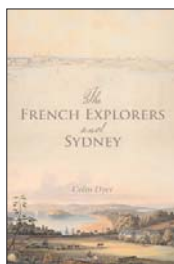
World-renowned military historian Robin Prior takes us step by step through the campaign that cost the Allies casualties of 390,000, including some 30,000 Australian and New Zealand troops. Evaluating the strategy, the commanders and the performance of individual soldiers on the ground, Prior's conclusions are hard-hitting and painful. The naval campaign was not 'almost' won by the allies, but decisively lost. The land action was not bedevilled by minor misfortunes, but devastated by fatal miscalculation and error. Even if victorious, the campaign would not have shortened the War by a single day; nor was the downfall of Turkey of any relevance to the global objectives of World War One. The Gallipoli campaign was a bad war, misjudged, poorly thought through, and despite their bravery the Allied troops died in vain. This devastating critique of the Gallipoli campaign should mark the end of many lingering questions about the event, and shatter the persistent belief in the 'romance of war'.



## The French Explorers and Sydney

Colin DYER 200pp Pb \$39.95

The early years of Sydney were witnessed by seven expeditions of French exploration between 1788 and 1831. These seven expeditions, with their total of ten ships, spent well over a year in the new town of Sydney meeting most of its leading citizens and visiting its expanding environs. The French explorers, including Freycinet, Lapérouse and Bougainville, were received and entertained by Sydney's dignitaries, including Governors King, Macquarie, Brisbane and Darling and the high-profile Macarthur family. Their revealing accounts presenting intimate details of the everyday lives at all levels of society, from the Governors' parties to 'the sickening spectacle' (as de Bougainville saw it) of convicts on the treadmills in Sydney's penitentiary. The journals and records of these French explorers and scientists offer surprising cultural insights and an engaging outsiders' perspective on the new colony and its residents.

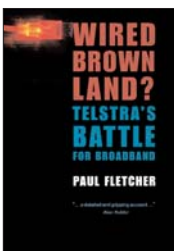


## Wired Brown Land?

### Telstra's Battle for Broadband

Paul FLETCHER 272pp Tp \$34.95

Describes the commercial and political battle between Telstra and its rivals to control Australia's broadband infrastructure, a struggle that escalates as the Government prepares to spend \$4.7 billion on a new broadband network.

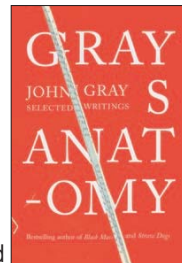


## Gray's Anatomy

### Selected Writings

John GRAY 400pp Hb \$45.00

Why is the human imagination to blame for the worst crimes of the 20th century? Why is progress a pernicious myth? Why is contemporary atheism just a hangover from Christian faith? John Gray, author of **Straw Dogs** (Pb \$24.95), is one of the most original and iconoclastic thinkers of our time. In this pugnacious and brilliantly readable collection of essays from across his career, he smashes through humanity's most cherished beliefs to overturn our view of the world, and our place in it. "If humans are different from other animals it is chiefly in being governed by myths, which are not creations of the will but creatures of the imagination. No traditional myth is as untruthful as the modern myth of progress. All prevailing philosophies embody the fiction that human life can be altered at will. Better aim for the impossible, they say, than submit to fate. Invariably, the result is a cult of human self-assertion that soon ends in farce." *Due May*



## A Guide to the Good Life

### The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy

William IRVINE 336pp Hb \$44.95

One of the great fears many of us face is that despite all our effort and striving, we will discover at the end that we have wasted our life. Irvine plumbs the wisdom of Stoic philosophy, one of the most popular and successful schools of thought in ancient Rome, and shows how its insight and advice are still remarkably applicable to modern lives. Using the psychological insights and the practical techniques of the Stoics, Irvine offers a roadmap for anyone seeking to avoid the feelings of chronic dissatisfaction that plague so many of us. Irvine looks at various Stoic techniques for attaining tranquillity and shows how to put these techniques to work in our own life. As he does so, he describes his own experiences practicing Stoicism and offers valuable first-hand advice for anyone wishing to live better by following in the footsteps of these ancient philosophers. We learn from Marcus Aurelius the importance of prizing only things of true value, and from Epictetus we learn how to be more content with what we have. If we watch ourselves as we go about our daily business and later reflect on what we saw, we can better identify the sources of distress and eventually avoid that pain in our life. By doing this, the Stoics thought, we can hope to attain a truly joyful life. *Due May*

## Keepers of the Keys of Heaven

### A History of the Papacy

Roger COLLINS 592pp Hb \$69.99

According to Pope Innocent III, "Nothing which happens in the world should escape the notice of the supreme pontiff" and for two millennia little has. Since its emergence from the ruins of the Roman Empire, the Papacy has represented the most extraordinary continuation of earthly power from the ancient to the modern world. Founded, according to legend, by Saint Peter who handed down the right to every pope to "judge all men, and be judged by none", the Papacy has kept its spiritual authority by making worldly alliances, ever since the crowning of Charlemagne, up to Pope Pius XII's clandestine pact with Hitler. For better and worse the Papacy has survived 2,000 years of schism, crusades, disgraceful conduct and spiritual questioning. *Due May*



## Little Books on Big Themes

This series from Melbourne University Press pairs leading Australian thinkers and cultural figures in a 10,000-word take on some of the big themes in life. Here are the four latest titles (all small hardbacks 96pp \$19.99 due May):

**On Humbug** by Robert Dessaix tackles humbug in the modern world; the tide of mumbo jumbo where words fall short of what they mean and motivations are not always what they appear.

