

CAE BOOK GROUPS 253 FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE CAE.EDU.AU / 03 9652 0620





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Sign up to our newsletter and like us on Facebook to keep informed about upcoming literary events, book reviews, book and movie giveaways and lots more.

## Start your own group

See page 4 for more information about starting a group.

## Join an existing group

Some of our existing groups are looking for new members. Please contact CAE Book Groups, and we will help you find a group in your area.

Box Hill Institute trading as Centre for Adult Education RTO 4687



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Exceptional Women

















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# Introduction

## **Centre for Adult Education**

CAE is a leading provider of Adult and Community Education and has been providing lifelong learning opportunities to Victorians for 70 years. CAE has a strong focus on delivering nationally recognised and accredited training as well as non accredited short courses, and connects with the community through socially inclusive practices that recognise diversity and creativity. Located in the heart of the arts and café area of Melbourne's CBD, CAE offers a vibrant and supportive adult learning environment, flexible learning options, skills recognition, practical training and supervised work placements.

## **CAE Book Groups**

The program has significant autonomy: members of CAE Book Groups select their own pool of titles for their year's reading list; decide on monthly meeting times; choose their own members; and pick a place to meet such as a private home, café or library. CAE Book Group members can also suggest titles for inclusion into the program. From international award winners to debut and Australian authors, there are hundreds of books to choose from. Reading guides accompany each box of books and the questions provided can be used to frame each group's discussion.

CAE Book Groups has a long history that can be seen in our selection of titles, or even in the way the discussion notes are written. We like to think of it as a great trip down memory lane; we hope you do too.

## **Using Dialogue**

A selection of Reactions (feedback on the books that our members have read) from group members as well as our staff favourites are included to provide a broad perspective on the titles in the program. The Reactions we receive from all our book groups provide vital feedback to CAE Book Groups staff.

There are three indexes: Author Index (arranged alphabetically by author surname), Title Index and Box Number Index. The Title Index also advises which books are available as eBooks and large print editions.

Please ensure all members of your group have access to *Dialogue*, which can also be downloaded as a PDF via our website at www.cae.edu.au. If you would like to receive a copy as a PDF, just email us and we will send you one.

The titles are grouped thematically, with fiction and nonfiction titles often sitting side by side. You will find a description of the themes in the content list.

## Borrow an eBook

As part of your CAE Book Groups membership, you can borrow an eBook version – in addition to the print copy – absolutely free! To receive eBooks, please ensure you have filled out the online form to Register Your Interest. The form is available on the eBook section of the Book Groups website. Please note some titles have limited availability and are only available upon request, and titles will be prioritised for members who are using eBooks due to visual impairment.



# Join or Start a Book Group

## Starting a Book Group

CAE Book Groups is a great way to connect with other readers in your local community. Get together with friends, neighbours or colleagues to discuss the sort of books that might appeal to you as a group and choose a suitable time and venue. Once you have between 6-15 people and have decided on the number of discussion meetings you would like to have, you are ready to take the next step of electing a CAE Book Group Secretary.

Contact CAE Book Groups via phone, email or through our website to receive a New Group Pack so you can begin selecting your books. Your first book will arrive within two weeks of receipt of membership payments and book selections.

## Joining a Book Group

If you would prefer to join an existing group, please contact CAE Book Groups via phone, email or through our website, and we will help you find a group in your area and confirm the appropriate pro-rata fee. To ensure you and the new group are the right match, your first meeting with a new group is free.

## Running a Book Group

#### The CAE Book Group Secretary

CAE Book Group Secretaries provide a permanent delivery address for books and liaise with CAE staff on book selections, payments and enquiries from potential new members. Secretaries are vital to the success of book groups and ensure CAE keeps in touch with the needs of each group. The role of secretary can rotate between group members from year to year.

#### Where do CAE Book Groups meet and how often?

CAE Book Groups meet whenever they want through the year and choose to receive CAE books 6, 9 or 11 times a year. Groups choose the time, place and format of their meetings and direct their own discussions.

#### Books available for loan

Each month, CAE selects a book from the list of possible titles your group has chosen from *Dialogue*. Groups have the option of requesting books in priority or random order. We will only ever send books on your selected list.

#### **CAE** discussion notes

Kickstart your meeting with CAE discussion notes. While there is no formal tuition or assessment, all books are accompanied by specially commissioned notes written by our experienced note writers, complete with discussion questions. More than just a book review, the notes are guaranteed to get your group talking.

## How much time do we have to read the book before the discussion?

One month. Books are delivered to the Group Secretary prior to the scheduled meeting. Members collect their copy of the book from the secretary then meet again the following month to discuss the book they've just read and collect their next book.

#### How do we receive and return books?

CAE sends a box in advance of each meeting to the delivery address nominated by the Group Secretary. Books are returned to CAE by the Group Secretary via courier or post. Return labels are included in all boxes. Groups operate most efficiently when books are returned to and collected from the Group Secretary by each individual member at the scheduled meeting.

#### What do I get for my fee?

Fees cover the delivery and return of book boxes each month and access to the CAE eBook catalogue. Each box contains copies of the selected book (maximum 15 copies) and notes on loan for each individual member. Group Secretaries should only distribute books to paid members. Group members can also sign up for CAE Book Groups Newsletter to receive timely news on events and competitions, as well as book reviews by CAE Book Groups staff.

Victorian Annual Membership Fees 2020 (per member)

No of meetings	Full Fee	Seniors	Concession	Secretary
11	\$153	\$139	\$103	\$89
9	\$142	\$129	\$96	\$83
6	\$113	\$104	\$77	\$67

Interstate Annual Membership Fees 2020 (per member)

No of meetings	Full Fee	Seniors	Concession	Secretary
11	\$176	\$154	\$121	\$100
9	\$159	\$140	\$110	\$91
6	\$122	\$107	\$85	\$70

#### **Enrolment form**

Please see page 91 for an enrolment form, or download it via our website www.cae.edu.au/book-groups/. The enrolment process can be handled by post, email or phone. If you are eligible for a seniors or concession fee, you will need to provide a photocopy of your senior or concession card. Students are also eligible for a discount (same as the seniors fee). For more details on discount eligibility, please see our website or contact us.



# Growing Up, Moving On

Exploring the experience of childhood and finding one's way in the world. This chapter celebrates both fiction and nonfiction coming-of-age stories.



#### About a Bov **Nick Hornby**

Will, a 36-year-old bachelor who is delighted to be child-free. gets mixed up with 12-year-old Marcus and his newly separated mother. This entertaining novel is about families, being a man, being a kid ... and the importance of being cool.

**D** 1998 286pp **B**1706

#### All the Pretty Horses Cormac McCarthy



While not a formula western or a 'man's book', this novel has very American themes. At 16, John Grady Cole leaves the Texan ranch where he grew up but has no future, to ride into the Mexican frontier: into adventure, romance and rough male justice. Strong masculine point of view, powerful landscapes and distinctive style.

**6** 1992 302pp **B1481** 

## An Australian Son

**Gordon Matthews** 

An extraordinary life story without literary pretensions. Adopted into a Melbourne family in the 1950s, Matthews' distinctive colouring set him apart at school and in adolescence he lost the sense of where he belonged, until he identified as an Aborigine. His search to uncover his origins opens up questions of adoption, colour and Aboriginality.

1996 230pp B1503

#### Enjoyed Butterfly?

Try Surrender by Sonya Hartnett [B1985]



#### **Bad Blood**

Lorna Sage

In Lorna's bizarre upbringing in a North Wales town her dissolute vicar grandfather and furious grandmother are dominating figures. 'A totally unexpected book ... rackety, painful, sometimes menacing and mad. Out of it all she has made something devastatingly funny, full of characters and full of exhilarating resilience and sly wit,' said reviewer Anthony Thwaite.

**№** 2000 281pp **B1663** 

#### Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress

Dai Sijie

During Mao's Cultural Revolution, two sons of doctors are sent to the country for 'reeducation'. To keep their sanity, they have their sense of humour and also some distraction from the charming daughter of the local tailor. When they discover a suitcase full of forbidden literature, new worlds are opened to them. Delightful, funny and unexpected.

**6** 2001 172pp **B1671** 

#### Barn Blind

Jane Smiley

This is a striking study of a woman of powerful will. Entirely focused on the world of horses and riders. Kate has conscripted all four of her children in the service of her vision. But their own adolescent natures assert themselves, and events move to a conclusion the family has never imagined. Written with superb insight into human nature and the young.

**G**(L) 1980 218pp <u>B1433</u>

## ..... Barracuda 🗅

**Christos Tsiolkas** 

From the author of The Slap comes an exploration of class, identity and the meaning of success. Danny, from a working class background, obtains a scholarship to a prestigious college and builds his identity on becoming an Olympic swimming champion. But what happens when things come crashing down? Explicit language and content may offend some readers.

**G** 2013 516pp **B2202** 

#### The Bean Trees 🗘

Barbara Kingsolver

Young Taylor Greer has grown up poor in rural Kentucky and achieved her first two aims - to avoid becoming pregnant and to get away from her hometown. She buys an old car, heads West, acquires an unexpected responsibility, stops somewhere in Arizona, and begins a surprising new life.

**1** 1988 246pp **B1869** 

#### The Bell Jar

Sylvia Plath

The only novel by this well-known poet. A brilliant treatment of the effect of society's expectations on a sensitive young woman who went to England, married the poet Ted Hughes, had two children and committed suicide seven years later.

**1963 260pp B0188** 

#### The Boy in the Green Suit Robert Hillman



In 1965, 16-year-old Robert Hillman boarded a boat for Ceylon, wearing a green suit and carrying a suitcase of books and a typewriter. When the ship arrived in Athens instead, a penniless Hillman began an adventure that led him to Istanbul, Tehran and Kuwait. Punctuated by tales of growing up in rural Victoria, this is a tender, funny memoir of a young writer-in-the-making.

**D E** 2003 232pp **B**1872

#### Breath Tim Winton



When paramedic Bruce Pike arrives too late to save a boy found hanged in his bedroom, he senses this lonely death is an accident. Pike, too, was once addicted to extremes, barely knowing when to stop. Winton's ninth novel returns to the remote West Australian coast and the fictional universe of Sawyer. Simple yet profound, Breath is a moving story of youth's reckless compulsion to oblivion.

**G** 2008 216pp **B1992** 

#### Butterfly

Sonya Hartnett



Plum Coyle is nearly fourteen and on the fringe of her peer group. When her glamorous next-door neighbour Maureen, a young wife and mother, befriends her. Plum feels reinvented. But Maureen has an ulterior motive for taking Plum under her wing. Gripping, disquieting and beautifully observed.

**G** 2009 215pp **B2045** 



#### The Catcher in the Rye 🗅 J.D. Salinger



Holden Caulfield is a 16-year-old American boy who has just flunked out of his third smart school. His own values reveal that he has a deep intuitive sense of what has gone wrong with the culture to which he belongs, and the book is written from his point of view and in his American period slang.

**1**951 224pp **B0257** 















#### Cat's Eye

**Margaret Atwood** 

A Canadian painter, returning to Toronto for a retrospective exhibition of her work, is caught up in a reflection of her life and of the driven relationship with her 'best friend', Cordelia. Comic, mind-stretching, terrible in its grasp of children's needs and cruelties, hopeful - and a compulsive read!

**1** 1988 421pp **B1249** 

## The Chosen

**Chaim Potok** 

Two young Jewish boys growing up in Brooklyn around the time of World War I study Talmud together, but differences in upbringing, attitude and belief create tension in their friendship. Will Danny, the Rabbi's son, become a Rabbi himself or will he break with tradition? Zionism, the birth of the state of Israel and the destruction of the European Jews are important themes in this novel.

**●** 1966 281pp **B01**21

#### Coda

Thea Astley

Kathleen's memory and body show signs of failing, but she is still her feisty, independent self, wanting to lead her own life. How long, she wonders, before she becomes a dumped granny? In this brilliant small book, with its glittering satiric wit and aching poignancy, Astley is at her best.

**B** 1993 188pp **B** 1436

## A Complicated Kindness

Miriam Toews

This Canadian novel examines a family whose life within their fundamentalist Mennonite community has reached a crisis point. Narrator, teenaged Nomi, is superbly sustained, her voice is funny, dark, and piercing. Tuned in to every hypocrisy yet barely conscious of her own confusion, she is torn by her love of those who have left and the father who remains.

**D D** 2004 246pp **B** 1920



#### David Copperfield **Charles Dickens**

This partly autobiographical novel wonders 'whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life'. A wonderful blend of comedy and pain, with Dickens' unforgettable characters: the Micawbers and Murdstones, Mrs Gummidge, Uriah Heep, Miss Betsey and Mr Dick.

**G** 1850 920pp **B0224** 

#### Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

**ZZ Packer** 

Surprising, witty and involving, these eight stories follow characters on the brink of change. Their stories are connected by themes of race, black identity, religion and belonging. They range from a teenager who flees the Pentecostal fanaticism of her hometown, finding herself in a dangerous world of drugs and sexual exploitation, to a girl who stages a political sit-in at a local café.

**BS** 2003 243pp **B1829** 



#### Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close 🗅

Jonathan Safran Foer

Foer explores grief through the eves of 9-year-old Oskar, whose father died in the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster, Oskar is an intelligent, sensitive and creative kid. whose business card lists Inventor, Amateur Entomologist, and Origamist as some of his interests. When he finds a mysterious key in his father's wardrobe, he embarks on an investigation to help him understand his loss.

**1** 2005 326pp **B1922** 



## For Today I Am a Boy

As the only son of Chinese immigrants, Peter struggles with the strong patriarchal expectations of his parents - especially as he has always felt he should have been born a girl. This delicately handled coming of age novel follows Peter and his sisters as they journey into the wider world, finding their places and conquering the shadows of the past.

**B** 2014 256pp **B2203** 

#### A Fortunate Life

A.B. Facey

Abandoned as a child by his widowed mother in the late 1890s, Facey endured extraordinary hardships in the pioneering days of the Western Australian wheatbelt. experienced Gallipoli, survived the Depression and, having taught himself to write, penned this powerful autobiography.

**D** 1981 326pp **B** 0360

A remarkable life spanning the twentieth century and the major events of that time period. Facey was alone from the age of eight, on a journey that taught him independence, self-reliance and a can-do approach to life. Universally enjoyed by our group, we gave it a rating of 4.5 stars. A must read for Australians, highly recommended.

Exeter Book Group

#### Fresh Fields 🗘

Peter Kocan

With little money, an indifferent mother and no home, a shy 14-vear-old boy drifts between city and bush, slowly becoming alienated and distrustful. Fresh Fields is a dark portrait of the evolution of a loner sustained only by a potent inner-life, where love and death are increasingly confused. As a lonely, silent teenager in 1966, award-winning novelist Kocan shot and injured Arthur Caldwell, the federal opposition leader of the day.

**6** 2004 373pp **B1880** 



## A Gate at the Stairs

Lorrie Moore

Tassie, a 20-year-old college student from the American Midwest, gets a job as part-time nanny for an affluent middle-aged couple who harbour a dark family secret and are in the process of adopting a biracial child. Tassie's time away has changed her perspective and during a visit home, she sees her family differently, including her brother Robert, who is being approached by the military.

**£** 2009 322pp **B2068** 

## The Getting of Wisdom

Henry Handel Richardson

A semi-autobiographical account of Laura, a Victorian country girl whose quirky individuality creates awkwardness in the conformist atmosphere of a girls' private boarding school.

1910 240pp B0131

## **Ghost River**



WINNER Victorian Premier's Literary Award

Ren and Sonny dedicate their free time to exploring the Yarra River and its secrets, stories and adventures. The Yarra winds itself through their lives as the boys grow, and they must eventually find the courage to face the threats to their river - but at what cost? An atmospheric and haunting novel from the bestselling author of Shadowboxing and Blood.

**1** 2015 305pp **B2230** 

## The Go Between

L.P. Hartley

A study of early adolescence, as an old man recalls his boyhood in a country house in the 1920s. His life has been shaped by his involvement in the relationships and traumas of three adults. A profound novel about social stratification, adolescence and the sometimes destructive effects

(L) 1953 280pp **B0187** 

#### Great Expectations

**Charles Dickens** 

Late, great Dickens, An anonymously given fortune takes Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice, from his pre-industrial world to a gentleman's life in 19th century London. The rich cast of characters includes Miss Haversham, Magwitch, Jaggers, and Wemmick - incomparable figures of comedy, terror and human and social insight.





#### The Hanging Garden **Patrick White**

Critics have hailed this posthumously published novel as an unfinished masterpiece. It is WWII, and two children are sent to a house with a wild garden overlooking Sydney Harbour. White tenderly explores the Sydney of his childhood, the nature of war, and the ceaseless human yearning for connection. This is an unexpected opportunity to re-connect with an iconic Australian novelist.

**BB** 2012 240pp **B2161** 

#### Hello, Goodbye **Emily Brewin**

Set in 1968 during the time of the Vietnam War, sheltered 17-yearold May Callaghan's future is torn apart when she gets 'in trouble' with her high school boyfriend Sam, who has moved to Melbourne and is awaiting draft orders. Once she can no longer hide from small-town gossip and her conservative Catholic mother, May takes a train to Melbourne and meets feminist Ruby and Indigenous student Clancy who introduces her to the liberal antiwar movement that changes her life forever.

**GG** 2017 344pp **B2271** 

The book resonated with our group having been of a generation living through those times. All agreed it was an accurate description of the times. Issues and themes in the book led to a reflective discussion with some very personal and moving stories shared by our group members.

Jervis Bay Sea Changers

## The Highest Tide

Jim Lynch

13-year-old Miles O'Malley is an avid beachcomber who discovers a rare giant squid washed up on the mudflats of the Washington coast. Miles becomes an overnight sensation, attracting attention from scientists, spiritual healers, and media vultures. This charming coming of age story is funny and well-paced, and raises lots of material for discussion.

₱ 2005 246pp B1924

#### His Illegal Self

**Peter Carey** 

Che is the precocious son of radical student activists. Raised in isolated privilege and denied access to television and news, his timely rescue pitches him into a hippy commune in the jungle of tropical Queensland. Here he slowly confronts his life, learning that nothing is as it seems. Carey lends his narrative wizardry to a beautiful story of love between mother and son.

#### Hoi Polloi

**Craig Sherborne** 

This boyhood memoir has a startling vividness, its comedy and pathos deriving partly from the remorseless candour with which Sherborne portrays his social-climbing parents and the sexual fumblings of adolescent boys. His parents move to Sydney from a small New Zealand town, where they hope to join the 'hoi polloi', as his mother mistakenly calls the upper crust.

**D E** 2005 197pp **B** 1908

## How the Light Gets In

M.J. Hyland



A bright 16-year-old cannot wait to escape from the poverty of her family life in Sydney. Living as an exchange student with an American family seems like a dream come true, but things quickly begin to unravel. A masterly study of adolescent spirit, defiance and longing for acceptance, as well as the complexities of family dynamics.

#### The Hundred Secret Senses

**Amy Tan** 



Two half-sisters link the Chinese and American cultures when the life of 5-year-old Olivia is taken over by her older sister's traditional Yin world of ghosts and stories. For thirty years she struggles to get away from them and live a 'normal', American life. But the marvellous story unfolds to surprise her, and us. into other ways of seeing life in both countries.

**G** 1995 345pp **B** 1468



## I for Isobel 🗘

**Amy Witting** 



The small but unrelenting cruelties of Isobel's unloving parents make her life a misery, but her struggle for creative self-knowledge is sustained by glimpses of kinder adults and by the enchantment of words and writing. A shapely and vivid evocation of day to day Australian life.

**B** 1989 158pp **B** 1246



## Jasper Jones 🗅

Craig Silvey



Summer, 1965. Charlie Bucktin, a bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an unexpected visitor: Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious and solitary, Jasper represents danger and intrigue, so when he begs for Charlie's help, Charlie nervously follows and witnesses Jasper's horrible discovery.

**G** 2009 368pp **B2061** 

#### Johnno

David Malouf

David Malouf's first novel is set mainly in the Brisbane of the 1940s and '50s. It is the story of two men who spend much of their time together, although they seem to have little in common. Distinguished by its fine depictions of people and places and its deep personal feeling.

**1**975 170pp **B0277** 



#### The Kite Runner

Khaled Hosseini

Amir and Hassan have an eventful childhood set against a backdrop of tumultuous Afghan history, from the fall of the monarchy and Soviet intervention, to the flight of refugees to America. When unforeseeable events take Amir back to Afghanistan in the rise of the Taliban regime, he must right old wrongs in this poignant, moving exploration of love and responsibility.

**6** 2003 324pp **B1860** 



#### The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid

Bill Bryson

In 1950s Des Moines, Iowa, Bill Bryson is the thunderbolt kid. Via this superhero persona (with a handy death ray for zapping morons) he vividly recalls the experiences of his childhood in baby boomer America, and draws on a fascinating breadth of social history to bring alive an era of unprecedented affluence and downright weirdness.

**DE** 2006 309pp **B1970** 

#### Lilian's Story Kate Grenville

The exuberant but painful story of a child born in Sydney in 1901, who bursts beyond constraining stereotypes to make herself as large and unique as her own sense of life. Lilian will stay with you long after you finish this moving, exceptional and unique novel. A must-read for any Grenville fan.

**GG** (L) 1985 211pp **B0819** 















#### Middlesex Jeffrey Eugenides



Because of a rare genetic deficiency, the narrator is a hermaphrodite. The book covers a startling family history of Greek-American migrant experience and moves into an evocation of Callie/Cal's predicament: in this either/or world, what does it mean to discover that one is both and neither?

**⊕ ⊕** 2002 529pp **B1792** 





#### Milkman Anna Burns





An utterly original novel that explores coming of age in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Burns' strange and ambiguous protagonist (named Middle Sister) is a brilliant narrator, and through her unique point of view, we are delivered a novel that is all too familiar, and at the same time, completely foreign. Milkman's unique prose and portrayal of the stigma of standing out, the pressure for conformity, static gender roles and the divisions that exist in society will defy reading expectations and provoke a rich discussion.

**GG** 2018 360pp **B2297** 

Enjoyed Great Expectations?

Try
Mister Pip
by Lloyd Jones
[B1959]

#### Miss Gymkhana, R.G. Menzies and Me 😂

Kathy Skelton

Skelton was born in 1946 and grew up in seaside Sorrento, Victoria. Subtitled 'Small Town Life in the Fifties', this book is a portfolio of snapshots and anecdotes evoking a world of red-hot commos, the young Queen, strict Catholics, the Petrovs, Billy Graham, the Olympic Games and the Saturday matinée. Sure to provide laughs of recognition and a wave of reminiscences.

**№** 1990 153pp **B1278** 

What an incredibly lively discussion! One of the best evenings of reflection and frivolity as we all exchanged our personal memories of growing up in the 40s, 50s and 60s. Many members could really identify with the recollections of Kathy Skelton in this book. We all loved what we read, being transported back to our early years and wallowed in reminiscence.

Blackburn South 3

# Mister Pip C



After civil war trouble reaches Matilda's tropical island, one white man remains. When Mr Watts begins to read aloud from *Great Expectations*, Dickens' hero Pip comes alive for Matilda, but on an island at war, imagination can be a dangerously provocative thing. This is a moving, uplifting love

letter to books and reading. **B** 2006 220pp **B**1959

#### **Modern Interiors**

Andrea Goldsmith

After forty-one years of prosperous marriage, Philippa Finemore is widowed. Hoping to be not only a grandmother and babysitter, she makes major changes in her life - but the family circle responds with indignation and fury.

**1**991 242pp **B1414** 

## Mudeye

**Bary Dowling** 

Dowling's memory is precise and detailed, and his clear, sensuous writing brings to life the highly individual past of the boy and his family; the provincial city of Ballarat – its lake, shops, schools, churches; the surrounding farms; the people. An emotional and powerful autobiography.

**№** 1995 266pp **B1465** 



#### Old School Tobias Wolff



In an American boys' school in 1960 where a strong culture of literature and writing prevails, writers Robert Frost, Ayn Rand and Ernest Hemingway visit to judge a literary competition, the prize a private audience with the writer. This exploration of adolescent identity, writing and the complexities which surround ambition, offers much to discuss.

**6** 2003 195pp **B1889** 

#### One of the Wattle Birds

Jessica Anderson

In the days before her exams, Cecily is more concerned with questions about the recent death of her mother than with study. Her need to make sense of things provides the action in this funny and engaging study of the brio and independence of the young.

**●** 1994 192pp <u>B1419</u>

# Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit

Jeanette Winterson

A young girl's world is forever changed when she falls in love with another girl. Winterson skilfully portrays the ensuing emotions and confrontations common to all human experience - but particularly acute in an evangelical household.

**G** 1985 171pp B1312

#### The Outcast

Sadie Jones

In 1957, 19-year-old Lewis travels home from prison in the south of England. His return echoes his father's return from war a decade earlier, before his mother died in a tragic accident. Her death strained the relationship between Lewis and his father, and as time blends Lewis' grief with anger, childhood friend Kit's attempts to help will release dark secrets.

**6** 2008 345pp **B20**40

## Out Stealing Horses

Per Petterson



15-year-old Trond witnesses the sudden breakdown of his friend, the first in a series of incidents in the fateful summer of 1948 leading to the destruction of his family. This coming of age tale explores the relationship between father and son, and the impact of war. Winner of the International IMPAC Dublin Award.

**1** 2005 264pp **B1993** 

# Over the Top with Jim Hugh Lunn

Journalist Hugh Lunn was born in Brisbane in 1941. This engagingly down to earth book evokes his boyhood in the 1940s and '50s and is a breath of fresh air. Full of resonances for anyone who knew Australia in those years.

**◎ (**) 1989 272pp <u>B1311</u>

## Past the Shallows

**Favel Parrett** 



#### **SHORTLISTED** Miles Franklin Literary Award

A deceptively simple story about two brothers growing up on the wild Tasmanian coast, and the tragedy that fractured their family beyond repair. The raw island landscape frames this story, where the austere prose belies a book of great sensitivity and power. This debut novel is effortless and commanding. and the last third absolutely shattering. You will not forget Harry and Miles.

**6** 2011 254pp **B2127** 

Set in the wild east coast of Tasmania, near Bruny Island, this book captures the landscape, the power and beauty of the sea and also the remoteness of this fractured family. This is a truly great book. The language is hauntingly beautiful and the story unfolds with the backdrop of violence in the family home, the way children support each other and finally the end. Where are those boys now? Every member of our group said they were reduced to tears in the telling of this story. We would highly recommend this book to all groups. Unforgettable.

Blackburn South 3

#### A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

James Jovce

Joyce is one of the great 20th century novelists. This book is largely autobiographical and traces Stephen Dedalus' boyhood and progressive isolation in Ireland and commitment to art: his education, the growth of his creative powers, and his religious and sexual consciousness.

**1916** 256pp **B0276** 

#### Purple Hibiscus

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



15-year-old Kambili grows up in sheltered privilege in a Nigeria ravaged by political unrest. She lives in fear of her fanatically religious and tyrannical father, a charismatic Catholic patriarch. When Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, Kambili and her brother are sent to live with their aunt, which allows Kambili to blossom in a new life amid the turmoil of the old.

**●** 2004 307pp **B1933** 

#### The Puzzles of Childhood Manning Clark

The author of the six-volume History of Australia undertakes the history of his own early vears, from his infancy to his Melbourne Grammar davs. His memories focus on his intensely religious parents whose existence together was riven by various conflicts. Moves between Sydney, Kempsey, Phillip Island and Belgrave.

**1989** 213pp **B1258** 



#### Ride on Stranger Kylie Tennant

Written with a sly humour, this novel tells of the trials of the 'impossible' Shannon Hicks sent off to a doughty aunt at a tender age. The aunt is impossible too, so Shannon makes her own way in the world of the unskilled, conmen, eccentrics and losers, the world of Sydney in the 1930s.

**1**943 301pp **B0928** 

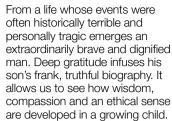
#### The Road from Coorain

Jill Ker Conway

This evocative, readable autobiography of the author's life to her mid-twenties conveys day-to-day details - the smells, sounds, weather, plants and people. Why did she leave Australia for a distinguished intellectual career, and how did her family and the droughtvulnerable plains of their sheep property in New South Wales shape her sensibility?

1989 238pp **B1289** 

#### Romulus, My Father 🗅 Raimond Gaita



**D** 1998 208pp **B** 1554

#### Roundabout at Bangalow **Shirley Walker**

This Australian memoir moves from a childhood in the lush rainforests of the Byron Bay

hinterland to farming a sugarcane property in north Queensland: from the restrictive small town life of Grafton to an enjoyable time as a mature age student at university. Walker has a keen eye for her human and natural surroundings and her writing unfolds in a dryly amusing voice.

№ 2001 232pp **B1805** 



## Saving Jessie

**Imogen Clark** 

Only names have been changed in this true story of a Canberra family who discover that their youngest child is addicted to heroin. Intelligent, talented and loved, Jessie did not fit the stereotype of the young person who turns to drugs to escape from pain or abuse. A candid, unsensational account of a family trying to learn how far it is possible to help.

1999 277pp **B1741** 

#### Shadowboxing

**Tony Birch** 

A collection of ten linked stories about the life of a boy growing up in Melbourne's Fitzroy during the 1960s. Michael's world is one of simple pleasures, family life and love, punctuated by random acts of brutality. The reader follows as he matures into a sensitive adult who can forgive, but never quite forget, the past. A fascinating snapshot of working-class life in inner-city Australia.

**GG** 2006 178pp B1912

#### Sing Fox to Me

Sarah Kanake

In 1986, 14-year-old Samson and his twin brother Jonah are sent to live with Clancy, the grandfather they've never met. As Samson, who has Down syndrome, begins to understand the situation both Jonah and Clancy fall into a wild obsession to find the Tasmanian tiger, a mystery linked to Clancy's long-missing daughter.

**₱** 2016 264pp **B2248** 

#### Skylarking

Kate Mildenhall

Based on true events, the novel revolves around the friendship between Kate and Harriet, two daughters of lighthouse keepers in an isolated coastal town of late 19th century Australia. As the pair approach womanhood, the arrival of fisherman McPhail finds Kate torn by jealousy for McPhail's attention toward Harriet. Then, one moment at McPhail's hut, Kate's life is forever changed. A heartbreaking novel that explores the complexity of adolescent friendships and the price we pay for our mistakes.

**G** 2016 288pp **B2249** 

#### The Smallest Color

Bill Roorbach

In this fast-paced, funny, dark first novel, Roorbach builds an engaging portrait of the turbulent 60s in the States: free love and drug experiments, the naïve innocence of some and the restless violence of others. Gradually, the entwining tales join - strands of the present and past, the man of 45 and the boy of 15, the 60s and the 90s.

**1** 2001 325pp **B1810** 

#### Solid Bluestone Foundations 🗘

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Former Associate Professor of History at the University of Melbourne, Kathleen Fitzpatrick evokes her South Melbourne girlhood, with its tensions between Protestant grandfather and Irish Catholic grandmother, trade and public service, her schooling and early university experiences. Full of Australian people and places.

**DE** 1983 210pp **B1290** 













#### Spies Michael Frayn



Set in Britain during World War II, Spies takes us into a world under threat, but a threat situated in the imaginings of two small boys living out the Blitz in a middle-class suburb. Superbly written, this novel combines suspense, anguish, humour and surprising twists.

**● ©** 2002 213pp **B1691** 



#### Tell Me I'm Here

Anne Deveson

When her son Jonathan was 17, Deveson realised he had schizophrenia. Here she traces seven years of his illness, showing the fear and anguish which this condition produces in patients and in those close to them. An important book – informative, warm, humane, and deeply moving.

**№** 1991 269pp <u>B1342</u>

#### The Tin Moon

Stephen Lacey

'We had the rocket up on three house bricks and were ready to light the petrol,' begins this nerve-fraying account of young boys' doings in a small town outside Sydney. From a 10-year-old's viewpoint, we take in kaleidoscopic impressions of school, family, new words and a world which offers endless scope for getting into everything — including trouble. A cliff-hanging novel in which hilarity blends into darker comedy.

**●** 2002 300pp <u>B1693</u>

## Tirra Lirra by the River

Jessica Anderson



Nora Porteous returns as an old lady to the Queensland town of her girlhood. With an ironic eye, she reviews her experiences there and tries to place them amongst the various strands of her life. A brilliant novel, free from illusion.

**●** 1978 141pp **B0120** 

#### Too Close to the Falls

Catherine Gildiner

Growing up in respectable 1950s Lewiston, Catherine Gildiner had a highly unusual childhood. Probably today's hyperactive child, Cathy was set to work in the family pharmacy at age four under the doctor's orders. Prescription delivery rounds provided a fund of anecdote and escapade that Gildiner uses to brilliant effect in this captivating memoir.

**№** 1999 350pp **B1798** 

#### Tuvalu

Andrew O'Connor

Outsider Noah exchanges his directionless life in Melbourne for a dead-end teaching job in Tokyo. His absent girlfriend and inability to speak Japanese are perfect excuses for isolation until the gorgeous, manipulative Mami Kaketa crashes into his life. This intriguingly offbeat debut explores love, lust, honesty and commitment. Perceptive and droll, O'Connor captures the darker side of the expatriate experience.

**●** 2006 347pp **B1957** 



#### **Uncle Tungsten**

Oliver Sacks

Sacks takes a look at himself, unearthing the source of his scientific curiosity in a sometimes troubled childhood in wartime Britain. He was born into a distinguished, scientifically oriented London family, and developed a fascination with metals, gases, chemistry and the discoveries of pioneer chemists. An unusual, warm and witty book.

**1** 2001 337pp **B1661** 

#### Under My Skin

**Doris Lessing** 

An outstanding 20th-century autobiography, this first volume takes Lessing from her African childhood to London in 1949. Her freedom in the African landscape, her turbulent relationship with her parents, her intense involvements with people, politics, and everything around her are conveyed with keen intelligence. Small print.

1994 419pp B1565

#### **Unpolished Gem**

Alice Pung

Set in Melbourne's western suburbs, this documents the arrival of Pung's Cambodian Chinese family to Australia in the 1970s. Populating her pages with eccentric characters, she captures the essence of the Asian immigrant experience. This meditation on cultural difference is also a coming of age story of a talented woman struggling to balance her parents' dreams with her own.

**1** 2006 282pp <u>B1958</u>



# The Voluptuous Delights of Peanut Butter and Jam

Lauren Liebenberg

In Rhodesia in the late 1970s, sisters Nyree and Cia's father is conscripted to fight against the black freedom fighters. The girls inhabit an innocent world, roaming their run-down colonial farm, until their damaged, orphaned cousin Ronin arrives. A beautiful, sad story about childhood in a time of civil war.

**●** 2008 245pp **B2015** 



#### NEW

Warlight Michael Ondaatje





From the bestselling author of *The English Patient* comes a gripping historical narrative that questions what remains after war. In 1945 siblings Nathaniel and Rachel have been abandoned by their parents, and left in the care of a man they suspect might be a criminal. They are drawn into his circle of friends who seem to want to protect and educate them. Twelve years later, Nathaniel reflects on this experience, and how this time has shaped his life.

**66** 2018 304pp **B2295** 

## What Was Lost

Catherine O'Flynn



Ten-year-old junior detective Kate follows 'suspects' at a shopping centre and befriends a man called Adrian. But when she disappears, Adrian falls under suspicion. Years later, Adrian's sister Lisa and security guard Kurt glimpse a little girl on the centre's security cameras. Could it be Kate?

**€** 2007 242pp **B1996** 

# When the Night Comes Favel Parrett



Isla and her brother see the world in grey until Bo enters their lives. A cook on a Danish ship bound for Antarctica, Bo lodges with them while his ship is in port, expanding Isla's world with his stories. This is an enchanting tale about the magic of the ocean, the mysteries of the universe, and of life and death, darkness and light.

**●** 2014 256pp **B2225** 

#### When We Were Orphans

Kazuo Ishiguro

A celebrated detective is driven to solve the mystery of the disappearance of his parents when he was a child. The novel becomes a disturbing, challenging exploration of the relationship between the colonial British, China, and Japan, and of the way simplistic ideas of oneself and the world might distort reality. Set in England and Shanghai in the early and mid-20th century, this is an ironic, complex and deeply moving tragic comedy.

**1** 2000 368pp **B1652** 

#### Wildlife 😊 🛟 Richard Ford

In the summer of 1960, the town of Great Falls, Montana, is ringed by fires. When young Joe's father loses his job and goes off firefighting, his mother meets Warren Mitchell. In spare, understated prose Ford evokes a young male making his way in a world of adult upheaval which he only partly comprehends. This is a moving, memorable read.

**P** 1990 162pp **B1293** 



# **Exceptional Women**



#### Animal, Vegetable, Miracle

Barbara Kingsolver

When bestselling author Barbara Kingsolver and her family move from suburban Arizona to rural Appalachia, they take on a new challenge: to spend a year eating locally produced food. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, and complete with original recipes, Kingsolver makes a passionate case for putting the kitchen back at the centre of family life, and diversified farms at the centre of our diet. Small print.

**№** 2007 352pp **B2006** 

## Are You Somebody?

Nuala O'Faolain

Roddy Doyle said of this remarkable memoir: 'Writing about herself. Nuala O'Faolain has also written about Ireland. It is a cruel, wounded place and this book has become an important part of the cure'. This extended 1998 edition, subtitled The Life and Times of Nuala O'Faolain also includes almost 200 pages of her lively and perceptive journalism.

**D E** 1996 434pp **B** 1591



## The Bloody Chamber

Angela Carter

Carter's subversive retelling of familiar fairy tales restores their power to surprise and even to shock. Female or feminist? This sensual, daring and varied collection can provoke strong reaction and discussion. Small print.

**D** 1979 126pp **B1318** 



#### The Chase

Ida Mann

To be female, born in England in 1893, and to leave school at 16 without university entrance qualifications: these seem unlikely beginnings for Oxford's first woman professor. The rare account of a woman whose passion for her medical work is central in a dauntless and long life which included travelling, a passionate marriage in her fifties and her work documenting and treating trachomas in Aborigines.

**№** 1986 217pp **B1197** 

interesting book about an amazing woman and we thought it the best we have it to other groups - it certainly generated a lot of discussion. A fascinating autobiography, interesting on so many levels. members attended Oxford and he lived in the same room as Ida. We had a great evening with lots of discussion.

Glen Waverley Ralton Renegades

## Chocolat

Joanne Harris



'We came on the wind of the carnival.' So begins this magical tale of Vianne, her daughter Anouk, and a chocolate boutique nestled in the tiny French village of Lansquenet seductive, sensual and just a little mischievous. It's the Church versus chocolate when the locals are tempted, the priest outraged. Try me ... test me ... taste me ... Who can resist?

**GG** 1999 394pp **B1633** 

#### The Courtesan's Revenge

**Frances Wilson** 

Born in 1786. Harriette Wilson became one of the celebrated courtesans of Regency London. She entranced men with her wit and character as much as her beauty. Her conquests included royalty, at least three Prime Ministers and the Lord Chancellor. When her rich former lovers refused to pay her an annuity Harriette exacted her own revenge on the aristocracy, eliciting the Duke of Wellington's famous retort: 'publish and be damned'. Small print.

**D E** 2003 359pp **B**1815



#### Desert Flower

Waris Dirie & Catherine Miller

Waris Dirie tells her life story in this co-authored book. A Somali desert child, she suffered her people's customary genital rituals, but aged 12 ran away from an arranged marriage. After years of domestic service, Waris is now an international model and Special Ambassador with the United Nations. Direct and without introspective profundity, this is genuinely 'the extraordinary journey of a desert nomad'.

1998 369pp B1744

#### The Diaries of Jane Somers

**Doris Lessing** 

The editor of a successful women's magazine, Jane Somers is elegant, competent, self-assured and self-contained until her attention is claimed by a tiny, fierce old woman who lives nearby, ill and in poverty. A difficult alliance develops between the two.

**1**984 510pp **B1270** 

#### Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood 🗅

Rebecca Wells



When an utterly original motherdaughter team get into a savage fight over a New York Times article that refers to the mother as a 'tap dancing child abuser,' the fall out is felt from Louisiana to New York to Seattle. But Vivi's intrepid gang of life-long girlfriends, the Ya Yas, unforgettable Southern belles, sashay in and conspire to bring everyone back together.

**B** 1996 356pp **B** 1682

## Drawn from Life

Stella Bowen

During her art school years in England Stella Bowen met the avant-garde artists of her day and, eventually, the writer Ford Madox Ford. The two lived together for 10 years, first in Sussex where their daughter was born, and later in France. Witness the literary and artistic world of Paris in the 1920s and 1930s, the difficulties of doing work of your own while a handmaid to the genius of another, the struggle to bring up a daughter and the break up after Ford's affair with Jean Rhys.

1941 303pp B1811



#### Edna Walling and Her Gardens 🛟

**Peter Watts** 

Peter Watts describes the life, career, style and influence of Edna Walling. A writer as well as a gardener, generations of Australians have been able to absorb the Walling philosophy on plant groupings, colour, pathways, rockwork, and the integration of house and garden.

1991 136pp B1988













#### Elizabeth David

Lisa Chaney

England was still in the grips of post-war food rationing when Elizabeth David's first books appeared, French Country Cooking and A Book of Mediterranean Food. With her evocations of vibrant colours and flavours, she captured the imagination of a generation of cooks. Daughter of a Conservative MP, David was courageous and independent, a complex character whom one reviewer called 'an elegant, witty, charming minor monster'.

**1** 1998 482pp **B1734** 

## **Excellent Women**

Barbara Pym

'... practically anything may be the business of an unattached woman with no troubles of her own, who takes a kindly interest in those of her friends.' Set in the shabby-genteel world of flats, academic societies and tea rooms of London after World War II, with an Austen like ear for dialogue.

**1**952 238pp **B0776** 

## The Eye of the Reindeer

**Eva Weaver** 

In 1913 Ritva is only sixteen when she is shipped off to Seili, an asylum for troubled women on an island in southern Finland. Her only hope comes in the form of Martta, a headstrong indigenous Sami woman with whom she embarks on a bold escape to the North, a mythical place of reindeers where freedom is possible. The novel explores love, family and betrayal and an exploration of the indigenous Sami people of Scandinavia.

**●** 2016 384pp **B2257** 

Enjoyed *The House of Spirits*?

Try
The Summer that
Melted Everything
by Tiffany McDaniel
[B2256]



# A Fence Around the Cuckoo

**Ruth Park** 



A lively account of Ruth Park's early years in New Zealand. We see the dense bush of that country's isolated regions, the Maori people whose lives intersected with hers, the dramas within a battling Irish Catholic family, and the intense poverty during the Depression years.

**N E L** 1992 294pp <u>B1372</u>

#### First Lady

Kay Cottee

Making this voyage was Kay Cottee's dream. Following her triumphant return after 189 days at sea, she was named 1988 Australian of the Year. Here is her detailed account of the voyage – its highs and lows, the extremes she endured, and the dangers presented by icebergs, whales, rocks and huge seas.

**№** 1989 226pp **B1373** 

#### Fishing in the Styx Ruth Park

This second volume of Ruth Park's popular autobiography is set in Australia. Her warm, frank record reveals an admirably productive life – as writer of 'everything', wife of D'Arcy Niland, mother of five, and, above all, a getter of wisdom in work, trouble, loss and joy.

(L) 1994 302pp <u>B1406</u>

# Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence

Doris Pilkington & Nugi

Nugi Garimara tells the story of three young girls who in 1931 escaped from the Moore River Native Settlement north of Perth intending to walk home to the northern desert. We see the realities of social policy at that time, but the focus is on an extraordinary effort of willpower, knowledge, strategy and stamina.

**1996** 133pp <u>B1756</u>

#### Friends, Lovers, Chocolate

Alexander McCall Smith

The second novel in the Sunday Philosophy Club series. Isabel Dalhousie is an Edinburgh philosopher, and when her niece Cat decides to take a holiday, Isabel agrees to help out at her delicatessen. One of her customers has recently had a heart transplant and is being haunted by memories he feels are not his own. Isabel soon finds herself following another risky investigation.

**1** 2005 297pp **B2051** 

# From Strength to Strength

Sara Henderson

Marriage to a glamorous American soon became life in a tin shack in a sea of red dust on a remote Northern Australian cattle station. On Charlie's death, Sara discovered he had left her with massive debt and a failing property which she managed to rebuild.

**● 1992 337pp <u>B1376</u>** 

# From the Beast to the Blonde

Marina Warner

Warner's book explores the origin of fairy tales in women's culture, using symbolic means such as magic castles, impossible tasks, beasts and blondes to address urgent life issues. A difficult, stimulating and sumptuously illustrated book.

**№** 1994 458pp **B1444** 

## The Full Cupboard of Life

**Alexander McCall Smith** 

The fifth book in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. Mma Ramotswe has been approached by a wealthy lady to investigate several suitors. Are these men just interested in her money? Alexander McCall Smith's 'novels are ... extremely funny: I find it impossible to think about them without smiling' – Mail on Sunday (UK).

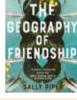
**●** 2003 212pp **B2049** 



NEW



#### Geography of Friendship Sally Piper





Twenty-year-old friends
Samantha, Nicole and Lisa set
off through the bush, but none
of them realise what impact this
adventure will have on them
or the danger they will face.
Decades later, they decide to
revisit this hike to find what they
have lost. A story of the value
of friendship and how time
changes us.

**6** 2018 264pp **B2294** 



#### Getting Equal

Marilyn Lake

This 'History of Australian Feminism' is an eye opener, full of lively, sharp and generous portraits of significant (often forgotten) women and telling (often amusing) anecdotes. Can a mother be an independent woman? Do you want to be equal? Hugely readable and discussable.

1999 316pp B1759

#### The Girls

Robin Levett

Levett draws on an amazing memory and a sprightly, comic, forceful disposition to restore her part of the Australia of the 1920s and '30s and her war service in the '40s. You'll find it all here: Sorrento, South Yarra, the Hermitage, Toorak College, the National Gallery School, the WRANS and WAS(B), postwar England; the adventurous freedoms and startling constraints of her girlhood.

**№** 1997 264pp **B1533** 

We enjoyed reading this book - it generated a very interesting and positive group discussion. The setting was local and historic bringing fond memories. Keilor Community Centre

#### **Gravity Well**

Melanie Joosten

A beautifully constructed novel told from the points of view of two very different women: Lotte, an ambitious and free-spirited astronomer returning home after a devastating diagnosis, and her former best friend Eve, whose passion for sound is matched by her entry into motherhood. Joosten intelligently employs the use of gravity and solar systems to depict the complexity of relationships, collision of timelines, and the drifting apart and coming together of family: both family we are born to and the ones we choose.

**B B** 2017 288pp **B2272** 



#### Hanna's Daughters Marianne Fredriksson

From 1871 three generations of a Swedish family live through marked social change: from primitive rural life to industrialised society to the information age. A complex chronicle of women's lives, unsentimental about the burdens of family history, gender and character.

**1994** 299pp **B1617** 

#### Hidden Lives

**Margaret Forster** 

Which lives are significant, and why? Forster's 'family memoir' traces three generations of women: her grandmother, her mother and herself - of workingclass background, born and raised in Carlisle, an industrial town in North England, each experiencing radically different circumstances and opportunities. 'Let no one say that nothing has changed, that women have it as bad as ever,' Forster concludes.

1995 309pp B1510

## The House of the Spirits

Isabel Allende

This is the beautiful, touching story of the Trueba family, following their lives through the post-colonial social and political upheavals in Chile in the Latin American magic realism style. Follow volatile patriarch Esteban, his wife Clara, their daughter Blanca and their granddaughter Alba in this epic novel of love, magic and fate.

**1** 1985 491pp **B1176** 



#### I Don't Know How She Does It

Allison Pearson

Oh, the chaos of life, balancing a job as a fund manager, two small children, a husband and a nanny who never listens. A young mother juggles time for her family while struggling with the 'old boys' network'. Will she cope? Often hilarious, sometimes sad, this novel portrays working motherhood in the 21st century.

**⊕** 2002 357pp **B1785** 

#### In the Company of Cheerful Ladies

Alexander McCall Smith

The sixth book in the No.1 Ladies Detective Agency series. Precious Ramotswe is now married to Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, but life is still full of mishaps, mysteries and personality clashes. 'The story unfolds at a familiar gentle pace ... evoking a powerful but simple morality: that sharing our hearts with each other improves us all' -Sunday Times.

**1** 2004 264pp **B2050** 

## The Invisible Woman

Claire Tomalin

This biography opens up the world of Ellen 'Nelly' Lawless Ternan, an actress who at eighteen met the older, married Charles Dickens, Tomalin makes a strong case for their parenting of illegitimate children. She follows Nelly's life through the decades after Dickens' death.

**D E** 1990 333pp **B** 1512

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## Jane Austen: A Life 🛟

Claire Tomalin

The heroines in Austen's six novels inhabit a world of stability and continuity, yet Tomalin sees Jane Austen as a woman living on the margins of a competitive, money-oriented world, part of a lively, chaotic family and a more volatile character than previously thought.

**1997** 358pp **B1583** 

## Jane Eyre 🗅

Charlotte Brontë

Jane Eyre moves from a harsh, orphaned childhood to Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with Mr Rochester, and is menaced by the madwoman in the attic. Her quest for independence, in romantic circumstances, has exceptional emotional power.

**GG** (L) 1847 560pp **B0024** 

## Joan Makes History

Kate Grenville

The several Joans whose stories animate this book put women into the action of the last two centuries of Australian history. Vivacious, diversified vignettes are set into the narrative of Joan and Duncan, who also appear in Lilian's Story.

••••••

**D** 1988 285pp **B** 1202



#### The Kalahari Typing School for Men

Alexander McCall Smith

The Kalahari Typing School for Men is the fourth volume of the bestselling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. Precious Ramotswe has competition from a new EX CID. EX NY. EX cellent detective agency and Mma Makutsi, who believes in 'enterprise with compassion', runs evening classes for men.

**6** 2002 210pp **B2009** 



#### The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul

**Deborah Rodriquez** 

Sunny, café proprietor, needs a plan to keep her customers safe; Halajan, her 60-year-old landlady, is willing to risk all for love; young, pregnant Yazmina needs protection; Isabel is a journalist with a story of her own; Candace, a wealthy American, follows her Afghan lover to Kabul. This novel captures the fears and longings of each as the women make a life under the watchful eves of the Taliban.

**6** 2011 304pp **B2124** 

Enjoyed Berlin Syndrome?

Try Gravity Well by Melanie Joosten

















#### Madeleine Helen Trinca



Late blossoming author Madeleine St John (*The Women in Black*) was brilliant and troubled. This biography follows her childhood in Sydney to years in London council flats, culminating with the publication of four acclaimed novels in the last decade of her life.

**№** 2013 272pp <u>B2194</u>

#### Malinche's Conquest Anna Lanvon

The gifted young woman who translated for Cortes in his 16th-century conquest of Mexico is remembered by the Mexican elite as a traitor but is celebrated in popular legend. Lanyon uncovers her 'survival amid catastrophe' to see the luminous traces of a woman who was among the founders of modern Mexico.

**№** 1999 233pp <u>B1739</u>

#### NEW

#### A Month of Sundays Liz Byrski

Adele, Judy, Ros and Simone

know each through an online book club. When Adele decides to invite the group to the Blue Mountains in an effort to enjoy her retirement, they finally meet face to face. The books they choose to bring to the group reveal more about themselves, and force them to face some of their fears. A love letter to books and their readers, and what our favourite books can uncover.

**● ©** 2018 352pp **B2299** 

#### Morality for Beautiful Girls Alexander McCall Smith

The third in the bestselling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. Precious Ramotswe has financial worries, puzzling cases to solve and the ethical dilemma of a beauty pageant.

**●** 2001 246pp <u>B1987</u>

#### Mrs Cook

Marele Day

Before James Cook departed on his final voyage, he had been at home with his wife Elizabeth for only four of their 14 years of marriage. She raised their six children, only to outlive them. This 'nonfiction novel' imaginatively reconstructs the domestic life of the sea captain's wife.

**●●** 2002 357pp <u>B1775</u>



# The Natural Way of Things

**Charlotte Wood** 



Two women wake to find themselves held captive in the desert with a group of eight others, and slowly realise they all have something in common: in each of their pasts is a sexual scandal with a powerful man. But who is punishing them, and what for? This is a stark exploration of contemporary misogyny and corporate control – and the beauty (and courage) of sisterly love.

**● ©** 2015 320pp **B2237** 

## Nine Parts of Desire

Geraldine Brooks

Working in the Middle East, Brooks learned a lot about what life is like for Islamic women. Focusing on individuals in different countries and in various roles, professional and domestic, she traces the origins of today's practices, showing that oppression of women is inconsistent with Islam in its purest form. Informative, readable, discussable.

**D** 1995 255pp **B1543** 

Enjoyed Paradise?

Try
The Underground
Railroad
by Colson Whitehead
[B2270]

# The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

Alexander McCall Smith

Expansive middle-aged female detective Precious Ramotswe brings her intelligence and intuition to bear on problems and mysteries in her small town. Far removed from the darkness and blood of many crime novels, this is a book full of humour, good heart and gently ironic observation.

**●** 1998 235pp **B1794** 

#### No Place for a Nervous Lady

**Lucy Frost** 

Lucy Frost edits the diaries of 19th-century women pioneers in Australia's outback. Compelling and absorbing reading from a fascinating time in our history, which will lead to much discussion.

**OS** 1984 279pp <u>B0018</u>



#### One Life

Kate Grenville

One of our favourite storytellers is back with this moving tribute to her mother, Nance, a woman who was in many ways revolutionary. Grenville's voice punctuates her warm and heartfelt account which is partly crafted from Nance's own diaries. This is a story about Australian consciousness, and how the patterns of the past can be seen in the present.

**1** 2015 272pp **B2216** 

## Out of the Silence

**Wendy James** 

At the turn of the last century, three women's lives are on a collision course: Vida, the fiery Melbourne suffragist; Elizabeth, far from home and grieving for her lost love; and the courageous young country girl, Maggie. Their experiences revolve around issues that still touch us deeply today: single motherhood, postnatal depression, and the role of women in public life.

**● 1932 1932 1932 1932** 

#### Over My Tracks

Evelyn Crawford & Chris Walsh 65-year-old Evelyn Crawford, born into the Baarkanji tribal group, goes back over her tracks to tell us her eye-opening life story. Crawford lived in the red sandhills back of Bourke: her years of hard work droving and mustering, the varying contacts she made with white Australians, and the ups and downs of coping with her fourteen children. Involvement in her youngest son's schooling takes her into the training of Aboriginal teachers.

**1**993 319pp **B1385** 



#### **Paradise**

**Toni Morrison** 

The all black town of Ruby was founded by ex-slaves, determined to pass on the unchanging pure faith which had enabled them to survive in the antagonistic American South. Morrison's explosively imagined novel focuses on the lives of the women in and outside this fictitious town, confronting the difficult issues of black male violence.

**●** 1999 318pp **B1700** 

#### The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie 😄 🛟

Muriel Spark

Miss Brodie is a school teacher; in the 1930s, and in her prime, she decides to inculcate 'progressive' ideas about politics, sex and art into her pupils, much to the consternation of her conservative school.

**●●** 1961 128pp <u>B0925</u>



## Quicksands

**Sybille Bedford** 

From WWI Germany to 21st century England via Europe and America, Bedford evokes a world of writers and diplomats, the dispossessed and the powerful. An elegant mosaic of lovers and tragedy, this is a spellbinding reflection on the intersection between history and personal experience.

**OG** 2005 369pp <u>B1955</u>



#### Rain Birds

#### **Harriet McKnight**

A powerful and lyrical novel set in East Gippsland, Victoria, where the impact of climate change is destroying the habitat of the endangered black cockatoos. The storyline centres on recent retiree, Pina, and conservation biologist, Arianna, as they struggle to hold their lives together. Pina's once-loving husband is turning aggressive in the grips of early-onset Alzheimer's and Arianna deals with double standards and incessant misogyny from coworkers who question a woman's place 'in the field'.

**B** 2017 288pp **B2290** 

#### Rebecca West

#### Victoria Glendinning

West lived from 1892 to 1983 and was both an agent and a victim of change. She marched with the suffragettes, and had a ten year liaison with H.G. Wells. An accomplished and affectionate portrayal of a complex woman.

**1** 1987 288pp **B1578** 

## Reckoning: A Memoir

Maqda Szubanski





Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved comedic performers, recounts her life from growing up in the suburb of Croydon, her career as an actor, to the quest to find out the truth about her father, a Polish assassin during World War II. This multi-award winning memoir is a serious exploration on finding courage, acceptance, and a daughter's love for her father.

**D E** 2016 384pp **B2266** 

#### Return to the Little Coffee Shop of Kabul

Deborah Rodriguez

In this much-anticipated sequel, six women remain linked by their experiences in a café in Kabul. Now on opposite sides of the world, each will deal with the past in different ways as she faces the future. This delightful and poignant novel explores the legacy of war, the trouble with culture clash, and the importance of friendship.

**G B** 2016 400pp **B2238** 

## The Rooms in My Mother's House 众

Olga Lorenzo

Driven from Cuba after the revolution, Dolores, Consuelo and Ana settle in an old farmhouse in Miami, where they battle with each other and the ghosts that remain in their hearts. The spirit world blends fabulously with their material one in this vibrant novel. Contains themes that may disturb.

**1996 405pp B1582** 



## A Scandalous Life

Mary S. Lovell

At 17, a beautiful English girl married an older aristocrat who kept his mistress. Lady Jane Digby responded to this indignity with unusual spirit and a highly publicised divorce. The Austrian prince with whom she eloped was succeeded by a baron, a count, and a brigand, before she married a Bedouin sheikh 20 years her junior, and lived among the Syrian desert tribes.

1995 365pp B1552

#### The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd

In the deep south in the 1960s, Lily lives with her strict father and servant Rosaleen. When racial tensions explode, Lily comes to Rosaleen's aid and the two run away together, finding sanctuary with three beekeeping sisters. A heart-warming and lifeaffirming tale.

₱ 2001 374pp B2005

#### The Signature of All Things

Elizabeth Gilbert

Born in Philadelphia in 1800, Alma Whittaker's remarkable mind and questing spirit reflect both the rigours of 19th-century scientific curiosity and the exploration of a dimension beyond the empirical. The Signature of All Things is simultaneously a book of ideas, a travelogue, an unconventional love story and a testament to female achievement.

**B** 2013 501pp **B2208** 

#### The Stone Diaries Carol Shields



Daisy is born on a kitchen floor in 1905 in Canada, and the ordinariness of her ordinary life is made remarkable in this original and enjoyable novel. The unforgettable first chapter opens the way to further surprises and delights.

**1993 361pp B1460** 

We enjoyed this book immensely and stimulated lively discussion. We admired its clever structure and the originality of the author's effortlessly incorporating very different styles. With first or third person narrative, different voices, letters, odd (not just old) photographs, it illustrates the patchiness of records of most lives. There are vivid (occasionally lengthy) descriptions, convincing A book of great wisdom and

Hawthorn Cato Bluffers

## Stravinsky's Lunch

Drusilla Modjeska



Stella Bowen and Grace Cossington Smith were born in the 1890s. One left Australia before the World War I and remained in Europe, the other lived for decades on the outskirts of Sydney. Their lives and work are the focus of this moving meditation on the friction between creative and domestic life.

**№** 1999 364pp **B1623** 

#### The Summer Without Men

Siri Hustvedt

Poet Mia Fredrickson has a severe breakdown when her husband leaves her. Returning to the prairie town of her childhood, she rents a house just down the road from her mother's retirement home and spends a summer in the company of some extraordinary women. Hustvedt has successfully combined the cerebral with the visceral to create this small gem.

**6** 2011 224pp **B2136** 

#### The Sunday Philosophy Club

Alexander McCall Smith

Amateur sleuth Isabel Dalhousie hosts the Sunday Philosophy Club and uses her philosophy training to solve murder and mayhem in Edinburgh. Warmhearted with gentle humour, it is 'the literary equivalent of herbal tea and a cosy fire' - The New York Times.

**1** 2004 281pp **B1979** 









## Tears of the Giraffe

**Alexander McCall Smith** 

This second in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series starts with the engagement of Mma Ramotswe and Mr J.L.B. They deal with the ups and downs of domestic life and find themselves with unexpected additions to their family. Mma Ramotswe and her secretary must also deal with questions of right and wrong in their Botswanan detective agency business.

**6** 2000 217pp **B1847** 

#### The Trauma Cleaner Sarah Krasnostein





Sandra Pankhurst has been a trauma cleaner for 20 years, but before her life cleaning crime scenes and 'caves of filth', Sandra was also many other things: husband, father, drag queen, sex worker, businesswomen and trophy wife. This touching memoir explores more than just cleaning up death and decay, but portrays an inspiring woman overcoming a personal history of trauma and works to bring care and dignity into the lives of the living and the dead.

**OG** 2017 261pp <u>B2281</u>

#### True North Brenda Niall



This fascinating biography of sisters Mary and Elizabeth Durack looks beyond the legacy of Mary's classic book *Kings in Grass Castles* to examine the dynamics of the Durack pastoralist dynasty and the personal lives of these two creative, but very different, women. In particular, it focuses on their strong, lifelong ties to the Kimberley region and its people.

**●** 2012 275pp <u>B2147</u>

#### True Pleasures



Ready for a change in direction, Holdforth abandoned a career in politics and diplomacy for a time in Paris, reading deeply about the lives of French women she had long admired and exploring the Paris locales with which they were linked. She reflects on the lives of women such as Marie Antoinette, Germaine de Staël, Coco Chanel, and writers such as Nancy Mitford, Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein and Colette. Intelligence and lightness of touch makes her book a pleasure to read

**№** 2004 227pp **B1940** 

#### **True Stories**

Helen Garner

This evocative collection is drawn from a quarter of a century of Garner's nonfiction writing. The topics range from the (1970s) four-letter words sex lesson in a secondary school – she was sacked – to her accounts of 1980s marriages at the Mint in Melbourne and of autopsies at the morgue in 1992, to births in a labour ward in Penrith (1995). A treasure chest.

**OS** 1996 242pp <u>B1501</u>



# The Unusual Life of Edna Walling

Sara Hardy

Independent and unconventional, Edna Walling was one of the first women to graduate from the Burnley School of Horticulture in 1917 and went on to become one of Australia's finest landscape designers. Though her gardens are well documented, Hardy draws on memories, anecdotes, facts and documents to explore Edna's private world her family, friends, passions and sexuality, creating a tribute to a woman who was, in retrospect, way ahead of her time. A must read for green thumbs as well as lovers of Australian biography.

**QQ** 2005 304pp <u>B1945</u>



## Walking in the Shade 🛟

**Doris Lessing** 

Following Under My Skin, this second volume of Lessing's autobiography begins with her 1949 arrival in grey post-war London (with the manuscript of her first novel and one of her three children) and takes us through to 1962. It offers a wonderful sense of those times as well as insights into Lessing herself. She speaks with candour about bringing up her son on her own, her love affairs, years of psychotherapy, the realities of living by her writing and her growing disillusionment with the Communist Party.

**1997** 369pp <u>B1705</u>

## Watched by Ancestors

Kathy Golski

It's one thing for trained anthropologists to do their adventurous work, but here an artist and her four children accompany her second husband to the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea where they live for two years, giving other, often surprising, dimensions to the lives of all concerned.

**№** 1998 270pp **B1732** 

#### The Whole Woman

Germaine Greer

This sequel to *The Female Eunuch*, the book Germaine said she would never write, is vintage Greer: intelligent, wide-ranging, energetic, provocative, humorous and tender. Her angry thesis is that 'real women are being phased out', and it is certain to stimulate strong discussion.

**№** 1999 350pp <u>B1720</u>

#### Wicked But Virtuous

Mirka Mora

One of Melbourne's best-known artists, Mirka Mora arrived in Australia from Paris in 1951 with her husband and baby. Their restaurants were a magnet for the artistic life of the city. The book glows with examples of her work and splendid photographs. This account of an eccentric life lived to the utmost celebrates Mirka's lovers, work, family – and the rich array of characters who were drawn into her world.

**1** 2000 331pp **B1653** 

#### Wild Swans

**Jung Chang** 



Three generations, three women's stories in a period when the world's most populous nation endured almost unimaginable change. One way to begin to comprehend the recent history of China is through individuals who find the courage to experience and to voice the enormities which are the stuff of their everyday lives. Long, but compulsively readable.

**1991 696pp B1397** 



Yuval Noah

Harari

21 Lessons

for the

21° Century

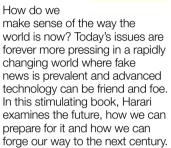
# Artist, Maker, Thinker

This chapter deals with the creative and cerebral, examining the lives of artists, writers and performers, and the spiritual, ethical and philosophical aspects of life.

#### NEW

#### 21 Lessons for the 21st Century

Yuval Noah Harari



**D 2** 2018 368pp **B2307** 



#### Affluenza

**Clive Hamilton** 

Looking at Australian society, Hamilton sees a binge of consumption, associated with a trend towards overwork, the stuff we accumulate and send to landfill, financial over commitment, the medications we use to help us cope. Accompanying this he identifies a range of ills such as lack of time, stress, tiredness, depression, health problems. Instead he offers an alternative path: less attention to material goods, and greater connection with community and the things that matter.

**№** 2005 224pp B1916

#### An Artist of the Floating World

Kazuo Ishiguro

Ishiguro's elegant, restrained prose evokes the personality, career, family and society of Masuji Ono, an ageing painter, living through the turbulent post-war shift from militarism to an Americanised democracy in Japan in 1948.

**D** 1986 206pp **B1228** 

## Author, Author 😭

David Lodge

A great writer, but a fiercely private man: Henry James seems an unlikely subject for a biographical novel by a comic writer. But Lodge's novel is immensely lively, readable and discussable, as he focuses on the last decades of James' life. A fascinating and informative account of the crowded setting of the English literary, theatrical and social world, of sibling rivalries and love, and of the refined and dedicated life within.

**●** 2004 389pp **B1870** 

#### **Autumn Laing**

Alex Miller



Inspired by the relationship between iconic artist Sidnev Nolan and his muse. Sunday Reed, this is a skilfully drawn fiction of how such a person as Sunday might have become, having outlived the artists who were her peers in the 1930s. Through 85-year-old Autumn's reflections on the lives of the aifted. Miller explores the passions and ambitions of Australian art.

**GG** 2011 464pp **B2157** 



#### The Boyds: The Art of the Boyds

Patricia Dobrez & Peter Herbst – ART BOOK

Six generations of Boyds have been involved in the arts. This folio of lavish illustrations reflects the diversity of talent - pottery, writing, architecture, painting, sculpting, ceramics in 'Australia's most visible and distinguished artistic family'.

**№** 1990 232pp **B0656** 



#### Cézanne: Paul Cézanne, 1839-1906

Hajo Düchting - ART BOOK

A recluse who shunned the art world of Paris, Cézanne never identified himself with the Impressionist group. This beautiful, full-colour text explores Cézanne's great achievements in his ever more subtle analysis of colour and tone, and synthesis of reality and abstraction.

**№** 1991 239pp **B0678** 

#### Charles Dickens: A Life

Claire Tomalin

This rich biography of 'the inimitable' Charles Dickens examines the many contradictions of his divided character. Tomalin's psychological analysis observes with an unblinking eye the virtues and failings of both writer and man; capturing the indomitable imagination which hid a tormented, tragic, brilliant man.

**№** 2011 528pp **B2164** 

Most thought it very well researched and an amazing detailed but well balanced (not too sentimental or sycophantic) biography of such a well-known and prodigious writer. One or two commented on too much detail about the well-known books or the various houses lived in by Dickens' family, but most certainly enjoyed it. Some like me learned a lot and found some surprises; others were already familiar with the main facts.

Nowra Evening Book Discussion Group

#### Cider with Rosie

Laurie Lee

Chronicling the traditional village life which disappeared with the advent of developments such as the motor car, this enduring classic is the English Cotswolds of years ago, with Lee's bucolic childhood rendered in a bright and wryly humorous manner. A must-read.

**DE**(**L**) 1959 240pp **B0395** 

# 

**Rosalind Hollinrake** 

- ART BOOK

After her death in 1935, Clarice Beckett was a forgotten artist. One of Australia's great modernist painters, Beckett's lyrical, delicate studies evoke the spirit of a past Melbourne its city, suburbs and beaches - in an application of colour, tone and form beyond anything of her time.

**1999** 77pp **B1615** 

#### Consolations of Philosophy

Alain de Botton

Philosophy is not just for the ivory tower. Alain de Botton unfolds the thinking of six philosophers: Socrates on unpopularity (he died for it); Epicurus on not having enough money; Seneca on frustration; Montaigne on inadequacies various; Schopenhauer on a broken heart; and Nietzsche on the struggle. Occasional coarse language.

**1** 2000 265pp **B1635** 

#### The Crane Wife

**Patrick Ness** 

A crane lands one day in middleaged George's back garden in London. The next day, he meets artist Kumiko, and together their art causes a public sensation. The importance of family, love, and the power of storytelling are all explored in this reimagined Japanese folk tale that merges the magical with the real. Contains strong language.

**D D** 2013 320pp **B2189** 

Enjoyed The Invisible History of the Human Race?

Trv 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Noah Harari [B2307]















#### **Death Sentence**

**Don Watson** 

Watson defends the language he loves (the kind with bite, with flavour, with life) against the verbal sludge which now threatens us from every side. Managerial language has infiltrated the English of politics, bureaucracy, education and the media. Read, laugh, discuss, repent, abstain!

**QQ** 2003 198pp B1828



# The Elegance of the Hedgehog

**Muriel Barbery** 

Renée is the concierge of a grand Parisian apartment building on the Left Bank. Beneath her conventional facade she is passionate about culture and the arts. Meanwhile, several floors up, 12-year-old Paloma Josse is determined to avoid the predictably bourgeois future laid out for her. The death of one of their privileged neighbours brings dramatic change and alters their lives forever. An international bestseller.

**●** 2008 320pp <u>**B2046**</u>

#### Elizabeth Costello

J.M. Coetzee



In the form of lectures given by an elderly Australian writer on tour, this challenging novel of ideas opens up questions of the systematic cruelties involved in farming animals for food; the Holocaust; the nature of belief and reason, of writing and of humanity; spirituality and morality; Kafka and the absurd. Nobel Prize winner Coetzee shares with his fictional character a reluctance to make public appearances.

**⊕** 2003 230pp **B1830** 



#### Facing the Music �� Andrea Goldsmith

For more than 50 years, Duncan Bayle's glorious talent as a composer was fed by the women in his life. Then his daughter Anna left Melbourne for London. While her father's gift faltered, her creativity flowered. Goldsmith portrays a toxic struggle between them, and family and friends are caught in their destructive creativity as the work moves to its conclusion.

**1**994 263pp **B1441** 

# From the canvas to the screen, unleash your inner artist with a painting or drawing short course. Cae.edu.au 03 9652 0611 CAE keep growing

#### Feet of Clay

**Anthony Storr** 

Subtitled A Study of Gurus, this sets some of the most notorious gurus, including Jim Jones and David Koresh, beside some of the most respected leaders in the western world (Ignatius of Loyola, Jesus) to show they have more in common than meets the eye. Why do we view some of them as legitimate thinkers or spiritual leaders and others as madmen? Other 'gurus' considered in the book are Gurdjieff, Steiner, Freud and Jung. A rich field for reflection and discussion.

**QG** 1996 254pp B1569



#### The Gift of Asher Lev Chaim Potok

In this sequel to My Name is Asher Lev, the painter is drawn back to the Ladover Hasidic community in Brooklyn. Again, he experiences the tension between his gift and the community, now facing the death of its revered Rebbe, and making strong claims on his family.

**●** 1990 370pp <u>B1323</u>

# Girl with a Pearl Earring C

**Tracy Chevalier** 

This fine historical fiction evokes the mid-17th century Netherlands. Griet, a young servant girl, sits for the painter Vermeer, her employer, and soon finds herself surrounded by rumour. Deeply revealing about the process of painting and haunting in its passion, outrage and perceptions about human nature.

**G** 1999 248pp **B**1621

#### **Glass After Glass**

Barbara Blackman

Married for 27 years to the painter Charles Blackman, Barbara was also an artist's model, muse, writer and mother. Here she writes of the people she has known in Australia's art world and of day-to-day living. The circle of artists at Heide, her friendships with Joy Hester and with others, and her adaptation to increasing blindness from a young age are all part of these memoirs.

**№** 1997 403pp <u>B1573</u>

#### Gogh: Vincent van Gogh, 1853–1890

Ingo Walther - ART BOOK

A complex and obsessive man, van Gogh was one of the great forerunners of the modern age. This text presents van Gogh's paintings as testimony to a heroic quest for new colour, line and life.

**№** 1987 96pp <u>**B0679**</u>

#### The Golden Mean

**Annabel Lyon** 

Told in earthy and contemporary prose, this is a story of Aristotle's relationship with the young and gifted Alexander whom he tutors from boyhood. Aristotle strives to impart his philosophy of the golden mean – a balance between extremes – to young Alexander.

**GG** 2009 282pp <u>B2107</u>

# The Goldfinch Co



When Theo is thirteen, a traumatic experience inextricably entwines his fate with a 17th-century Dutch painting. An engaging cast of characters moves between high society, the world of antiques, and a murky criminal underground in this beautifully readable exploration of love, loss and the messy business of being alive.

**6** 2014 771pp **B2211** 

#### Grace Crowley: Being Modern

Elena Taylor

Crowley played a central part in introducing modern art to Australia. Rejecting the expectations of her Edwardian upbringing, she pursued a career as an artist, leaving the parochial confines of Australia and replacing the convention of marriage with a series of close friendships. In this beautifully illustrated edition, Taylor paints an evocative portrait of Crowley.

**1** 2006 54pp **B1950** 

#### Great Writers. Great Loves

**Ann Marie Priest** 

A fascinating, revealing journey through the love lives of eight famous writers: Sylvia Plath, Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville West, D.H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, Charmian Clift, Dylan Thomas and Frank O'Hara. Priest delves into their letters and their writings. Their stories anticipated and reflected the revolutionary rethinking of love, sex and marriage that occurred during the course of the 20th century.

**№** 2006 298pp **B1918** 



## Half a Lifetime

**Judith Wright** 

One of Australia's finest poets. Judith Wright was born into a family of New South Wales pastoralists. Jack McKinney, the philosopher who became her lover, partner, and the father of her daughter, was also her intellectual companion in her passionate lifelong commitment to environmental causes and justice for the Aboriginal peoples of Australia. A poem by Wright stands as preface to each of the chapters in this luminous memoir. an added pleasure for the reader.

1999 296pp B1760

#### The Hare with Amber Eves

Edmund de Waal



After inheriting a collection of Japanese carvings (netsuke), de Waal felt compelled to trace its journey through the years. In doing so, he discovered his family's history from 19th century Odessa to modern Tokyo. An engrossing and moving blend of art and social history.

**D E** 2010 354pp **B2140** 

#### Harland's Half Acre

David Malouf

The life story of Frank Harland, an artist whose first drawings are made at night on his family's struggling dairy farm in Queensland. Malouf writes with insight about many themes: family life; the pressures of poverty and temperament; the vocation of the artist; the changing patterns of Australian social history; the natural world of Australia, rendered with poetic precision.

**1984 230pp B1043** 

#### Here on Earth

**Tim Flannery** 

From an ecological viewpoint, we have left a trail of destruction as human civilisation spreads across the Earth. We will face climate changes, decreasing biodiversity, and scarcity of water and food. Flannery, a palaeontologist and former Australian of the Year, suggests solutions to these problems. From the Stone Age to the modern globalised world, he presents a view of how sustainability can be achieved through cooperation rather than competition.

**O 3** 2010 316pp **B2114** 

#### The Hours Michael Cunningham



Cunningham takes Virginia Woolf's life and work as inspiration for this exquisite and subtle novel. He interweaves Woolf's struggle to begin her novel Mrs Dalloway with that book's effects on two subsequent readers in 1940s Los Angeles and in contemporary New York.

**D** 1998 228pp **B** 1642

#### How Are We to Live?

Peter Singer

The distinguished Australian philosopher argues that in affluent Western society, the pursuit of material self-interest is the norm, trapping people into the sense that life is meaningless. Is there anything to live for? Likely to prompt unstoppable discussion.

**№** 1993 262pp **B1411** 



#### I Am Melba

**Ann Blainev** 



**National Biography Prize** 

A biography of Australia's first musical superstar. Nellie Melba. From an early age Nellie dreamed of fame. Her independent spirit took her from Melbourne and the Queensland cane fields to London and Europe. I Am Melba captures an extraordinary life.

**DE** 2009 400pp **B2063** 

## The Imperfectionists

Tom Rachman

This collection of stories told from the viewpoints of different staff members, from the Editor in Chief to the copy editor, at an international English language newspaper, based in Rome. Their private lives overlap with work and world events. Alternately hilarious and heart-wrenching.

**₽\$₽** 2010 274pp **B**2089

#### Inside Out

Robert Adamson

Sydney poet Robert Adamson grew up in Neutral Bay and on the Hawkesbury River in the 1950s and '60s. Bewitched by the natural world, fishing and birds, his later escapades led him to incarceration in boys' homes. Finally, his prison encounter with the work of writers and poets set him on the path of writing. Full of event, sensation, movement and life, his memoir makes wonderful reading.

**№** 2004 342pp **B1833** 

#### Isobel on the Way to the Corner Shop

**Amy Witting** 



Determined to make her way as a writer, Isobel has resigned from her job with very little to live on. Acute illness brings her to a sanatorium where she remains for a long time, maintaining her autonomy as best she can in these claustrophobic surroundings.

**1999** 352pp **B1737** 



#### Kandinsky: Wassily Kandinsky, 1866–1944 Haio Düchting - ART BOOK

Kandinsky was one of the most important pioneers of abstract art, expressing feelings through a distinctive use of geometric shapes, brilliantly coloured and superbly disposed in space.

1991 96pp B0716

#### Killing Me Softly

Philip Nitschke & **Fiona Stewart** 

Nitschke and Stewart take the view that people should have the right to make informed end-of-life decisions. Their book provides information about the current practice of slow euthanasia; what is wrong with palliative care; anguishing decisions concerning the life or death of very ill babies. These writers envisage a world where a 'peaceful pill' could be relied on to provide a peaceful. dignified death. An opportunity to reflect on and discuss the many questions presented by the euthanasia debate.