In **On Privilege**, Julian Burnside asks what is privilege and who has it? Burnside's grandparents lived in a world of handsome cars, elegant tennis parties and coiffed women. As a five-year-old, he saw privilege before he heard the word or learned its meaning.

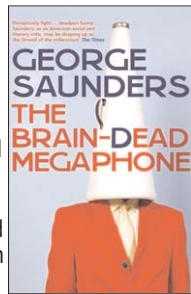
**On Resilience** by Elizabeth Wynhausen tells the story of an extraordinary, inspirational character and reflects on the mysterious quality that is resilience. A humorous, irreverent essay that arrives at contentment and joy.

In **On Doubt**, Leigh Sales asks: when society seems to demand confidence and certainty, how much courage does it take to admit doubt, especially self-doubt? In this personal essay, one of Australia's most respected journalists argues in favour of a doubtful mind.

## The Brain-Dead Megaphone

George SAUNDERS 272pp Pb \$23.99

In this, his first collection of essays, Saunders trains his eye on the real world rather than the fictional and reveals it to be brimming with wonderful, marvellous strangeness. As he faces a political and cultural reality saturated with lazy media, false promises and political doublespeak, Saunders invokes the wisdom of American literary heroes Twain, Vonnegut and Barthelme and inspires us to re-examine our assumptions about the world we live in, as we struggle to discover what is really there. *Due May*



## Ecological Intelligence

### How We Really Can Know the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy - And How That Changes Everything

Daniel GOLEMAN 220pp Pb \$32.95

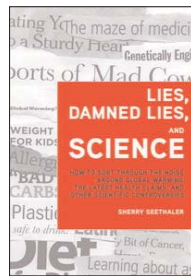
Most of us want to make the right choices as consumers. But how can any one individual's choices make a difference? And, more importantly, what are the right choices? To date, Goleman argues, our consumer thinking about issues such as the environment, health hazards or child labour has been one-dimensional, focusing on single problems in isolation from the rest. Our 'green' awareness is so superficial we often do more harm than good by ignoring the adverse impacts of the far vaster proportion of what we buy and do. But the phenomenon of radical transparency, the availability of complete information about all aspects of a product's history, is about to transform the power of consumers and the fate of business. Companies will no longer be able to control their own reputations. For the first time what they say will matter far less than what they actually do. They will be genuinely accountable. *Due May*

## Lies, Damned Lies, and Science

### How to Sort Through the Noise Around Global Warming, the Latest Health Claims, and Other Scientific Controversies

Sherry SEETHALER 224pp Hb \$32.95

Every day, there's a new scientific or health controversy. And every day, it seems as if there's a new study that contradicts what you heard yesterday. What's really going on? Who's telling the truth? Who's faking it? What do scientists actually know - and what don't they know? This book will help you cut through the confusion and make sense of it all - even if you've never taken a science class! Leading science educator and journalist Seethaler reveals how science and health research really work, how to put scientific claims in context and understand the real trade-offs involved, tell quality research from junk science, discover when someone's deliberately trying to fool you, and find more information you can trust! Nobody knows what new controversy will erupt tomorrow. But one thing's for certain: With this book, you'll know how to figure out the real deal and make smarter decisions for yourself and your family! Watch the news, and you'll be overwhelmed by snippets of badly presented science: information that's incomplete, confusing, contradictory, out-of-context, wrong, or flat-out dishonest. *Due May*

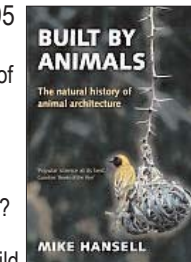


## Built by Animals

### The Natural History of Animal Architecture

Mike HANSELL 280pp Pb \$26.95

From termite mounds that in relative terms are three times as tall as a skyscraper, to the elaborate nests of social birds and the deadly traps of spiders, the constructions of the animal world can amaze and at times humble our own engineering and technology. But how do creatures with such small brains build these complex structures? What drives them to do it? Which skills are innate and which learned? Hansell looks at the extraordinary structures that animals build - whether homes, traps, or courtship displays - and reveals the biology behind their behaviour. He shows how small-brained animals achieve complex feats by repeating many simple actions and using highly evolved self-secreted materials. On the other hand, the building feats or tool use of large-brained animals, such as humans or chimps, require significantly more complex and costly behaviour. Hansell explores how animal structures evolved over time, how insect societies emerge, how animals can alter their wider habitat, and even whether some animals have an aesthetic sense.

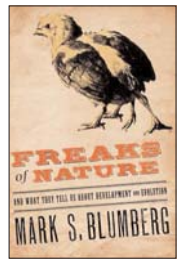


## Freaks of Nature

### And What They Tell Us About Evolution and Development

Mark BLUMBERG 352pp Pb \$37.95

Two-legged goats, conjoined twins, 'Cyclops' infants with a single eye in the middle of their forehead, double-headed snakes, and Laloo, a man with a partially formed twin attached to his chest... Blumberg turns a scientist's eye on these unusual examples of humans and other animals, showing how a subject once relegated to the sideshow can help explain some of the deepest complexities of biology. These examples of extreme bodily anomalies are in fact the natural products of development, and it is through such developmental mechanisms that evolution works. And Blumberg shows how 'freak' deformities can provide valuable windows on the intimate connections between genetics, development, the environment, and evolution.

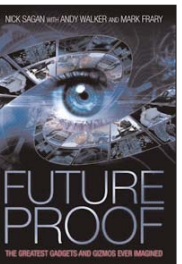


## Future Proof

### The Greatest Gadgets and Gizmos Ever Imagined

Nick SAGAN with Andy WALKER & Mark FRARY 160pp Tp \$24.99

Detailing the history, the reality and the tech spec of 50 of science fiction's most brilliant crime-fighting, space-travelling, remote controlled, light-speed, artificially intelligent inventions, this is required reading for anyone who knows their wormhole from their black holes. Featuring: Buck Rogers' jetpack; The Jetsons' flying cars; Star Trek's transporters; The Six Million-Dollar Man; 2001's artificial intelligence; Lost in Space's remote controlled robots; Vanilla Sky's Cryonics; Star Wars' Warp Drives; Back to the Future's time travel; Total Recall's Terraforming; Doctor Who's robot pets; Galactic Patrol's Cybernetics; Stargate's wormholes and Brave New World's Hypnopedia.



## Antimatter

Frank CLOSE 176pp Pb \$29.95

We know that once, antimatter and matter existed in perfect counterbalance, and that antimatter then perpetrated a vanishing act on a cosmic scale that remains one of the greatest mysteries of the universe. Today, antimatter does not exist normally, at least on Earth, but we know that it is real for scientists are now able to make small pieces of it in particle accelerators, such as that at CERN in Geneva. Looking at the remarkable prediction of antimatter and how it grew from the meeting point of relativity and quantum theory in the early 20th century, at the discovery of the first antiparticles, at cosmic rays, annihilation, antimatter bombs, and antiworlds, Close separates the facts from the fiction about antimatter, and explains how its existence can give us profound clues about the origins and structure of the universe

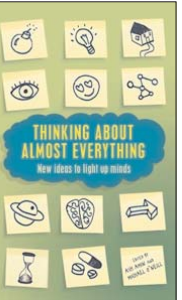


## Thinking About Almost Everything

### New Ideas to Light Up Minds

Ash AMIS & Michael O'NEILL 288pp Tp \$39.99

What do layers of waste tell us about the history of civilization? Is thinking itself determined by chromosomes? How does light illuminate the world? This book brings together original thinking on a staggering range of topics across the sciences, arts and humanities, grouped into nine imaginative and sometimes startling thematic categories. Entries on terror, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and climate change are dealt with displacement, while Presences brings together plant genetics, race, humans and animals and music theology. The short (often just one-page) essays are written in a lively and accessible style, and the book is illustrated with original and challenging images. This book shows how even the most intricate and complex knowledge can enliven public curiosity and spark new thinking on issues either known or yet to be discovered.

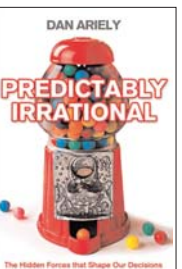


## Predictably Irrational

### The Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions

Dan ARIELY 352pp Pb \$24.99

"A marvellous book that is both thought provoking and highly entertaining, ranging from the power of placebos to the pleasures of Pepsi. Ariely unmaskes the subtle but powerful tricks that our minds play on us, and shows us how we can prevent being fooled." - Jerome Groopman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *How Doctors Think*.



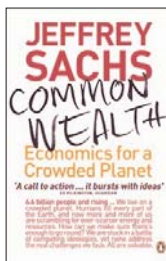


**Common Wealth**

**Economics for Crowded Planet**

Jeffrey SACHS 386pp Pb \$26.95

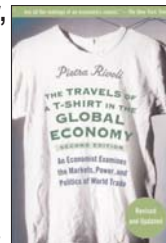
Sachs is one of the world's leading thinkers and activists in economic development. In this inspiring new book he sets out a realistic, practical plan for solving the most severe crises our world faces - population growth, climate change, extreme poverty - in a way that will ultimately benefit all of us. By harnessing new technology and a new ethic of global cooperation, he argues, we can find common ground in our crowded world, leaving a healthy, healed planet for future generations. It is a book which appeals equally to the head and the heart. *Due May*



**The Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy**  
**An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade**

Pietra RIVOLI 336pp Tp \$32.95

Now updated and revised, this second edition includes discussions of environmental issues, illustrating crucial lessons in the debate on globalisation examining the people, businesses, and politics involved in the production of the T-shirt. "An engaging and illuminating saga... Rivoli follows her T-shirt along its route, but that is like saying that Melville follows his whale... Her nuanced and fair-minded approach is all the more powerful for eschewing the pretence of ideological absolutism, and her telescopic look through a single industry has all the makings of an economics classic." - *The New York Times*

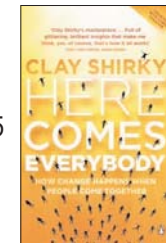


**Here Comes Everybody**

**How Change Happens When People Come Together**

Clay SHIRKY 352pp Pb \$26.95

The revolution will not be televised - it will be emailed, texted, blogged, wikied... Welcome to the new future of involvement. Forming groups is easier than it's ever been: unpaid volunteers can build an encyclopaedia together in their spare time, mistreated customers can join forces to get their revenge on airlines and high street banks, and one man with a laptop can raise an army to help recover a stolen phone. The results of this new world of easy collaboration can be both good (young people defying an oppressive government with a guerrilla ice-cream eating protest) and bad (girls sharing advice for staying dangerously skinny) but it's here and, as Shirky shows, it's affecting everybody. For the first time, we have the tools to make group action truly a reality. And they're going to change our whole world.