₱ 2005 354pp B1885

#### Klimt: Gustav Klimt, 1862-1918

Gottfried Fliedl - ART BOOK

The apocalyptic atmosphere of Vienna's upper middle-class society at the turn of the century found expression through the art of Gustav Klimt, Klimt's art and the Viennese Secession movement are explored in this richly illustrated book.

**№** 1991 239pp <u>B</u>0683

**Enjoyed** A Room of One's Own?

> Try *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham [B1642]













#### The Lacuna

Barbara Kingsolver



Told in a mix of narrative forms including diary entries, memoir, letters and newspaper articles. Born in America and raised in Mexico. Harrison Shepherd finds himself working for Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. He meets and befriends the artist Frida Kahlo, goes to work for the Communist Lev Trotsky. and becomes caught up in a world of art and revolution. The second half of the novel shifts to the United States where Harrison is dragged into the public arena through the House Un-American Activities Committee.

**●●** 2009 507pp <u>B2065</u>

# The Life and Death of Sophie Stark

**Anna North** 

Told through the six different perspectives of the people closest to her, the novel explores the life of an unapologetic film director who values art over people. Sophie Stark uses her genius to make movies from the lives of people who fascinate her, destroying the relationships with those that love her most and results in her shocking end. The novel explores the lengths you go for art and the cost of artist integrity.

**6** 2015 304pp **B2247** 

# Enjoyed Wuthering Heights?

Try
The Women's Pages
by Deborah Adelaide
[B2241]

## The Life to Come

Michelle de Kretser





An intelligent meditation set in Sydney, Paris and Sri Lanka. The novel consists of five sections that uncovers the lives of George, pompous author and university lecturer: Pippa, a superficial writer who dreams of Man Booker success: Celeste. a manuscript translator who is blind to her married lover's intentions; Ash, an academic who blurs the memories from his childhood in Sri Lanka; and migrant Christabel, whose generosity becomes the target of Pippa's malice. The novel explores the lies we tell to others, the lies we tell to ourselves, and the grand ego of Western Civilization.

**● 2017 384pp B2278** 

## Lola Bensky 🗘

Lily Brett dro

Lily Brett drew on her own experiences as a music journalist in the 'Swinging Sixties' to create 19-year-old Lola. When not meeting rock icons such as Mick Jagger and Janis Joplin, Lola worries about her hair or her weight. Like many of Brett's characters, she also carries the legacy of her Holocaust survivor parents. Funny and touching, this novel evokes a time of unique social change.

**6** 2012 267pp **B2176** 

## The Lost Dog

Michelle de Kretser

Set in contemporary Australia and 20th century India, de Kretser's third novel is a love story entwined with a haunting mystery. Tom Loxley, an academic, is writing a book on Henry James in a remote bush shack when his dog goes missing. While searching for his dog, Tom revisits his emotional past and explores his troubled present.

**€** 2007 368pp **B2028** 

#### The Lost Mother

Anne Summers

In 1933, Anne's mother had her portrait painted by a mysterious artist. Anne inherited the portrait after her mother died and is compelled to unravel its mystery, exploring the difficult relationship she had with her mother. Anne's detailed research encompasses Paris, Cairo, Latvia and Russia and evokes memories of Melbourne's art scene in the 1900s.

**№** 2010 385pp <u>B2123</u>



#### Mao's Last Dancer 🗅

Li Cunxin

This is the true story of Li Cunxin, a peasant boy from rural China who became a world-class ballet dancer. We follow him through his early training in Beijing to a summer school in the US, his defection to the West, and his later transition to a new life in Australia. Memories of his family in China are an important thread in his story.

**1** 2003 447pp <u>B1821</u>

## Martin Boyd: A Life

**Brenda Niall** 

Martin Boyd was a member of the talented Boyd family which included Arthur, Merric, Guy and Robin. Both in background and inclination Martin Boyd was Anglo Australian: many of his novels were written during the restless expatriate years. A readable account of this complex and private man.

**№** 1988 268pp **B1262** 

# Monet: Claude Monet, 1840–1926

Karin Sagner Düchting

- ART BOOK

Monet was both the most typical and the most individual French Impressionist painter. His long life, extraordinary capacity for work and furious perfectionism are explored in this large volume.

**№** 1990 228pp <u>**B1609**</u>

#### More Please

**Barry Humphries** 

Does this reveal the man behind the actor, with his vulnerabilities including alcoholism? Or is it another great performance, in which there is less generosity than sharpness? Readable and often very funny.

**№** 1992 334pp **B1381** 

# The Museum of Modern Love

**Heather Rose** 





When New York film composer Arky Levin is asked by his terminally ill wife to keep a promise, it throws Arky into a devastating search for meaning. Arky discovers Marina Abramovic in *The Artist is Present*, and is drawn to her performance. As the performance continues, he questions what it means to love and to be an artist. The novel explores relationships, illness and how art shapes us.

**6** 2016 296pp **B2253** 

## My Brilliant Career 🗅

Miles Franklin

The first novel from one of the major Australian writers of her time, Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin, who wrote under the name Miles Franklin. Written as a romance to amuse the author's friends, the novel follows imaginative heroine Sybylla growing up in rural Australia in the 1890s, and many of the issues it raises are still relevant to women writers today.

**1**901 232pp **B0062** 





## Nice Work

## **David Lodge**

When Dr Robyn Penrose, temporary lecturer at the University is volunteered by the English Department to shadow Vic Wilcox, a managing director in the industrial town of Rummidge, it's a culture shock for them both. An astute account of Thatcher's England, particularly of its business and intellectual theory and practice. We laughed out loud.

•••••

**B** 1988 348pp **B**1252

#### North Face of Soho

Clive James

The fourth in James's autobiographical series, this covers 1968 to the 1980s as James sets out to establish himself in literary London. In his trademark style, blending wisecracks with serious observation, he depicts the unrelenting deadlines involved in his work as reviewer, critic, essayist and commentator. An entertaining read with insights about writing.

**D E** 2006 264pp **B**1973

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#### O'Keeffe: Georgia O'Keeffe

Nancy Frazier - ART BOOK

O'Keeffe is best known for her near abstract paintings based on enlargements of flower and plant forms - works of great elegance, rhythmic vitality and sensuality. This book captures the haunting quality of her unique vision.

**№** 1992 112pp **B0694** 

#### Oscar Wilde

Richard Ellmann

Wilde's witty comedies made him the darling of London theatregoers, but at the height of his success he was imprisoned due to homosexual practices. Physically and financially ruined, he declined into an early death. Ellmann's account is full of understanding and humanity.

1987 632pp B1585

#### Other People's Words

Hilary McPhee

The story of a friendship between two women, the publishing company they built, and its contribution to literature in Australia, Helen Garner, Tim Winton and Drusilla Modieska were part of McPhee Gribble's impressive list. A readable book with much to discuss about the local, the global and the future of publishing.

₱ 2001 312pp B1630



#### The Philosopher's Dog Raimond Gaita

Focusing on the creatures who are part of our domestic lives and telling stories about animals he has known, the author of Romulus, My Father asks questions about how animals think and feel. This gentle enquiry into the connection between people and animals needs careful

reading and discussion. **1** 2002 214pp **B1689** 



## Reading by Moonlight

••••••

Brenda Walker



In 2005, Brenda was diagnosed with breast cancer. This book follows her treatment, along with meditations on books that helped her on her road to recovery. Referencing authors from Dante to Donna Tartt, she writes about the consolation of the written word. This is a moving book that resonates deeply.

**Q G** 2010 240pp <u>B2133</u>

#### Religion for Atheists

Alain de Botton

The issue is not whether or not God exists, but where to go from here. Alain de Botton makes a case for the usefulness of religion in our lives, regardless of whether it is believable or not. This read will challenge your way of thinking and is guaranteed to spark a great discussion!

**O (1)** 2012 320pp **B2144** 

## Right and Wrong

Hugh Mackay

This is a humane, thoughtful book about the personal, family, sexual, legal, business, consumer, social and political choices we all face. Mackay's experience as a social researcher who uses focus groups has given him an enviable capacity to open up complex moral issues in a way which makes them accessible for reflection and group discussion.

**№** 2004 244pp **B1841** 

#### The River

**Patrice Newell** 

Newell's family lives in a close relationship with the river Pages which runs past their New South Wales property. She looks at the river's rich history (geological, and in Aboriginal and settler times) and its future (with competing demands from big business through to organic farms like her own). The condition of our waterways and life on the land is a topic of great national relevance.

₱ 2003 244pp B1891

## A Room of One's Own

Virginia Woolf

This book arose from two lectures presented to Oxford women's colleges in 1928 on the subject of 'women and fiction'. Woolf believed that only privacy (a room of one's own) and independence (five hundred pounds a year) would allow women to write freely and well.

**D G** 1929 176pp **B** 0381



#### The Secret Life of Money Valerie Wilson

This book focuses on money in our everyday lives and how ordinary people think and feel about it. This is a look at the complex and contradictory role money plays in our social world.

**1999 224pp B1719** 

#### A Short History of Richard Kline

Amanda Lohrev

Richard Kline has always felt that something in his life was missing. Now middle-aged and facing cycles of boredom and despair, he finds himself awakening to alternative spiritual pursuits and philosophies despite his natural cynicism, searching for 'bliss' in the midst of chaos. Lohrev probes the relationship between devotion and dependence in this comic yet moving exploration of masculinity and meaning.

**G** 2015 272pp **B2224** 

## The Sitters 🛟





An ageing artist's meeting with an older woman opens the enigmas of his childhood and returns him to painting. A complex, subtle story touching on theoretical art questions, the connections between loss and creativity, and absence and presence in words and images.

**BB** 1995 131pp **B1459** 

## The Spiral Staircase

Karen Armstrong

Having left the religious life after seven difficult years, Karen Armstrong found herself in a changed world and was troubled by panic attacks and strange mental states. Her memoir explores these years of transition, a long period of unbelief, and the unusual path by which she became a respected commentator on major world religions, matters of faith and fundamentalisms of different kinds.

**D E** 2004 342pp **B** 1894











#### Status Anxiety

Alain de Botton

'This is a book about an almost universal anxiety ... about what others think of us; about whether we're judged a success or a failure, a winner or a loser.' In it the author examines lovelessness, snobbery, expectation, meritocracy, dependence; and offers some 'solutions'. Is this philosophy or does the book fall into the self-help genre? The central subject of keeping up with the Joneses provides plenty to discuss.

**● 2004** 314pp <u>B1845</u>



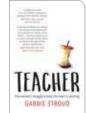
#### A Tale for the Time Being Ruth Ozeki



When 16-year-old Nao's diary washes ashore on a lonely Canadian coastline, Ruth feels compelled to read it. Nao's life is turbulent: her father is suicidal, she is tortured by schoolyard bullies, and her only friend is her grandmother, a Buddhist nun. Ozeki weaves together philosophy, the nature of time, cultural identity and the true meaning of courage in this absorbing, beautifully written novel.

**G** 2013 422pp **B2204** 





Teacher Gabbie Stroud



Gabbie loved being a teacher but in 2014 she resigned, frustrated with a system that no longer allowed her to teach children according to her individual needs and abilities. Now she tells the full story of her journey in education and how the system is unfair to both teachers and children. A powerful memoir.

1 2018 352pp B2298

#### Toulouse Lautrec: Henri de Toulouse Lautrec

Matthias Arnold – ART BOOK

Toulouse Lautrec's bold and arresting images were instrumental in gaining acceptance for both lithography and the poster as major art forms. This tells Lautrec's story and gives a vibrant picture of Parisian life.

**№** 1988 96pp <u>**B0715**</u>



## Waging Peace

Anne Deveson

Waging Peace is a thematic memoir. Anne Deveson looks back on a long life, from her childhood during WWII to her experiences as a filmmaker and social commentator. She questions our species' urge to wage war, and discusses with hope the promotion of peace and conflict resolution. Whether or not you agree with her views, this book is bound to promote lively discussion.

**1** 2013 238pp **B2184** 

#### Walking on Water

**Chester Porter** 

This Sydney defence lawyer's memoir covers controversial Australian cases and Royal Commissions of the last fifty years, but more than this, through the many unpublicised cases with which its author was involved, it reveals a life in the Law as experienced by a good man. Porter's humbleness and humanity, shining through his simple prose, is a bonus, likely to raise the law, the police and legal practitioners in the reader's estimation.

#### The Waterlily

Kate Llewellyn

'A book that captures perfectly the exact pace and feel of life – the fine-tuning of one moment and one mood into the next' (Grenville). This 'Blue Mountains Journal' covers a year of Kate Llewellyn's life in the mountains, making a garden and determined to be happy.

**1**987 192pp **B1345** 

#### The Weather Makers

**Tim Flannery** 

Flannery's flair for writing for a general readership is put to excellent use here. We are the weather makers, and Flannery wants to inspire all of us to do something about climate change. He is insightful and inspiring as he suggests steps we can take to reduce our carbon footprint at the level of our own households and decisions.

**D** 2005 332pp <u>B1943</u>

## The Women's Pages

Debra Adelaide

Having read Wuthering Heights to her dying mother, Dove finds she cannot forget the novel's power. Instead of returning to normal life, she clings to a story she has begun writing: Ellis is a normal '60s suburban housewife – until she decides to leave her husband. A beautiful magic emerges as Dove teases out the secrets of Ellis's life, while she attempts to live in her own.

**D B** 2015 305pp **B2241** 

## PROVEN REASONS WHY READING IS GOOD FOR YOU

For most people, the act of reading is a reward in itself. However, studies show that reading books also benefits your health, relationships, happiness, and career. It can also help you live longer! That's because:

#### **Reading Reduces Stress**

Stress is a common hazard of our modern lives. Six minutes of silent reading can reduce stress levels by more than half – that's more than if you went for a walk, listened to music, or sat down for a cuppa.

#### **Reading Promotes Wellness**

Just 30 minutes of reading a day can increase your lifespan by two years. Studies by reading charities show that people who read books regularly are on average more satisfied with life, happier, and more likely to feel that the things they do in life are worthwhile.

#### Reading Helps Combat Alzheimer's and Dementia

Reading is a workout for the brain, and keeping your mind active can help preserve brain health, even if you start later in life.

#### Reading Improves Relationships

Reading literary fiction increases empathy, acting as a bridge to better understand other people and points of view that are vastly different from ours.

#### **Reading Inspires Success**

The link between reading and success is thought to be driven by the desire for knowledge. Reading makes us better thinkers by improving our critical thinking and problem-solving skills, boosting our general and specific knowledge and developing our social and communication skills.

#### Reading Decreases Loneliness and Social Isolation

Being part of a book group means transforming an isolated practice into a social ritual and being able to discover a group of individuals that share the same passions.



# Relationships

Mainly fiction, but with a few biographies, this chapter contains books that tackle the myriad aspects of human connection - from grand tragedy to light and witty.



#### The Accidental Tourist

Anne Tyler

Sharing a common grief, Macon Leary and his wife Sarah now find their differences too great and they part. Macon makes world trips to write a series of travel guides which reflect his need of defensive routines. Funnier than Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant but with that unmistakable ache and tenderness.

**1985** 355pp **B1193** 

#### Addition

Toni Jordan

Grace Vandenburg counts. She counts the number of poppy seeds on her piece of cake, she counts the number of steps it takes her to reach her local café, she even counts the letters in her name. Then she meets Seamus O'Reilly. Addition is a quirky love story with a witty and unconventional heroine.

**1** 2008 256pp **B2036** 

#### Aftermath

Rachel Cusk

Subtitled 'On Marriage and Separation'. Cusk is not telling us how to live; this is her narrative on marriage, separation, the difficulties of motherhood, loss of identity, feminism and more. It is an honest exploration of the aftermath of her divorce and is guaranteed to spark a discussion in your group.

**1** 2012 152pp **B2169** 

## The Age of Innocence 🗅

**Edith Wharton** 

Newland Archer has chosen a conventional and rather limited young woman for his wife. Now Countess Olenska appears on the scene, refreshingly different in outlook and separated shockingly - from her European husband. Wharton presents an unillusioned view of 1870s New York, where a constricting social code puts individual lives under great pressure.

**P** 1920 301pp **B** 1313

#### Ali and Nino

Kurban Said

Considered the Romeo and Juliet of Azerbaijan, this littleknown masterpiece follows the cross-cultural marriage of a young Muslim prince and a rich Christian girl. Love does not run easily, but it works powerfully to try to overcome ancient tribal differences.

**₱** 1937 237pp **B1658** 

## The Amateur Marriage

Anne Tyler

Pauline and Michael marry in haste. Slowly and painfully. they realise they are completely unsuited. A sensitively handled portrayal of family dysfunction and of lives lived always wondering how things 'could have been'. Tyler's look at one family and at American family life from the 1940s to the present is incisive and poignant.

₱ 2004 306pp B1817

#### American Wife 🗘 **Curtis Sittenfeld**

Alice is a quiet, bookish only child from small-town Wisconsin, who experiences an event which shatters her identity and makes her understand the fragility of life. A decade later, Alice, a Democrat and school librarian, meets and marries Charlie, the outgoing wealthy son of a Republican family. When Charlie becomes President of the United States, Alice finds herself in a position of power, influence and privilege.

**1** 2008 555pp **B2044** 

## Atonement 🗅

Ian McEwan



**WINNER** Commonwealth Writers' Prize

A story that begins with three young people in the garden of a country house on the hottest day of 1935, and ends with three profoundly changed lives. A depiction of love, war, class, childhood and England, exploring shame, forgiveness, and the possibility of atonement.

**D B** 2001 372pp **B** 1668



#### **Bel Canto**

**Ann Patchett** 



A group of international guests in an unnamed Latin American country are taken hostage, but the target, the President, is not present. Among the hostages are a famous American opera singer, and a Japanese businessman. A charming, unconventional story unfolds as Bel Canto explores the themes of art, politics and love.

**●** 2001 318pp **B1991** 

#### Between a Wolf and a Dog

Georgia Blain





As the rain beats down one sodden Sydney day, four people will slowly come to terms with their pasts - and their futures. Ester is finally moving forward from her divorce from estranged husband, Lawrence, Her sister. April, wonders how she can heal the deep rift between her and Ester, while their mother Hilary considers the momentous decision she is making. Subtle, poignant and immersive.

**D D** 2016 320pp **B2242** 

## Big Brother

**Lionel Shriver** 

Pandora, a chef and entrepreneur, must deal with both her morbidly obese brother and her exercise and nutrition fanatic husband when circumstances bring the three of them under the same roof. In her distinctive style, the author of We Need to Talk About Kevin tackles family dynamics, addiction and our image-conscious society, asking the question: is blood really thicker than water?

**●** 2013 373pp **B2191** 

## ..... Billie's Kiss

Elizabeth Knox

A novel for almost anyone, featuring a murder mystery, a traditional community faced with Edwardian modernisation. a sexy love story, pride and prejudice, family and community loyalties and divisions. A New Zealand view of reality, set in a small island off Scotland.

₱ 2002 280pp B1669

#### Breakfast at Tiffany's 🗅

Truman Capote

When Fred's new neighbour Holly crawls through his window, he is captivated by the glamorous 19 year old. The wildly successful Audrey Hepburn movie sanitised the novella's complex narrative about sexual ambiguity and the struggle between the need for stability and the longing for freedom. Contains three short stories.

**6** 1958 168pp **B2018** 

#### The Bride Stripped Bare **Anonymous**

A novel about the psychological and physical aspects of a young woman's extramarital affair. This candid, fictional memoir raises questions of trust, betrayal, secrecy, cultural expectation and obsessiveness. It contains sexually explicit material and may not be suitable for everyone.

**1** 2003 376pp **B1814** 



#### Captain Corelli's Mandolin 🗅

Louis de Bernières



During WWII, Italian troops occupy the Greek island of Cephallonia. Billeted with the local doctor and his daughter, Captain Corelli, musician and comedian, tries to stay aloof. But it is no use: the two young people fall in love.

**6** 1994 436pp **B1472** 









# A Change in the Lighting

From its brilliant opening scene, Witting's novel takes us into the feelings and decisions of a woman whose life changes when her husband leaves her suddenly for a younger woman. An insightful study of a woman in her fifties and her adult children. A must for appreciators of Amy Witting.

**●** 1994 291pp **B1401** 

## Childish Things

**Robin Jenkins** 

After the death of his much-loved wife, 72-year-old Gregor McLeod becomes the focus of several women in his Scottish village and again in California, where he escapes for a break. Greed, selfishness and goings on are the stuff of this ironic, light-hearted, well-paced comic novel.

**■** 2001 248pp **B1778** 

## City of Friends

Joanna Trollope

When high-powered career woman Stacey is made redundant from her job, her life is thrown into crisis and cracks begin to form in her tightly knit friendship group. As tension increases, secrets come out and their friendships are pushed to the limit. A light and relatable read, the novel showcases various forms of working women and the juggle between their personal and professional lives.

**● 2017 336pp B2259** 

#### Cold Mountain

**Charles Frazier** 

A man, wounded in the Civil War, deserts from the army and travels home, while a 'lady' learns to be a woman on the frontier. As they journey towards their destinies, Frazier evokes the times and the southern Appalachians setting with great immediacy in this beautiful story of love and war.

**●** ① 1997 357pp <u>B1557</u>

#### Crossing to Safety

Wallace Stegner

When Larry and his wife settle into their new home in Wisconsin in the late 1930s, they begin a friendship with the Langs that will echo through their lives. Exploring the mysteries of friendship, Stegner traces the bond that develops between the families in this eloquent, powerful narrative from this Pulitzer Prizewinning author.

**●** 1987 288pp **B1522** 



## The Deep Field

James Bradley

Anna flees the political situation in Hong Kong for Sydney, where she is drawn to Seth, a blind palaeontologist, and they begin an affair; she also begins a search for her missing brother. Bradley's future evokes a subtle air of menace and decay, but ultimately, this is a sensual love story about love, touch, time and loss.

**●** 1999 412pp **B1743** 

#### Dirt Music

**Tim Winton** 



Winton's West Australian coastland is physically and psychologically perilous for the people who live by it, but its beauty still compels. Each member of the trio at the story's centre is differently damaged and dangerous. Winton's narrative tension is extraordinary: he draws us into their struggles to break with the past and regain hope and love.

**● ©** 2001 465pp **B1664** 

Enjoyed City of Friends?

Try
A Month of Sundays
by Liz Byrski
[B2299]



#### Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

Gail Honeyman



30-year-old accounts assistant and office eccentric Eleanor Oliphant lives alone in a tiny flat in Glasgow. She has a rigid routine and a timetabled life, and makes an effort to avoid social interaction. But when Eleanor meets Raymond, his kindness forces Eleanor to confront the tragedy in her past that holds her back. A funny, yet deeply moving book about profound loneliness, mental illness and survival.

**● 2**017 383pp **B2283** 

#### Eligible

**Curtis Sittenfeld** 

Seeking out the 'classic romance' in modern life, this *Bridget Jones* style adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* is fresh, fun and wholly enjoyable. After their father's heart surgery, Liz and Jane Bennet return home to Cincinnati, where their younger sisters run wild and their mother despairs that they will ever marry. Things change when ER doctor and reality television 'star' Chip Bingley arrives – but his friend, neurosurgeon Fitzwilliam Darcy, is unimpressed by the Bennets.

**P** © 2016 528pp <u>B2244</u>

## Emma 😊

Jane Austen

A classic comedy about the development of a young woman, and the disconnect between an individual's inner life – her deepest fears and hopes – and the external world of customs and manners. Emma's spirit and vivacity make her one of Austen's most beloved characters. Inimitable prose.

**●●** 1816 432pp <u>**B0001**</u>

# ..... The English Patient Michael Ondaatje



In the destruction and confusion surrounding the end of the World War II, a small group of people find themselves together in Italy. Recreating both a devastated Italy and a desert world far away, Ondaatje fuses popular novel, war story, spy story and the erotic in a complex work of wisdom and beauty.

**●●** 1992 307pp <u>B1370</u>

#### An Equal Music Vikram Seth

The narrator's passionate love of chamber music is infused by his passion for Julia, who disappeared from his life when he left her in Vienna. Early in the novel, he sees her through the window of a London bus. What next? A CD in each box provides sound recordings of the music

referred to in the novel. 
1999 485pp B1735

## Eucalyptus

Murray Bail

A man plants out his property with an example of every known eucalypt and announces that his daughter will be a marriage prize to the first man who correctly identifies every tree. Is Ellen to have no say in her own destiny? This is a strangely exhilarating love story, blending European folktale with a piquant Australian rendering of landscape and longing.

**₱** 1998 255pp **B1594** 

#### Eyrie Tim Winton



Unlikable and self-pitying drunk Tom begins to feel compassion and desire when he encounters his neighbour, Gemma. Their meeting brings back memories of the past, forcing Tom to face a physical threat in his present which is far more dangerous than the demons in his head.

**D B** 2013 424pp **B2210** 



#### The Feel of Steel

Helen Garner

This nonfiction collection ranges from moods of loss and desolation to hilarity and awe. A brief diary of heartbreak following a marriage break up, a journey to Antarctica, fencing lessons, reading the Bible: these short pieces add up to a book with the texture of memoir.

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**OS** 2001 223pp **B1659** 

#### The Finkler Question

**Howard Jacobson** 



The Finkler Question tells the story of Julian Treslove and his friends Sam Finkler and Libor Sevcik. Sam and Libor are lonely widowers, while Julian wishes one of his lovers would expire romantically in his arms, and wonders what it would be like to be Jewish. This novel touches on anti-Semitism and Zionism, as well as obsession, in a complex and insightful way.

**●** 2010 307pp **B2105** 

#### Firehead

Venero Armanno

The decades from 1975 to 1995 and Brisbane are the setting in this 'very Sicilian love story'. 'An eerie story of generations and love, of police corruption and a city's changing terrain, and of searching for that one place in the world you can finally say is home.' Armanno is an Australian writer with a unique voice: his novel is full of the urgency of desire in sensuous prose.

**1999 401pp B1754** 

## Flights of Love

**Bernhard Schlink** 

In these seven sophisticated short stories Schlink takes up the theme of love, different kinds of sadness, devotion and desire, misunderstandings, betrayal, midlife crises and the search for renewal.

**B** 2000 309pp **B**1665

#### Five Bells

Gail Jones



James and Ellie are haunted by the intimacy they shared; Catherine fled the UK, grieving her older brother; Pei Xing lost her parents during the Cultural Revolution and survived years in a re-education camp. Through their eyes we marvel at the Sydney Harbour's spectacular clash of natural beauty and iconic architecture, but as forewarned by Slessor's poem 'Five Bells'. its water harbours death.

**●** 2011 216pp **B2112** 

#### The Four Letters of Love **Niall Williams**

In Dublin, the life of 12-yearold Nicholas is upended when William, his father, drops his iob in the civil service because God wants him to be a painter. Over on an island in the west. 11-vear-old Isabel thinks it is her fault when her beloved musical brother Sean is disabled after a fit. Can the plots of God and love override day-to-day trials?

**●** 1997 342pp **B1711** 

#### The Full Catastrophe Edna Mazya

Aware that his beautiful young wife is having an affair, llan is compelled to track down her lover. Ilan's actions become increasingly bizarre and irrational, and his state of mind, supersensitivity in reading moods and appalling mother are brilliantly depicted in a suspenseful, funny psychological thriller.

**1** 2005 334pp **B1881** 



## The Grass Harp 🛟

Truman Capote



Truman Capote was from the Deep South, and this novel is steeped in its symbolism and cultural associations. Three oddly endearing characters defy smalltown society; its other levels of meaning will keep you talking for hours.

**1**952 192pp **B0155** 

#### The Great Fire **Shirley Hazzard**



Set largely in Japan in the aftermath of Hiroshima, the love story at its centre unfolds delicately and across continents. Peter Craven called this 'a riveting, slow intoxication of a novel which has a deliberateness and a density of verbal beauty of which most literary fiction has lost even the memory'.

**●** 2003 278pp **B1831** 

#### The Ground Beneath Her Feet

Salman Rushdie

Rushdie's verbal pyrotechnics conjure up a musical love story between many worlds: India before and after Independence. America, the underworld, and above all the global worlds of rock'n'roll and late 20th-century showbiz. A heady and heartstirring song of love, loss, pain and liberation.

**D** 1999 575pp **B**1746



#### Happenstance

**Carol Shields** 

The parallel lives in contemporary marriages are linked in two companion novels within the one cover. Husband and wife in a 20-year marriage each tell their story of a week apart, she at a convention where she is recognised as a gifted quiltmaker, he on home duties while keeping his academic job going. Observant and compassionate.

**1982 390pp B1446** 

**Enjoyed** The Ground Beneath Her Feet?

Try The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri [B1835]

#### Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage

Alice Munro



Nine short stories from a master of the short story form. Munro writes about 'the lives of girls and women' in her own midwestern rural Canada. 'Whole lives come into focus suddenly through single events or sudden memories which bring the past bubbling to the surface ... here are people who reinvent themselves, seize life by the throat.'

**\$** 2001 323pp **B1676** 

#### Heat and Dust

**Ruth Prawer Jhabvala** 

A voung Englishwoman sets out to discover the full story of the scandal of her great aunt in the India of the last days of the Raj. In doing so, she sets that India against the 1970s republic, and evokes a country of heat, dust and passion.

**(L)** 1975 181pp **B1168** 

#### **Heat Wave**

Penelope Lively

In her country house in England, the love and jealousy of Pauline's early marriage resonates in her daughter's experience. While an unusually hot season takes its course, the family story moves to its startling climax in Lively's lucid, witty prose.

**1**996 215pp **B1534** 

#### Honour and Other People's Children

Helen Garner

The first story, Honour, deals with the emotional subtleties of the interactions among a man, his wife, his prospective second wife and the astute child, whose affections and loyalties hang in uneasy balance. The second story, Other People's Children, explores the end of a close relationship between two women, and the break up of their collective household.

**1** 1980 156pp **B0572** 













#### Hotel du Lac

Anita Brookner



Sophisticated and with a perceptive eye for the world of appearances and for human foibles and needs, this novel unveils the self-containment, loneliness, encounters and longings of a writer of romantic fiction in sanctuary in Europe after an indiscretion.

**●** 1985 184pp **B1325** 

## How to Be Good

Nick Hornby

Tired of her irascible husband David, Katie Carr embarks on an affair. Meanwhile, David falls under the spell of a faith healer and disrupts everyone's lives with his devotion to the general good. A dissection of modern morals, family life and a heartfelt diagnosis of divorce.

**●●** 2001 244pp **B1643** 



# I Capture the Castle Dodie Smith

When a new American 'squire' moves into the great house in her village, Cassandra and her wildly eccentric family become embroiled in plots and plans that test tempers and hearts. Cassandra observes the goings on in her journal – a modern Jane Austen, if not quite as sharp. Recently republished and a favourite with readers for many years.

**●** 1949 352pp <u>**B1802**</u>

#### The Idea of Perfection Kate Grenville



Two Sydney people turn up on work projects in a struggling little town in outback New South Wales. The engineer has been sent to replace the old 'bent' timber bridge with a concrete one, but some of the locals have their own thoughts on this. A novel with Grenville's incisiveness and comic flair.

**GG** 1999 401pp <u>B1733</u>

Although some found it hard to get into, we all ended up loving this non-classical romantic story of true, quirky Australian characters. The author shared a lot of craft and control to create such a rich and real unfolding where we didn't know whether to emphasise or be frustrated by the characters. We all loved the dog.

# The Insatiable Desire of Injured Love

Sally Morrison

Warrandvte 5

Renata steps off a mountain into thin air and somehow survives. Imprisoned in plaster on her hospital bed, she contents with the emotional fallout from a recent affar and with family members mostly intent on reforming her. This novel springs from a real event in 1973 when Sally Morrison fell from a mountain Victoria's Cathedral Ranges.

**€** 2002 235pp **B1786** 

# Instances of the Number 3

Salley Vickers

'After Peter Hansome died, people were surprised that his widow seemed to be spending so much time with his mistress.' This novel explores the power of triangles: a man, his wife and his mistress, the three people he leaves behind – and more universal instances of the number three.

**6** 2001 307pp **B1686** 

## Iris 🗅

John Bayley

Oxford critic John Bayley first caught sight of Iris Murdoch (philosopher and writer) in 1954 and fell instantly in love. During the last four years of their long marriage, Murdoch's formidable intellect and imagination were consumed by the 'insidious fog' of Alzheimer's disease. Bayley writes in a moving, dignified way of the woman who was his wife, and their life together, in earlier days and at the time of writing.

**1** 1998 294pp **B1736** 

#### The Ivory Swing

Janette Turner Hospital

A Canadian couple and their two children move to a region of southern India, where Indian expectations, especially about caste and women's roles, confound the visiting family. Hospital's first novel draws on her time in India, and presents a disturbing meditation on the clash of cultures and the rebellion and feminine rage in each.

**●** 1982 252pp **B1449** 



# The Jane Austen Book Club

Karen Joy Fowler

Five women and a man form a book group to discuss their favourite Jane Austen novels. Each chapter focuses on a different Austen book, interpreted through the life experience of the member hosting the month's meeting. This is an entertaining character driven comedy of manners. No prior knowledge of Austen's work is required but her fans will be especially thrilled to observe the lives of the members unfold under the guiding eye of a much adored 19th-century novelist.

**3** 2004 279pp **B1884** 

## Journey from Venice

**Ruth Cracknell** 

In 1998, after 41 years of marriage, the incomparable Ruth Cracknell planned a well earned holiday in Venice with her beloved husband.

An unexpected stroke landed him in intensive care. This is a memoir of their love as they face the outcome, and further evidence of the indomitable spirit of this wonderful

**№** 2000 271pp **B1764** 

Australian woman.



# Lady Susan, The Watsons and Sanditon

••••••

Jane Austen

Lady Susan is an epistolary novel that was completed but not published during Austen's lifetime. The Watsons is an unfinished fragment with a spirited heroine who finds her marriage prospects restricted by poverty and pride. The incomplete novel Sanditon, written in the last few months of Austen's life, is set in a seaside resort and contemplates a changing society. This volume includes an introduction by Margaret Drabble who examines these three pieces within the context of Austen's work and life.

**6** 2003 224pp **B1046** 

#### Last Orders

**Graham Swift** 

The novel concentrates on a group of men whose friendships and lives revolve around work, family, racetrack and pub. The narrative is initially complex because nine different voices carry it. But this gives a wonderful mix of the lyric and the realistic as four men carry out Jack's strange last request – that his ashes be scattered into the sea.

**GG** 1996 295pp <u>B1538</u>

#### Love, Again

**Doris Lessing** 

What happens when someone falls in love? Is it different for the young and the old? Is it a madness, a blessing, a rationalisation of lust? Lessing's leisurely, discursive novel interweaves the 19th century with the 20th to connect us with the pains, delights and puzzles of love, particularly that of an older woman for a younger man.

**●** 1995 352pp <u>B1506</u>

#### Love in the Time of Cholera

Gabriel García Márquez

The consummation of Florentino Ariza's passionate love for Fermina Daza is delayed for 50 years by her highly satisfactory marriage to Dr Juvenal Urbino. Magical yet realistic - this astonishing work is crowded with life and love stories of the Caribbean country where it is set. Smallish print.

**B** 1985 348pp **B1247** 

#### Love like Water Meme McDonald

After the death of her fiancé in Queensland, Cathy spends time in Alice Springs with her childhood friend, Margie, hoping to work out what to do with her life. Cathy's affair with Aboriginal Jay reveals the underside of Alice Springs and the latent racism that simmers beneath the surface of Australian society. A light and enjoyable read that boldly confronts difficult issues of place, race and identity.

**⊕** 2007 349pp **B1951** 



#### Madame Bovary **Gustave Flaubert**

One of the great classics of world literature, this novel is about a young woman stultified by marriage and motherhood in a confined society. Its portrait of Madame Bovary and the bourgeois life of country town France in the 19th century is vivid and compelling reading.

**■** 1856 361pp **B0107** 

#### Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

Helen Simonson

Major Ernest Pettigrew, a widower, is grieving for his brother when he answers the door to Mrs Ali, a widow. They find they share a love of literature, and their friendship soon becomes the subject of slanderous town gossip. Set in a rural English village, Major Pettigrew's Last Stand is told with insight, wit, and dignity and is an unconventional, romantic comedy of manners that offers much to discuss.

**6** 2010 388pp **B2077** 

#### Mansfield Park

Jane Austen

This heroine lacks the obvious temperamental, physical and material advantages of Elizabeth Bennet or Emma Woodhouse. As Fanny Price struggles to make her way among luckier, more extroverted and less scrupulous people, Austen's writing combines metaphoric subtlety and comic delight.

**₱** 1814 462pp **B0576** 

#### Mateship with Birds 🗘 Carrie Tiffany

This is a pitch-perfect depiction of the freedoms and strictures of country town life in the 1950s Australian countryside. Lonely neighbours Harry and Betty lust after each other, and complicating matters, Harry is also a father figure to Betty's son; but it all goes wrong when he tries to teach him about love and lust. Contains sexual references.

**6** 2012 211pp **B2159** 

#### The Mint Lawn

Gillian Mears

A 25-year-old woman's struggles with an unsatisfying marriage, childhood and her mother's death are conveyed in sensual, obsessively physical prose. A strong sense of a small New South Wales river town. Unpleasant material that may offend.

**1991 298pp B1332** 

## The Mistake

**Wendy James** 

A decision to adopt out a baby illegally comes back to haunt Jodie Garrow 25 years later. The ensuing investigation puts pressure on the life and family she has since built as Jodie becomes entangled in a media witch hunt. Wendy James explores family dynamics, motherhood, and the powerful role of the media today.

**6** 2012 278pp **B2148** 

#### Moral Hazard

Kate Jennings

Cath's much-loved older husband begins to succumb to Alzheimer's. To earn the money needed for his care, Cath finds work on Wall Street as an executive speechwriter and commutes between two dementias - one of men, power and greed, the other of the crumbling away of the love of her life. A mordant, harrowing, unsentimental novel.

**6** 2002 175pp **B1672** 

#### The Mothers' Group **Fiona Higgins**

Following six very different women in a mothers' group through the first years of their babies' lives, this novel explores motherhood and themes such as marriage, new parenting, and dealing with loss. One day, a shocking event changes everything, testing the women's bonds and revealing secrets that threaten to shatter their lives.

**●** 2012 312pp **B2149** 



## NEW

#### Normal People Sally Rooney





PEOPLE

Connell and Marianne are from the same town, but their lives shouldn't be this intertwined. Yet a relationship forms between them as they grow up and attend Trinity College in Dublin. An intelligent and thoughtful insight into the complexities of intimate relationships and an unflinching exploration about femininity and masculinity in a modern-day setting. The novel is sharp, the characters three-dimensional, the writing is intelligent and sure to provoke a great discussion on intimacy, relationships and socalled normality. Contains sexual content.

**6 2** 2018 288pp **B2293** 

## Northanger Abbey

Jane Austen

A high spirited, enjoyable satire on romance mysteries and gothic tales of horror; one of Austen's earliest and most literary works that includes a spirited defence of novels.

1818 252pp B1199



#### Of Love and Shadows Isabel Allende

Journalist Irene has enjoyed a privileged upbringing and is engaged to an army captain when she is partnered with photographer Francisco. They soon become an inseparable investigative team, and when they discover an unspeakable crime perpetrated under the chilling political regime of their country, they must risk everything to reveal the truth - and to admit the truth about their passion for each other. A magical. captivating read.