**The Crunch**

**How Greed and Incompetence Sparked the Credit Crisis**

Alex BRUMMER 288pp Pb \$23.95

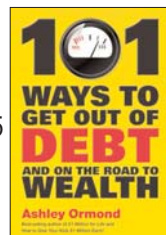
Brummer painstakingly traces the course of the crisis from its origins in the US 'subprime' market to its explosion onto the international scene. It's a story of greed, mismanagement and dithering in which bankers seeking to make a quick buck, regulators engaged in turf wars and blame-avoidance, and governments paralysed by the sheer scale of the problem all conspired to bring the banking system almost to its knees. It's also a story of victims: the millions of people in the US who have already been thrown out of their houses, the entire population of the UK who has been opted to guarantee Northern Rock with £30 billion of public money, borrowers everywhere who are now finding credit more expensive and harder to get. And, as Brummer convincingly argues, now that recession looms, this is only the beginning. *Due May*



**101 Ways to Get Out Of Debt and On the Road to Wealth**

Ashley ORMOND 208pp Pb \$32.95

This book will provide you with an insider's knowledge of how to beat the lenders at their own game. Ormond shows you how to conquer all types of debt, including mortgages, credit cards, car loans, personal loans, investment loans and small business loans. Learn how to: save a fortune in interest; get out of debt years earlier; decide which debts to attack first; find the best lending deals for your needs and manage repayment problems. Each tip is short, sharp and to the point, offering readers financial hope and practical solutions amidst the economic doom and gloom.

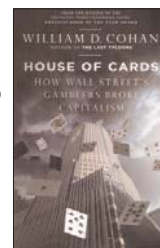


**House of Cards**

**How Wall Street's Gamblers Broke Capitalism**

William COHAN 480pp Tp \$34.95

On the evening of March 16, 2008, Bear Stearns, a swashbuckling 85-year-old institution in the financial world, sold itself for an outrageously low price to the \$2 trillion global behemoth JP Morgan Chase. Bear Stearns no longer existed and the calamitous financial meltdown of 2008 had begun. What went wrong? Former investment banker William Cohan gives the readers a front-row seat at Wall Street's catastrophic unravelling at the seams, and the end of its Second Gilded Age. Through the prism of Bear Stearns, he shows how a combination of risky bets, corporate political infighting, lax government regulations and truly bad decision making have wrought havoc on the world financial system. Cohan's minute-by-minute account of those ten days in March makes for breathless reading, as the bankers at Bear Stearns struggled to contain the cascading series of events that would doom the firm, as the US government and federal banks began to realise the dire consequences for the world economy should the company go bankrupt.

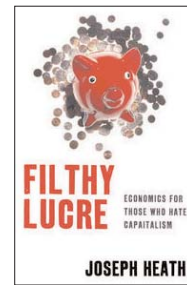


**Filthy Lucre**

**Economics for Those Who Hate Capitalism**

Joseph HEATH 352pp Tp \$35.00

A dozen times every day, individuals and organisations use economic claims to support social and political points of view. Those on the left tend to distrust economists, seeing them as friends of the right. There is something to this skepticism, since professional economists are almost all keen supporters of the free market. Yet while factions on the right naturally embrace economists, they also tend to overestimate the effect of their support on free-market policies. The result is widespread confusion. In fact, virtually all commonly held beliefs about economics-whether espoused by political activists, politicians, journalists or taxpayers-are just plain wrong. Joseph Heath, co-author of the international bestseller *The Rebel Sell* (Pb \$33.95), wants to improve our economic literacy and empower us with new ideas. He draws on everyday examples to skewer the six favourite economic fallacies of the right, before impaling the six favourite fallacies of the left. Highly readable, flawlessly argued and certain to raise ire along all points of the socio-political spectrum, this is a must-read for anyone wanting to engage in clear debate on social and political issues. *Due May*



**The Age of the Unthinkable**

**Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It**

Joshua RAMO 288pp Tp \$35.00

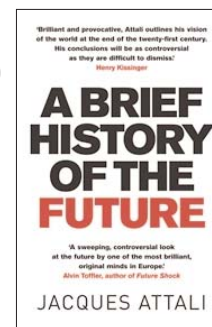
Ramo reveals in this provocative and fiercely intelligent book, the belief that globalisation is harmonising the planet has failed both tests of good science: it neither predicts nor explains our world. The US government misfired over and over again, failing to predict the World Trade Centre attacks and the rise of al Qaeda, overestimating the number of soldiers needed to depose the Taliban, underestimating the number needed to control Iraq, advocating global democracy - then wondering what to do when it produces Ahmadinejad and groups like Hamas. Now, drawing upon history, economics, political theory and his own extraordinary experiences, Ramo puts forth a radical new model for looking at the world, one that embraces its inherent unpredictability - and offers our best hope for dealing with problems and disasters as they emerge.



**A Brief History of the Future**

Jacques ATTALI 336pp Tp \$35.00

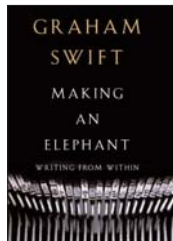
What will the world be like in 20 years, 50 years, 100? Will terrorists, pirates, dictators, droughts and floods create global chaos? Or will peace, prosperity and greater freedom bless the planet? Never has the world offered more promise for the future, yet been more fraught with potential dangers. How we respond to the crises and opportunities that await us will determine what kind of world we will bequeath to our children and grandchildren. The time to act is now. "Attali is one of the very few global thinkers who has consistently gotten it right. Well over 20 years ago, he foresaw the rise of Asia and the advent of 'nomadic technologies' such as the cell phones and iPods we now use every day. More recently he predicted the financial collapse in America long before it actually happened. Attali has unerringly grasped the arc and logic of unfolding history." *Los Angeles Times*



**Making an Elephant Writing from Within**

Graham SWIFT 256pp Tp \$34.99

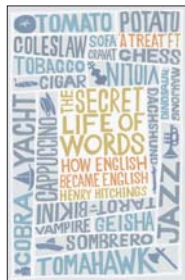
This highly personal book is a singular and open-spirited account of a writer's life. It has evolved entirely with its author, bringing pieces from various stages of Swift's career together with new essays, observations, poetry and interviews. Swift writes about the intimacy of playing the guitar and the perils of reading in public; of the pleasures of spending time with Ishiguro and Rushdie or sharing a private moment with Montaigne; of youthful adventures in Greece, the experience of Czechoslovakia mid-Velvet Revolution, and of the rich material offered on his very own doorstep by the district of London in which he lives, walks and works. This is a book of encounters, between the writer and his younger selves, father and son, present and past, author and director, reader and the page - and between friends. Full of life, charm and candour, it illustrates and celebrates the layers of experience, history and interpretation that inform not only the process of writing, but also shape the writer himself. *Due May*



**The Secret Life of Words How English Became English**

Henry HITCHINGS 448pp Pb \$27.99

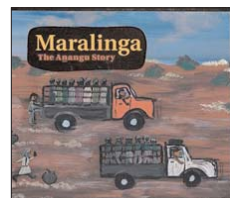
Communication is essential to our lives, but how often do we stop to think about where the words we use have come from? Have you ever thought about which words in English have been borrowed from Arabic, French or Dutch? Try admiral, landscape and marmalade just for starters. This is a wide-ranging account not only of the history of English, but also of how words witness history, reflect social change and remind us of our turbulent past. Hitchings delves into our promiscuous language and reveals how and why it has absorbed words from more than 350 other languages, many originating from the most unlikely of places, such as shampoo from Hindi and kiosk from Turkish. From the Norman Conquest to the present day, Hitchings narrates the story of English as an archive of our human experience and uncovers the secrets behind everyday words. *Due May*



**Maralinga The Anangu Story**

Christobel MATTINGLEY 71pp Hb \$35.00

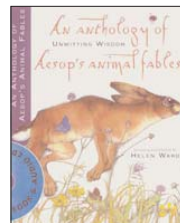
Written in conjunction with the Yalata and Oak Valley Communities, who contributed the stories and the artwork which lifts off the pages in vivid colours reminiscent of the outback. It is the story of Maralinga, the site of the British atomic bomb tests in the 1950s, which had a long history for the Anangu people. The book tells the story of the land from their point of view, and as such is an important resource for any school library. The history of white contact is not so joyous, but is recounted without rancour. Many photographs are also used, anecdotes given, and a glossary of Anangu terms - an excellent book.



**An Anthology of Aesop's Animal Fables Unwitting Wisdom**

Retold and Illustrated by Helen WARD 56pp Pb \$19.95

This has long been unavailable, so it is a great delight to have it back in stock again. Without a doubt it is the finest anthology of Aesop's fables available - the retellings are fresh and pertinent without losing the morals, and the illustrations are of the highest quality, beautifully delineated and realistically presented. For a limited time, this comes with an audio CD as well!



**Classic Poetry**

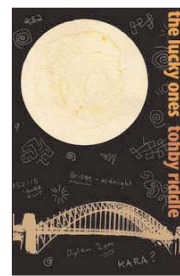
Selected by Michael ROSEN 160pp Pb \$24.95

This is an illustrated anthology of over 80 poems, accompanied by biographical sketches of the poets. It contains classic poems from Shakespeare to Blake, Wordsworth to Shelley, Longfellow to Dickinson, Yeats to Eliot and a number of poets in between (even some Australian ones - Lawson, Paterson and Wright are represented). A wonderful collection to introduce the young reader to some of the works which have stood the test of time!

**The Lucky Ones**

Tohby RIDDLE 211pp Pb \$19.95

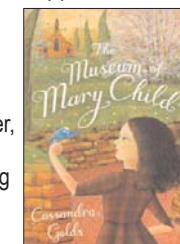
Riddle is known for his illustrated children's books, so I was very interested to read his first novel for young adults. Tom has finished school, but he's not too sure about the rest of his life. Art College isn't really doing it for him, and his closest friend Cain is always ready to lead him astray. But when Cain, who was the brightest, most interesting boy at high school starts to lose his way, Tom has to question what they're doing. A novel about aimlessness, and coming to terms with having to start making your own decisions. Believable and quietly written. Ages 14+



**The Museum of Mary Child**

Cassandra GOLDS 322pp Pb \$17.95

Heloise lives with her very strict godmother, having never known her mother. They live next to a museum dedicated to Mary Child, a building Heloise has never been allowed to enter, but which has a sinister reputation. Her life is full of Good Work and Not Wasting Time, but she yearns for more. When she finds a doll, something she has never been allowed to own, she sets in place a train of events that leads to a strange city, a desperately sad prisoner, and the choir of the unfortunates. A surreal fable, or sort-of fairy tale, for the thoughtful reader. 12+