**●** 1987 298pp **B1349** 

## Olive Kitteridge

Elizabeth Strout

This series of stories is connected by the character of teacher Olive Kitteridge in a small coastal town in Maine, and combines 'the sustained, messy investigation of the novel with the flashing insight of the short story... It illuminates both what people understand about others and what they understand about themselves'- The New York Times. Small print.

**GG** 2008 270pp <u>B2060</u>

#### On Chesil Beach Ian McEwan

It's 1962. Newlyweds Edward and Florence arrive at a hotel on the Dorset coast. They believe their marriage will bring them happiness but each faces their wedding night with unspoken fears. A brilliant portrait of how a word not spoken can shape an entire life. Contains sexual content.

**D B** 2007 166pp **B** 1954











#### Paula

Isabel Allende

'In ... 1991 my daughter, Paula, fell gravely ill. These pages were written during the interminable hours spent ... beside her bed.' The novelist mother embarks on the most magical, real and passionate of all her stories, containing the family legends, Chile's dramatic history, and the poignant progress of Paula's illness. Perhaps more Isabel's than Paula's saga.

•••••

**№** 1994 330pp <u>**B1493**</u>

#### Perfect Skin

**Nick Earls** 

A single father juggles his day job as a consulting dermatologist with the needs of his 6-monthold daughter Lily. Brisbane writer Nick Earls brings us a very now novel with a lot about bad 80s fashion and music, email etiquette, and dating thirty somethings. Full of insight, perceptive social comment and Earls' comedic instinct.

**6** 2000 354pp **B1688** 

#### Persuasion

Jane Austen

How far should one yield to persuasion from older, wiser, loving people? When is advice an interference? In Jane Austen's last completed work her characteristic incisiveness gains an autumnal tone.

**1**818 264pp **B0596** 

## The Philosopher's Doll 🗘

Amanda Lohrey

What happens when one partner wants a child and the other doesn't? In a culture of affluence, what do we need to be happy, and how much control do we have over our lives? This is an accomplished novel exploring contemporary life and how to 'have it all'.

**●** 2004 306pp **B1822** 

#### Plain Jane

Joan Barfoot

A plain 28-year-old woman, living alone, working in a library, impulsively answers an advertisement to become the penpal of a prisoner - and changes her life. Easy to read, wry and surprisingly tense.

1992 243pp B1421

#### The Poet's Wife

**Mandy Sayer** 

Sayer chronicles her turbulent marriage to poet Yusef Komunyakaa in this unflinching and intelligent memoir. She was 22 and he nearly 40 when they met; she a busker, and he an out of work professor – yet each found a kindred spirit in the other. The Poet's Wife examines their troubled relationship, and follows Sayer's development as a writer.

**№** 2014 417pp **B2207** 

#### Portrait of a Marriage

Nigel Nicolson

Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville West were married for 49 years. During this time each had affairs with others of the same sex, notably Vita and Virgina Woolf, yet they remained inseparably united. Written by their son, much of the book is based on work obviously intended to be his mother's autobiography.

**№** 1973 237pp **B1073** 

# Poum and Alexandre: A Paris Memoir

Catherine de Saint Phalle



Set in post-war Paris during the decline of the bourgeois class, this beautifully written memoir follows Catherine as she recounts her unconventional childhood through the life of her mother, Poum, and her father, Alexandre, two flawed eccentrics with a love of mythology and the old ways. A tender memoir about acceptance, loneliness and freedom through the observant eyes of a child.

**OG** 2016 256pp <u>B2254</u>

#### Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

Amusing and astringent. This brilliant novel has become Austen's most-loved work. The delightfully spirited Elizabeth Bennet must contend with the antics of her inappropriate younger sisters, her hapless parents, and the suitors that begin approaching herself and her older sister, Jane. She must also learn to overcome her own faults as she deals with those of her romantic interests.

**●●** 1813 327pp **B0210** 

#### Private Life

Jane Smiley

Margaret Mayfield is 27 when she marries Captain Andrew Jackson Jefferson Early. Despite her lonely marriage she stands by him through grief and tragedy, but is forced to examine their lives together as things take a darker turn when WWII approaches.

**€** 2010 318pp **B2099** 

#### **Prodigal Summer**

Barbara Kingsolver

Over one humid summer in southern Appalchia, as the urge to procreate overtakes the countryside, three characters discover their connections to one another and to the flora and fauna with which they share a place. A lavish and sexually exuberant read.

**●●** 2000 447pp <u>B1690</u>



#### The Reader

**Bernhard Schlink** 

A 15-year-old German student becomes involved with a 36-year-old woman. Long after she has disappeared from his life, Michael has cause to reassess the Hanna he knew. This haunting tale raises profound questions about action, choice, judgement and Germany's recent past. Good clear print.

**1**995 216pp **B1562** 

#### The Rosie Effect

**Graeme Simsion** 

Simsion's humour shines throughout in the second book in the Don Tillman trilogy. Don is 'not fond of surprises, especially if they disrupt plans already in place', so he is dazed by Rosie's revelation of his impending fatherhood. Don's fears see him return to old ways, risking his newfound happiness as he comes to terms with the unpredictability of life.

**GG** 2014 368pp <u>B2217</u>

## The Rosie Project

**Graeme Simsion** 

In this first book in the Don Tillman trilogy, Don Tillman, professor of genetics, leads a very ordered life. He has launched 'The Wife Project' in a bid to find a suitable mate, but things go awry when impulsive barmaid Rosie Jarman enters his life and he finds himself agreeing to help find her father. This feel-good comic novel and celebrates difference, tolerance and the transformative power of the unexpected.

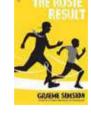
**GG** 2013 324pp **B2182** 



#### The Rosie Result

Graeme Simsion

and partner.



A hilarious and heartfelt conclusion to the bestselling trilogy that began with *The Rosie Project*. Don and Rosie are back in Melbourne and facing new challenges. Don realises that is isn't enough to be the World's Best Problem-Solver – he has to embark on his most important project yet and learn how to be a satisfactory parent

**● 2019 384pp B2303** 





## Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen

Austen portrays sisters Elinor and Marianne, each with contrasting temperaments and inclinations. In their story, she explores distinctions between wisdom and feeling, reserve and secrecy, spontaneity and steadiness.

**●** 1811 368pp **B1085** 

#### The Sense of an Ending

Julian Barnes



Tony Webster has lived an ordinary, relatively unexamined life. Then, in retirement, an unexpected bequest forces him to revisit memories of his school friends and university days that he had thought immutable. This is a small novel that skilfully tackles big themes such as memory, ageing, love, truth, and regret.

**B** 2011 150pp **B2138** 

#### **Shadow Lines**

Stephen Kinnane

Englishman Edward Smith emigrated to Australia and met Jessie Argyle, who was born in the remote East Kimberley and taken from her Aboriginal family at the age of five. In a deeply racially divided society, Jessie and Edward fell in love and married. Despite official surveillance and harassment. their Perth home became a centre for Aboriginal cultural and social life.

№ 2003 414pp **B1842** 

#### **Shallows**

**Tim Winton** 

A small coastal town in Western Australia clings to one of its few surviving industries, whaling. The township witnesses struggle between whalers and conservationists; the community divides; a marriage founders.

**1** 1984 235pp **B1213** 

#### NEW

#### Small Blessings **Emily Brewin**

The new

novel by the author of Hello.

Goodbye is a moving tale of motherhood and friendships. Rosie is struggling to make a life for herself and her son when her ex-bovfriend comes back into the picture. Isobel is trying to balance her career and starting a family, and past issues threaten to make themselves known. Circumstances brings the two women together in a story of hope, friendship and second chances.

BLESSINGS

**G** 2019 248pp **B2302** 

## A Stranger Here

Gillian Bouras

Bouras uses three different voices, each commenting on a recent crisis which concerns them all: Irene. Australian mother of three sons and wife of a Greek husband, has suddenly departed from her marriage and the village in Greece. As in her nonfiction, here Bouras confronts the painful realities of marriage, motherhood, being drawn to two cultures and belonging fully to neither. Print well-spaced.

**●** 1996 247pp **B1507** 

#### The Submerged Cathedral (1)

Charlotte Wood



Taking her title from composer Claude Debussy's La Cathédrale Engloutie, Wood has created a haunting but beautiful story about the consuming love between Jocelyn, an editor and Martin, a doctor. When their relationship is disrupted by a family tragedy, grief forces them to separate and embark on personal journeys of discovery. Wood's prose is rich in imagery and metaphor.

**6** 2004 302pp **B1846** 

## The Sugar Mother

Elizabeth Jolley

Edwin Page, gentle, prim, is on his own while his wife is overseas for a year. But Leila and her mother, the new tenants next door, somehow move in on him, and Edwin becomes aware of how he longs for the child he never had. Leila, it seems, is quite happy to become a sugar no, surrogate - mother.

**1** 1988 210pp **B1339** 

## Sweet Old World

**Deborah Robertson** 

David has always dreamed of becoming a father. When troubled teen Esther tumbles into his life. David's initial reluctance to become involved changes as he finds himself close to the happiness for which he longs. This moving novel examines the often ignored male side of yearning for parenthood, and the importance of hope.

**●** 2012 224pp **B2150** 



#### Theft: A Love Story **Peter Carey**



Artist Michael 'Butcher Bones' Boone, divorced and bankrupt, acts as caretaker for his patron's remote estate and for his 'damaged 220lb brother'. When he meets American beauty Marlene, a chain of unpredictable events unfolds. From rural Australia to New York via Sydney and Tokyo, Theft is a darkly funny, thought-provoking story of love, responsibility and redemption.

**6** 2006 269pp **B1981** 

**Enjoyed** Hello, Goodbye?

Trv Small Blessings by Emily Brewin [B2302]

#### Thinks . . .

David Lodge

Another delightful comedy of manners about academia, adultery and human consciousness. Ralph is an international academic star in the highly trendy field of language and thought research. Novelist Helen arrives at the university to teach, and to recover from the unexpected death of her husband. Despite their differences they begin a secret affair - with complicated consequences.

**1** 2001 342pp **B1678** 

## Three Dog Night

Peter Goldsworthy

Goldsworthy's intriguing novel explores human extremes in a disturbing narrative of obsessive love, mortality and selfdeception. His deft and evocative prose carries the intensity of the book's dark journey, a desert trip where the Australian landscape and Aboriginal rituals amplify the ambiguities and complexities of his characters and preoccupations. Challenging and compelling reading.

**6** 2003 342pp **B1850** 

## The Time Traveler's Wife

**Audrey Niffenegger** 

Clare and Henry, met when Clare was 6 and Henry was 36 and were married when Clare was 22 and Henry 30. Henry suffers from a rare condition where his genetic clock periodically resets and he finds himself pulled into his past or future. A moving love story.

**₱** 2004 518pp **B2002** 

## Together

Julie Cohen

Robbie and Emily have been together for 43 years, with grandchildren, a life of success and an unbreakable love. But one day Robbie wakes up and walks into the ocean, leaving a letter that shatters Emily's world. As the story unfolds backwards over five decades, we discover a secret they've been protecting at all costs. A thought-provoking read with a jaw-dropping reveal that will get your book group talking.

**6** 2017 352pp **B2282** 















# Too Much Happiness



Extraordinary events touch everyday lives within this brilliant collection of short fiction from celebrated Canadian writer and Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro. 'Written with veteran assurance, brimming with intensely believable characters and rich social detail, these dispatches from the most unsparing reaches of Munro's imagination confirm her acclaimed place on the highest ground of contemporary fiction' – Sunday Times.

**6** 2009 303pp <u>B2108</u>

# To the Wedding

In an extraordinary series of telling vignettes a blind man tells the story of the wedding between young Gino and his bride. A mother and father, estranged for years, travel across Europe for the celebrations. As the book moves from one character's perspective to another, events and characters move towards the convergence of the wedding – a haunting dance of love and death.

**●** 1995 202pp <u>B1546</u>

#### The Toucher Dorothy Hewett

Controversial in its graphic depiction of the sexuality of a woman in her sixties in a relationship with a much younger man. A powerful and plangent delineation of human needliness and creativity, set in a haunting West Australian seascape.

**●** 1993 300pp **B1430** 

## The Transit of Venus

**Shirley Hazzard** 



Explores the power of love, and its passing, through the lives of two young Australian sisters who go to London in the care of a difficult relative. An incisive study of relationships. Demanding, but rewarding.

**●** 1980 337pp <u>B0162</u>



# A Visit from the Goon Squad

Jennifer Egan



A Visit from the Goon Squad delves into the pasts of former punk rocker and ageing record producer Bennie and his assistant Sasha – who has troubles of her own. It is witty, insightful, funny, and touching. 'Features characters about whom you come to care deeply as you watch them doing things they shouldn't, acting gloriously, infuriatingly human.' – Chicago Tribune (US).

**6** 2010 340pp **B2129** 

#### The Volcano Lover

Susan Sontag

Subtitled 'A Romance', the novel focuses on the famous triangle of Sir William Hamilton, his wife Emma, and her lover Nelson. Their personalities and destinies are lived out near the actual volcano of Vesuvius, and metaphorical volcanoes including the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. Sensual, intelligent, demanding.

**1**993 419pp **B1431** 



#### Waiting

Ha Jin

Lin Kong is an army doctor during China's Cultural Revolution. He falls in love with a modern, educated woman, however Lin Kong is trapped in an arranged marriage to a workworn loyal wife in his village, and until she agrees to divorce him, nothing will be possible. Ha Jin's novel of love and enforced obedience provides fascinating insights into the chasm between the new industrial China and the ways of its ancient agricultural settlements.

**1**999 308pp **B1897** 

#### Water Under the Bridge

**Sumner Locke Elliott** 

A novel of life in Sydney during and after the Depression. Murder, comedy and spoiled dreams are the stuff of this exceptional novel.

**1**977 367pp <u>B1132</u>

#### We Are All Made of Glue

Marina Lewycka

After a rocky start, Georgie befriends her eccentric old neighbour Mrs Shapiro. When Mrs Shapiro is admitted to hospital, Georgie is named next of kin. Sorting out Mrs Shapiro's semi-derelict mansion isn't easy. It is home to seven cats, the handyman is not what he seems, two estate agents are trying to trick Mrs Shapiro into selling her house and the social worker is determined to commit her to a nursing home. Georgie also finds herself unravelling a mystery that takes her to wartime Europe and the Middle East.

**6** 2009 432pp **B2048** 

#### What I Loved

Siri Hustvedt

The New York art scene is the context for this powerful novel about two families, two sons and two marriages, brought together by the friendship between the two men, an art critic and an experimental artist. With a change of gear, the story shifts from family and art into an urban thriller, complete with violence, duplicity, murder and erotica. Hustvedt's novel brims with ideas and emotion.

**6** 2003 370pp **B1851** 

#### The Winter Vault

**Anne Michaels** 

From the award-winning author of Fugitive Pieces comes a poetic love story that juxtaposes historical events with moments in individual lives. In 1964, newly married couple Avery and Jean settle into a houseboat on the Nile, but a tragic event occurs which will influence their lives and relationship.

**1** 2009 341pp **B2053** 

#### The Women in Black

Madeleine St John

In 1950s Sydney, several women are working at the famous F. G. Goode's Department Store. Their hopes, fears, dreams and romances unfold against the backdrop of a confined and changing society and as the New Year begins, the characters find themselves at the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

**66** 1993 228pp <u>B2041</u>

#### Wrack

James Bradley



This intelligent and provocative first novel sets up a compelling web of historical detection, academic and amorous rivalry, and passions of love and war. Its focus is the wrecked Portuguese Mahogany Ship whose discovery would rewrite Australia's European history. Print well-spaced.

**GG** 1997 341pp **B1548** 

We loved this book! Interesting that a lot of reviews of the book were not so good. Most of us know about the ship and other historical snippets relating to the Portuguese exploration of 'Australia', which added to our discussion. But it had something for everyone geography, history, maps (the illustrations were interesting), and explorers. Then more personally with love, romance. betrayal, intrigue and mystery. Glen Waverley Ralton Renegades

# Wuthering Heights Emily Brontë

The poetic fierceness of Brontë's vision gives this book a rare elemental power. Adopted by Catherine Linton's father, wildling Heathcliff is bullied by Catherine's brother - and when he returns to the grand house of Wuthering Heights as a grown and powerful man, the consequences of his vengeance will be far-reaching. At the heart of the complex drama of three generations of the Earnshaws and the Lintons is the passionate love of Catherine and Heathcliff.

**●●** 1847 376pp <u>B0002</u>





# Step Back in Time

Take a journey back to days gone by. Covering thousands of years of human activity, this chapter contains historical fiction, nonfiction and biography.



#### According to Queeney Beryl Bainbridge

Savour this complex and fascinating fictionalisation of the 20-year relationship between the acclaimed Samuel Johnson and his benefactor, Mrs Thrale, according to her daughter Queeney. A wonderful observer of human folly, Bainbridge tells a candid story of unrequited love, passion, rejection and possession, skilfully exposing the sexual tensions that lie beneath the surface of Georgian London. Loosely plotted through a series of letters, her concise style brings a cast of remarkable characters vividly to life.

**6** 2001 244pp **B1947** 

#### All the Light We Cannot See

**Anthony Doerr** 



Werner attends a Nazi boarding school, gratefully escaping the mines of his hometown; Marie Laure, blind from a young age, adores her father who brings the world alive for her. Their eventful childhoods unfold until their paths cross in Nazi-occupied France in the walled port city of Saint Malo, where Marie Laure hides from heavy shelling - and from a stranger who has hunted her from afar.

**D B** 2014 544pp **B2228** 

#### As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning

Laurie Lee

Another re-creation of times gone by from the author of Cider with Rosie, this book deals with Spain before the Civil War, seen through the eyes of a young man destined to become a well known British writer.

**1** 1969 186pp **B0524** 

#### At Home

Bill Bryson

An entertaining, witty and illuminative look at how history shapes our everyday lives. From the history of hygiene that is brought to bear in the bathroom, to nutrition and the spice trade that are brought home to the kitchen. His great skill is making daily life simultaneously strange and familiar, helping us to recognise ourselves.

**1** 2010 544pp **B2096** 

Everyone enjoyed this book. Bryson's writing is very insightful of the living/moving masses of the time. A delightful way to provide history. Keilor Community Centre



#### Bearbrass 🚓 Robyn Annear

The authorial self-description sets the delightful and bracing tone: 'Robyn Annear is a typist

and lives in country Victoria with somebody else's husband'. History has never been such fun, and Melbourne - 'Bearbrass' - won't be the same after this anecdotal, irreverent, informative book about its past and present.

**1995 290pp B1471** 

**Enjoyed** All the Light We Cannot See?

Try The Book Thief by Markus Zusak [B1995]

#### Rereft

**Chris Womersley** 



In 1919, Quinn Walker returns home from war, having fled his hometown as a teenager falsely accused of killing his younger sister. On his return, he remains both an outsider and a wanted man. He meets a young orphan girl, Sadie, who seems to know more about the crime and about Quinn than she should, and she encourages him to take justice into his own hands.

**BB** 2010 264pp **B2106** 

A beautifully written book that encompasses historical detail and a surprising relationship between the damaged survivor of terrible boyhood trauma and an orphaned child. Totally believable and understated, it nevertheless takes the reader into personal worlds typical of the time of the Great War in a small country town, where hardship, poverty and ignorance were the norm, but where friendship or love could also be found. The undertone of superstition and magic is so subtle that it can be missed or ignored as superfluous. But this gives the book its gothic description bequeathed by some reviewers. We all loved it. Mullumbimby Huon Books

## The Birth House

Ami McKay

During WWI, young Dora befriends the elderly Miss Babineau, midwife in their small fishing village in Nova Scotia, Canada. Together, they help the women of Scots Bay through difficult labour, infertility, and even marital troubles. But when Dr Gilbert Thomas moves to town with his promise of modern medicine, everything changes. 'An impressive novel, laced with quirky research and rippling with muscular poetry' - Observer (UK).

**1** 2006 385pp **B2023** 

#### Bomb. Book and Compass: Joseph Needham and the Great Secrets of China

Simon Winchester

From the author of *The Surgeon* of Crowthorne and The Map That Changed the World. A distinguished biochemist working at Cambridge University and married to a fellow scientist, in 1937 Needham was asked to supervise a young Chinese student named Lu Gwei Djen. He fell in love with both Lu and China and established himself as the pre-eminent China scholar, documenting everything from Chinese medicine to philosophy and nautical history.

**D E** 2008 336pp **B2021** 

#### The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

Liesel is sent to live with a foster family near Munich in World War II, and with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. She is soon stealing books, which she shares with her neighbours and the Jewish refugee hiding in the basement, 'Death' is the unconventional narrator of this international bestseller by an Australian author.

**6** 2005 550pp **B1995** 

## Bring Larks and Heroes

Thomas Keneally



This imaginative reconstruction of a convict settlement in Australia in the 1790s tells of the physical and mental demands made on soldier poet Corporal Halloran: demands by his secret bride, his superiors, his Irish comrades and most of all by his conscience.

**GG** 1967 248pp **B0166** 











# Bring Up the Bodies Carlotte Hilary Mantel



The sequel to Man Booker Prize winner Wolf Hall, this novel concentrates on the short, brutal period of Anne Boleyn's downfall. Thomas Cromwell is at the height of his powers, masterfully negotiating court politics to secure Henry VIII a way out of his failed marriage. This is a 'must read' for those who enjoy Mantel's stylish prose and sly wit.

**G** 2012 410pp **B2155** 

#### Burial Rites Hannah Kent



In Iceland, 1829, Agnes Magnúsdóttir awaits execution. Burial Rites chronicles the life that brought Agnes to this point, and explores the effect the doomed woman has on those who spend time with her in her last months. Kent evokes a harsh world within which residents battle for survival, a sense of identity and freedom.

**66** 2013 335pp **B2193** 

#### **Bush Studies**

Barbara Baynton

These sharply effective stories share time and setting with Lawson's. But Baynton's treatment strips away the romance and the heroics from the bush and its characters. Contains 'Squeaker's Mate', the basis of a controversial film.

**6** 1902 140pp **B1055** 



## Caleb's Crossing

**Geraldine Brooks** 



Another compelling historical novel from the author of *People* of the Book, Year of Wonders and March. This is inspired by the life of Caleb Cheeshahteaumuck who was born in 1646 and was the first Native American to graduate from Harvard. He befriends Bethia, who lives within a Puritan settlement.

**●●** 2011 369pp <u>**B2109**</u>

#### Célestine

Gillian Tindall

In a French peasant village, Tindall (an English historian) came across a bundle of letters from the 1860s, addressed to a young woman, Célestine Chaumette, and used them to carefully reconstruct the lives of the village and its people. Subtitled 'Voices from a French Village', this thoughtful social history is detailed and complex as it creates the vivid sense of ordinary daily lives and struggles.

**1995** 292pp <u>**B1486</u>**</u>

## Charles Hotham

Shirley Roberts

As the first governor of the colony of Victoria, Hotham was soon faced with troubles in the goldfields and with the Eureka crisis. Before this, his naval career was distinguished and varied: of particular note was his posting in West Africa where his squadron was engaged in suppressing the trans-Atlantic slave trade. A lucid and positive assessment of Hotham's contribution to public life. Pleasant hardcover volume: clarity of the print is excellent.

**1** 1985 201pp **B1241** 

#### Come in Spinner

Dymphna Cusack & Florence James

Wartime Sydney, and the influx of American servicemen, is illuminated through the eyes of six women working in the beauty parlour of a large hotel. An interesting portrayal of urban working class Australian society.

**●●** 1951 445pp <u>B0568</u>

# Enjoyed My Brilliant Career?

Try
Come in Spinner
by Dymphna Cusack &
Florence James
[B0568]

#### NEW

#### The Corset Laura Purcell

When 16-yearold Ruth is

imprisoned and awaiting trial for murder, 'charitable' lady Dorothea wants to use Ruth to explore her theories on phrenology, the science of skull measuring. But when the two women meet, Ruth recounts her devastating life of entrenched poverty, child labour and the strange ability to channel her pain into her embroidery. Can there be truth to Ruth's strange tale? This evocative gothic novel set in the rough streets of Victorian London asks the question: Is Ruth mad, or a murderer?

CORSET

**●●** 2018 416pp <u>**B2296**</u>

## Cranford Calval

Elizabeth Gaskell

First published in instalments in a magazine edited by Dickens, this is an affectionate portrait of people and small-town customs and values in mid-Victorian England. In a series of satirical sketches, Gaskell describes with humour and tenderness the lives of good-natured spinster Miss Matty, her maid Martha, and narrator Mary Smith.

**●** 1853 312pp <u>B0010</u>



# Dancing with Strangers Inga Clendinnen



'These people mixed with ours,' wrote James Bradley, 'and all hands danced together.' What went wrong between the British settlers of New South Wales and the Australian inhabitants they encountered? Arthur Phillip and the local leader Bennelong pursued a difficult path to conciliation; we follow the painful end of that relationship as cultural differences asserted themselves.

**№** 2003 324pp <u>B1826</u>

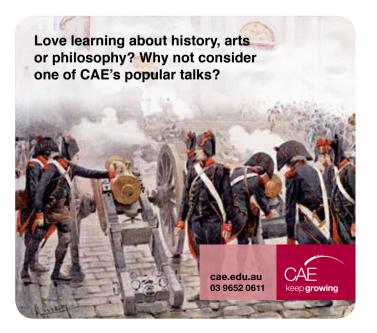


## Electricity

Victoria Glendinning

This high voltage, informative novel set in Victorian England is a portrayal of Charlotte Mortimer and her surprising life, illuminating the family, sexual and social mores of a culture undergoing great changes.

**●** 1995 250pp **B1527** 



#### **Empire Falls** Richard Russo



A dying mill town in central Maine is the setting for Russo's portrait of ordinary people swept up in economic and political forces as seen through Mlles, a cook at the Empire Grill. The characters' behaviour and preoccupations are utterly compelling without high drama or exaggeration. It gently reminds us that life itself, though often painful, must be cherished.

**1** 2001 483pp **B1684** 



## Fire Under the Snow

Palden Gyatso

Tibet, the last spiritual society, met an avowedly materialist China, and lost. Gyatso, then 17, and a monk, tells the strangest story, and the history of contemporary Tibet. Is reality only materiality? Striving here, innocence, naïveté, brutality, brainwashing, imprisonment, hope, David and Goliath. Goliath wins, but the Wheel turns. A rarity.

**№** 1997 232pp **B1570** 

## The Floating Brothel

Siân Rees

The Lady Julian sailed in 1789 for Botany Bay with a cargo of female convicts. Rees writes vividly of the social pressures which led to female crime, of squalid prison conditions, the routines on an 18th-century sailing ship and a pragmatic approach whereby both men at sea and in the young colony might be provided with women. Both aboard and in Australia, many women convicts found a life preferable to the one they had left behind.

**1** 2001 248pp **B1641** 

#### The Forgotten Garden **Kate Morton**

This is an international bestseller of family secrets, gothic mysteries and fairy tales. When Cassandra travels from Brisbane to the Cornwall coast and a cottage she inherited from her grandmother, she discovers a garden which holds the secret to her grandmother's birth and journey to Australia as a stowaway.

**BB** 2008 549pp **B2116** 



#### Galileo's Daughter

Dava Sobel

Galileo was the foremost scientist of his day, fighting Church opposition for acceptance of his heresy that the sun, not the earth, was the centre of the Solar System. His muchloved daughter Maria Celeste, consigned to a convent at an early age, wrote to her father throughout her life, and Sobel has woven a clever narrative around these. A fascinating account of everyday life in 17th century Italy.

**1999** 429pp **B1758** 

We thought this book was very good and quite compelling in having such a breadth of subject and setting. It is a very scholastic achievement, demanding a huge amount of research as we see in the index at the back. The book had an interesting description of Galileo's inventions, which the non-scientific among us can still appreciate, with some of his extremely detailed drawings reproduced.

Bendigo Free Spirits

#### Generations

Hugh Mackay

One of Australia's best known social researchers analyses Australian society by generation. He looks at baby boomers, their parents and their children. Comparing their various attitudes helps us understand the diverse and changing circumstances facing all Australians as a new millennium dawns. Will you agree with his findings?

**1997** 194pp **B1572** 

#### The Glass Room

Simon Mawer

Viktor and Liesel Landauer build their modern home in the countryside of the Czech Republic in 1928. But when the Nazis rise to power, the Landauers have to flee. The house witnesses the Nazis and the Soviet invasion, but when Communism falls and the Czech Republic becomes an independent country again, the Landauers can return home.

**1** 2009 404pp **B2125** 

#### The Good People Hannah Kent





When Nora Leahy loses her husband and her daughter, she is left as the sole carer for Michael, her 4-year-old grandson who cannot walk or speak and demands her attention at all times. Desperate to end the superstitious gossip of the townsfolk surrounding Michael's deformities. Nora seeks out Nance Roche, a recluse who claims to have the otherworldly knowledge to banish the evil from her grandson. Set in 1900s poverty-stricken Ireland, The Good People is a chilling story about the extremes of superstition and faith.

**B** 2016 380pp **B2258** 

## Go Set a Watchman

Harper Lee

This newly rediscovered manuscript was intended as Lee's first novel before her editor suggested focusing on young Scout's perspective in what became the Pulitzer winning To Kill a Mockingbird. Lee's original text is being published with no revisions, and sees an adult Scout returning to Maycomb twenty years after the events of Mockingbird. Whatever you think of the controversy surrounding the book's release, it will certainly stimulate discussion.

**G** 2015 320pp **B2218** 

## Gould's Book of Fish

Richard Flanagan

This novel plucks a real-life thief and prisoner, English forger William Gould, from the pages of history to act as protagonistnarrator. Sentenced to a prison colony off the Tasmanian coast, Gould recounts his life story as he paints the island's native fish, recalling his grim childhood and ill-fated life of crime. Flanagan's darkly humorous tale of the 19thcentury world of convicts and colonists slips between the real and the fantastic.

**1** 2001 404pp **B1675** 

#### The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer

In January 1946, Juliet receives a letter which leads to an ongoing correspondence with the members of a Guernsey group formed during the German occupation of the Channel Islands. When Juliet goes to meet her new friends, her life changes in unexpected ways. This warm and witty epistolary novel is a celebration of books and an exploration of friendship, love, and sacrifice.

**B** 2008 273pp **B**2032

#### Guns, Germs and Steel **Jared Diamond**



Ambitiously subtitled 'A short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years', this is a thoughtprovoking book on human history, tackling the difficult question of why human beings developed so differently on different continents. The writer of this Pulitzer Prize winning work on the origins of human inequality is an American scientist and explorer, whose writings aim to make science accessible. Small print.

**D** 1997 480pp **B1713** 

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#### The Help 🗅 Kathryn Stockett

In the American South in the early 1960s, aspiring writer Skeeter has graduated from university and returns home to pressure from her mother to get married. Aibileen is a black maid raising her seventeenth white child, with the knowledge that this child, too, will come to a certain age, and start to see her differently. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, keeps getting fired because she won't mind her tongue. The three women band together on a project that puts all of them at risk.

**B** 2009 451pp **B2074** 







#### A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters

Julian Barnes

Jokey, sorrowful, resilient, this unusual book is not so much a bird's as a worm's eye view of history - seeing it from the bottom up, hollowing out certainties, tackling the big human questions by storytelling and commentary.

1989 309pp B1324

## **Human Croquet**

**Kate Atkinson** 

Isobel Fairfax, the appealing young narrator of this story, is both character in her own right and representative of all storytellers. She has the ability to move in and out of 'normal' time, so that the novel consists of varied story strands with different and equally plausible endings. Part ghost story, part murder mystery, this novel is also a stimulating presentation of English history and the people who walked through it.

**G** 1998 383pp **B** 1925



## **Inglorious Empire**

Shashi Tharoor

Former United Nations diplomat strikes back with the real story of the British colonial oppression and plunder of India. Tharoor reveals how the British Industrial Revolution, and its wealth, was founded on the demolishment of the Indian Empire, whose economy matched the entire European continent. An unapologetic and explosive look at the devastating effects of colonialism.

**1 1 2 1 1 1 3 3 3 6 pp B2287** 

## The Invention of Wings

Sue Monk Kidd

The new novel by the author of The Secret Life of Bees is inspired by the lives of abolitionist sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké, born into a wealthy Charleston plantation in the mid-19th century. This is the story of their slave, 'Handful', and the complex relationships with those around them, marked by guilt, defiance, and the uneasy ways

**6** 2014 373pp **B2205** 

#### The Invisible History of the Human Race

**Christine Kenneally** 



#### **SHORTLISTED** Stella Prize

What is the complex notion of 'identity'? How can DNA shape cultures and whole nations? Award-winning journalist Christine Kenneally asks these questions and more, encompassing genealogy, science, cultural inheritance and the concept of race. This engrossing book asks what we inherit from the past, and guarantees hours of discussion with its answer.

© 2014 368pp B2219



## Jack Maggs

**Peter Carey** 



#### **WINNER** Miles Franklin Literary Award

Set in a vivid 19th century London, Carey's acclaimed novel in some ways reworks both Great Expectations, with Magwitch as Maggs, and the facts of Dickens' own life in the figure of Tobias Oates. Other characters, like Mercy and Percy, are pure Carey. Strongly and pacily plot driven, it puts a more Antipodean slant on the society from which Australia sprang.

**D** 1997 392pp **B**1575

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#### The Lamp Still Burns

Isabel 'Spark' Gill

Brought up in the Victorian town of Clunes, Isabel Gill longed to be a nurse, and her autobiography records her training and experience in hospitals from 1936 to 1981. With many photographs, it provides a social history of changes in nursing, public health and medical practice.

**№** 1989 187pp **B1551** 

#### The Law of Dreams

Peter Behrens

Behrens brings alive the catastrophe of the Irish potato famine with Fergus O'Brien, who is left alone at the age of fifteen. Sensing that he must keep moving if he is to live, he survives privation, danger and betrayals on his route to Canada.

**1** 2006 394pp **B1968** 

#### The Lieutenant

Kate Grenville

Lieutenant Daniel Rooke arrives in New South Wales on the First Fleet in 1788 and sets up an observatory to study astronomy and navigation. Aboriginal people soon start to visit his isolated outpost and a child begins to teach him her language. As he meticulously records their conversations, an extraordinary friendship develops and Rooke soon faces a decision that will define not only who he is but the course of his entire life.

**D E** 2008 320pp **B2031** 

#### The Light Between **Oceans**

M.L. Stedman



Returned from WWI Europe, Tom is now the lighthouse keeper on a remote island off Western Australia, his young wife Isabel his only companion. When tragedy touches their lives, they make a decision with far-reaching consequences. This moving story of love and loyalty probes the blurry line separating right and wrong, and the bond between mother and child.

**D B** 2012 362pp **B** 2166

#### The Long Song

Andrea Levy

In this novel, Levy responds to the question: 'How can you be proud of your Jamaican roots, when your ancestors were slaves?' Its narrator is house slave July, born on a sugar plantation in the early 19th century. July speaks for those who are silent in the historical record of this repressive social system, but her emotional story is also highly personal and entertaining.

**6** 2010 308pp **B2078** 

#### The Luminaries

Fleanor Catton



On the New Zealand goldfields in 1866, Walter Moody encounters twelve men gathered to solve a series of local crimes. In this vivid and intricate world, fortunes are made and lost and fate is governed by the stars. Ingeniously structured, The Luminaries reads like a 19thcentury murder mystery, but with gripping hidden complexities.

**₽** 2013 834pp **B2200** 



#### The Madonnas of Leningrad

Debra Dean

As the German army blockades the beautiful city of Leningrad in World War II, all food stocks are destroyed, leaving the people to struggle for survival in the bombed out buildings. Recently employed as a custodian in the great art museum the Hermitage and now sheltering with others in its ruins, young Marina will always remember its great paintings of Madonna and Child. A moving exploration of the power of art and memory.

**1** 2006 231pp **B1971** 

#### The Man Who Lost Himself

Robyn Annear

The author of Bearbrass brings us a true story about a 19thcentury adventurer with a difference. Annear's account of the contested Tichborne Inheritance sets out the evidence for readers to judge, yet retains the essential question: who was the Claimant?

**1** 2002 430pp **B1687** 

Enjoyed The Light Between Oceans?

Trv We Must Be Brave by Frances Liardet [B2310]

#### March Geraldine Brooks



Set during the first year of the American Civil War, Brooks evokes the life of John March. the absent father from Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. An anti-slavery idealist, March enlists with the Union troops - but his beliefs are challenged by the horrors of war. Familiarity with Little Women is not essential.

**BB** 2005 338pp **B1888** 

#### Mary Barton Elizabeth Gaskell

Gaskell's first novel is set in her native Manchester and follows two working-class families in the 1840s. John Barton begins questioning the unequal distribution of wealth, and becomes involved in the tradeunion movement; his daughter, Mary, sees marriage as her only way out of poverty. Gaskell's wit shines through this clever, emotional tale of romance and murder.

**●** 1848 466pp **B0252** 

## Memoirs of a Geisha

Arthur Golden Sold into a geisha house in 1929

at the age of 9, Sayuri describes the elaborate ritual of making the creature whose delicacy, artistry, conversation and seductiveness is captive to the entertainment of rich and powerful men. Artifice, eroticism, exploitation and survival are part of a world evoked in fascinating detail, and Sayuri's voice is perfectly captured by Golden.

**D** 1998 428pp **B** 1597

#### Midnight's Children Salman Rushdie

This vital, wide-ranging novel inventively relates stories and characters of India and Pakistan since independence, and shows how politics can penetrate the lives of ordinary and not so ordinary people. It is charged with Rushdie's intense creativity.

**D** 1981 463pp **B** 1145

#### Mr Darwin's Shooter 🛟 Roger McDonald



What part did Syms Covington, Darwin's manservant, play in On the Origin of Species? Drawing on the sparse historical details of Covington's life, McDonald imagines his boyhood, his seafaring years, and his work collecting specimens with Darwin. Small print.

**●●** 1999 369pp **B1598** 

#### Mr Rosenblum's List

Natasha Solomons

Jakob is a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany who arrives in London in 1937, where he is handed a list of rules on how to assimilate. Jakob takes this seriously - he wants to fit in and begins to update the list with observations of his own. His actions bewilder his wife Sadie, who clings to where they came from and who they left behind.

**6** 2010 311pp **B2081** 



#### The Narrow Road to the Deep North

Richard Flanagan





In 1943, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is a prisoner of war on the Thai Burma railway. Haunted by his affair with the enigmatic Amy, his life intersects the lives of quards and fellow prisoners as they experience the daily brutalities - and their consequences. Juxtaposing beauty with terror, Flanagan explores the capabilities of the human spirit, and what makes up 'humanity' in a time of war.

**D D** 2013 467pp **B2214** 

## The Night Watch

Sarah Waters

The Night Watch follows the intertwined lives and relationships of four characters, Kay, Helen, Viv and Duncan, revealing how the war has changed each of them. Through air raids, blacked out streets, illicit partying and sexual adventure, the novel begins in 1947 during peacetime and moves backwards to 1941, allowing Waters to connect her cast in sometimes startling ways.