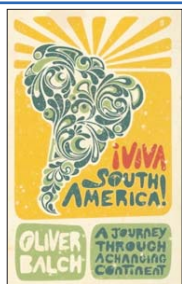
**Travel**

**Viva South America!**

**A Journey Through a Changing Continent**

Oliver BALCH 288pp Tp \$35.00

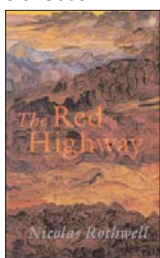
Simon Bolivar once inspired a continent to rise from its serfdom and throw off the shackles of Spanish rule, setting the course for independence, freedom and equality. Balch sets out to discover if that dream lives on. Is it fair to describe a land as 'independent' while poverty still enslaves millions, where violence lurks in the shadows and where lawlessness gnaws away at progress? Did the Liberators fail? Or are leaders such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Bolivia's Evo Morales resurrecting those long-ago ideals? Armed with a reporter's notebook and an open mind, Balch hits the road in search of answers. With the ghost of Bolivar as guide, the quest takes the reader off the tourist trail and into the weird and wonderful worlds of South American culture and society. By stepping into people's homes and into inmates' prison cells, by climbing onto dance floors and over road blocks, Balch unearths untold stories from the front line of South America's contemporary fight for freedom. *Due May*



**The Red Highway**

Nicolas ROTHWELL 278pp Pb \$32.95

This is the story of a quest - a journey down the red highway. On returning from a war zone, Rothwell begins to explore the deserts and towns, sleepy coastline and hidden worlds of Australia's north. As he travels, his journey gathers momentum and finds a shape. He has unforgettable, even mystical encounters: with a nun, an explorer, a collector and a hunter. *Due May*

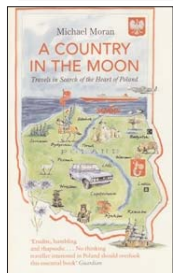


**A Country in the Moon**

**Travels in Search of the Heart of Poland**

Michael MORAN 384pp Pb \$26.99

In this uproarious memoir and meticulously researched cultural journey, Moran keeps company with a gallery of fantastic characters. In chronicling the resurrection of the nation from war and the Holocaust, he paints a portrait of the unknown Poland, one of monumental castles, primeval forests and of course, the Poles themselves. This captivating journey into the heart of a country is a timely and brilliant celebration of a valiant and richly cultured people. *Due May*

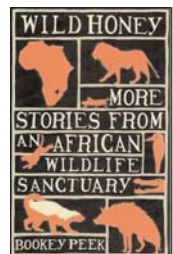


**Wild Honey**

**More Stories from an African Wildlife Sanctuary**

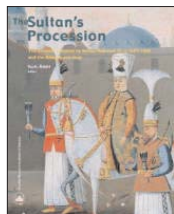
Bookey PEEK 288pp Pb \$26.95

These stories take the reader back to Stone Hills and the rich experiences this beautiful sanctuary offers. The history of the Matobo hills, daily life of the rangers and their experiences, confronting poachers, dealing with life and death, fighting bushfires and dealing with the loss of a family member to AIDS, to name a few.



Just for fun I want to tell you about a couple of books which are sitting high up on a shelf in Abbey's. They are the sort of books to be found at Abbey's, but probably not the sort you would set out to buy. So do have a good look around next time you are in the shop. What might you discover? You might for instance find these:

**The Sultan's Procession: The Swedish Embassy to Sultan Mehmed IV in 1657-1658 and the Ralamb Paintings** (\$144 Hb 342pp incl index). These Ralamb paintings are unique documents of 17th century Ottoman Empire. Find this in Middle East History.



Lovers of old maps will be interested in a University of Chicago Press title, **The History of Cartography Vol III: Cartography in the European Renaissance** (\$444 Hb 2,180pp incl index and bibliography). Previous volumes (special order only) are Vol I: **Cartography in Prehistoric, Ancient and Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean** and Vol II which is in three parts - Book 1 **Cartography in the Traditional Islamic and South Asian Societies**, Book 2 **Cartography in the Traditional East and South East Asian Societies** and Book 3 **Cartography in the African, American, Arctic, Australian and Pacific Societies**. Find these in Modern History.

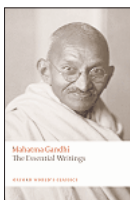
There is another book for map-lovers called **The Nature of Maps: Cartographic Constructions of the Natural World** by Denis Wood and J Fels (\$97 Hb 231pp), which discusses how particular maps are created to further the agenda of the creators. Vividly illustrated. It might change your view of Google Earth?

The Architecture section keeps growing. Some years ago, when we stocked all of the books published by Dover Publications, I remember being excited to stock a book which is regarded as the most important book on architecture. This is **Vitruvius: Ten Books on Architecture** (\$29.95 Pb 343pp), dealing with early Roman architecture. Now we have **Vitruvius Britannicus: The Classic of 18th Century British Architecture** by Colin Campbell (\$45 Pb 304pp) again published by Dover, reprinted from the 3 volumes issued in 1715. This contains 300 extremely detailed illustrations, especially of Palladian buildings. Although we don't stock all of the titles from the wonderful Dover Publications (who specialise in reprinting important works - and presenting them well bound and on good paper), we do still keep a very wide selection and of course can special order, very quickly, any title you wish.

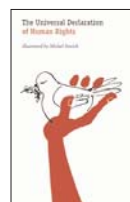
So do you feel like reading a lovely soothing novel? I must recommend Marion Halligan's latest. She gets better all the time. It is called **Valley of Grace** (\$29.95 Pb 247pp). It is set in Paris and rural France in the present, but the stories of several interlocking couples range widely; they refer back to medieval times and to WWII. Mostly, a good life is appreciated and her descriptions of people, place and food are gorgeous. Enjoy!