**€** 2006 480pp **B1931** 

## Nothing But Gold

Robyn Annear

The discovery of gold in Australia in 1851 tempted thousands to rush to try their luck. This spirited account of the first year or so of the Victorian goldfields conveys the day to day realities of getting there and making a go of it: winter's mud, summer's dust, the hard labour of digging, the unimaginable water and food, the violence and camaraderie, the exhilaration of being your own boss. A feisty recreation.

**1999** 329pp **B1716** 



## One for the Master

**Dorothy Johnston** 

Helen Plathe, a young girl, wife, mother, employee and citizen, tells her story in this powerful, modest and very readable novel set in Geelong, a Victorian country centre, in the decades after World War II. Johnston brings to life not only the characters in Helen's personal story but also the woollen mill with new technologies.

**1997 270pp B1544** 

#### Orphans of History Robert Holden

A look at the lives of the 34 First Fleet children. Starting in the London of John Hudson, a 9-vear-old chimney sweep sentenced to transportation, it follows the children to prison, the hulks, the voyage to Botany Bay and to Norfolk Island. Holden's tender, clear-sighted focus on children allows us access to new facts and insights about our nation's colonial origins.

1999 219pp B1766



#### Parrot and Olivier in America

**Peter Carev** 

Aristocrat Olivier, inspired by the French nobleman Alexis de Tocqueville, who wrote Democracy in America travels to the new world to study the prison system, and to avoid another revolution: Parrot is a frustrated British artist who is sent with him as spy, protector and servant. On their journey, they develop an unlikely and enriching friendship.

**1** 2009 452pp **B2069** 

## A Passage to India

E.M. Forster

Set in the last decades of the Empire, this novel depicts a world of English, Hindu and Muslim difference and misunderstanding, and the land seems to have a mind of its own, opposed to friendship between races.

(L) 1924 280pp B0012

#### The Passion

Jeanette Winterson

Henri, a young French peasant, becomes Napoleon's chicken chef, and Villanelle is a Venetian fishergirl born with webbed feet. The public and private passions of hero worship, war, gambling and love are explored with deft realism and magical inventiveness. A surprising and readable glimpse of early 19th century Europe.

**●** 1987 160pp **B1226** 

## People of the Book

**Geraldine Brooks** 



Pulitzer Prize winning author of March and bestselling novel Year of Wonders brings us the story of Hanna Heath, a renowned book conservator. She receives a call in the middle of the night about a medieval manuscript recovered from war-torn Sarajevo, and makes her way to Bosnia to restore the Sarajevo Haggadah, a Jewish prayer book, and to piece together the remarkable story of this manuscript.

**D D** 2008 390pp **B** 1990











## Pure 🗘

**Andrew Miller** 

Paris, 1785. Les Innocents cemetery is full to bursting and young provincial engineer Jean Baptiste Baratte is chosen to clear up the mess. The year he spends doing so, and the people he meets, are bound to change him forever. Pure is elegantly written, with fascinating characters and discussable subject matter such as themes of corruption, personal integrity and social unrest.

**●** 2011 352pp **B2146** 



#### Ransom David Malouf





set against the background of the Trojan War, Ransom is a meditation on grief and war. Described by the Australian as a 'masterpiece, exquisitely written, pithy and wise and overwhelmingly moving'.

**●** 2009 240pp **B2058** 

## The Red Tent

Anita Diamant
Narrated by Dina

Narrated by Dinah, Jacob's only daughter in the Book of Genesis. From her upbringing by the four wives of Jacob, to becoming one of the most influential women of the time, Dinah's story brings to life women's lives during biblical times, from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt.

**●** 1998 395pp <u>B1997</u>

# The Remains of the Day

Kazuo Ishiguro

For decades, Stevens has served as butler to Lord Darlington of Darlington Hall. Now he recalls a lifetime of service. Ishiguro perfectly captures the tone and outlook of one to whom dignity and correctness are all important. There is wonderful comedy here and a sense of the losses that may lie behind such a life.

**●** 1989 245pp <u>B1267</u>

#### Remembering Babylon

**David Malouf** 

Gemmy Fairley stumbles into a white settlement perched on the Queensland coast in the middle of the 19th century. Is he white or black? In his new surroundings and with his affinity with the feared blacks, his presence is most unsettling. Another subtle reflection from Malouf on the sense of the self and the other.

**((((**) 1993 202pp <u>B1424</u>



# The Safest Place in London

Maggie Joel

Two women, Nancy and Diana, flee with their 3-year-old daughters to take refuge in an underground bomb shelter in London's East End, while their husbands are away at the frontlines of World War II. Set in 1944, the novel explores the struggles of those left behind and the hard choices that are made to remain safe.

**● 2**016 352pp **B2261** 

## Salt Creek

**Lucy Treloar** 



15-year-old Hester is troubled by her father's decision to move their family of nine from the comfort of 1850s Adelaide to a remote outpost on the Coorong River. When a native boy begins working and then living with their family, Hester watches powerlessly as colonialist prejudice comes to play out against the backdrop of a family – and a country – in flux.

**₽€** 2015 416pp <u>**B2234**</u>

# Enjoyed *The Secret River?*

Try Sarah Thornhill by Kate Grenville [B2115]

#### Samuel Pepys

Claire Tomalin

Pepys lived through and recorded the Great Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London in the following year, as well as the intimacies of daily life – theatre going, philanderings, business affairs, tiffs with his wife, recorder lessons, hangovers, home improvements, clothes. Biographer Claire Tomalin revels in her subject's appetite for experience.

**QG** 2002 499pp <u>B1797</u>

## Sarah Thornhill

Kate Grenville



Sarah is the daughter of William Thornhill of *The Secret River*. Nicknamed 'Dolly', she grows up in the relative privilege of her father's hard-won estate in early-settlement Australia, and must come to terms with the tangled secrets and silent spaces wrought by violent colonisation. Kate Grenville's masterful story and colourful characters will stay with you.

**GG** 2011 304pp <u>B2115</u>

#### Sea of Poppies

Amitav Ghosh

India is on the eve of the first Opium War. Fleeing the violence of her village customs and caste laws, Deeti and 'untouchable' Kalua become servants on an old slave ship. The ship becomes a shelter to them and the people they meet on their eventful journey across the Indian Ocean. This is an immersive, rewarding read. Unmissable.

**6** 2008 480pp **B2017** 

Those who read this lengthy and intensely written book really enjoyed it, admired the writing, the character development, the range of topics that were written about with such authority. We scored it 4 ½.

Greensborough 2

# The Secret River Kate Grenville

SHORTLISTED
Miles Franklin Literary Award



Grenville depicts the appalling poverty of William Thornhill, who is transported to New South Wales for theft, and his later wonderment at becoming a free man, able to claim land along the Hawkesbury and support his family. She brings alive the settler situation as well as the response of the Aboriginal people who already live on that land.

**● 1934 1934 1934 1934** 

# The Short Reign of Pippin IV

John Steinbeck

This light-hearted satire on French monarchy and politics is a long way from Steinbeck's usual subject – the landless farm labourers of America. As enjoyable as it is unexpected.

**1**957 168pp **B0212** 

#### **Sweet Caress**

William Boyd

Amory Clay is a woman who knows her own mind. Born into a wealthy English family in 1908, her search for an interesting life will take her from scandal in 1920s Berlin to an affair in New York in the 1930s; from a stint as a war photojournalist in WWII France to the Vietnam War. Her life's turns and the lovers she picks up along the twists of this story are engrossing, and Amory's spirit and humour will stay with you long after you finish this fascinating novel.

**GG** 2015 464pp **B2243** 

## Sweet Tooth 🗘

Ian McEwan

In Britain in 1972, Serena is recruited by MI5 for Operation Sweet Tooth, a secret mission that brings Serena together with writer Tom Haley. Soon she falls in love and the rules of espionage fall away, but the truth is hard to discover. Set during the Cold War and a time of domestic terrorism, Sweet Tooth is complex, layered and beautifully written.

**1** 2012 370pp **B2178** 



# Tartar City Woman

**Trevor Hay** 

Subtitled Scenes from the Life of Wang Hsin ping, Former Citizen of China. What understanding do vou have of China's history between 1937 and 1990? This remarkable biography will make it live in your nerves and senses, through Hay's account of the life of an outspoken, irrepressible Chinese woman, now living in Australia.

1990 181pp B1291

### Tess of the D'Urbervilles

**Thomas Hardy** 

Moral outrage greeted this story of a classic situation - a wronged woman, a child conceived outside marriage, and two men. Tess is bound up by the social forces of her time in this great 19th-century novel which remains relevant to the lives of women today.

**(L)** 1891 512pp **B0084** 

#### That Deadman Dance Kim Scott



#### **WINNER** Miles Franklin Literary Award

Award-winning author Kim Scott's novel is set in Western Australia in the 1800s. It tells the complex story of contact between Aborigines and early settlers in a harsh landscape. 'There are many strands to That Deadman Dance: epic coastal journeys, whaling sequences that will make you gasp in wonder, injustice, understanding and loss. But it is the characters - flawed, credible human beings, embodying their history but never mere ciphers who stay with you'. The Age

**6** 2010 400pp **B2118** 

### **Enjoyed** The Good People?

Try The Wonder by Emma Donogue [B2250]

### The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet

**David Mitchell** 



The novel begins in 1799 Japan. Jacob de Zoet is a Dutch bookkeeper, working for the Dutch East India Company, when he falls in forbidden love with a Japanese midwife. The Empire of Japan has shut out the outside world for a century and a half, but a European trading post keeps open a narrow corridor to the outside world. The midwife uncovers a dark and heartbreaking secret.

**6** 2010 480pp **B2093** 

#### Tin Man

Sarah Winman



A tender and moving novel about two adolescent boys, Ellis and Michael, whose close friendship turns into first love until Annie walks into their life, and Michael disappears. As the novel switches from Ellis' to Michael's point of view, we discover the heartbreak of first love, the grief of moving on and the journey from boys to men. A short but beautiful read.

**€** 2017 224pp **B2285** 

### True History of the Kelly Gang

**Peter Carey** 



The enthralling voice of Carey's Ned draws the reader into understanding how a brave, loyal and gifted boy becomes the doomed, deluded yet compelling writer of Kelly's Jerilderie Letter. A wonderful exploration of family loves and tensions, rural poverty and hope, the novel gives a voice to Australia's oppressed, then as now longing to be heard.

**1** 2000 401pp **B1625** 



# Under the Same Sun

Andy Kissane

Two young Italian men migrate to Australia in 1951. One is a metalworker from northern Italy, the other an apprentice chef from the south. Part one immerses us in the different experiences and pressures leading to their journeys. Part two brings alive the opportunities, pains and prejudices they face, in their loves and their work, first in Sydney and then in the perilous Snowy Mountains Scheme.

**₱** 2000 368pp **B**1651



# Water for Elephants

Sara Gruen

Jacob Jankowski iumps onto a passing train and enters a world of swindlers and misfits. The second rate circus Benzini **Brothers Most Spectacular** Show on Earth is touring the backblocks of Depression era America. A former veterinary student, Jacob becomes caretaker of the circus menagerie. He meets Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, her husband who is a violently unpredictable animal trainer, and Rosie, a seemingly unmanageable elephant.

**B** 2006 335pp **B**1984

# NEW

### We Must Be Brave

**Frances Liardet** 

Fleeing from the horrors of the Blitz to safety in a small English country town, 21-year-old Ellen finds a little girl alone on a bus. Ellen takes the child to her home convinced she will be claimed, but as time goes by Ellen can't help getting attached. Is this the family she's been looking for? At times heartwrenching and wondrous, this novel encapsulates a difficult time in history and questions the small moments that define what it means to be brave.

**B** 2019 464pp **B2310** 

### ..... Wolf Hall 🗅 **Hilary Mantel**



In England in the 1520s, Henry VIII finds himself without an heir by Catherine of Aragon, and charges Cardinal Wolsey with securing him a divorce already refused by the Pope. In comes Thomas Cromwell, whose rapid rise to power and ruthless agenda lead to reformation, uncertainty, and bloodshed. Two-month book.

**B** 2009 672pp **B**2054

#### Working for Rupert **Hugh Lunn**

Hugh Lunn now gives us his seventeen years before the masthead on the Australian as Rupert Murdoch's 'foreign correspondent' in Queensland. Through most of the 1970s and '80s he parades us past a blur of editors, entertaining us in Lunn style, and talking about the newspaper world and how to write a story that people will read.

**№** 2001 244pp <u>B1655</u>



# The Year 1000

**Robert Lacey & Danny** Danziger

Here is the world of the English at the turn of the first millennium. This stylish social history charts a typical year of the period, demonstrating the differences between a very old world and our own.

**1999 230pp B1656** 

# Year of Wonders

**Geraldine Brooks** 

In 1665, the English village of Eyam became infected with the plague. Rather than risk spreading it, the villagers decided to quarantine themselves, and fear and superstition began to break down courage and faith. In Brooks' novel, housemaid Anna becomes an unlikely hero - but what is it like to survive while so many die? This is a poignant, unforgettable read told in Brooks' inimitable style.

**₽** 2001 308pp <u>B1662</u>













WE

MUST

BRAVE

# **Grand Visions**

From the surreal to the speculative, these thought-provoking books cover consuming obsessions and alternate realities that challenge the way we view the world we live in.



#### 1984



Presents the classic dystopia, and a state in which the government has almost complete thought control. Orwell's ideas about totalitarian methods and speech are now part of the common language, and his depiction of suffering under totalitarian regimes is insightful.





#### The Accidental Ali Smith



Amber, a seemingly harmless stranger, turns up at the Smarts' holiday home, and as she ingratiates herself with the family, the question of who she is fades away. Is her presence an innocent accident, or something more sinister? Smith presents a modern reworking of Passolini's 1968 film Theorem. Original, challenging and experimental writing, this skilfully crafted book will raise as many questions as it answers.

**6** 2005 306pp **B1915** 

# Animal Farm 🗅

George Orwell

Orwell's famous satire on mid-20th century political reality, telling how the animals revolt against the farmer and try to run their own affairs. Orwell raises issues about freedom and tyranny, and indicts Soviet leadership and totalitarianism.

**G** 1945 120pp **B0071** 

# The Annotated Alice

**Lewis Carroll** 

This volume contains both Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There (1872) by Lewis Carroll, with drawings by Tenniel. As editor, Martin Gardner has included annotations to help explain some of Carroll's mysteries.

**1**960 350pp **B0430** 

# Ape House 🛟

Sara Gruen

From the bestselling author of Water for Elephants comes this gentle, funny novel. Isabel is a scientist working with bonobos, who are capable of reason, love and developing relationships. When the bonobos are stolen and turn up on a reality TV series, Isabel teams up with journalist John in the fight to save them amidst a media circus.

**6** 2010 303pp **B2126** 



### The Bees

**Laline Paull** 



Flora 717 is born a lowly worker bee, but unlike the others of her mute caste, she can speak. As Flora navigates the totalitarian regime of the beehive in this fascinating miniature world, she comes to a startling realisation - and then begins a doublelife as a traitor to the hive. Illuminating in its exploration of difference, of feminism, and of institutionalised intolerance.

**D D** 2015 352pp **B2235** 

# Beyond Black

Hilary Mantel



Mantel's imaginative thriller offers a darkly comic and unsettling universe: polluted 1990s Britain, where psychic medium Alison tours London with her sidekick, Colette. Intricately structured, elegant prose gives a biting portrait of dreads and desires which will evoke animated discussion, not least about the implications of facing one's past and demons. Contains themes that may disturb.

**GG** 2005 451pp **B1948** 

### The Blind Astronomer's Daughter

John Pipkin

Set in the 18th-century quest for scientific discovery, the story portrays a fictionalised account of astronomer, William Hershel, and his unknown rival Arthur Ainsworth and their obsession with decoding the night sky. When Arthur goes blind from staring at the sun, he chooses death, leaving behind his griefstricken daughter to continue his work while confronting her own desires. Based on actual historical events, the novel explores the race to discover the planets, and the role women played in aiding these discoveries.

**1** 2016 480pp **B2269** 

# Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

A dystopian classic, this is a humorous and poignant novel with much to discuss. In a future world dominated by mass production thanks to Henry Ford's innovations, genetic modification and brainwashing keep the population docile. But Bernard Marx is distressed and wants to break free from this society. A readable, witty novel, and this edition includes introductions by Margaret Atwood and David Bradshaw.

**1**932 229pp **B2131** 



# Cabin Fever

Elizabeth Jolley

This second novel in the partly autobiographical trilogy concerns young Vera Wright and her efforts in post-war England to survive as an unmarried mother in a world of scarcity and privation. A memorable, quirky study of loneliness and longing and the persistence of memory.

**6** 1990 238pp **B1404** 

#### Cape Grimm

**Carmel Bird** 

Bird explores innocence and evil in a religious community on the coast of Tasmania. When cult leader Caleb sets fire to the group meeting house, all but three of the community perish. Blending traditional folk-tale elements with contemporary events, this explores our darker aspects and the reverberations of history.

**⊕** 2004 302pp **B1825** 

### Capital

John Lanchester

Encompassing a cast of characters all connected to one suburban London street. Capital reveals the state of British society at the beginning of the Global Financial Crisis. Sprawling but highly readable, this is a novel that addresses some big questions whilst remaining intimate and compassionate.

**1** 2012 592pp **B2170** 

A resounding success with our group. Lanchester is an appealing author as we all felt transported to Pepys Street in London and could relate to the characters instantly. The emotions and empathy we felt for the characters were very strong. Overall, it was a great social commentary on that period in London with the GFC and the multicultural stories were full of humour and compassion. The book created a vigorous discussion and we all agreed we would read another of his books.

Barwite Bookworms

**Enjoyed** Water for Elephants?

> Ape House by Sara Gruen [B2126]



This novel interweaves an Australian girl's search for her father and her origins with her physicist lover's mind play about the origin of the universe, time and uncertainty. It ranges from Queensland's rainforests to Boston, to MIT and Toronto; from apparently sheltered Australian and Canadian lives to the aftermath of the Holocaust.

**₱** 1988 345pp **B1243** 

#### A Child's Book of True Crime

Chloe Hooper

A young teacher has begun her first job at a Tasmanian primary school. Through her adulterous affair with the father of a pupil, she begins to confront issues surrounding childhood and adulthood. Distinctions between fantasy and reality blur. What is the true crime here?

**1** 2002 238pp **B1670** 

### NEW







Circe is born in the house of the sub god Helios. She is a strange child, scorned and rejected and her gift of witchcraft causes her to be banished to a distant island. Her encounter with the mortal Odysseus will change everything. An utterly original novel told from the viewpoint of a defiant women scorned by fickle gods. Circe is a must-read for fans of Greek mythology.

**6** 2018 352pp **B2301** 

# Cloud Atlas

**David Mitchell** 

Six stories explore the intersection of history and humanity: an American notary's South Sea journals, an Englishman transcribing for a blind composer, a reporter investigates a nuclear cover up, a futuristic fastfood robot, and a Hawaiian contemplating post-apocalyptic life. This thrillingly original ride spans genres and themes of colonialism, corporate culture and the collapse of civilisation. Challenging and imaginative, this will reward persistence.

**₱** 2003 529pp **B1875** 

# Closed for Winter

Georgia Blain

What happened to 12-year-old Frances on that hot summer day at the beach? The question still haunts her vounger sister. Elise, now in her twenties. Blain's evocative, well-wrought first novel uncovers past and present to arrive at an unexpected truth.

**B** 1998 249pp **B**1709

# The Conjuror's Bird

**Martin Davies** 

During Captain Cook's second expedition to the South Pacific, a rare and unique species of bird was captured. Cook later presented the bird to naturalist Joseph Banks who displayed it until 1778 when it inexplicably disappeared from his collection. Two centuries later, the race is on to find the Mysterious Bird of Ulieta. Dual narratives shift between past and present to create an 18th-century romance inside a modern day thriller. Fastpaced and enjoyable.

**1** 2005 309pp **B1921** 



### Death in Venice

**Thomas Mann** 

A lovely and disturbing evocation of life in the pre-war period. An austere, mature German writer, Aschenbach, is forced by failing health to go to Venice. In a very different culture, he becomes obsessed by the beauty of a young boy and changes profoundly.

**G** 1912 79pp **B1157** 

### Death of a River Guide

Richard Flanagan

A drowning river guide is caught up in visions of the demanding story of his family, state and people. This strikingly imaginative Tasmanian novel conveys the feeling of the great Franklin River, and the uncensored experience and idiom of those who live in the physical, social and metaphorical wilderness.

**1994** 324pp **B1473** 

### The Devil's Larder

Jim Crace

Food is central to each of the 64 brief tales in this literary feast from English novelist Jim Crace, where meals are served with lashings of passion, recipes are spiced with unexpected challenges and hopes and the ingredients are hilarious, delightful and subversive. Full of exuberant invention.

**6** 2001 193pp **B1683** 

#### Dissection

Jacinta Halloran

Dedicated GP and mother of two boys, Anna's life begins to unravel when she is sued for medical negligence. Deeply ashamed of her mistake, she retreats into family life, only to become aware of her husband's growing interest in a younger woman. A confronting portrayal of a woman facing personal and professional crises.

**D** 2008 240pp **B2033** 

••••••



## Everyman's Rules for Scientific Living

Carrie Tiffany

In 1934, Jean meets and marries soil scientist Robert. They settle in the impoverished Mallee, determined to realise Robert's ambition to live and farm by scientific principles. The ensuing struggle slowly chips away at their idealism and relationship. Set against the backdrop of an impending threat of world war, Tiffany captures in a refreshing, quirky manner the hopes and disappointments of the era.

**D D** 2005 256pp **B** 1906

# The Explosion Chronicles

Yan Lianke

Translated from Chinese, the story follows two feuding families and the second-born son's quest to transform his small village, called Explosion, into an urban metropolis. Poetic and imbued with elements of magical realism. the satirical novel critiques the rampant growth of capitalism in post-Mao China, and the consequences of corruption and areed.

**D** 2016 480pp **B2262** 

# The Eyre Affair

Jasper Fforde

In an alternate version of London in 1985, literary detective Thursday is on the trail of criminal mastermind Hades, who has been kidnapping characters from works of fiction. When Jane Eyre is snatched from between her pages, Thursday steps in as defender of literature in this exuberant, entertaining read. Fans of Jane Eyre will be rewarded, and those unfamiliar with the classic will want to read it.

**6** 2001 373pp **B1878** 



# Foxybaby

Elizabeth Jolley

Miss Alma Porch journeys to a remote Summer School to present a version of her novel in progress to the Creative Drama students. Jolley's quirky subtlety combines with her sense of human hurtfulness, robustness and fragility.

**1** 1985 261pp **B1310** 

# The French Tutor

**Judith Armstrong** 

Postgraduate student Emily begins an affair with a charismatic older academic who insists on keeping his options open. The Albertine rose and the work of Proust are woven into the fabric of a psychological novel involving obsessive love, deception and betrayal.

**₱** 2003 301pp **B1781** 







G

NEW



Ghost Wall Sarah Moss



Silvie is currently living in a hut with her family in Northumberland as part of an experimental archeology dig. Her father enforces harsh rules from a time long past, and she is haunted by a bog girl. The desolate landscape threatens to both reveal and destroy. A short book but a thrilling and spine-tingling read, sure to elicit a strong emotional response.

**€** 2018 160pp **B2292** 

# The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

This is a richly textured, nuanced exploration of the darker side of the glamour of the Jazz Age. Seen through the eyes of outsider Nick, Jay Gatsby's dream of the beautiful Daisy comes to symbolise the classic American dream.

**●●** 1925 160pp <u>B0308</u>



# The Handmaid's Tale 🗅

Margaret Atwood

A woman designated 'childbearer' in a rigid society lives in a backlash against feminist aspirations and sexual liberation. A compelling depiction of society's flaws which raises questions about the present.

**●●** 1986 324pp <u>**B1189**</u>

Enjoyed
The Handmaid's Tale?

Try
Alias Grace by
Margaret Atwood
[B1556]

# How to Be Both

Ali Smith





The life of a 15th century Renaissance artist entwines with that of teenage girl George in this inventive novel. Smith challenges the convention that a story should run a reliably smooth course, asking whether history can exist simultaneously in the past and present. An element of chance determines which of the characters you meet first in your copy of the book – guaranteeing good discussion!

**GG** 2014 284pp <u>B2229</u>

# The Hunter 🔾 🛟

A man takes to Tasmania to track down the last surviving marsupial tiger – and soon disappears into a world of silence and stillness. Told in taut, grim prose, the lonely Tasmanian wilderness is beautifully evoked, and a group of bruised and bruising individuals make up the small cast. The pace of this impressive debut is sustained through to its unforgettable conclusion, and this compelling tale of obsession will haunt you long after its final scene.

**●** 1999 170pp **B1628** 



# Kurikka's Dreaming

Craig Cormick

In Russian controlled Finland at the end of the 19th century, Matti Kurikka persuades his followers to search for a utopia where they can achieve independence and prosperity. In 1899, they arrive near Cairns in Queensland, their land of 'eternal summer'; but they find themselves in a strange and hostile country, where dream becomes nightmare.

**№** 2000 218pp <u>**B1644**</u>



# Larry's Party

Carol Shields

Larry Weller was once a floral designer, but becomes a garden maze and landscape gardener. The book progresses episodically from 1977 across the next twenty years, through two failed marriages and into a third. Shields writes with her characteristic perceptiveness, irony and tenderness of this 'ordinary' man, as she reflects on what it is to be male.

**●●** 1997 339pp <u>B1725</u>

# The Left Hand of Darkness

Ursula K. Le Guin

The planet Winter is much like Earth except for two things: its climate is always subarctic, and its inhabitants are all of one sex. Le Guin is a distinguished writer of speculative fiction and this book makes for compelling discussion of our attitudes here on Earth.

**●** 1969 205pp <u>B1064</u>

# Life After Life

Kate Atkinson



Ursula is born on a wintery night in 1910, and when she dies, is reborn on the same day and into the same family over and over. Each of her lives is fascinatingly different, woven throughout a backdrop of historical events including both World Wars. Beautifully written, original and moving.

**●●** 2013 480pp <u>**B2185**</u>

### Life of Pi C Yann Martel



A cargo ship carrying zoo animals flounders at sea, and Pi, a 16-year-old Indian boy, is stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra and a Bengal tiger. He must use all his daring and wit to survive. An engaging, dazzling novel.

**●●** 2001 319pp <u>B1788</u>

### Lincoln in the Bardo

**George Saunders** 





Centered on the death of Abraham Lincoln's son William, Saunder's experimental novel is set in primarily in the 'bardo', which is the Buddhist transitory realm between death and rebirth. The novel weaves between passages drawn from historical texts and the points of view of Willie and other spirits within the bardo. Saunders blurs the line between the real and the surreal to deliver a reading experience that purposefully confuses fact with fiction, and touches on private grief versus public persona and the faults of the American democratic system.

**G** 2017 368pp <u>B2286</u>

The importance for writers to break new ground and explore new approaches was acknowledged. An explanation of the obscure meaning of the title was essential to understand the basic premise of this novel. The Bardo characters and the historical observers remind us that history does not just belong to great figures, but also to ordinary people. For some readers, this will not be an 'easy-read' novel, but one that requires some hard work and contains discomforting concepts. But throughout our reading lives we occasionally encounter a book which lingers in our thoughts to revisit us long after we have turned the final page. Lincoln in the Bardo is one such book.

Wye River Book Group

# The Line of Beauty

Alan Hollinghurst

This beautifully nuanced comedy of manners portrays England's rich and powerful in the 1980s at the peak of the Thatcher years. The narrator is a young man, newly arrived in London and mesmerised by the opulent world of his Tory hosts as he independently discovers the pleasures of metropolitan gay life.

**●●** 2004 501pp <u>B1886</u>

#### Lovesong

Elizabeth Jolley

After many years in an institution, Dalton Foster is released into a world he barely recognises. What has he done? There are disturbing indications that a child was involved. Jolley's account of his loneliness and longings is lyrical and at times disturbingly comic.

**1997 241pp B1576** 



#### The Man from Primrose Lane

James Renner

As David struggles to overcome his wife's unexplained suicide, he finds himself entangled in a complex maze involving child abduction and the murder of a mysterious man. Through the unpredictable twists of this absorbing, genre-hopping thriller, David battles with fatherhood, trauma and questions about the future.

**B** 2012 363pp **B2153** 

#### The Map That Changed the World

Simon Winchester

William Smith, orphan of a village blacksmith, was one of the first to link the rock strata beneath the earth's surface with the characteristic fossils found in each layer. He worked 20 years on an enormous geological map, only to find his ideas pirated by gentlemen of science.

**D B** 2001 338pp **B** 1666

# Mara and Dann

**Doris Lessing** 

An orphaned brother and sister journey together through excitement and danger in a future where an Ice Age covers all of the northern hemisphere, and much of Africa is dry and faminestricken. Lessing opens up questions of how environments can change civilisations, testing human decency, endurance. imagination and love.

**B** 1999 407pp **B**1765

# My Sister's Keeper 🗅

Jodi Picoult

Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life? Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for her older sister Kate, who has leukaemia. Picoult's portrait of a family on the brink will polarise readers and create robust discussion on parenting, ethics and the implications of bioengineering.

**GG** 2004 423pp **B1909** 



### Never Let Me Go Kazuo Ishiguro



Kathy, Ruth and Tommy attended an elite school in the English countryside that sheltered its students from the outside. Why were they there? Kathy narrates a retrospective journey through memory and fact, slowly unfolding details to a startling resolution. An unsettling tale that probes moral responsibility and the scientific ethics.

**D D** 2005 263pp **B** 1864

#### Nocturnes

Kazuo Ishiguro

Ishiquro explores love, music and the passing of time in this collection of short stories. Characters range from young dreamers, to café musicians and faded stars. Throughout the five stories, characters struggle to keep alive a sense of life's romance as they grow older, their relationships flounder, and youthful hopes fade.

**6** 2009 221pp B2043

#### Notes on a Scandal

Zoë Heller

From the first day that beautiful. bohemian art teacher Sheba joins the staff of St George's, history teacher Barbara realises she is different from her colleagues. When Sheba is caught having an affair with a pupil, Barbara appoints herself her chief defender and closest ally. But all is not as it seems in this compelling read of obsession and loneliness.

**■** 2003 244pp **B1974** 

# Not the End of the World

Kate Atkinson

'And now for something completely different.' Imaginative and distinctive, these twelve linked stories create an unexpected sense of what it is to be alive. They portray ordinary people in confining, dangerous, or lonely circumstances that unexpectedly, even bizarrely, break into the mythic experience of Greek gods and magical transformations.

**GG** 2002 278pp B1774



### The Ocean at the End of the Lane <

Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman explores memory, childhood vulnerability, and hidden trauma in this shadowy. atmospheric fairvtale woven with his trademark touch of fantasy. As the unnamed narrator revisits his childhood home, memories long obscured lead him to the neighbouring farm where he spent time as a 7-year-old. He remembers Lettie, the girl who lived there, and what really happened during the summer they spent together.

**€** 2013 248pp **B2206** 

#### Only the Animals Ceridwen Dovey



The souls of ten animals tell captivating stories of their lives in times of human conflict, drawing on often surprising literary connections. Henry Lawson's camel witnesses the colonisation of Australia, Himmler's dog ponders the meaning of Buddhism, and a dolphin in the US Navy composes a letter to Sylvia Plath. Amusing and touching, their tales explore the consequences of warfare from a unique and original perspective.

**DSB** 2014 248pp B2212

### Of a Bov

Sonya Hartnett

In an Australian suburb, three children set off for the milkbar never to be seen again. 9-vearold Adrian watches the goings on of his suburban world and tries to keep his loneliness and fears of rejection at bay. Throughout the text weaves the aching true story of the missing Metford children.

**6** 2002 188pp **B1804** 















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Susan Orlean

A nonfiction book which reads more like a novel, with a wonderful oddball cast of fanatics whose lives and crimes revolve around their mania for orchids. The pacy narrative follows John Laroche, selfconfessed orchid thief, into the sucking mud of Florida's swampy Fakahatchee Strand.

1998 350pp B1622



#### The Patron Saint of Eels **Gregory Day**

Noel and Nannette are long-time locals of a small coastal town in the grip of gentrification. When a freak flood leaves hundreds of eels trapped in the ditches around Noel's home, Fra Ionio, a 300-year-old Italian monk, comes to the rescue. Quirky and likeable characters together with lyrical evocations of bush and sea shine through in this delightful contemporary fable.

**GG** 2005 181pp **B1865** 

# Picnic at Hanging Rock

Joan Lindsay

On a Valentine's Day picnic in 1900, a group of schoolgirls vanishes with their teacher. Witnesses are disoriented and confused, and the group are never recovered. The consequences of the day are far-reaching for the community, the remaining characters, and the once-prestigious school. The interaction of civilisation with nature is also explored in this enduring Australian classic.

**B** 1967 213pp **B**0402

### The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

Scandal erupted over Wilde's novel when it was first published as it 'violated the laws of public morality'; though perhaps less shocking now, this psychological thriller remains just as enticing over a hundred years later. It examines the cost of selfindulgence, and the havoc we wreak on our souls in the quest for satisfaction.

**B** 1891 247pp **B** 0112

### The Precipice

Virginia Duigan

A mix of literary thriller and psychological drama, with a welcome smattering of tongue in cheek wit. Thea is a retired school principal living in the Blue Mountains. When a young couple and their niece move in next door, old fears and paranoia begin to take over her life. Thea is an engrossing, funny and unusual protagonist, and there are a number of provocative issues to discuss.

**6** 2011 284pp **B2134** 



# Republic of Women

Merrill Findlay

Real people from history walk through the pages of this book, and anyone who knows Melbourne's St Kilda will recognise its threatened inner-city environment. 'In this novel of striking intellectual subtlety and authority, Merrill Findlay probes questions of sexual identity in a voice that is radical, humane and tender'(Raimond Gaita).

**1999 280pp B1752** 

# The Road



A man and his young son walk through a post-apocalyptic American wasteland. Danger and starvation lurk at every turn in this deeply disturbing yet ultimately redemptive story. A novel that asks what we might be capable of when pushed to the brink and whether we could make it back in one piece. Harrowing scenes may disturb; this book will give your group a lengthy and vivid discussion.

**6 6** 2006 256pp **B**1977

**Enjoyed** Only the Animals?

Try The Philospher's Dog by Raimond Gaita [B1689]



### Saturday

Ian McEwan

McEwan creates for us one day in the life of a London neurosurgeon, a man fully engaged in his work and blessed with a domestic life of contentment, until one Saturday he must deal with the fall out from a minor traffic accident that morning. Accomplished writing, 'beautifully alive to the fragility of happiness' - The Times.

**D D** 2005 279pp **B**1911

# The Scapegoat

Daphne du Maurier

After a chance meeting at a French railway station, John, a lonely professor, assumes another man's identity, and becomes involved in the complex family relationships, love affairs and business life of the selfish and arrogant man he is impersonating. An intriguing and suspenseful story.

**(L)** 1957 320pp **B1126** 

# The Secret Cure

Sue Woolfe

Determined to find a cure for her autistic child and motivated by her own passion for science, Eva takes on work as a cleaner in a medical research laboratory. Owen is the strange reclusive man who has loved her for a lifetime. This moving novel explores what it means to be human, to be honourable, and, above all, what it means to love.

**●** 2003 429pp **B1823** 

# The Service of Clouds

Delia Falconer

Set in the Blue Mountains, this novel is almost hallucinatory in its evocation of cloud landscapes, and of the heroine Eureka's yearning for photographer Henry Kitchens. Katoomba's life, personalities and institutions in the early 20th century are deftly, even comically presented.

**1997 322pp B1580** 

#### Solar

Ian McEwan

A Nobel Prize winning physicist and middle-aged philanderer, Michael is arrogant and selfish His career has stalled - until he decides to claim for his own another man's work on alternative energy resources that just might save the planet. Solar spans several continents as it explores the frailties of humankind and the threat of climate change.

**G** 2010 432pp **B2066** 

# State of Wonder





From the bestselling author of Bel Canto comes this compelling, thrilling novel. Scientists for a pharmaceutical company are researching an Amazonian tribe where women remain fertile until old age, in hope of selling their secret. When the head researcher disappears and the man sent to discover the findings dies, pharmacologist Marina leaves Minnesota to track down her former mentor in the depths of the Amazon.

**⊕** 2011 353pp **B2120** 

#### The Strays **Emily Bitto**

When lonely only child Lily befriends Eva Trentham, she is entranced by the glamour of the Trentham family and their circle of avant garde artists - but their seemingly idyllic, bohemian way of life is not without its costs. A study of isolation minales with the consequences of radicalism in this haunting and beautifully observed debut novel which draws on the legacy of Melbourne's Heide group of artists.

**6** 2014 350pp **B2226** 



#### Tehanu

#### Ursula K. Le Guin

Beautiful, challenging, deceptively simple writing explores the stories of a woman who adopts a girl crippled and scarred by abuse, and a once great wizard who has exhausted his magic. Can they survive among brutal enemies in a land rotten with evil? Le Guin reflects on power and powerlessness; the differing wisdom of women and men; and the possibility of healing.

1990 204pp B1461

#### The Telling Ursula K. Le Guin

On an alien planet, Sutty now lives under the Corporation, a capitalist dictatorship which burns books and suppresses evidence of the past. From the mountain people, she learns of the extraordinarily diverse, vital, integrated culture that once existed here. This meditation on cultural decimation and colonialism is part of the cycle which includes The Dispossessed and The Left Hand of Darkness.

**₱** 2000 264pp **B1806** 

# There'll Be New Dreams

#### Philip McLaren

McLaren weaves together strands of Aboriginal experience across the ages. Lottie, the city raised Aborigine, loses her children to the welfare system in the 1950s and her husband to a suspicious death; Matlong saw Cook sail by in 1770; and Dundiwuy goes to New York as a didgeridoo player in the 1970s. Sophisticated and profound, human and funny.

**6** 2001 309pp **B1667** 

**Enjoyed** The Left Hand of Darkness?

Try The Telling by Ursula K. Le Guin [B1806]

### Things We Didn't See Comina

Steven Amsterdam



This collection of nine linked narratives is set in a near-future dystopia, recognisable and unsettling. A young boy is caught up in worldwide Y2K style panic, and becomes the book's nameless narrator, travelling from story to story and negotiating the lawlessness, epidemics, extreme weather, relationships and politics of a post-millennium world. Often dark, sometimes funny, this intriguing book should spark discussion about issues potentially facing us all.

**₱** 2009 174pp **B2070** 

# Three Cups of Tea

**Greg Mortenson** 

In 1993, Mortenson drifted into a village in Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains. Touched by the kindness of the villagers, he went on to build 55 schools in remote villages across Pakistan and Afghanistan while the Taliban was rising to power. Since publication, the book's accuracy has been questioned, both in a controversial 2011 documentary and by author Jon Krakauer.

**D E** 2007 368pp **B2057** 

# The Tin Drum

Günter Grass

This is the autobiography of Oskar Matzerath, a 30-year-old detained in a mental hospital, and convicted of murder. It is taken down with the aid of his tiny drum, the chosen symbol of his way of life. A brilliant and challenging work which has been seminal in German writing.

**GG** 1961 590pp **B0070** 

#### The Tyrant's Novel Thomas Keneally

In an oil-rich country, writer Alan is asked to produce a novel explaining the great deeds of its tyrannical ruler and blaming the country's difficulties on outside forces. Facing a moral dilemma and a tight deadline, Alan must resolve both at the risk of his own life and those around him. Keneally's portrayal of the experiences of asylum seekers is both terrifying and

**D D** 2003 292pp **B**1867

utterly compelling.



#### The Underground Railroad

Colson Whitehead





Cora, a young slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia is approached by Caesar, a fellow slave who tells her about the Underground Railroad, a network of tracks and tunnels that runs beneath their feet. When tragic events in her life gives her the courage she needs, Cora embarks on a harrowing journey to escape the horrors of slavery and a life lived in servitude. A brutal book with confronting scenes, it's not an easy read but a powerful novel on the dark history of slavery.

**⊕** 2017 400pp **B2270** 

# The Unknown Terrorist

Richard Flanagan

Set in post 9/11 Sydney, a Kings Cross pole dancer finds she has become the most wanted terrorist in the country, and is caught up in a vortex of murder, media hype and politically manipulated fear mongering. A fast-moving thriller, this is also an angry portrayal of contemporary Australia.

**D D** 2006 320pp **B** 1983

#### The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith

**Peter Carey** 



The eponymous hero and narrator is born dwarfed and badly deformed, the vital and clever son of a beautiful, activist actress in one of the richly imagined countries in this unusual, mind-stretching novel. We follow Tristan's struggles and adventures through worlds which are new, yet disturbingly familiar. Not for the squeamish, but full of wonders and marvels.

**D** 1994 422pp B1462



#### Veronika Decides to Die 🗅

Paulo Coelho

Why would a young, attractive, steadily employed woman from a good family take an overdose? How will she feel when she survives only to be told that the damage will quickly prove fatal? This accessible novel by popular and uplifting Brazilian writer Coelho is likely to provoke strong discussion about sanity, madness, the meaning of contemporary urban lives, and about medical and literary ethics.

**1998 185pp B1770** 

#### The Vintner's Luck Elizabeth Knox

Among the vines of Burgundy in 1808, Sobran Jodeau, a young winemaker, has the first of his annual meetings with an angel. But this angel is not all he seems, and complicates life even further. A daring, sensuous, unconventional, addictive novel.

**1** 1998 241pp **B1751** 





#### Wide Sargasso Sea Jean Rhys

In Brontë's Jane Eyre, Mr Rochester is not free to marry because of Bertha, his mad and bad wife secreted in the attic. Dominican born Jean Rhys sympathetically re-imagines the Jamaican life of a young Creole heiress, Rochester's courtship and the early years of their marriage, turning many of Brontë's values and assumptions inside out.

**G L** 1966 156pp **B**0809

#### A Wild Sheep Chase Haruki Murakami

A girl with ears so exquisite that they improve sex a thousand-fold, a runaway friend, a right-wing politico, an ovine-obsessed professor, and a manic-depressive in a sheep outfit are all implicated in a hunt for a sheep that may or may not be running the world in this singular masterpiece from Japan's finest novelist. Equal parts screwball comedy, detective story and heroic quest.

**●●** 1982 299pp <u>B1654</u>

#### The Wonder

#### Emma Donoghue

When Nightingale trained nurse Lib is sent to a village in 1850s Ireland to investigate Anna, an 11-year-old girl who stops eating and claims to be nourished by the Manna of Heaven for months, she has two weeks to determine if this girl is a fraud. Inspired by the historical cases of fasting girls, this historical thriller pits motherly love against blind faith, questioning what it means to be nourished.

**● 2016 256pp <u>B2250</u>** 

#### The World Without Us

#### Mireille Juchau

Following their sister's death, Tess and Meg watch their devastated family come undone. Their mother Evangeline roams the forests of their farmland; their father, Stefan, retracts into himself. When an old car wreck is discovered with human remains inside, Evangeline is forced to confront her present along with secrets from her past life in a local commune. Atmospheric and gripping.

**GG** 2015 320pp **B2236** 



### The Year of the Flood

#### **Margaret Atwood**

At a time when the human population has been decimated by a plague, the Corporations have taken over the world, including all scientific and technological developments. In this bleak dystopia, eco-religious sect the God's Gardeners try to work with nature as civilisation crumbles. The humanity and friendships of the female characters offer hope despite the grim atmosphere. This novel contains some of the characters from Oryx and Crake but is not a sequel.

**6** 2009 528pp **B2079** 

# SIX FAVOURITE BOOK-TO-SCREEN ADAPTATIONS

Watching the film adaptation of a book can be a great addition to your book group reads. These are the CAE Book Groups team favourite book-to-screen adaptations.

#### I Capture the Castle [B1802] Dodie Smith

A magical, charming, and witty take on this classic coming-of-age novel. It captures our heroine's voice perfectly, and has great fun with the supporting characters.

#### The Handmaid's Tale [B1189] Margaret Atwood

The horrifying autocratic world of Gilead is depicted in stunning and unsettling detail, and the stellar cinematography adds new layers of emotional depth to deliver one of the best adaptations to grace the small screen.

#### Perfume [B1453] Patrick Suskind

A visually rich macabre comedy, heavy with voluptuous period detail. A film equal parts intelligent and bizarre, but always engaging. Very faithful to the book.

#### The Hunter [B1628] Julia Leigh

A gripping existential drama set in the vast wilderness of Tasmania. Captures the ferocity of the landscape, the loneliness of the hunter and his prey, and provides a heartbreaking exploration of mortality. Will creep into your soul.

#### The Dressmaker [B1638] Rosalie Ham

Deviates slightly from the novel, but is a wonderfully sarcastic and slightly absurdist comedy that is supported by brilliant actors who make the movie a resounding success.

#### Notes on a Scandal [B1974] Zoë Heller

Another adaptation with blistering performances from the lead actors, exploring the explosive combination of desire and social envy. The screenwriting is spot on.

Looking for more adaptations? Keep an eye out in Dialogue for the camera symbol – that will give you all of the CAE Book Group titles with a TV or film adaptation.

# **Families**

# 44 Scotland Street

Alexander McCall Smith

McCall Smith's Scotland Street occupies a busy, bohemian corner of Edinburgh's New Town, where the old haute bourgeoisie rub shoulders with students, poets and portraitists. And Number 44 has more than its fair share of eccentrics and failures. Dry, funny and entertaining, 44 Scotland Street was originally written as a serialised novel.

**⊕** 2005 326pp **B2052** 

#### 84 Charing Cross Road Helene Hanff

Helene Hanff wrote from New York to Marks and Co., second hand booksellers in London: 'I enclose a list of my most pressing problems'. The reply and the books that were sent across the Atlantic began a joyous correspondence that lasted 20 years. This book celebrates friendship, the art of letter writing and a love of books and the English language.

**№** 1971 220pp **<u>B</u>1200** 



### All That Happened at Number 26

Denise Scott

The much loved comedian tells the stories that attach themselves to a family home, exploring married life and the trials and triumphs of raising children, and memories of her outer suburban childhood. Life outside Number 26 includes her career and friendships forged with other strong, funny women. Like the house itself, this book is a bit ramshackle but warm and fun.

**D E** 2008 261pp **B2101** 

# And the Mountains Echoed

Khaled Hosseini

From the bestselling author of A Thousand Splendid Suns comes a multi-generational story that explores sibling bonds. Beginning in Afghanistan in the early 1950s, the story shifts to France and America, and back again, in a series of tales.

**B** 2013 416pp **B2197** 

# Aphrodite and the Others

Gillian Bouras

With candour and compassion, Bouras examines the outlook and life experience of her mother in law, Aphrodite priest's wife, illiterate, and unbending matriarch. The book counterpoints the oral tradition and the literate one, the personal and the political.

1994 174pp B1402

#### The Art of the Engine Driver 🛟 Steven Carroll



In late 1950s Melbourne, Vic longs to perfect his engine driving technique and achieve the perfect smooth ride; his son Michael dreams of fast bowling perfection; Rita, mother and wife, longs for a life with something more. A distinctively Australian novel with a luminous evocation of ordinary lives.

**B** 2001 278pp **B** 1674



# **Basil Street Blues**

Michael Holroyd

The acclaimed biographer of George Bernard Shaw, Holroyd never explored his own family's history until his parents' death, which left a vacuum he felt the need to fill. The result? A continuation of his neverending love affair with human nature - part-detective story, part-family saga and part-oblique voyage of self-discovery.

**D** 1999 309pp B1632

# Before We Were Yours

Lisa Wingate



Interwoven between presentday Avery Stafford, groomed to be her father's successor in politics, and 12-year-old 'river rat' Rill in 1939, who helps take care of her four younger siblings in their boat home on the Memphis river. The novel is based on actual incidents of kidnapping and forced adoptions of the Tennessee Children's Home Society, who made a profit from stealing children from poor families to place with prominent society members.

**6** 2017 352pp **B2276** 

#### Behind the Scenes at the Museum

Kate Atkinson

This four generation English family saga is captivating. Atkinson's imagination and remarkable way with words lay open family life - the mismatches of personalities and expectations. the strains and trivialities, the ridiculous and the tragic.

**1995** 382pp **B1520** 

#### Births Deaths Marriages Georgia Blain

In this beautiful collection of stories, the daughter of Anne Deveson revisits her bohemian childhood during the social change movement, the collapse of her parents' marriage, her brother's illness and her path to becoming a writer. Deftly examining her life's triumphs and disappointments, she teases out the universal qualities that make us both fallible and loveable.

**DS E** 2008 224pp **B1998** 

#### The Blind Assassin Margaret Atwood



This sad, sharp, humorous reflection on family life spans most of the 20th century. With characters attracting sympathy and rancour, mysteries unravelling, and themes of sacrifice and betrayal, inspiring pathos and bathos, Atwood continues to surprise

**1** 2000 641pp **B1619** 

and intrique.

#### The Book of Emmett **Deborah Forster**





A heartbreaking exploration of domestic abuse. Emmett is an unpredictable alcoholic and violent father. His children. Louisa, Rob, Peter, Daniel and Jessie, are shaped by his destructive presence, but as he lies dying they must all come to terms with their past.

**G** 2009 296pp **B2100** 

#### **Breathing Lessons** Anne Tyler



Married for 28 years, Maggie and Ira Moran are an unlikely couple: Ira is reticent and detached; Maggie optimistic, confiding, impulsive, and an intervener in other people's lives. Marriage and family provide the focus for a wry, tolerant look at life's absurdity and underlying comedy.

**D** 1988 327pp **B1265** 

Enjoyed *The Guernsey* Literary and the Potato Peel Society?

Try 84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff [B1200]











### Brideshead Revisited

**Evelyn Waugh** 

This is Waugh's best-known novel, thanks largely to the sumptuous 1981 television series. When Charles meets glamorous Sebastian at Oxford. he is seduced by the exotic allure of Sebastian's aristocratic family and their grand country house, Brideshead. As his friend succumbs to alcoholism Charles develops a complex relationship with Sebastian's sister, Julia. This haunting novel is a portrait of love and faith, and a eulogy for a lost world.



**₽** 1945 336pp **B2130** 

#### The Burgess Bovs Elizabeth Strout

Haunted by the accidental death of their father, lawvers Bob and Jim Burgess leave behind their sister, Susan, and town in Maine for new lives in New York. But when Susan calls them back home to help her lonely son, who has thoughtlessly landed himself in deep trouble, old tensions surface. A beautifully written and complex story of sibling relationships.



**6** 2013 336pp B2192



# Careless

**Deborah Robertson** 



Tragedy enters the lives of two strangers: widowed Sonia, and Adam, a young sculptor experiencing his first taste of artistic success. This superbly written, convincingly plotted debut Australian novel skilfully explores responsibility, for both the living and the dead.

**1** 2006 293pp **B1960** 

#### The Casual Vacancy J.K. Rowling

Through the microcosm of parish council politics in the rural town of Pagford, she brings together a multigenerational cast of characters reflecting many aspects of modern Britain. A compelling exploration of community and family dynamics.

**6** 2012 576pp **B2174** 

#### The Children

Charlotte Wood

When Mandy and her siblings return home to watch over their critically ill father, they struggle to reconcile their past. Wardsman Tony has been waiting for Mandy's return, and as he insinuates himself into the family, pressure builds with devastating force. Wood's acutely observed third novel explores the tenacious grip of childhood and the price paid for bearing witness to the suffering of others.

**1** 2007 269pp **B2025** 

# The Children Act

Ian McEwan

Family Court judge Fiona daily takes momentous decisions concerning children, and must now rule on an unusual and intelligent 17-year-old whose faith has him unable to accept a lifesaving treatment. The consequences of Fiona's choices echo through her personal life, and will make you reconsider medical, religious and legal ethics. This is McEwan's succinct, gripping prose at its best.

**1** 2015 224pp **B2220** 

### The Children's Bach

Helen Garner

A compact but densely styled novel which teases apart the threads of a number of complex inter-relationships. An imaginative and compelling treatment of inner suburban angst from the inimitable Garner.

**B** 1984 96pp **B**0569

# City of the Mind

Penelope Lively

His marriage now evaporated, Matthew Halland shares in the bringing up of his 8-year-old daughter. An architect, his work takes him all over the everchanging cityscape of London. Lively's characteristic fusing of feeling and intellect in this most satisfying novel.

**B** 1991 220pp **B1367** 

#### Tim Winton



Miles Franklin Literary Award

Two families of ordinary people - battlers and losers - share a ramshackle old Perth house called Cloudstreet. Over 20 years, the ups and downs of their lives bring them and the house closer together in this sprawling, moving novel.

**D** 1991 426pp **B** 1269

# The Color of Water 众

James McBride

McBride's unforgettable memoir tells his mother's brave, eccentric story in her own words. Daughter of a failed orthodox Jewish rabbi in the American South, she ran away to Harlem, became a Baptist, married a black man, raised 12 children and put them all through college. Around her story is McBride's story of his own struggles for identity, and towards faith in a God neither black nor white, but 'the color of water'.

**1997 291pp B1593** 

#### The Corrections Jonathan Franzen



Alfred is elderly and increasingly ill, and his wife Enid wants only to have her three adult children home for a family Christmas together. These three moved to other cities, where they contend with their own messy adult lives. The black comedy and pathos in family living are counterpointed against biting portraits of America in the late 1990s. An engrossing, ambitious, powerful, funny, exceptional novel.

**6** 2001 568pp **B1677** 

# Craft for a Dry Lake

Kim Mahood

Artist Kim Mahood drives and paints her way across the Tanami Desert and the cattle station where she grew up. Fiona Capp comments: 'This subtle, sharpeved, resolutely unsentimental memoir could well mark a new phase in our literature about Australian outback life and the complexities of a white woman's relationship with the land and with the Aboriginal people who inhabit it.'

**D E** 2000 266pp **B**1636



# **Dark Places**

Kate Grenville



Albion Gidley Singer is the cruel, domineering patriarch from Lilian's Story. Grenville assumes his voice to give his carelessly misogynistic perspective on his life and values as a son, husband, and father in this disturbing and impressive novel that stands alone well. but perfectly complements Lilian's Story.

**G**(L) 1994 375pp B1439

#### Digging to America Anne Tyler

Two families living in Baltimore each adopt a baby girl from Korea and meet up at intervals over the years: the all American Donaldsons and the Yazdans, an Iranian American family. International adoption is only one of the concerns here, as each parent, child and grandparent in this sensitively observed novel responds differently to questions of being a foreigner, belonging, and being American.

**B** 2006 277pp **B** 1962

Anne Tyler



Pearl has been left to bring up two sons and an unruly, passionate daughter. Anne Tyler skilfully uses the power of youth's perceptions, and sets them off against the reality of 'adult' life. Loving descriptions of family relationships, including youthful jealousies flavour life into middle age.

**■** 1982 303pp **B0777** 



# **Every Secret Thing**

Gillian Slovo

This astonishing book traces the life of the daughter of an imperilled South African family of passionate fighters against apartheid. What does it do to your personal life if your parents are white, communist and irrepressible? Nadine Gordimer calls this an 'extraordinary expression of the very nature of loving'. Compulsive reading.

1997 282pp B1550

# **Extinctions**

Josephine Wilson





69-year-old engineer Fred Lothian has given up on life, and moved to a retirement village after the loss of his wife and the estrangement of his two children. Surrounded by clutter, Fred reminisces on his failures as a husband and a father. Then Fred meets Jan, a bubbly woman who accepts no excuses, and challenges him to confront the wrongs in his life, starting with his children. Together, they embark on a journey of self-discovery, forgiveness, disability, ageing and racial discrimination.

**6** 2016 280pp **B2289** 



# Falling Leaves

Adeline Yen Mah

Embracing historical events of world importance, Mah's tale of her life as an unwanted daughter in thrall to the ideal of filial devotion is gripping from the beginning. A portrait of all the basic (and base) family feelings love and tenderness, hate, pain, greed, resentment, indifference and malice.

**1997 278pp B1558** 

# Family Matters

**Rohinton Mistry** 

Who in the family will care for its ageing patriarch, now helpless after a fall? His daughter's family take him into their crowded Bombay apartment. The resulting dilemmas and pressure are interwoven with the old man's remembrances of a forbidden love in his earlier life. 'A luminous compassion, an abundance of life and piercing moments'.

**6** 2002 500pp **B1818** 

### Fault Lines

**Nancy Huston** 

Told from the perspective of a series of 6-year-olds, the story reveals how scars from the past can shape the present. From California to New York, from Haifa to Toronto and Munich, family secrets unwind revealing disturbing truths including the family's history during WWII. Content may offend some readers.

**6** 2007 308pp **B1989** 

#### The Fence

Meredith Jaffe

Gardening column writer and local stickybeak Gwen and her husband Eric have lived in the same house in suburban Sydney for decades. When a new hipster family moves into the house next door with their four children and two loud dogs, it is the proposal of a fence that is the act of war for Gwen. Clashes between generations, personalities and lifestyle break out as the two headstrong women battle for more than just council approval. A relatable, witty look into the struggle between the old ways and the new.

**6** 2016 368pp **B2267** 

Most of us enjoyed this book, and we certainly had a lot of discussion. For this reason we would recommend it to other Book Discussion Groups. We all had 'fence stories' but perhaps not quite as intense as in the novel. Several thought it would make a good sitcom. It was a nice light read but from the amount of discussion it is the clear the book covered a lot of relevant topics that we could relate to. One of the clear points was that people hate change and find it hard to accept. All in all a great read. Glen Waverley Ralton

# The Fifth Child

**Doris Lessing** 

Renegades

Lessing's engrossing novel explores the 'old fashioned' idyll of a couple who meet, marry and lovingly fill their house with their families. The arrival of their fifth, and very different, child raises dark questions about their family - and about the human family in contemporary society.

**1** 1989 159pp **B1259** 

# The Fine Colour of Rust 🛟

P.A. O'Reilly Single mum Loretta lives in the

dusty rural town of Gunapan with her two kids. She gamely steps up when the local school is about to be closed and the council approves a dodgy development project near town. A book about love, friendship and community, covering contemporary issues with tenderness and humour.

① 2012 247pp B2151

# Foal's Bread

Gillian Mears





Mears chronicles the hopes and heartbreaks of two generations of a NSW farming family, particularly the marriage of golden boy Roley to tough nut Noah. From the prewar rural show jumping circuit to the changing world of the 50s, this is a powerful testament to the Australian landscape and the vulnerability of the humans within it.

**G** 2011 361pp **B2139** 

#### A Fraction of the Whole Steve Toltz

Heroes or criminals? Crackpots or visionaries? Relatives or enemies? From his prison cell, Jasper Dean tells the unlikely story of his scheming father Martin, his crazy uncle Terry and how the three of them upset an entire continent. Incorporating death, parenting and first love this is a scathingly funny, heartbreaking story of families and how to survive them.

**⊕** 2008 711pp **B2042** 

# Frangipani

Célestine Hitiura Vaite

This mother-daughter novel is full of Tahitian lore about men, women, children and the realities of life. Gossip, intrigues, family crises, and the mother's flavoursome advice to her headstrong daughter are conveyed with warmth, charm and gusto from this Tahitianborn author.

**6** 2004 295pp **B1879** 

#### Freedom

Jonathan Franzen

We follow the lives of Patty and Walter Berglund and their children, while touching on the environment, overpopulation, sustainability and life in Middle America after September 11. It also tells a personal story that explores the relationship between the Berglunds and Walter's best friend and rival Richard Katz, a rock musician.

**6** 2010 562pp **B2104** 



#### The Gathering **Anne Enright**

Man Booker Prize

The nine surviving children of the Hegarty clan gather for the wake of their wayward brother Liam. It wasn't the drink that killed him: it was the events of the winter of 1968 in his grandmother's house, which his sister Veronica must now come to terms with. Enright follows a line of hurt and redemption through three generations, as memories warp and secrets fester.

**1** 2007 261pp **B1985** 

#### Gilead Marilynne Robinson



From the author of Housekeeping comes a beautiful story of faith, family, and history. Towards the end of his life, Reverend John Ames begins a letter to his son about the strained relationship between his father, a pacifist, and grandfather, an abolitionist, who 'preached men into the Civil War'.

**1** 2004 282pp **B1963** 

# The Glass Castle C

Jeannette Walls

Walls' father was a hopeless alcoholic, and her mother an artist who let her four children fend for themselves. Walls' attitude to her parents is almost always affectionate - but readers may not be so forgiving! This book will elicit passionate discussion.

■ 2005 341pp B1882

#### The God of Small Things 🔾 Arundhati Roy



Twins Estha and Rahel live in the Indian state of Kerala, where cruel caste traditions coexist alongside a modern communist movement. This moving novel explores the joys and pains of moments of life for a family in a society where love laws 'lav down who should be loved. And how, and how much'.

**1997 340pp B1559** 

#### The Good Parents Joan London



Maya moves to Melbourne and begins an affair with her boss whose wife is dying of cancer. When her parents arrive to visit, they find out that their daughter has disappeared. The awardwinning author of Gilgamesh unravels the complex bonds between parents, siblings, friends and lovers to create a portrait of contemporary Australia.

**⊕** 2008 351pp **B2014** 



# Hamlet's Dresser 🛟

**Bob Smith** 

Having spent his earlier years caring for a disabled sister, in his teens he joined the backstage staff of a theatre company. Tender, restrained, and glowing with excerpts from Shakespeare, this book will fasten itself in your memory.

## The Hand That First Held Mine

Maggie O'Farrell



Separated by fifty years, two women are connected in unexpected ways. Lexie is in her early twenties when she moves to London, becoming immersed in the 1950s Soho art scene. In contemporary London, artist Elina struggles to recover from a difficult birth, while her partner Ted faces questions from his past.

**1** 2010 341pp **B2094** 

# The Harp in the South

**Ruth Park** This beloved Australian novel

introduces Hugh and Margaret Darcy, doing their best to raise a family amidst the poverty and hardship of slum life in 1940s Sydney. Ruth Park combines robust and engaging characters with acute social observation. Her humanity, humour and skilful storytelling make The Harp in the South as fresh and readable as ever.

**1**948 225pp **B2198** 

# The Healing Party

Micheline Lee

Years after fleeing from her domineering evangelical father, Natasha returns to Melbourne's eastern suburbs to nurse her mother, Irene, who is dying from cancer. When she returns she quickly realises nothing much has changed. When her father claims to have received a message from God saying his wife is to be miraculously cured, Natasha struggles with her family's blind faith. Funny at times, this novel tackles the serious issues of faith, lies and family.

**D E** 2016 304pp **B2255** 

#### Home

#### Larissa Behrendt

Stretching back to the early years of the 20th century, Home describes three generations of an Aboriginal family. The novel begins in contemporary Australia with Candice, a young indigenous lawyer visiting her ancestral country with her father. Behrendt's characters are vividly drawn and there is a buoyancy and optimism in her vision.

**●** 2004 317pp **B1832** 

#### The Household Guide to Dying

Debra Adelaide

Australian author and domestic advice columnist Delia Bennet is diagnosed with cancer. She knows she will leave behind her husband, two young daughters and five chickens. Trying to get her house in order, she writes lists, makes plans, and contemplates how she should spend her remaining time.

**1** 2008 386pp **B2011** 

# The House in the Light

**Beverley Farmer** 

A divorced Australian woman returns to the Greek village where she was once welcomed as a bride. Against the earthiness and austerities of rural Greece, Farmer traces the affection, scratchiness and strain in the relationship between Bell and her ageing mother in law, the matriarch Kyria Sofia. Complex, with a luminous quality to the prose.

**1995 235pp B1447** 



Marilynne Robinson

Still at school, Lucille and Ruth have high hopes of their aunt Sylvie who comes to keep house for them after their mother's death. But the gentle Sylvie is a drifter and her behaviour too bizarre for some. One sister departs and soon Sylvie and Ruth must move on. There is bleakness here, but also oddity, beauty and a sense of stillness. A book that lingers in the mind.

**●** 1981 187pp **B1206** 



#### NEW

#### The **Immortalists** Chloe Benjamin

If you knew

when you would die, how would you choose to live your life? Four adolescents Simon, Klara, Daniel and Varya visit a travelling psychic who claims she knows the exact date of their deaths. What they learn will influence the course of their lives. A story about family, choices and fate.

IMMORTALISTS

**₱** 2018 368pp **B2300** 

#### Indelible Ink Fiona McGregor

Marie is 59, recently divorced with grown children and living in an affluent Sydney suburb. When drunk she decides to get a tattoo and develops an unlikely friendship with the tattoo artist, who shows her a different side of Sydney. An immersing family drama set in the Howard era.

₱ 2010 446pp B2092

#### Instructions for a Heatwave

Maggie O'Farrell

July, 1976. London is sweltering through a heatwave when Robert Riordan walks out on his wife and disappears. His three adult children return home, and family secrets are revealed as tensions mount on a journey to Ireland. Beautifully written with surprising twists, this is a moving portrait of a family that comes undone.

**₱** 2013 338pp **B2179** 

All members of the group completed the book and all enjoyed it. Many themes stimulated much discussion: family dynamics, communication (or lack of). The individual characters were all

Canterbury: Burnside & Beyond

### Isa and May

**Margaret Forster** 

Isamay is writing a master's thesis about the role of grandmothers in women's history, which leads to an examination of her own grandmothers: pugnacious May and chilly Isabel. Each harbours intriguing secrets, which come to light as Isamav examines their lives. Forster's writing is entertaining and accessible, and a great catalyst for exploring the universal themes of family and the multiple roles of women.

**G** 2010 316pp **B2121** 



#### Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam

Peter Goldsworthy

Rick, Linda and their two children represent the perfect Australian suburban family. When their daughter is diagnosed with cancer, their world is shattered. This novella poses important questions about death, the afterlife and the place of religion. The conclusion to this moving meditation on love, faith and fate will generate fiercely divided responses.

**1993 133pp B1863** 

#### The Joy Luck Club **Amy Tan**



A vibrant evocation of four Chinese women and their first generation Chinese American daughters: this brave, heartfelt novel powerfully communicates the intricacies of a double cultural identity, illuminating traditional Chinese customs and modern mother-daughter relationships. Small print.

**1989** 288pp **B1283** 



# The Kitchen God's Wife

Amy Tan

Winnie's story moves from Shanghai in the 1920s, through the Japanese occupation of China, World War II and the rise of the communists, to her decades in America after 1949. Her personal life contains much pain, courage and joy. Emotionally charged yet unsentimental, the novel explores relationships, uncovers secrets, and describes Chinese customs.

**B** 1991 415pp **B** 1330



# Ladder of Years

Anne Tyler



Sensing indifference in her family, Delia Grinstead vanishes from their lives. Walking along the beach, she keeps right on going to a town nearby where she takes on a new life as a single working woman with no ties. Where will things go from here? An unsettling look at marriage, family, human complexity and simple needs. Funny and plangent by turns.

**D** 1995 326pp **B1466** 

### The Lake House

Kate Morton

A missing child and a family secret are at the centre of this enthralling mystery from the author of The Forgotten Garden. The Edevane family live an idyllic life in their beautiful Cornwall home - until their toddler son disappears. When disgraced police constable Sadie stumbles across the house decades later, she begins to unravel what really happened on that midsummer evening in 1933.

**6** 2015 608pp **B2240** 

#### Last Friends

Jane Gardam

This is the final title in the trilogy featuring Old Filth and The Man in the Wooden Hat. It charts the life of Old Filth's great rival, Terence Veneering, from his unconventional childhood to old age in the English countryside. Gardam is a superb stylist and an astute navigator of the human heart. Last Friends is a must for any group that enjoyed her previous books.

**6** 2013 224pp **B2196** 

# Life in Seven Mistakes

Susan Johnson

Elizabeth Barton's art career is finally taking off. She's about to fly to New York for her first show at a prestigious gallery but first she must survive family Christmas on the Gold Coast. Johnson explores relationships and ageing in a black comedy with an unexpected climax.

₱ 2008 352pp B2037

#### Little Fires Everywhere Celeste Na



When artist and single mother Mia and her 15-year-old daughter Pearl rent a house from the affluent Richardson family, their growing connection to the seemingly picture-perfect family threatens the bonds between mother and daughter. Then a custody battle to adopt a Chinese-American baby tears the town apart, causing the two families to implode and familial secrets are unearthed. A witty exploration of white privilege, class snobbery and motherhood in the '90s that will leave you questioning: what side are you on?

**6** 2017 338pp **B2273** 

# Love and Vertigo 🛟

**Hsu Ming Teo** 

Pandora is drawn back to her native Singapore to die, and her Australian-born daughter Grace tries to understand her mother's early life as the 'rubbish child' - the fourth daughter of a Singaporean Chinese family in the 1940s. In turn funny, sad and insightful about the tensions and mysteries in families fragmented by the dislocations of war and emigration.

**D E** 2000 287pp **B** 1645

#### Lovers' Knots Marion Halligan



A capacious, hundred year family novel which focuses on particular lives of individuals at key points. Like a moving photographic collage, it lets the reader glimpse the time shifts which show individual and family destinies from unexpected angles.

**₱** 1992 377pp **B1380** 

#### Lovesong

Alex Miller





In her Tunisian café on the outskirts of Paris, Sabiha falls in love with Australian John, and together they fashion a new life. When writer Ken meets them in Melbourne later in life, the sadness in Sabiha's eyes draws him to tell their story. This is a story about home, family, and human frailties, raising questions of morals and purpose.

**6** 2009 368pp **B2090** 



#### The Man in the Wooden Hat

Jane Gardam

Child of the Empire, spirited young woman, Establishment wife of lawver Edward Feathers: Betty is every bit as intriguing and vivid as her husband. Gardam explores the landscape of a marriage, including its secrets and compromises, with wit and understanding. This novel stands alone well, and is a remarkable companion piece to Old Filth.

**₱** 2009 233pp **B2073** 

### The Memory Keeper's Daughter 🗅

Kim Edwards

One evening in 1964, a blizzard forces Dr Henry to deliver his own twins. His son is born healthy, his daughter has Down syndrome. Making a decision that will haunt their lives forever, he asks the nurse to take their daughter to an institution, and tells his wife that the baby died. This international bestseller is a deeply moving exploration of family secrets and the redemptive power of love.

**D D** 2005 401pp **B**1972

#### The Moor's Last Sigh Salman Rushdie

This Indian family saga has a huge, surprising cast. Its mind blowing mixture of the private and public, the historical and invented is elegiac, outrageous, astute, funny. An imaginative and human challenge vintage Rushdie!

**D** 1995 434pp **B** 1492

# A Mother's Disgrace

**Robert Dessaix** 

An unusual and compelling autobiography written in mid-life to describe how Dessaix came to find and know the woman who is his birth mother. He offers a moving account of the apparently ordinary couple who adopted him and were such loving parents, and talks candidly about his move away from married life to discover himself as a homosexual.

1994 195pp B1415

### Mother's Milk

**Edward St Aubyn** 

Patrick's mother Eleanor, ageing and ailing, is determined to sign over his inheritance to a New Age Foundation, while his wife Mary is lost in her obsession with motherhood. A bitingly witty and sometimes heart-breaking novel about family dynamics.

₱ 2006 304pp B1952

#### My Family and Other Animals

**Gerald Durrell** 

The Durrell family, their eccentric hangers on, and the local animals, birds and insects provide a steady stream of hilarious incidents in this lighthearted book, set in Corfu where the author lived as a boy in the 1930s. Small print.

**D**(L) 1956 300pp B0575



#### Nine Davs

Toni Jordan

Spend nine days immersed in the lives of members of one Melbourne family from the 1930s to the present day. Kit's family. including his sister, mother and grandchildren, are engaging and real in this evocative and compassionate novel about sacrifice and survival.

**G** 2012 245pp **B2172** 

9 of us thoroughly enjoyed this book. A great storyteller and beautifully written, poignant, sad, uplifting, humourous. The characters were so real, the setting familiar and much discussion on the tensions and reality of the times. Kip, Connie and Jack were our favourites. Much to appreciate.

Canterbury: Burnside & Beyond

# Noah's Compass

Anne Tyler

A retired teacher in his 60s. Liam lives a lonely life in a small apartment. His inertia is broken by an intruder, a knock on the head and a case of amnesia. His eccentric second ex-wife, his daughters and his grandson Noah all help Liam find direction. Noah's Compass explores the meaning of happiness and the connections that keep us anchored in our lives.

**6** 2009 277pp B2084

# No Great Mischief

Alistair MacLeod

Driven from the Highlands in 1779, Calum MacDonald sails for Nova Scotia, where he and his people work as loggers and miners, struggling in the new land and its endless cold. Two centuries later, these red-haired. black-eyed MacDonalds are still linked by intense clan loyalty.

**GG** 1999 262pp **B1627** 

#### Old Filth

Jane Gardam

Edward Feathers is well respected and known affectionately as Old Filth. Filth was a Raj orphan, sent 'home' at a young age from what was then Malaya, to be fostered and receive a proper English education. Gardam's beautifully written, memorable novel pieces together the mosaic of experiences that make up the life of this one member of the Establishment, and by extension, a generation of children of the Raj.

**6** 2004 260pp **B1910** 

#### On Beauty **Zadie Smith**



From the bestselling author of White Teeth. Howard is an art historian at an East Coast college in the US. His marriage to Kiki is strained to breaking point, and their three children struggle to cope. When Howard's arch-rival accepts a post in Howard's faculty, a cascade of hilarious and tragic events ensues.

**B** 2005 446pp **B**1953

#### Once in a House on Fire Andrea Ashworth

This is an account of the writer's early years following the accidental death of her father. The men her mother accepts become violent, and the family spirals downward into poverty and uncertainty. Ashworth's lucid prose and lack of self-pity and the child's protectiveness towards her beautiful, neglectful mother raise fascinating questions about human vulnerability and resilience.

1998 330pp B1740

# The Orchard Thieves

Elizabeth Jollev

In this beautiful, autumnal work Jolley creates an insightful and artful work about families. The figures of the grandmother, the three sisters, and the young grandsons who give the book its title, open our imaginations to the poignant question of what one generation can pass on to following ones. More a fable than a novel. Clear print.

**●** 1995 134pp **B1477** 

# Other People's Children

Joanna Trollope

What does it feel like, for adults and children, when, after losing a partner by divorce or death, a man or a woman with children of various ages enters a new relationship? This absorbing, shrewd and sympathetic novel probing the complexities of modern family life will surely sound echoes for every reader.

**1998 320pp B1749** 

### The Other Side of the Bridge

Mary Lawson

Arthur and Jake Dunn are as different as two brothers can be. Arthur, who is older, is shy, dutiful and set to inherit the family farm in northern Ontario, Canada, while Jake is young and reckless. When Laura arrives in their 1930s rural community their uneasy relationship is pushed to the edge. A beautifully told story of love and family that spans the changes of rural life from the Great Depression to WWII.

**6** 2006 273pp **B2003** 

### Our Father Who Art in the Tree

**Judy Pascoe** 

A funny, touching novel evoking a family in crisis. A man dies suddenly, leaving four bewildered children and a distraught wife. In the heat of a Queensland summer they contend with his absence, and young Simone is convinced her father is still speaking to her from where he now lives in the great tree behind the house.

**6** 2002 169pp **B1795** 

#### Our Tiny, Useless Hearts Toni Jordan

'Nothing much happens in the outer suburbs. It's just like a spa retreat. A nudist, adulterous spa retreat.' Caroline and Henry's marriage is teetering on the brink, so it's lucky that Caroline's sister Janice is there to look after their daughters. But Janice is busy dealing with her feelings toward her ex-husband, and to top it all off, Caroline's nosy neighbours seem to be having their own marital crisis. This entertaining, moving novel explores family. childhood, and the sacrifices we make for love.

**BB** 2016 288pp **B2245** 



# Passing On

Penelope Lively

An unmarried daughter and son, of 52 and 49 respectively, are left by the death of their domineering mother to develop what remains of their lives. Compassionate, poised and finely written.

1989 210pp B1347



#### The Place on **Dalhousie** Melina

Marchetta

Rosie Gennaro's father rebuilt the place on Dalhousie, but passed away. Now Rosie has to share it with Martha - the woman her father married far too soon after her mother's death. An encounter with Jimmy Hailler takes her life in another direction, resulting in both Jimmy and Rosie reassessing what's important. A story of finding family, love and connections in unexpected places.

**6** 2019 288pp **B2311** 

#### The Poisonwood Bible Barbara Kingsolver



Missionary preacher Nathan Price moves his family to the Congo in the '60s, a time of tremendous political and social upheaval. The narrative alternates between Nathan's wife and four daughters in this powerful, poignant and sometimes funny exploration of religious zeal, conscience, imperialist arrogance, and the many paths to redemption. Small print.

**G** 1998 543pp **B1728** 

# Precious Bodily Fluids

**Charles Waterstreet** 

Full of event, flavour and brio as 11-year-old Charlie threads his way cheekily through a rollicking family memoir of the owners of Waterstreet's pub in Albury in 1961. Irish Catholic family and school culture, six o'clock closing, SP bookies, police raids and sinister plots to fluoridate the town's water are all part of a delightful and dreadful time, now gone.

1998 262pp B1718

# A Private Man

Malcolm Knox

Set in contemporary Sydney, this is a portrait of three adult brothers and their parents, over the days following the father's unexpected death in curious circumstances. In Knox's look at different models of masculinity, the worlds of medical practice, test cricket and pornography merge in a literary thriller about a family under pressure. Strong language.

**1** 2004 385pp **B1838** 

# The Pure Gold Baby

**Margaret Drabble** 

Jess is an anthropologist and single mother. Anna is her pure gold baby - a smiling child with a learning disability who never 'grows up'. Narrated by their neighbour Eleanor, The Pure Gold Baby profiles a changing society from '60s London to the present day, exploring forms of human kinship, the experience of ageing, and the way we care for one another.

**D D** 2013 291pp **B2201** 











R

# Reading in Bed

Sue Gee

Dido and Georgia have been friends since university. They live in a cultured English world of lovely gardens, good books and conversation. But for the first time, Dido has reason to question her marriage, while widowed Georgia has yet to come to terms with the loss of her husband; their children are unhappy in love and perfect health is no longer a given.

**●** 2007 340pp **B2016** 

# The Rector's Wife

Joanna Trollope

In her early 40's, Anna realises that her Rector husband's parish is 'the other woman in my life'. Her children's needs impel her to get a paid job. Trollope's account of the web of personal, family and parish life was reprinted thirteen times in its first two years as a paperback. Good black print.