However, if you want a tough, tense thriller, choose Marshall Browne's latest called **The Iron Heart: A Franz Schmidt Mystery** (\$29.95 Tp 390pp). This is set in 1939 as our one-eyed hero is set up as Chief Auditor at the Reichsbank to infiltrate the Nazi Party on behalf of another party member who has a different agenda. Schmidt sees himself as a chivalrous knight, just like the Teutonic Knights that he studies. The first novel in this series was **The Eye of the Abyss** (\$16.95 Pb). Find Marshall Browne's books in Australian Crime and Australian Fiction. He has also written a trilogy of stories set in late 19th century and early 20th century Melbourne called **Burnt City** (\$20 Pb), **The Trumpeting Angel** (\$19.95 Pb) and **The Gilded Cage** (\$17.95 Pb), which are excellent. I also recommend his stories set in Italy, called **Inspector Anders and the Blood Vendetta** (\$32.95 Tp), **Inspector Anders and the Ship of Fools** (\$19.95 Pb) and **The Wooden Leg of Inspector Anders** (\$16.95 Pb).

It's hard to know when there is a new arrival in our Classics section, but I did notice one recently and it reminds me to mention that Classics is a good spot to look for all sorts of non-fiction titles that you might expect to find in their specific section. The book was **The Essential Writings** by Mahatma Gandhi (\$22.95 Pb 408pp). This new selection is edited and introduced by Judith Brown. The previous edition was in 1987. There are Explanatory Notes, a Chronology, as well as Bibliography and Chronology about this profound and original thinker. You may have looked for this in Indian History, but look again - in Classics. Other such titles are Marco Polo's **The Travels** (\$13.95 Pb) and Charles Darwin's **On the Origin of Species** (\$18.95 Pb for Oxford World's Classic, with many more editions in Life Science).



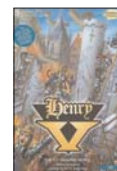
I found a nice little book in New Titles which will eventually go into Hardback Classics. It is an illustrated edition of **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (\$22.95 Hb). Quirky illustrations by Michel Streich. Issued by Allen & Unwin in association with Amnesty International. I've sent a copy to daughter Jane on the Burma border.



One Sunday recently I showed a young man AND his father just where to find the **Asterix** books on the first floor. We carry the complete range of **Asterix** books, as well as the complete range of **Tin Tin** books. I noticed we also had **Asterix Omnibus III** (\$35 Lp 152pp), which includes **Asterix the Gladiator**, **Asterix and the Banquet** and **Asterix and Cleopatra**. Single Asterix books are priced from \$17.95 to \$20. I also notice on our website that Language Book Centre has Asterix titles in other languages, including **Asterix alle Olimpiadi** (Hb \$29.95) for readers of Italian.

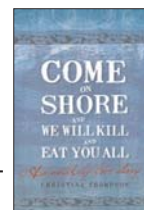
While shelving in Young Non-Fiction, I discovered in the Shakespeare subsection an excellent book called **Shakespeare's Stories** retold by Beverley Birch and illustrated by James Mayhew (\$26.99 Lp 128pp). It includes five plays: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Julius Caesar*. I really recommend this. The stories are not too simplified and the tone of the text is lyrical, with much quoting of Shakespeare as part of the action, (not separated as poetic text). The illustrations are gorgeous. Nice for young and old.

We do of course also have Charles and Mary Lamb's **Tales from Shakespeare**, edited by Marina Warner (\$22.95 Pb) and another edition illustrated by Joelle Jolivet (\$29.95 Hb) and the Penguin edition (\$8.95 Pb). There is even a Penguin Reader edition (\$11.95 Pb) for Easy Reading by students of the English language. There is also a hardback edition in a slipcase for \$29.95. Our big Shakespeare Studies section is on the ground floor in Abbey's between Poetry and Plays. This is where you will find books of Shakespeare criticism and biography, such as Marjorie Garber's **Shakespeare After All** (\$45 Pb 989pp) in which this respected lecturer takes you on a chronological tour through all 38 plays, as well as all the plays in many different editions, plus many different editions of cribs. I even noticed **Henry V: The Graphic Novel** (\$27.95 Pb), which comes in three versions - Original Unabridged Text, Plain Text or Quick Text! These glossy books look like an up-market version of Classic Comics, but with the additional sophistication of being able to choose the level of difficulty. We also have a big selection of audio CDs and cassettes.



Did you enjoy *Rogue Nation* on ABC in March? I was pleased to see John Gregg playing Banks again. And I want to remind you about Penelope Nelson's **Bligh's Daughter** (\$20 Pb 240pp). It is a novel and her historical research has been rounded out by her sound imagination. A good picture of early Sydney.

I found an unusual book in Biography called **Come On Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All: An Unlikely Love Story** (\$29.95 Pb 270pp) by Christina Thompson, a globe-trotting American who was editor of *Meanjin* in 1994 and is now editor of *The Harvard Review*. This could just as easily be in Pacific History because although it is partly her story of marrying a gorgeous Maori boy whom she met in the Bay of Islands and thus examines the meeting of two cultures, it is also an open-hearted retelling of Pacific history by someone who already had that romantic, emotional attachment to Polynesia that I recognise. (I was born in Ngaruawahia, which I think I can still spell!) There is a terrific bibliography at the end. This has been out for several months, so it will be in the backlist part of Biography.




Good Idea! To celebrate 30 years of *The People's Choice Award* in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards this year, you now can vote online. Choose from **A Fraction of the Whole** by Steve Toltz (\$24.95 Pb), Helen Garner's **The Spare Room** (\$29.95 Hb), Kate Grenville's **The Lieutenant** (\$45 Hb), Julia Leigh's **Disquiet** (\$19.95 Pb), Joan London's **The Good Parents** (\$24.95 Pb) and Tim Winton's **Breath** (\$24.95 Pb). Go to [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au) and click on 2009 NSW Premier's Literary Awards under Important Dates.