**● ● ● ●** 1991 243pp <u>**B1423**</u>

# Revolutionary Road C Richard Yates





Frank and April are bored by their 1950s suburban American lives and dream of being extraordinary. But their decision to change their life leads to tragedy. Tennessee Williams said: 'here is more than fine writing; here is what ... makes a book come immediately, intensely and brilliantly alive.'

**●●** 1961 336pp <u>B2039</u>

#### The Riders Tim Winton



Fred Scully's desperate quest to get his Australian family together again drives him from Ireland across Europe, with his gutsy and loving daughter. In the background are the mysterious, waiting riders and the Australian

experience. Gripping suspense. **(1)** 1994 377pp **B1455** 

### Rose Boys

Peter Rose



Robert Rose was a footballer and cricketer in a famous Melbourne sporting family. Suddenly left quadriplegic at 22 by a car accident, Robert became totally dependent on others. His brother Peter, a poet, writer and editor, has written a memoir about a family under great pressure, a tribute to his brother and parents and a book of quiet power.

**1** 2001 289pp **B1796** 

# Running in the Family

Michael Ondaatje

Ondaatje returned to his native Sri Lanka in the 1970s to retrace the baroque mythologies of his forebears, outrageous, eccentric, or embattled: 'Everyone was vaguely related and had Sinhalese, Tamil, Dutch, British and Burgher blood in them going back for generations. Love affairs rainbowed over marriages and lasted forever so it often seemed that marriage was the greater infidelity.' An unforgettable book.

**№** 1982 207pp **B1650** 

# Running with Scissors

**Augusten Burroughs** 

Burroughs' mother gave him away to her psychiatrist when he was twelve. His bizarre childhood, spent in the doctor's dilapidated mansion where he maintained a relationship with a paedophilic inpatient, is the basis for this harrowing, entertaining, and endlessly surreal memoir. Contains explicit content.

**1** 2003 304pp <u>B1892</u>



# The Secret Agent

Joseph Conrad

A carefully developed human story of an agent's family in the grim world of the agent provocateur. It is based on a real incident, the attempted destruction of Greenwich Observatory, treated with Conrad's irony, scepticism and social insight.

**1**907 249pp **B1013** 

# Seducing Mr Maclean

Loubna Haikal

The daughter of a Lebanese family enrols in Medicine to fulfil her family's dreams. Her Australian boyfriend, the suspect business dealings of her brothers, and parents slaving away in their restaurant, are ingredients in this fast-moving comic novel.

**●** 2002 318pp **B1679** 

#### The Shipping News Annie Proulx





A hapless New York hack journalist takes off with his two small, motherless daughters and redoubtable aunt to stormbattered Newfoundland, where he gradually makes a new life. The characters, wild setting and remarkable writing all come off the page with a blast of freshness. An irresistible comedy of human life and possibility.

**●●** 1993 337pp <u>B1458</u>

### A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian

Marina Lewycka



Sisters Nadezhda and Vera haven't always seen eye to eye. But when their father's young, glamorous fiancée Valentina bursts into their lives 'like a fluffy pink grenade' they agree they must rescue him from her greedy clutches and his own geriatric fantasies. Enlivened with quirky characters and original dialogue, this spirited story is about love, old age, immigration, Ukrainian history and family secrets.

**●** 2005 324pp <u>B1893</u>

#### Sisters

Drusilla Modjeska and others

Australia's foremost women writers – Modjeska, Mears, Yahp, Garner, Hewett and Jolley – explore the joys and vexations of sisters, in autobiographical essays and more or less fictional stories. Wonderful glimpses of writers' lives and into all that is involved in being and remembering siblings.

**OS** 1993 185pp <u>B1427</u>

# The Slap Christos Tsiolkas



A man slaps a child at a suburban barbeque. The child is not his own. This event and its consequences have a rippling effect on the friends and family at the barbeque. Told from the viewpoints of eight people, *The Slap* is an unflinching look at the modern family. Strong language may offend some readers.

**●** 2008 400pp **B2034** 

# The Sound of One Hand Clapping 🗅

Richard Flanagan



Sonja Buloh has gone to Sydney to make herself a carefully ordered life. Her return to Tasmania connects her with the traumas of her migrant parents' European and Australian pasts, and the childhood she has tried to forget. An important novel about dislocation, work, family.

**GG** 1997 425pp B1586

#### A Spot of Bother Mark Haddon

From the author of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. George is trying to settle quietly into retirement, but his daughter is marrying an inappropriate man, his wife is

quietly into retirement, but his daughter is marrying an inappropriate man, his wife is carrying on with his ex-colleague, and an unsettling rash has appeared on his hip. As the Hall family slides into chaos, George quietly and politely begins to go mad.

**6** 2006 390pp **B1966** 

### Summer at Mount Hope 🛟

Rosalie Ham

Ham's second novel is a 19thcentury romance. Feisty heroine Phoeba Crupp lives with her parents and sister on a small farm near Geelong. Her father moved his family from the city to establish a vineyard, a decision Phoeba's mother bitterly resents. With less black comedy than in The Dressmaker. Ham highlights the efforts of women a century ago to thwart tradition and pursue their dreams.



# Swallow the Air

Tara June Winch

When Mav's mother dies suddenly, she and her brother Billy are taken in by Aunty. While Billy takes his own selfdestructive path. May sets off to find her father and her Aboriginal identity. Written in a poetic style, with an excellent ear for dialogue, these skilfully crafted interlinked stories about growing up on society's fringes herald a distinctive and exciting voice in Australian indigenous fiction.

**B** 2006 198pp **B**1937

#### The Sweet Shop Owner **Graham Swift**

A decisive day in the life of 60-year-old Willy Chapman evokes the personal, family and social history of his life and his shop. Clear, compassionate writing reveals courage, pain, laughter, limitation and unexpected sweetness in an ordinary life.

**1** 1980 222pp **B1203** 

### Swimming with the Jellyfish

Vicki Hastrich

With a gift for humour and characterisation Hastrich evokes a small New South Wales coastal town through the eyes of a likable eccentric woman, still preoccupied by the disappearance of her mother twenty years back. A warm, quirky, insightful book with a cast of memorable characters.

**1** 2001 224pp **B1692** 



#### A Tale of Love and Darkness

Amos Oz

The single child of a couple who migrated to Israel in the 1930s. Oz grew up in Jerusalem and is now one of Israel's foremost writers. His family chronicle is mesmerising: funny, intense, tragic. In the layers of his extended family in Israel – all transplanted from Eastern Europe and drenched in European languages and culture - we see the making of Jewish Jerusalem, and beyond that the emerging state of Israel.

♠ 2004 564pp B1938

#### That Eye, the Sky Tim Winton

A threatened family struggles to hold together in the city outskirts. The moving story is beautifully told in the pungent slangy idiom of 12-year-old Ort Flack. We see his family (and the big human questions) through his loving, troubled, visionary eyes.

**(L)** 1986 150pp **B0875** 

### There Should Be More Dancing

Rosalie Ham

On Margery's eightieth birthday she reflects back on her life. She has lived quietly in Brunswick (Melbourne) for the past sixty years but now she wants to jump off the balcony at her hotel. She doesn't trust anyone, least of all her family. However, she doesn't want to hurt anyone below the hotel so instead she thinks back and revisits her life. Told with Rosalie Ham's wit, humour and compassion.

**6** 2011 347pp **B2128** 

#### A Thousand Acres Jane Smiley

Pulitzer Prize

Dominating, implacable Larry Cook owns the largest, richest farm in Zebulon County, Iowa. Without warning he opts to retire, passing the farm to his three daughters and setting off a chain of events which will divide the family and bring dark secrets to light. In her modern reworking of Shakespeare's tragedy King Lear, this American novelist produces a compelling tale about family, human nature, and this farming community.

**1991 371pp B1499** 

### A Thousand Splendid Suns

Khaled Hosseini

Brought together by war, loss, and marriage to the same cruel man, Mariam and Laila develop a lifelong friendship. Spanning the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Afghan civil war and the rule of the Taliban, this is a moving tale of friendship, love and family.

**D D** 2007 370pp **B** 1961

# The Tiger in the Tiger Pit

Janette Turner Hospital

The tiger is an old man facing his 50th wedding anniversary, irritated and alienated by present incapacities and past lost opportunities. His wife strives to recompose a family harmony, recognising that 'We are all capable of brutality, aren't we?' A deftly woven plot in this thought-provoking exploration of parents and children.

**1983 256pp B1244** 

#### The Time We Have Taken Steven Carroll



Summer, 1970: television and wireless shop proprietor, Peter, pronounces his Melbourne suburb one hundred years old. As his community prepares to celebrate progress, a mural is commissioned of the area's history. But what vision of the past will this painting reveal? The third in a trilogy, Carroll's novel is a meditation on the rhythms of suburban life during a time of radical change.

**⊕ ⊕** 2007 327pp **B2027** 

#### **Tinkers Paul Harding**



Clockmaker George Washington Crosby lies dying and travels back in time through memories of his impoverished childhood in rural Maine, and of his father, a peddler who suffered from epileptic seizures. Harding's language dazzles, whether he's describing the workings of clocks or sensory images of nature.

**B** 2009 191pp **B2103** 

# **Trespass**

Valerie Martin

Trespass is the story of two families haunted by the past. Chloe Dale is discontent with the American involvement in the Iraq war, and with her son Toby's girlfriend Salome Drago. An émigré from the former Yugoslavia, Salome has her own concerns and dangerous secrets from her past are about to catch up with her.

**●** 2007 288pp **B2019** 

Enjoyed A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian?

Various Pets Alive and Dead by Marina Lewycka













#### Unless

**Carol Shields** 

Norah, beloved adult daughter of Reta Winters, opts out of normal life in order to sit on a gritty street corner mutely displaying a sign around her neck that reads 'GOODNESS'. Her mother's search for what drove her daughter to this turns into a funny meditation on where we find meaning and hope. A suspenseful fiction about supposedly ordinary lives from this exceptional Canadian novelist.





# Various Pets Alive and Dead

Marina Lewycka

Unrepentant hippie Marxists Doro and Marcus realise the revolution is never coming. But why do their children have to embrace capitalism and consumerism so enthusiastically? A charming story about family values and the comedy of the new generation gap from the author of *A Short History of Tractors* in Ukrainian.

**G** 2012 366pp **B2165** 



# We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves

Karen Joy Fowler



# WINNER

PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction



#### SHORTLISTED Man Booker Prize

Something in Rosemary's childhood turned her from a lively, chatty child into a quiet adult with a secret. Her siblings disappeared inexplicably; her father, a renowned psychologist, brought home his work in surprising ways. Rosemary attempts to reconcile her present with her jumbled memories, wondering what it is we relate to in others – is it the 'human', or the 'being'?

**1** 2014 336pp **B2215** 

# What the Light Reveals Mick McCov

Set in Melbourne in 1954, Australian-born communist Conrad, his wife Ruby and their two son's lives are in shambles when Conrad is brought before the commission with false accusations of espionage during the peak of the Cold War. After being vilified by peers and the media, Conrad uproots his family to Moscow where the family must face up to their own lies and secrets. A family drama that explores identity, individual beliefs, family and politics during the Cold War period.

**⊕ ⊕** 2018 368pp **B2288** 

# The White Earth

Andrew McGahan





Do we own the land or does it own us? Who can claim to belong here? In the Darling Downs in the years when the imminent passage of Native Title is of huge concern to local landowners, a fatherless boy and his mother are taken in by the family patriarch. Part family saga, part history and part gothic thriller, this novel is set in a landscape haunted by the ghosts of black and white.

**●** 2004 389pp <u>B1852</u>

#### White Teeth

**Zadie Smith** 



This sparkling, noisy, comic epic of multicultural Britain makes joyful use of vernaculars, various, as it traces the inter-connections of three families, one Indian, one white and one mixed, over 25 years in North London and Oxford. A novel with a relish for ideas, for language and for the tragic comedy of human life.

**●●** 2000 462pp **B1772** 

### The World Beneath 🛟

Cate Kennedy

As Sandy and Rich approach middle age they look back on the Franklin Blockade as the highlight of their lives. While Sandy embraced new age spirituality and the mothering of their 15-year-old daughter, Rich roamed the world with his camera, trying to recapture the promise of his youth. Rich attempts to rekindle his relationship with his daughter on a trek in the Tasmanian wilderness, but disaster looms. All three go on a journey and let go of the past, while they move towards a future together.

**●** 2009 342pp **B2071** 



# You Gotta Have Balls

**Lily Brett** 

Ruth is a 54-year-old Jewish Australian running a successful business in New York. She worries about her weight, about her husband, and about her 87-year-old father, the irrepressible Edek. Enter Zofia: buxom Polish 60-something with one eye for business and another for Edek, and Ruth's worrying reaches hilarious heights. In this light-hearted but satisfying novel, Brett tackles serious themes with wit and verve. Frank and with occasional strong language, this is delightful social comedy about modern family life.

**GG** 2005 293pp B1944



# Journeys

These books celebrate the ways we can step out and engage with the world, from travel writing to intensely personal and spiritual experiences.

#### 1788

Watkin Tench

First-hand accounts of the First Fleet's expedition to Botany Bay written by a captain in the marines. Robert Hughes says: 'An eve that noticed everything. a voung man's verve, a slv wit ... the most readable classic of early Australian history.'





### The Accursed Mountains

**Robert Carver** 

Robert Carver knows he was lucky to leave Albania alive. He foiled an attempt on his life. travelled the worst roads he has seen and fought off cholera and dysentery. He describes wonderful scenery and remote settlements where a centuriesold way of life is still unchanged.

1998 349pp B1649

### The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain

This great American novel is a comic and searching examination of American society in the mid-19th century. The depiction of life on the Mississippi raises larger questions of individuality, conformity and escape.

**B** 1884 370pp **B**0105

# Almost French

Sarah Turnbull

A frank and engaging travel memoir from this Australian ex-pat about her new life in Paris with a 'very French Frenchman'. An honest, often amusing account of the highs, lows and culture clashes associated with living in a foreign country. Read this book for an insider's account of life in Paris - food. fashion, social rituals, bloodyminded bureaucrats and pampered pooches.

**D B** 2002 309pp **B**1776

# An Authentic Life 🛟

**Caroline Jones** 

Caroline Jones sees her book as an invitation to the reader 'to reflect on your own story, on your own experience, on the way you are living your life - to discover the revelation it has to offer you'. She reveals a few central moments in her own life story as she explores the stories she elicited in her ABC Radio National program 'The Search for Meaning'.

**№** 1998 312pp **B1707** 



#### Balanda

Mary Ellen Jordan

'Balanda' is the word used by Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to describe non-Aboriginal people. Fuelled by a desire to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of indigenous Australians, Jordan spent a year working at a tiny arts centre in Arnhem Land. The transition from Melbourne to Maningrida was extreme and being a 'Balanda' proved more complex than Jordan bargained for. As her disillusionment grows, her opinions on race, culture, language, art and political correctness are constantly challenged. An honest, perceptive and engaging contribution to the relationship between black and white Australians.

**OG** 2005 224pp <u>B1868</u>

#### Behind the Wall

Colin Thubron

A finely written look at China. The big picture is made up of many tiny portraits of people who are simultaneously common and extraordinary. Thubron parades before us the little lives of babies, people who have nothing, the greedy and the powerful, all as individuals. Informative and rewarding.

**1987** 302pp **B1356** 

#### Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures

Vincent Lam

Dr Vincent Lam draws on his life experience as he follows a group of young doctors from medical school to emergency rooms. 'Each of these interconnected stories reveal nuances of different pressures - the immense sense of responsibility, sleep disturbances, psychological problems and the failures of imperfection' - Toronto Star (Canada).

**BS** 2005 350pp **B2024** 

## Brick Lane

Monica Ali



Life for Bangladeshi village girl Nazreen is duty and obedience until her father arranges her marriage to Chanu of Tower Hamlets, London. Nazreen struggles to reconcile herself both to fate and to choice as she faces issues surrounding family, identity, Islam and community.

**⊕** 2003 492pp **B1813** 

#### Brooklyn 🗅 Colm Tóibín

Eilis Lacey leaves her small town in south-east Ireland in the 1950s, and sets off for a new life in Brooklyn. When tragedy strikes, she is faced with a difficult decision between love in her new land and the promises to her family back home.

**D D** 2009 256pp **B**2059



#### Catfish and Mandala

Andrew X. Pham

Pham's family escaped Vietnam in 1977. Twenty years later, Pham abandons his engineering career and makes an epic year-long bicycle journey on a shoestring budget through New Mexico, USA, Japan and finally Vietnam. Part traveloque, part memoir, this is a confronting book about cultural identity, framed within an exciting adventure story.

1999 342pp B1874

# A Change of Skies

Yasmine Gooneratne

A witty, multi-faceted exploration of differences and misunderstanding between cultures, and the impact of moving between cultures. Neither Australia nor Sri Lanka will look quite the same to you after this.

1991 329pp B1319

# City of Diinns

William Dalrymple

Subtitled 'A Year in Delhi'. the book presents encounters with a range of individuals - Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo Indians, Punjabis, Sufi mystics, calligraphers, eunuchs, pigeon flyers - whose stories reflect the eventful history of this ancient city. Lively, diverting and informative: a real delight. Print smallish but clear.

1993 350pp B1405

# Conditions of Faith

Alex Miller

A young Australian decides to marry a Scottish Frenchman and follows him to 1920s Paris, where he is working on a design tender for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Inevitably the realities of her daily life as wife, pregnant woman and mother clash with her desire for liberty and the need to use her mind. A splendid account of the excitement and cruel sacrifices entailed in creative and intellectual commitment.

**1** 2000 406pp **B**1634















# A Death in Brazil





Robb paints a picture of South America's largest and most mysterious country, blending personal journey with a portrait of a sensual, often violent society with extremes of poverty and wealth; a background of Portuguese and centuries of slavery, workers' strikes and organised crime - all flavoured with lime and coconut juice.

**№** 2003 372pp **B1827** 

### Diary of a Welsh Swagman, 1869-1894

William Evans

Joseph Jenkins worked on farms in the Ballarat and Castlemaine area and kept diaries for 25 years. These diaries lay in an attic (in Wales) for 70 years before they were found and interpreted as a valuable historical document which conveys the personality of the diarist.

**1** 1975 216pp **B1089** 

# Down Under

Bill Bryson

Of course, we all know that Australia is a huge, mainly empty country of aggressive climatic extremes and teeming with poisonous creatures. Even so, give yourself the pleasure of accompanying American born Anglophile Bryson as he sights a range of the country's must-see destinations and draws such conclusions for himself. He can't help just liking it here, but his account of Oz is still sharp-witted and aware.

**1** 2000 319pp **B1753** 

#### Enjoyed Flight Behaviour?

Try Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver [B2006]



# Eat Pray Love 🔾

Elizabeth Gilbert

After a bitter divorce and a turbulent love affair, Gilbert realised it was time to pursue three things: pleasure, devotion and balance. Her spiritual quest unfolds in an engaging and highly enjoyable travel narrative that takes her to Italy, India and Indonesia.

**1** 2006 348pp **B2000** 

#### The End of Seeing **Christy Collins**



Ana is still recovering from the death of her daughter when her husband goes missing on a photojournalistic assignment overseas. Nick's last pictures were taken all across Europe, following a theme of refugees and forgotten people. Uncovering the trail left by his photographs, Ana sets out to

find Nick - or, at least, the truth of what happened. Beautiful and haunting.

**●** 2015 240pp **B2233** 

# The English

Jeremy Paxman

The English are an ineradicable part of Australian history. This witty, penetrating book analyses English society, offering historical and sociological explanations for the way the English are. Paxman's scholarship and intellectual rigour forces a careful consideration.

**D** 1998 309pp **B** 1639

Generated much unprovoked discussion. The book did enlighten many on the current trend in Britain. Although some found the text complex they enjoyed the discussion. The majority rated the book between good and very good. Glen Waverley Uniting



### A Fez of the Heart

Jeremy Seal

The fez has played a central role in Turkey's conflicting desires to be both Eastern and Western. both Muslim and secular. It was banned in 1925 by Kemal Atatürk, and Seal sets out to trace its history and demise. An engaging, gentle, often funny travelogue offering real insights into Turkey.

1995 291pp B1528

#### The Fig Tree Arnold Zable

Including his Polish Jewish

parents and his wife's Greek parents, Zable collects stories about belonging and dislocation. We move from late migrant era Carlton to Ithaca, hearing tales of refugees and wanderers, singers and poets. Hospitality and the welcoming of strangers are recurring motifs in a book which remains relevant today.

**O E** 2002 222pp **B**1685

# Flight Behaviour

Barbara Kingsolver

#### SHORTLISTED Orange Prize

Farm-wife Dellarobia sees her world ignited in a literal blaze of colour when rare Monarch butterflies make their home in the forests on her family's land. Class differences and societal values deepen as science clashes with religion around this small town American family, and the result is a thought-provoking reflection of humanity against a backdrop of a world in flux.

**B** 2012 436pp **B2190** 

# Floundering

Romy Ash

### **SHORTLISTED** Miles Franklin Literary Award

Abandoned by their unreliable mother, Tom and Jordy live with their grandmother until their mother's sudden reappearance. During a haphazard road trip, she leaves them again, this time on Australia's west coast. Desperate, the boys turn to an old man for help - but what danger does he pose?

**●** 2012 202pp **B2162** 

#### Footsteps

**Richard Holmes** 

These 'footsteps of a romantic biographer' appeal to lovers of biography, travel and history, telescoping the joys of several books. Walk with R. L. Stevenson through France; join in the French Revolution with Wordsworth and Wollstonecraft; visit Shelley's complicated household in Italy. Hunting his haunting subject, Holmes struggles towards his own mature identity.

**1** 1985 288pp **B1530** 

#### Forest Dark 🛟

Nicole Krauss

Moving from New York to Tel Aviv. the novel combines two narrative threads from retired philanthropist Jules Epstein, who goes missing when he leaves New York with what remains of his wealth to Tel Aviv, and 39-year-old American novelist Nicole, who's plagued by writer's block and a stale marriage, and discovers a mystery that alters her life. The novel explores Jewish culture, Frankz Kafka and personal metamorphosis.

**D B** 2017 304pp **B2284** 

#### The Fountain of Age **Betty Friedan**

Friedan covers many of the issues and choices facing people as they age. She attacks our society's fear and denial of age, and its belittling stereotypes of older women and men. She offers facts, anecdotes and experience in a discursive and cheerfully resilient account of the third age - not a dead end, but a fountain! Smallish print.

(L) 1993 654pp **B1407** 

### From Rice to Riches

Jane Hutcheon

Born in Hong Kong and part Chinese herself, ABC correspondent Jane Hutcheon takes the reader on a journey into her family's past as well as across the new China. With refreshing directness she recounts her round as a foreign journalist - meeting characters from all levels of society, outwitting the Security Police and writing selfconfessions when found out, and sampling the country's varied and delicious cuisine.

**D B** 2003 371pp **B** 1819



# Gilgamesh

Joan London





A small-town Australian woman journeys to war-torn Armenia to find the father of her child. Her retelling of the ancient Mesopotamian epic of the hero Gilgamesh, his mourning for his beloved friend Enkidu and his eventual homecoming, resonates with the journey taken.

**1** 2001 255pp **B1695** 

### A God in Ruins

Kate Atkinson

Teddy is the younger brother of Ursula in Life After Life, and in this companion novel we follow the life he would have had, had he survived the war which killed him in Ursula's story. Atkinson writes with sensitivity and humour of life's highs, including a bucolic childhood, and lows, such as Teddy's experience of war and the small disappointments of fatherhood - and of living.

**1** 2015 400pp **B2221** 



#### Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad

In the Congo during its colonisation by Belgium, shocks and transformations resulted from the clash of cultures. The novel follows a newcomer's journey up-river and inland to the heart of that experience.

**GG** 1899 340pp **B0003** 

**Enjoyed** Salt Creek?

Try Heart of the Grass Tree [B2306]

#### ..... NEW

# Heart of the Grass Tree

Molly Murn

Pearl returns to Kangaroo Island with her mother and sister to farewell her grandmother Nell. But she does not expect to uncover Nell's secrets and the connection to the island's early-settler history with the Ngarrindjeri people. A heart-warming story about family, motherhood and connection to place and history.

**D D** 2019 304pp **B2306** 

# Highways to a War





'Being in battle, like being in love, is one of the fundamental human experiences.' Set in the predominantly male world of war journalism, this novel opens in 1976 with the disappearance of a gifted war photographer in Cambodia, and follows the highways of his life into the countries and wars he covered.

**1996** 451pp **B1504** 

### Holy Cow!

Sarah Macdonald

Macdonald starts out as a 'fundamentalist atheist', but her encounters with Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Jainism, Sufis, Sikhs, Parsees, Christians and an assortment of yogis, sadhus, swamis, nuns and Bollywood stars leave her with a more complex agnosticism.

**№** 2002 298pp **B1784** 

# The Hungry Tide

**Amitav Ghosh** 

Piva, an Indian born American is in search of a rare river dolphin in the wandering strands of the Ganges. When she hires an illiterate local fisherman, to guide her through the backwaters, sophisticated Delhi businessman Kanai must act as translator. Ghosh skilfully binds three people together in an exotic place to examine ideas of love, jealousy, pride and trust.

**B** 2004 403pp **B**1883



### I Heard the Owl Call My Name

Margaret Craven

Despite encroaching social change, tribal beliefs and ways are still important to the Indian tribe living in a village of British Columbia. How can their new Anglican vicar, young Mark Brian, find acceptance, serve them and learn from them? Canada's rivers, salmon, wild geese and changing seasons are central to this simple and moving tale. Fair sized print.

**■** 1967 133pp **B1235** 

#### In Search of the Blue Tiger

**Robert Power** 

Aided by a vivid imagination. lonely young Oscar escapes his brutal home life through a rich fantasy world. The relationships he forms along the way with widowed librarian Mrs April and twin girls Perch and Carp will shape their destinies in profound and tragic ways.

**⊕** 2012 333pp **B2160** 

# In Siberia

Colin Thubron

Thubron journeys by train, river and truck across the vastness of Siberia among the people most damaged by the collapse of Communism. He ranges from Mongolia to the Arctic Circle, from the site of the last Czar's murder and Rasputin's village to the graves of ancient Scythians, to Baikal, deepest and oldest of the world's lakes.

**D** 1999 287pp <u>B1762</u>

#### Inside Outside

**Andrew Riemer** 

The Sydney based academic, writer and critic left Budapest during 1946 at the age of 10. In 1990 he returned for a visit, hoping to get some sense of his family's past there. A witty, lucid and memorable account of two worlds, also offering Riemer's views on issues such as the importance in a new country of language acquisition.

1991 218pp B1328

#### Interpreter of Maladies Jhumpa Lahiri



Wherever each of these nine short stories is set, from Bengal to Boston, all in some way explore 'Indianness' and the complex mechanics of adjustment to new circumstances, relationships, cultures. In transparently simple writing, devoid of overt comment, Lahiri uses voice and viewpoint in such a way that the stories linger in the mind.

**1999** 198pp **B1763** 

#### Iron and Silk

Mark Salzman

From the age of 13, this engaging young American was absorbed by all things Chinese. His account of two years he spent teaching English in Changsha in the early 1980s is a series of entrancing anecdotes about his students. friends and those who teach him more about the literature, calligraphy and martial arts he loves. Unforgettable vignettes of China and the Chinese way of doing things.

1986 211pp **B1304** 

#### NEW

#### The Island of Sea Women

Lisa See

A moving story that highlights

the challenges faced by two young women on the Korean island of Jeju in the 1930s. Mi-ja and Young-sook work in the sea with an all-female diving collective. The novel traverses many decades and wars, which herald many changes and challenges for these women. Mija and Young-sook endure great change and loss, but also a great friendship.

SLAND

WOMEN

**6** 2019 384pp **B2309** 











### Journey to the Stone Country

Alex Miller



#### **WINNER** Miles Franklin Literary Award

A Melbourne academic and an Aboriginal stockman meet again and travel together through the high ranges of remote North Queensland to the places they have known and come from. Miller's intimate knowledge of the outback resonates through his novel, both a cross-cultural love story and an exploration of identity, of how and where one belongs, and of our painful histories.

**6** 2002 364pp **B**1803



### Mahiar

Eva Sallis

Many books have been written about the experience of migrating to Australia from Europe and Great Britain. But these eloquent, linked stories take us into the very different lives of immigrants from the Middle East. Sallis explores exile, loss, personal displacement, growth and idiosyncrasy with empathy, comic warmth, and an undercurrent of anger in this timely book that is a joy to read.

**3** 2003 168pp **B1834** 

We had a very stimulating discussion. It provided an interesting cultural insight and wonderful folklore. Good visual word painting. A delight to read. Canberra 3

#### Mantras and Misdemeanours

Vanessa Walker

Former journalist Vanessa Walker decided to spend a year in Macleod Ghanj (home of the Dalai Lama) researching a book on Tibetans in exile and furthering her study of Buddhism, but unexpectedly fell in love with an ex-monk and became pregnant three months later. Part travelogue, part cross-cultural love story, this is an enjoyable, educational and insightful read.

№ 2006 293pp B1928

# The Many-Coloured Land

Christopher Koch

Koch's two great-grandmothers settled in Tasmania in the 1840s: one a Protestant gentlewoman, the other transported as a convict. He explores Tasmanian and Irish connections in a book which combines family history, childhood memoir and his travels in two rather different Irelands, in 1956 and in 2000.

**D E** 2002 246pp **B**1790

# The Memory of Running

Ron McLarty

Smithy, the middle-aged central figure in this American novel, is alone and in a bad way. Something prompts him to resurrect his old bicycle and head off for Los Angeles, through New York, St. Louis, and Denver, to find the sister who went missing years ago. His encounters on this cycling road trip show us an inarticulate, decent, and honest man. His story and voice carry the novel along.

**₱** 2005 405pp **B1929** 

#### Mermaid Singing; Peel Me a Lotus

Charmian Clift

In 1954, Australian writers Charmian Clift and George Johnston moved with their young family from London to the Greek Islands - long before the 'seachange' books of more affluent writers. Clift records the passage of the seasons and her family's experiences, writing with perceptiveness, warmth and vivacity.

**1** 1956;1959 422pp **B1791** 

# Miss Garnet's Angel

Salley Vickers

A retired teacher rents an apartment in Venice, changing her previously narrow life. Julia Garnet succumbs to the beauty of the city and its magnificent art and responds to the spirituality of the Catholic religion, becoming caught up in the lives of both locals and visitors. A gentle, kind, decorous, funny novel.

**₽** 2000 342pp <u>B1647</u>

#### Montebello

**Robert Drewe** 

Drewe writes about 'islomania' and the ocean, of death and renewal, his childhood and his career as a writer in this discursive sequel to The Shark Net. At its core is the author's journey with a group of environmentalists to the Montebello islands, site of little known British nuclear testing in the 1950s. Lots to discuss!

**1** 2012 286pp **B2183** 

#### Mr Muo's Travelling Couch 🛟

Dai Siiie

Mr Muo, a 40-year-old student of Freud, returns from long years of study in Paris to his country of birth as its first psychoanalyst at large. China offers few patients and he is consumed by a new mission, to liberate his first love from prison where she has been consigned for political dissent. This comic novel follows its naïve hero's adventures and mishaps through the maze of presentday China.

**6** 2005 264pp **B1930** 



### The Namesake

Jhumpa Lahiri

A story about an Indian boy growing up in America (and afflicted with a pet name in honour of a Russian writer), this novel depicts a recognised pattern of cultural transition: the parents cling to their Bengali past, while the next generation cannot shed the old ways fast enough. Lahiri writes with subtlety and her characters are beautifully observed.

**D D** 2003 291pp **B** 1835

### Enioved The Odyssey?

Try Circe by Madeline Miller [B2301]

#### Night Letters

**Robert Dessaix** 



Diagnosed with a terminal illness, the novel's protagonist travels to Italy as his exploration of the meaning in life in the proximity of death moves him from the world of doing into a realm of being. A beautiful, civilised work of tale-spinning, travel, and richly fanciful speculation.

1996 276pp B1542

# Norwegian by Night

Derek B. Miller

82-year-old ex-marine Sheldon has reluctantly moved to Oslo, where he remains haunted by his past. When he witnesses a woman's murder by a Balkan gang, he rescues her 6-year-old son and makes a run, relving on military training now fifty years old. Both a thriller and an emotionally haunting novel about ageing and regret.

**D** 2012 305pp **B2186** 

#### Notes from a Small Island Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson is an unrepentant Anglophile who happened to be born in Iowa. He spent 20 years in England before deciding to return to the land of his birth. This account of his walking tour of the English countryside is full of genial fun poking at a country he adores.

**D** 1995 352pp **B** 1599

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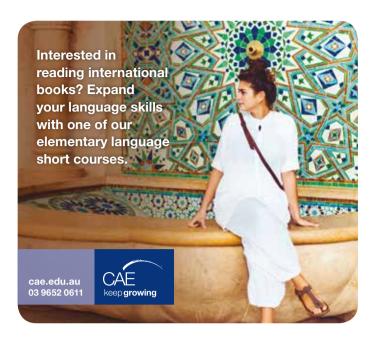


# The Odyssey

Homer

Odysseus' long voyage home from the Trojan War takes him through the terrors of the oneeyed Cyclops, the seductive Sirens, and the wandering islands, before he finally reaches Ithaca and his faithful Penelope. This early Greek epic has inspired writers and artists in later ages.

**G** C8thBC 376pp **B0335** 



#### The Old Man and the Sea 🗅

**Ernest Hemingway** 



In Hemingway's clear and direct prose, this story of an old man's fishing trip becomes the vehicle for the discovery of a new awareness of the dignity and beauty that can be found everywhere. A timeless tale.

**B** 1952 128pp **B**0205

### The Old Man Who Read Love Stories

Luis Sepúlveda

Antonio Bolívar lives as a recluse deep in the Amazon jungle in Ecuador. When an ocelot begins attacking humans in the small settlement, he is obliged against his will to join a hunting party and confront the creature and his own past. A tale of life, death, atonement and the pleasures of reading.

**1989** 128pp **B1836** 

**Enjoyed** The Other Side of the World?

Try The Hand That First Held Mine by Maggie O'Farrell [B2094]

#### One Thousand **Chestnut Trees**

Mira Stout

Irish American-Korean Anna visits Korea to discover her mother's family, a powerful clan stripped of their lands during the Japanese occupation. As the novel unfolds, details of Korean life are evoked with great piquancy, and we come to appreciate the country's turbulent history in this century.

**●** 1997 324pp **B1717** 

#### Otherland

Maria Tumarkin

Maria Tumarkin travels home to rediscover her roots and introduce her Australian born daughter to the place where she grew up - but the Russia and Ukraine she returns to is not the same as the one she left in 1989. Maria comes to realise she cannot force her daughter to feel and think things just because she wants her to.

**D B** 2010 313pp **B2080** 

Many loved Tumarkin's language and her involvement with literature and her strong social conscience. We knew little about Ukraine so the book encouraged much discussion about how badly the Russians were treated in the war. We were expecting a travel book which this was not, but interesting.

Barwite Bookworms

#### The Other Side of the World

Stephanie Bishop





Set in post-war 1960s, Charlotte struggles with the demands of being a new mother. Her husband Henry makes a decision to move them from their cottage in Cambridge to sunny Perth, convincing himself that it's all for her sake. When their new life doesn't offer the solutions they'd hoped for, Charlotte and Henry embark on personal journeys that threaten their life together. An emotional novel that explores nostalgia, identity and the decisions we make to find ourselves.

**₱** 2015 352pp **B2268** 

# Our Woman in Kabul

Irris Makler

Freelance journalist Makler was one of the first people into Afghanistan after the terrorist attacks of September 11. With a humorous and lively insight into the life of a journalist in the field and the contradictions of the American involvement in Afghanistan, Makler writes with a deep sympathy for the Afghan people, particularly the women and children.

**№** 2003 356pp **B1837** 



### **Postcards**

**Annie Proulx** 

A Vermont farm clan declines after a son flees in terror following the violent death of his girlfriend. Barely literate, Loyal Blood makes his way across America, sending occasional postcards to his family, unaware that disaster has overtaken them. Heartbreak, hilarity and Proulx's unique style combine in this remarkable novel.

**1992 340pp B1495** 



#### Questions of Travel

Michelle de Kretser



Laura is an Australian traveller who becomes a travel quide editor. Growing up by the sea in Sri Lanka. Ravi dreams of other places until calamitous events lead him to the uncertain life of a refugee. This tender, witty novel tells their stories across decades and around the world. De Kretser writes masterfully about identity. authenticity and connection.

**6** 2012 515pp **B2188** 



#### River Town

Peter Hessler

Peter Hessler spent two years in Fuling, a remote city in China's Sichuan province. This charming travel memoir is remarkable for Hessler's frankness, his curiosity and his unceasing desire to understand the people of China. He provides a unique glimpse into the Chinese psyche as he considers the profound cultural differences between China and the USA.

**№** 2001 402pp **B1890** 



### Salvation Creek

Susan Duncan

Susan Duncan - forty-something, high profile, successful - seems to have it all. But a series of heartaches and tragedies means she must rebuild her life out of the self-destruction she's been indulging in. Despite the grief underscoring this memoir, Duncan crafts her story with honesty, humour and wit, wonderful characterisation and exquisite depictions of place.

**D E** 2006 404pp **B2091** 











#### Seize the Day

Marie de Hennezel

This moving compilation of a psychologist's diarised experiences at a palliative care unit in France explores terminally ill patients in their last stages of life. Compelling stories about love and family, giving up and taking charge, with a focus on what we can learn from the dving, make this an inspiring and emotional read.

**№** 2012 189pp **B2143** 

### Seven Years in Tibet

**Heinrich Harrer** 

Tibet, though torn and vandalised, has still not played out its final act with China. Harrer's personal story is high adventure, but he also became a Tibetan official, friend and tutor to the 11-year-old Dalai Lama, and fled with him before the advancing Chinese.

**D E** 1953 288pp **B** 1360

# Shadow of the Silk Road

Colin Thubron

Colin Thubron traces the first great trade route through China, the mountains of Central Asia, northern Afghanistan, Iran and Kurdish Turkey. Over eight months and 7000 miles he recounts his experiences along this historic route. Rich in humour, compassion and history.

**№** 2006 363pp **B2004** 

#### Siddhartha

Hermann Hesse

Written in Hesse's 'Eastern' phase, this is a beautifully written novel about a young son of an Indian Brahmin. His search for truth is first through the spirit, then through the flesh, and finally through both.

**1**957 167pp **B0464** 

# Silences Long Gone

**Anson Cameron** 



Belle watches as her town in Western Australia is carted away. vowing to remain and die in the land where she long ago dug the ashes of her family. This is a curiously life-affirming expedition into the Australian heartland, which considers spiritual allegiance to the land.

**1998** 358pp **B1767** 

### Sing and Don't Cry

Cate Kennedy

Kennedv describes her years as a volunteer in Mexico with vivid accounts of food, family life, and fiestas. This is a poetic travel book with a social conscience, which is both troubling and uplifting.

(L) 2005 300pp B1935

# The Sisters Brothers 🛟

Patrick deWitt



#### **SHORTLISTED** Man Booker Prize

Oregon, 1851: brothers Eli and Charlie Sisters embark upon a journey to San Francisco to fulfil a contract killing of a man who is not quite what he seems. The expedition offers dark adventures and comically bizarre encounters in a fun revival of the western genre with a 'Coen Brothers' feel.