Imagine this! At the recent Leading Edge booksellers' conference, Abbey's was awarded *Australian Bookshop of the Year* in the Metropolitan category (as opposed to Rural), which of course we were thrilled to accept. This is quite a prestigious award as over 180 bookshops are now members of the Leading Edge buying group.

A reminder: you may get this May *Advocate* early - if so, try and come along to Abbey's at 6.30pm on Thursday 30 April for the launch of Father James Murray's second volume of autobiography. It is called **The Judas Tree: Reflections on a Turbulent Life 16-38** and Blanche d'Alpuget will do the honours for him.

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# Abbey's Bestsellers April 2009

## Non-Fiction

- Statute of Liberty: How to Give Australians Back Their Rights** by Geoffrey Robertson (Pb \$19.95)
- Dreaming and Other Essays** by W E H Stanner (Pb \$32.95)
- Heaven and Earth: Global Warming: The Missing Science** by Ian Plimer (Pb \$29.95)
- Quarterly Essay #33: Quarry Vision: Coal, Climate Change and the End of the Resources Boom** by Guy Pearse (Pb \$16.95)
- The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work** by Alain De Botton (Hb \$45.00)
- The Two Trillion Dollar Meltdown: Easy Money, High Rollers and the Great Credit Crunch** by Charles Morris (Pb \$27.95)
- Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is Another Way for Africa** by Dambisa Moyo (Tp \$32.95)
- The Ascent of Money** by Niall Ferguson (Pb \$35.00)
- The Bone Readers: Atoms, Genes and the Politics of Australia's Deep Past** by Claudio Tuniz, Richard Gillespie & Cheryl Jones (Hb \$35.00)
- Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln** by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pb \$29.95)

## Fiction

- Ransom** by David Malouf (Hb \$29.95)
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** by Steig Larsson (Pb \$22.95)
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- The Women in Black** by Madeleine St John (Pb \$29.95)
- The White Tiger** by Aravind Adiga (Tp \$32.95)
- The Slap** by Christos Tsiolkas (Pb \$32.95)
- The Girl who Played with Fire** by Steig Larsson (\$32.95)

**Editor:** Ann Leahy  
**Contributors:** Eve Abbey, Adrian Hardingham, Lindy Jones & Ann Leahy

Binding Key	
Pb	Paperback
Tp	Trade paperback (larger format)
Lp	Large paperback (very large)
Hb	Hardback
Bb	Board Book
Lh	Large hardback (very large)
Fx	Flexible Cover
Ca	Cassettes

## Now in Paperback

### Poe: A Life Cut Short

by Peter Ackroyd \$24.95  
 Edgar Allan Poe's life (1809-1849) was Gothic, mysterious, theatrical, fatally flawed, original, dark, dazzling, satirical, inventive - in short, an ideal subject for Ackroyd.

### Australia's Birthstain

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 by Babette Smith \$35.00

A groundbreaking history of convicts in Australia which lays bare the distortions and myths that caused the nation to deny its own past.

### The Great Wall

by John Man \$29.95  
 Man covers two millennia of history, from the country's first unification to the present day, when the Great Wall, built and rebuilt over centuries of war, has become a symbol of tranquility.

### The Age of the Warrior

**Selected Essays** by Robert Fisk \$24.99  
 "Brilliant. Fisk at full throttle. 500 pages of his truthful scorn left me wanting more. O brave old world, that has such journo's in it." - *The Independent*

### The Finger Book

by John Manning \$24.99  
 What could fingers and sex possibly have in common? Using a simple measurement of the human hand: the 'finger ratio', or the length of the ring finger relative to the index finger, Manning examines a dizzying group of questions about human behaviour, from sexuality, to musical ability, to predisposition to disease.

### Life in His Hands

by Susan Wyndham \$24.99  
 The incredible story of the young classical pianist, Aaron McMillan, and the brain surgeon Charlie Teo who saved his life.

### The Philosopher and the Wolf

by Mark Rowlands \$24.99  
 Charts the relationship between Rowlands, a rootless philosopher, and Brenin, his well-travelled wolf. More than just an exotic pet, Brenin exerted an immense influence on Rowlands as both a person, and, strangely enough, as a philosopher, leading him to re-evaluate his attitude to love, happiness, nature and death. *Due May*

## CHANGES IN AUSTRALIAN BOOKSELLING

There has been interest from many people in the Productivity Commission's inquiry into changes in the Copyright Act and the Parallel Import Restrictions on books, and the way that this affects booksellers like Abbey's and book buyers such as you. After submissions from publishers, authors, booksellers and other interested parties, the Commission has issued a draft proposal that significantly alters the current situation regarding copyright and the availability of books in Australia.

The effects of the Commission's draft proposal are many and varied. Here at Abbey's we are especially concerned about the fact that this would, in the Commission's own words, see a "contracting" of independent booksellers in Australia. This country has an enviable and increasingly unique situation where independent bookshops of all sizes are still able to operate successfully and provide service, advice and a range of books, often in some otherwise neglected areas of bookselling. Given this, the Commission's words are worrying indeed. Having less independent bookshops is not good for anyone. As people who value and use independent booksellers, this will affect you, and we encourage you to read the submissions on the Productivity Commission's website. Or you can chat to us here: Peter Milne (peterm@abbey.com.au) is most up-to-date and is happy to discuss the details with you.

Abbey's supports the submissions of many in the industry who request this draft proposal be abandoned. The current rules are not perfect, but the proposed changes seem to be even less so. The future of Australian books and Australian stories is under threat. For more information, visit [www.ausbooks.com.au/petition.php](http://www.ausbooks.com.au/petition.php)



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