**1** 2011 325pp **B2142** 



# That Oceanic Feeling

Fiona Capp

Capp explores surfing as an emblem of freedom, journeying from the waters of Byron Bay, Hawaii, Cornwall, and Port Phillip Bay. A unique memoir blending the power of the sea, physical elation, and personal reflection.

♠ 2003 288pp B1848

# That Old Ace in the Hole

**Annie Proulx** 

When naïve young Bob is sent to purchase land for a polluting hog farm, he finds a tough, wayward farming people intent on keeping their land despite all setbacks. The eccentric and tenacious locals and a brilliantly-evoked sense of place blend in this serious yet comic tale.

**1** 2002 361pp **B1849** 

# Things You Get for Free

Michael McGirr

Reader-friendly, funny and deeply thought-provoking. Maureen McGirr's long-delayed trip to Europe with her priest son Michael provides a framework for exploring life and character, Michael's relationship with his father, and the world, a bus load of fellow tourists and the touristic highlights.

**DE** 2000 296pp **B1624** 

#### This Book Will Save Your Life

A M Homes

Richard trades stocks and shares out of his beautiful LA home. isolated - until an inexplicable and sudden burst of pain lands him in hospital. With his routine and his diet broken. Richard begins his journey to reconnect with life. This an entertaining and gently humourous novel that explores the quirkiness of LA and one man's search for meaning.

**●** 2006 372pp **B2007** 

#### This Must Be the Place Maggie O'Farrell



Daniel's life has careened spectacularly off track - yet again. Banned from seeing his children, he has set up a new home in the Irish wilds with a startling woman; they are happy, until he hears news of a woman he loved (and wronged) 20 years ago. Across decades and continents and alongside a diverse cast of characters, Daniel will slowly learn about love, about forgiveness, and about living.

**●** 2016 496pp **B2246** 

# Throwim Way Leg

Tim Flannery

'An Adventure', promises the subtitle - a promise delightfully fulfilled by Flannery's account of his field-work in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya. It's a dazzling vet unpretentious combination of his work as a research scientist with his concerns over human rights and our planetary future, lightened by the marvellous stories of an incurably curious and candid man.

**№** 1998 326pp **B1564** 

### Tracks

Robyn Davidson

Davidson taught herself from scratch to tame and train camels. then travelled with four of them and one dog across 1700 miles of desert from Alice Springs to the coast of Western Australia. This is her engrossing book about the journey with plenty to discuss.

(L) 1980 247pp B0599

# Travels with My Aunt

Graham Greene

Staid, conservative Henry Pulling meets his Aunt Augusta for the first time in over 50 years, and soon finds himself accompanying her on journeys to exotic countries. Aunt Augusta is as fascinating as she is amoral.

**1** 1969 265pp **B1158** 

#### Tuesdays with Morrie Mitch Albom

A journalist renews his friendship with his old college professor who is dying. Mitch elects to help Morrie on his quest to make a study of life's last step. Written with a kind of unsensational sensationalism, this is a fearless book. Morrie and Mitch's stories are affecting and ultimately joyous.

1998 192pp B1769

# Two Steps Forward

**Graeme Simsion & Anne Buist** 

Recently widowed Zoe, a Californian artist, and recently divorced Martin, a Yorkshire engineer, are both looking to make a fresh start by walking the 2000km Camino trail stretching from France to Spain. As the pair meet and develop an unlikely companionship, their personal demons are always close behind. Can the pair follow the same path? Written in alternate chapters by a husband-andwife team, the novel explores personal renewal: physical, psychological and spiritual.

**D D** 2017 368pp **B2280** 





#### **Unaccustomed Earth** Jhumpa Lahiri



From the Pulitzer Prize winning author comes a poignant collection of short stories that touch upon the immigrant experience. Eight stories take us from America to Europe. India and Thailand as they follow characters forging new lives.

**6** 2008 333pp **B2055** 

All members enjoyed the book and some even declared it one of the best they had read. The book stimulated a good deal of discussion about families in different cultures and particularly those who were migrants. The difference between first and second generation migrants' reaction to life produced a good deal of comment. All found the writing style very easy to read. Montmorency 1

#### Under the Tuscan Sun 🗅

Frances Mayes

Maves opens the door to a new world when she and her partner buy and restore an abandoned villa in the Tuscan countryside. In sensuous evocative language, she celebrates what she calls 'the voluptuousness of Italian life'. Armchair travel at its most inviting.

₱ 1996 280pp **B1553** 

### Vanishing Points

Thea Astley

Astley's larrikin humour and lyrically evocative writing shine through these two linked novellas, centered on life on a tiny Pacific isle for a would-be hermit and a frustrated wife. Small print, well-spaced.

1992 234pp B1394

#### Voyages to the South Seas

**Danielle Clode** 

This is a swashbuckling tale of the adventures of the French explorers to Australia. Filled with colour illustrations, this lively account brings to life a classic cast of 18th-century notables, exploring the French perspective of colonisation.

**№** 2007 261pp **B2012** 



#### When Gods Collide

Kate James

The daughter of evangelical missionaries who spent most of her childhood in India, James became an atheist as an adult. This book recounts her journey as she returns to India to examine the nature of religious belief and cultural identity, with particular reference to the shocking murder of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his sons.

**D E** 2012 244pp **B2156** 

#### When in Rome

Penelope Green

Journalist Penelope Green abandons her comfortable existence and buys a one-way ticket to Italy. Wrestling with the language and culture, Green writes about Roman life in hilarious detail. This enjoyable and readable memoir outlines the risks and rewards of chasing a dream on the other side of the world.

№ 2005 308pp B2026

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOK FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Choosing the right books for a book club is never easy, and not all 'good' books are right for discussion. Follow these points to ensure you make the right choice every time.

#### Choose discussion-worthy books

Remember that discussion-worthy books can often be divisive books. but this makes for rich and memorable discussions. Try this tip: first, rate the book on overall reading experience. Second, rate the book on potential for themes and discussion. The combined highest rating will make up your shortlist.

#### Collaborate

Choosing books is an art, not a science. Everyone has a reading bias and we all lean toward a certain type of genre, style, or theme. Invite and include all member suggestions as your longlist will cater to all different types of readers.

#### **Diversify your list**

Don't stay with what is safe and familiar - diversifying your list is a great way to ensure you and your group are reading outside your reading 'bubble'. This way you will be surprised and challenged.

#### Be aware of what's out there

Popular books don't necessarily make for lengthy discussion books. Keep your eye on award winners and literary reviews to get an understanding of the range of books that critics and readers are discussing.

#### Timeless books make for a universal discussion

Choosing a book with timeless themes means different generations and types of readers within your book group can relate to it, and a book that stands the test of time can be re-read years later for a unique and fresh discussion.











# Surviving, Prevailing

Whether it is the inhumanity of man's actions towards fellow man or the conquering of personal demons, this chapter explores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.





#### After the Fire, A Still Small Voice Evie Wyld





This debut novel set in Australia shows the impact of the violence of war. Frank moves to a seaside shack after he breaks up with his girlfriend. His father and grandfather before him each came to the shack after they served time in the Vietnam and Korean wars.

**6** 2009 296pp **B2102** 

# All the Birds, Singing Evie Wyld



Tinged with anxiety, Jake's solitary life tending sheep on an isolated and brooding island in England is somehow preferable to whatever she left behind in Australia – until something starts killing her flock. Tensions of her past mix with her present in this clever and thoughtful mystery which reflects on belonging and identity. Contains themes that may disturb.

**6** 2014 240pp **B2227** 

#### All Quiet on the Western Front

E.M. Remarque

This anti war polemic powerfully portrays the agony and futility of war. Remarque suffered personally through loss of his German citizenship as a result of this work. Many copies were seized and burnt by the Nazis.

**● 1929 192pp** <u>**B0101**</u>

# Enjoyed Aman?

Try
Songs of a War Boy
by Deng Thiak Adut
[B2251]

#### Aman

Amar

The disturbing story of a Somali girl's first 17 years in the 1950s and 1960s. It shows the strong traditional culture in which 'Father is your main blood', a young female is answerable to her brothers, female circumcision is customary, and any involvement with whites can precipitate violence. Enlightening about the tribal and city peoples of contemporary Africa.

**1994** 350pp **B1467** 

#### Anil's Ghost

Michael Ondaatje

A forensic anthropologist returns to Sri Lanka, a land steeped in culture and tradition, to investigate organised campaigns of murder engulfing the island. Ondaatje blends the history, art, archaeology and folklore of his extravagantly beautiful birthplace, now ravaged by civil war. Telling of a culture's attempt to submerge its history, the novel weaves an intricate chain of human connection.

**6** 2000 311pp **B1629** 

# An Anthropologist on Mars

Oliver Sacks

Here are seven detailed stories about patients living with neurological conditions such as autism, the violent tics of Tourette's syndrome, and a sudden and lasting inability to see colour. Sacks' infectious sense of wonder informs these gentle, exploratory, thorough accounts as he moves into wider speculations about the nature of the mind.

**NS** 1995 319pp <u>B1518</u>

#### The Assistant

**Bernard Malamud** 

A Jewish storekeeper, in the poverty of New York, is badly hurt by an anonymous attacker who then becomes his assistant. A compassionate study of the human heart's growth out of violence.

**●** 1957 224pp **B0232** 



# The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu

Joshua Hammer

Young Abdel embarks on a journey across the deserts of Sahara to preserve and save the manuscripts of Timbuktu, first from the ravages of the desert, then from the hands of fundamentalist Islamists. The narrative follows the story of Abdel setting up library archives, both public and private, in Timbuktu and then the quest to evacuate them from the clutches of extremists. The book examines both the rise of radicalism in Northern Africa and Timbuktu's literary heritage.

**1** 2016 336pp <u>B2264</u>

#### The Bean Patch

Shirley Painter

Shirley Painter's indomitable memoir is sourced in her experience of the extreme child abuse she suffered, which was perpetrated within the family. This is a tribute to the teachers in government schools who opened her spirit so that she survived, even flourished, to write this confronting yet hopeful story. Likely to prompt animated discussion with very different viewpoints.

**№** 2002 310pp **B1801** 

# Beloved 🗘

Toni Morrison



This extraordinary novel reveals the haunting legacy of slavery and racism: 'Not a house in the country ain't packed to its rafters with some dead Negro's grief'. Morrison's love song to her people and to the country which has so abused the African Americans enables us to begin to 'understand the source of the outrage as well as the source of the light'. Smallish print.

**1** 1987 275pp **B1365** 

### **Birds Without Wings**

Louis de Bernières

An epic novel of love and war is set in the former Ottoman Empire. De Bernières recreates a lost world in which Greeks and Turks, Christians and Muslims, lived as neighbours, sharing their lives, their cultures intermingling. Harmonious village life is destroyed by the events of World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. This engrossing novel is both a celebration of humanity and a lament over the consequences of religious and racial intolerance.

**9** 2004 625pp <u>B1871</u>

# Black Rock White City

A.S. Patric



Serbian academics Jovan and Suzana move to the Melbourne suburb of Black Rock, leaving behind two dead children when they were forced to flee war-torn Sarajevo. While at his cleaning job at Bayside Hospital, Jovan discovers bizarre graffiti that escalates into acts of violence. For Jovan, the seemingly nonsensical graffiti he cleans away evokes the trauma of his past and he begins to see the meaning behind the vandalism. This literary award-winner offers a compelling insight into displacement, language and the immigrant experience.

**6** 2015 248pp <u>B2252</u>

# The Boat

Nam Le



These short stories travel the globe and include a grim journey of Vietnamese refugees on a small boat and a child living in Hiroshima during WWII.

Le intuitively conveys the psychological conflicts people experience when they find their hopes and ambitions slamming up against familial expectations or the facts of history.

**BSB** 2008 312pp **B2022** 

#### Boomer and Me

Jo Case

Jo Case's son, 'Boomer', was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in primary school something that led the writer to view herself and her family from a fresh perspective. This book (subtitled A memoir of motherhood, and Asperger's) is sure to spark discussion about what is 'normal', and whether difference necessarily means disability.

**D E** 2013 337pp **B2195** 

#### Brain on Fire

Susannah Cahalan

Cahalan was a bright young iournalist when a sudden illness plunged her into terrifying psychosis, which was in fact a rare autoimmune disease affecting her brain. Part memoir, part journalism, part medical detective story, this fascinating book explores Cahalan's harrowing experience from multiple perspectives.

**D B** 2012 264pp **B2175** 

#### **Burnt Shadows**

Kamila Shamsie

After 9/11, an unnamed man waits to be clothed in the orange jumpsuit of Guantanamo Bay and wonders 'how did it come to this?' In August 1945 in Nagasaki, Hiroko Tanaka survives the bomb blast. Her fiancé Konrad Weiss does not. The novel spans the intervening years and the interweaving lives of two families.

**6** 2009 363pp **B2087** 

# Bury Me Standing

Isabel Fonseca

The Gypsies are the untouchables of Europe, the lowest of the low - a scattered nation of 12 million people without a homeland. Fonseca, a journalist, describes the four years she spent with them in various countries of Eastern Europe to bring back her insightful, personal account of this mysterious people and the way they live. Many photographs.

**№** 1995 322pp **B1521** 



# Café Scheherazade

Arnold Zable

You can go to this café in St Kilda and eat the delicious food. But to find its real life, you need to read this haunting novel. It interweaves the stories told by remarkably different Jewish émigrés from mid-20th century Europe - Avram and Masha, the proprietors, and three of their regulars, Yossel, Laizer and Zelman. Trauma and dislocation are here transfigured by awe and lyricism.

**●** 2001 223pp **B1620** 

# Close Range: Wyoming Stories

Annie Proulx



Proulx is one of America's great storytellers, and here Wyoming forms the harsh territory of eleven stories peopled by rugged eccentrics - ranchers, rodeo riders, country women - all struggling to survive in a world of raw loneliness, brutality. longing, sexual urgency and sometimes bizarre events. Includes 'Brokeback Mountain', a story about two men gripped by a fierce attraction to each other when working as cowhands, which became a multi-award winning film.

**1999** 318pp **B1907** 

#### Confessions of a Clay Man

Igor Gelbach

The decay of a picturesque Black Sea resort during the decline of the Soviet empire forms the setting for this philosophical novel. The novel's main character, Bronhauser, struggles to make sense in a Kafkaesque world. Gelbach, who in 1994 was nominated for the Russian Booker Prize, now lives and writes in Melbourne. 'A wise and enchanting book,' says Robert Dessaix.

**1** 2001 184pp **B1657** 

#### Coonardoo

Katharine Susannah Prichard

Coonardoo is an Aboriginal girl brought up by a white woman as companion to her little boy. The boy is indoctrinated against marrying black, and their love changes from an idvll to a stark tragedy. A moving account of the fate of black women in 'White' Australia.

**1929 208pp B0201** 

# The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time

Mark Haddon

15-year-old Christopher finds a neighbour's dog lying dead on the lawn and decides to write a murder mystery about it. He has Asperger's syndrome, and his flair for maths and scientific investigation is offset by unease and unusual behaviour in the presence of other people. Christopher is a brilliant creation: this depiction of the world from his viewpoint leaves a strong impression with much to discuss.

**B** 2003 272pp **B**1816



#### **Dangerous Love** Ben Okri

A love story alive with the sounds and the smells of Nigeria in the 1970s where the ordinary and the poor live in almost impossible conditions. Struggling with post-colonial realities and the aftermath of the civil war, the young artist and lover Omovo is still in touch with potent communal, cultural and spiritual traditions. A gripping novel from this Booker Prize-winning author.

**1**996 325pp **B1523** 

**Enioved** The Eye of the Sheep?

Try Boomer and Me by Jo Case [B2195]

### The Day We Had Hitler Home

**Rodney Hall** 

A blind Hitler illegally enters Australia in 1919 with our returning soldiers, and has to be smuggled out. Audrey McNeil, a young Australian cinematographer, grabs her chance to escape a difficult family, and goes to 1920s Germany. At first incredulous, we come to recognise home truths – about Australia's present and past, our insights and blind spots.

**₱** 2000 351pp **B1637** 

### Disgrace

J.M. Coetzee

An academic faces retribution when his sexual encounters with one of his students are exposed. Refusing to offer the public apology demanded from him, he resigns and retreats to his adult daughter's isolated farm. A powerful, quietly disturbing study of moral and historical accountabilities in the new South Africa.

**1999 256pp B1745** 

### The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Jean Dominique Bauby

At forty-two and the father of two young children, Bauby found himself speechless and paralysed after a massive stroke. His mind was unimpaired. To dictate this small book, Bauby blinked for each letter of every word. More extraordinary is the writing itself - the keen gaze, lightness of touch and sensuousness with which he evokes his present circumstances and memories.

**D** 1997 139pp **B** 1555

#### The Drowned and the Saved

Primo Levi

Levi's last book argues that as a Holocaust survivor he is a proxy witness for the true witnesses those who were annihilated. He is lucid and with neither hatred nor forgiveness as he investigates the genocide and its relevance to the present. His insight into the issues of guilt and shame makes this an important book for any nation confronting violence and racism in its past and present.

**1986 170pp B1440** 









#### NEW

#### Educated Tara Westover

Westover grew up in a family of survivalists in the Idaho wilderness. She was isolated from mainstream society and forbidden to visit a school or hospital. There was no one to intervene when her brother became violent. Educating herself became a necessity - and she taught herself enough to be admitted to university. A moving story of Westover's struggle to find knowledge and herself amid family loyalty.

**№** 2018 352pp **B2308** 

# Edward Koiki Mabo

Noel Loos & Koiki Mabo

The 1992 Mabo Decision overturned the concept of terra nullius. Born on one of the remotest islands in the Torres Strait. Mabo found that he had no legal title to his land on Murray Island, which spurred him into a ten year battle as a land rights activist on behalf of his people.

**1996 206pp B1526** 

# An Evil Cradling

Brian Keenan

Keenan's story of his years as hostage in Beirut is remarkable for the humour, resilience and compassion which inform his experience and suffering. It includes the record of a friendship between the writer - a working-class Northern Irishman – and the upper class English public school humanist, John McCarthy.

**№** 1992 297pp **B1371** 

#### The Eye of the Sheep Sofie Laguna





SHORTLISTED Stella Prize

This beautifully nuanced comingof-age story follows Jimmy, a kid not quite like the others. Buffered by his mother's love, Jimmy negotiates the realities of his world as his father oscillates between alcohol and violence - and when his home life alters beyond recognition, Jimmy must learn to navigate an alien and grown-up world that the reader aches to protect him from.

**1995** 614pp **B2231** 



#### The Fault in Our Stars 👄 John Green

16-year-old Hazel knows she has a limited time to live, but everything she has ever thought about life, love and death is upended when she meets handsome Augustus Waters. A beautiful story about what it means to be truly alive - it will make you sob and laugh.

**₱** 2012 313pp **B2181** 

# The Fiftieth Gate

Mark Raphael Baker

Baker grew up in Melbourne, the son of Polish Jewish parents who survived the Holocaust. In this 'journey through memory', he seeks to draw his parents back into the terror of their childhood, attempting to understand his own experience of growing up with their largely unspoken memories.

1997 339pp B1529

# A Fine Balance

**Rohinton Mistry** 

In India in 1975, two tailors and a college student come to the vast, teeming city and end up lodging in cramped quarters with a struggling widow. Their efforts to survive are at the heart of this unforgettable portrait of kindness, dignity, heroism, cruelty and corruption which is well worth the read. Small print.

**1995 614pp B1516** 

#### The First Stone

Helen Garner

This is a fictionalised account of the sexual harassment case at the University of Melbourne, which led to the resignation of the master, despite being cleared of charges. The approach and the institutional issues raised make it both relevant and controversial.

**O** 1995 222pp B1442

#### Flying with Paper Wings Sandy Jeffs

Poet Sandy Jeffs grew up in a violent family, and her world collapsed at 23 with the onset of schizophrenia. Since then, she has become a community educator and speaker about living with mental illness. An insightful look at mental illness, from the social and medical to the personal.

**1** 2009 268pp **B2082** 

# For Esther 😭

Alex Sage

Born in 1924 into a devout Chassidic family, Alex Sage describes a childhood of acute poverty. A life of living off his wits ensued, until he reached Australia via a death camp and Palestine, Sage attended English classes at CAE, and conveys his story with compelling directness.

**№** 2000 281pp **B1757** 

#### Fred Hollows: An Autobiography

Fred Hollows

Appalled by the eye diseases he found among outback Aborigines, ophthalmologist Fred Hollows gave years to a program which improved the eve health of thousands of them, and also worked in Eritrea and Nepal. This life story of a doer, a maverick and a humanitarian emphasises his public rather than private life.

(L) 1991 240pp **B1375** 



# The Golden Age

Joan London





The Gold family are immigrants from war-torn Hungary, and while 13-year-old Frank recovers from polio in a convalescent home in Perth, his parents can't help missing the elegance and charm of the city they left behind. This beautiful story touches on how we come to terms with the past, the many forms of recovery, and the healing power of music.

**D E** 2014 256pp **B2222** 

Everyone enjoyed this book. Discussion flowed easily as there were so many themes in the book. The writing is concise, not flowery but with beautiful and apt imagery. We all agree that this is an outstanding book, evocative of the era. Leongatha 1

### A Good Day to Die

Lisa Birnie

Is euthanasia either desirable or necessary, or could accessible palliative care supplant the need for it? In her search to understand what this question means, Lisa Birnie asked the patients, family and staff of McCulloch House (a short-term palliative care centre) to tell their own stories. With her commentary, they make a wonderful book, based on the compassionate conviction that everyone should die with dignity and free of pain.

**1998 231pp B1712** 

# The Grass is Singing

**Doris Lessing** 

In this powerful novel set in South Africa in the 1930s, we experience the life of Mary Turner. Lessing writes with insight and compassion of Mary's formative years, her young adulthood and her marriage to Dick. We learn of the racial attitudes of that earlier society and the way in which blacks were treated during South Africa's Apartheid.

**1**950 220pp **B0427** 

#### The Great World

**David Malouf** 



This ambitious novel traces the lives of two Australian men who survive World War II and Changi. Malouf's usual interest in relatedness and wisdom is combined with an exploration of some key national myths. Print smallish but clear.

**₱** 1990 332pp **B1275** 



#### Half of a Yellow Sun Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Set in 1960s Nigeria during the Biafran war. Adichie follows the lives of three characters caught up in the turbulent events of the time. As Nigerian troops advance and they run for their lives, their ideals, intimacies, and loyalties are severely tested. Half of a Yellow Sun is an emotional exploration of Africa, moral responsibility, race, class, and love.

**●** 2006 448pp **B1964** 

# Half the Sky

Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn



Written by the first married couple to win a Pulitzer Prize for journalism, Half the Sky grew from the authors' desire to tell the personal stories of women whose lives have been catastrophically impacted by factors such as poverty, sex trafficking and gender-based violence. It also examines the ways many women have reclaimed their lives from oppression, and offers suggestions to readers who want to help alleviate global poverty. Readers may find some material in this book distressing.

**№** 2009 295pp **B2111** 

#### Hand Me Down World 🛟 **Lloyd Jones**

This is a hauntingly beautiful tale of a mother's search for her son, taken by his father when only a few days old. Told from the point of view of the people who meet the mysterious North African woman after she is washed ashore in Sicily, different versions of the truth emerge to reveal a complex narrative of a displaced person struggling for self determination and justice.

**⊕** 2010 313pp **B2122** 

#### The Happiest Refugee Anh Do

In this popular memoir, comedian and actor Anh Do traces his family history from war-torn 1970s Vietnam to the current dav. He also describes his own personal and professional journey with endearing candour and humour, in this story of strength, hope and forgiveness.

**D E** 2010 232pp **B2141** 

We all agreed this was an amazing, uplifting book. The humour in it made me feel happy. A beautiful book about life and honesty and joy in the simplest things. It was simply written and easy to understand - almost like having a conversation with him. Jervis Bav 1

# Hidden Agendas

John Pilger

As reporter, polemicist and partisan, Pilger crusades against the power agendas of the media and the global markets and supports those whom they ignore – the poor who are getting poorer, the peoples of Iraq, Africa, Burma, and East Timor. His immediate, urgent and lucid style, and the gripping subject matter make for easy reading. Stacks to talk about, probably with many different opinions.

**1998** 687pp **B1574** 

#### Hindustan Contessa

Jane Watson

A book where myth blends with the everyday, and where the implications of cross-cultural relationships are tested. Indian born Milan and his Australian wife Tilly travel to India where they fall into the hands of kidnappers. They must accept their fate as prisoners and deal with the challenges they face within the intricacies of Indian culture.

**€** 2002 308pp **B1783** 

#### Home Fire Kamila Shamsie

**SHORTLISTED Costa Book Award** 



A modern retelling of Greek tragedy Antigone, Home Fire is a story of familial loyalty, politics, sacrifice, and what it means to be Muslim in the West. The novel is told from different points of view: Isma, the responsible sister who leaves her two younger siblings to study in America; Aneeka, the beautiful and headstrong sister who worries about the fate of her naive twin brother Parvaiz, who has been recruited by ISIS. When Eamonn, the son of an influential British Muslim politician enters the lives of the two sisters, love and family loyalties collide and the two British families' fates are devastatingly entwined.

**G G** 2017 272pp **B2277** 

All members enjoyed the book but with a range of ratings between 3.5 and 4.5 stars. It was an extremely topical read with the current situation in Ragga and so many ISIS 'brides' and fighters seeking to return to their homelands. The book generated intense discussion along varied lines. Essendon 6

# The Horses Too are Gone

Michael Keenan

When drought took hold in New South Wales in 1994, like so many others, the Keenan property was overstocked. His efforts to keep his cattle fed and watered finally took Mike Keenan onto the stock routes of south-west Queensland, where he coped with one setback after another. This true account of his experiences is a page turner and a great Aussie yarn.

1998 348pp B1595

#### **House Rules**

Jodi Picoult

Jacob has Asperger's syndrome. He can't read social clues. doesn't like to make eye contact, and has a singular focus. He is obsessed with forensic analysis. He keeps showing up at crime scenes and telling the police what to do - usually he is right. But then his tutor is found dead and Jacob is accused of murder.

**●** 2010 529pp **B2076** 

#### The Human Stain Philip Roth



A college professor is forced to retire when his colleagues declare him to be a racist. Not true, but the real truth about Silk would have astonished even his most self-righteous accuser. Set in the late '90s against the backdrop of the Clinton/Lewinsky affair, this novel interweaves one man's story with the wider history of modern America.

**6** 2000 361pp **B**1618



#### I Confess: Revelations in Exile 😭

••••••••

Kooshyar Karimi

Growing up in the slums of Tehran, Karimi had to hide his Jewish faith. Through force of will, he became a surgeon and successful author, until he was kidnapped by the Iranian Intelligence Service, and forced to betray his own people. He and his family fled to Turkey and now live in Australia.

**№** 2012 365pp **B2173** 













#### The Inheritance of Loss Kiran Desai



In an isolated house at the foot of the Himalayas live a retired, embittered Cambridge educated judge, his granddaughter, and his cook. A Nepalese insurgency soon disrupts their lives; while in New York the cook's son tries to stay one step ahead of US immigration services. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, the possibility for hope or betrayal hangs over every moment. Small print.

**6** 2006 384pp **B1967** 

#### In My Skin Kate Holden

Highly explicit and confronting memoir told in a vivid narrative voice. Holden, a quiet, sensitive university graduate from a comfortable middle-class background, spiralled into heroin addiction and prostitution at the age of 21. The book is beautifully written in parts, but Holden's attitude to sex work will enrage some readers and intrique others. Love it or hate it, this book will generate fierce discussion, not least about the relationship between female sexuality and self-esteem. Contains strong language, sex and drug use.

**№** 2005 285pp <u>**B1926**</u>

#### In the Country of Men Hisham Matar





Set in Libya during 1979, Matar vividly evokes the brutalities of a terrifying regime from a child's perspective. Suleiman's father is away on business but Suleiman is certain he sees him standing across the street. Why doesn't he wave? Fears and whispers intensify and in an effort to save his family, Suleiman may end up betraying his friends, his parents and ultimately himself.

**GG** 2006 360pp <u>B1965</u>

# Into the Darkest Corner Elizabeth Havnes

This suspenseful psychological thriller unfolds over two timelines: one follows the relationship between Cathy and the almost perfect Lee; the other, Cathy suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder. Dark themes are handled with finesse and insight, drawing you in to Cathy's world to explore the power of obsession. Contains graphic language and sex scenes.

**6** 2011 416pp **B2152** 



#### Jackson's Track

**Darvl Tonkin & Carolyn Landon** 

•••••••

Not far from Drouin in the Gippsland district of Victoria, an almost utopian community of white and Aboriginal people lived and worked together in the timber industry from the 1930s onwards - yet Daryl Tonkin's choice of an Aboriginal wife caused a serious rift in his family. This life story of a hardworking, principled man and a vanished way of life offers much to discuss.

**№** 1999 297pp <u>B1596</u>



# A Kindness Cup

Thea Astley

A schoolteacher returns to a Queensland town's reunion, and attempts to force the citizens to recognise their cruelty to the town's Aborigines in an incident in which they took part two decades previously.

**1**974 154pp **B0437** 



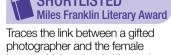
#### The Land of Green Plums Herta Müller

This unusual autobiographical novel is a haunting account of a group of students in Ceausescu's totalitarian Romania. Weaving back and forth between the provinces and the city, the narrator traces the story of her survival and escape. A complex and poetic evocation of another country, culture and politics.

**1**998 242pp **B1747** 

#### The Last Magician Janette Turner Hospital





photographer and the female image which compels him and others, as it moves between a Queensland rainforest childhood and contemporary Sydney. Disturbingly connects the powerful establishment and the desperate underworld of the young, the homeless and the vulnerable.

**₽** 1992 352pp <u>B1379</u>

#### Little Bee

Chris Cleave

Little Bee and her sister are from Nigeria; Sarah O'Rourke and her husband are British tourists. Their meeting on a beach in Nigeria involves a choice that impacts all of their lives. A few years later and Sarah and Little Bee (who has been in a British immigration detention centre) meet again. Some distressing material.

**€** 2008 378pp **B2119** 

# A Long Long Way

Sebastian Barry

In this thoughtful, moving novel, Willie Dunne joins the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1914 and is sent to the killing fields of Europe. When the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland is brutally quashed, he and other Irish soldiers begin to wonder why they are fighting for the Crown. This is a fascinating insight into a rarely examined aspect of Ireland's troubled past.

**1** 2005 292pp **B1927** 

#### Look at Me

Anita Brookner

Frances Hinton, shy and clever, works by day in a medical library and goes back every evening to the solitude of her London flat to write fiction. When she is adopted socially by Nick and his wife, her heart is full of hope. Brookner's poised, elegant prose is a superb vehicle for this novel, seen by one reviewer as being about 'monsters and their victims'.

**D** 1983 192pp **B1715** 

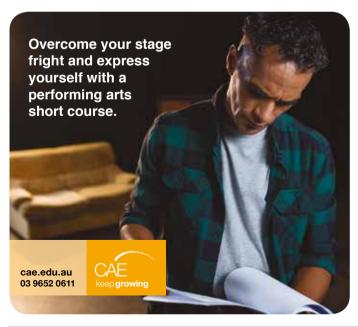


#### The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

**Oliver Sacks** 

These extraordinary pieces show human beings striving to preserve their identity when things go wrong in different parts of the brain. The author is lovingly and respectfully curious about his patients and gifted in presenting their states briefly and memorably. A book to make you wonder.

**1985 233pp B1260** 



#### The Mind's Eye

Oliver Sacks

Neurologist and acclaimed author Oliver Sacks explores the relationship between the eye and the brain, and what happens to our perception of the world when this relationship is disrupted. Using his signature style, Sacks turns medical case studies into fascinating and moving human stories - particularly poignant because, this time, he includes his own experiences.

**D E** 2010 240pp **B2199** 

#### A Month in the Country

J.L. Carr



Returning from the Great War, the narrator goes to a small village to restore a historic wall painting. He works on it, works out its artist's story and is drawn into the local networks, making friends with another war survivor, and piecing his own life together during the English summer.

**B** 1980 111pp **B**0783

#### The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow

Thea Astley





Astley is on her Queensland home ground, earlier this century. The narrative, woven from many voices and viewpoints, uncovers the extraordinary nature of everyday life for both Aborigines and settlers. Poignant and revealing.

1996 296pp B1541

# My Dirty Shiny Life

Lily Bragge

Child of a career criminal father and a head teacher mother, Lily became a successful comedian and journalist. Uncompromisingly honest and highly entertaining in equal measure, Bragge's bumpy personal journey and the way she eventually finds salvation are bound to stimulate discussion. Contains sex, violence and drug use.

**№** 2010 272pp **B2097** 

# My Left Foot

**Christy Brown** 

Christy Brown was born in 1932, one of the 23 children of a Dublin bricklayer. Born with cerebral palsy, he could not control his speech or his movement, apart from his left foot. Here he tells his own story of learning to read, write, paint and finally type with his left foot, and of his wonderfully supportive family. The film of the same name, starring Daniel Day Lewis as Christy, is based loosely on this book.

1954 184pp **B1301** 



### Nickel and Dimed

Barbara Ehrenreich

This US journalist gave up her comfortable middle-class life for three months to live and work for poverty-level wages. A readable book which examines the enormous disproportions in wealth that exist in America today and raises many discussable issues. Does the 'American dream' really apply to all citizens of the USA?

**1** 2001 221pp **B1793** 

NEW

#### No Friend but the Mountains

**Behrouz** Boochani & Omid Tofighian





Imprisoned on Manus Island, Boochani wrote this book one message at a time for Tofighian to translate. It is an essential exploration of the Australian government's horrifying treatment of 'boat people' on Manus Island. Boochani lays bare the daily life, abuses and the power structures of Manus Prison, and delivers a poetic novel that highlights his skills as a journalist and political commentator. The book is an urgent reminder of the horrors that exist on our shores.

**1** 2018 416pp **B2304** 



#### Once Were Warriors 🚓 Alan Duff

The Heke family's world of unemployment, racism, dispossession, alcohol and violence is rendered in their own brutalised idiom. From within this alienated Maori experience, Duff finds the seeds of reconnection to their own past, and shows the birth of communal and individual change, pride and hope.

**1990 198pp B1451** 

#### An Orphan's Escape Frank Golding

In 1940, three young brothers were admitted to the Ballarat Orphanage, but like many of the children at the orphanage they had living parents. Frank Golding recalls the 12-bleak years of their time there and pieces together the story of his parents' struggle against the state to get their children back.

₱ 2005 247pp B1946



# The Plague

Albert Camus

A brilliant novel which examines the reactions of a town's people to a plague which kills much of the population. It is set in Algeria in the 1940s, and can be read also as an allegory of the spread of Fascist beliefs.

**1**947 288pp **B0098** 

# Pushing Time Away

**Peter Singer** 

Singer's biography of his Austrian grandfather David Oppenheim before his death in the Theresienstadt ghetto traces the personal, intellectual, family and cultural richness of his grandfather's life. A portrait unfolds of a complex, admirable, surprising man. Full of important and discussable matters.



#### Reading Lolita in Tehran Azar Nafisi

In the mid-90s seven young Iranian women gathered in Nafisi's home to discuss the work of forbidden Western writers. Their main focus was on Lolita, The Great Gatsby, and novels of Henry James and Jane Austen. A narrative which begins with secret literature classes expands into a picture of life in a totalitarian regime.

**№** 2003 347pp **B1839** 

This book stimulated a lively discussion among our group. It was a solid read but worth the effort. We admired the women of Iran who find it quite difficult living under the present regime. We all realised how often we take everyday freedoms in Australia for granted. We all admired what the author has been able to achieve in her life. Blackburn 10

#### Resilience

Anne Deveson

Drawing on her own experience and her work with media and social justice organisations, Anne Deveson asks what enables individuals and communities to cope with adversity. Her book interweaves memoir and stories, and her writing is effortlessly readable, as usual.

♠ 2003 296pp B1808

# The Rituals of Dinner

Margaret Visser

Visser's focus is on table manners - the customs. expectations and proprieties of eating together. Subtitled The Origins, Evils, Eccentricities and Meaning of Table Manners, this frolic will produce animated discussion.

**№** 1991 432pp **B1389** 

Enjoyed Year of Wonders?

Try *The Plague* by Albert Camus [B0098]













### The Road Home

**Rose Tremain** 



After the death of his wife, Lev moves to London from his small town in Eastern Europe to look for work so he can support his young daughter and elderly mother. Despite isolation and loneliness, he finds a job at a restaurant, discovers a passion for cooking, and slowly begins to transform from dreamer to doer.

**■** 2007 365pp **B2013** 

# The Rugmaker of Mazar e Sharif

Najaf Mazari & Robert Hillman

Mazari was a shepherd in Afghanistan who fled the Taliban regime to Melbourne, where he set up a successful rug shop. His memoir, captured in his own voice by writer Robert Hillman, is a fascinating insight into what compels people to leave behind their homes and histories to search for peace for themselves and their children.

**№** 2008 253pp **B2010** 

# The Rules of Inheritance Claire Bidwell Smith

This is a moving memoir of a woman whose identity was formed amidst the illness and death of her parents, both diagnosed with cancer when she was a teen. Unconventionally framed around the five stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance – the story follows Claire's journey as she battles to overcome and resolve her unhappy inheritance of crief

**1** 2012 298 <u>B2163</u>

Enjoyed Reckoning: A Memoir?

Try The Tattooed Flower by Suzy Zail [B1939]



#### **Shadow Child**

Rosalie Fraser

Born in 1958. Rosalie Fraser was removed from her parents at two and a half years old. Her story is an eye-opener about the way children could be 'cared' for in foster homes and institutions, and how our governments saw to the 'welfare' of their wards during Australia's most prosperously comfortable decades. The teller's persistence, frankness and enduring spirit make the deprivation and brutalities of her life bearable in this 'memoir of the stolen generation'.

**№** 1998 270pp <u>B1730</u>

# So Much for That Lionel Shriver



# SHORTLISTED National Book Award

Shep Knacker has just sold his company and decided to move to an island paradise, hoping his wife Glynis will move with him. But Glynis has a bombshell of her own, and reveals she has been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Personal neuroses and relationships are examined as the question arises – how much is a life worth?

**€** 2010 436pp **B2075** 

# Songs of a War Boy

Deng Thiak Adut, Ben McKelvey



# SHORTLISTED Victorian Premier's Literary Award

Sydney-based lawyer and 2017 NSW Australian of the Year, Deng Adut overcame deadly adversity before calling Australia his home. At the age of six, he was conscripted as a child soldier into the Sudan People's Liberation Army, armed with an AK-47. Rescued by his brother John, Deng lived in refugee camps before coming to Australia as a refugee. This inspirational biography tells his journey of overcoming the horrors of war and the challenges faced by refugees to Australia.

**1** 2016 320pp **B2251** 

Most members of the group found the book an interesting expose of the terrible situation in Sudan during its ongoing wars, and the exploitation of young children with their development into fighting soldiers. We felt he told his story honestly and it was very moving. It led to a good discussion of the problems of assimilating refugees into our society, and the problems they must have finding acceptance and adapting to our different Western world values.

Shoal Bay Bridge Bookies

### The Spare Room

Helen Garner



Helen prepares her spare room for her friend Nicola, who is coming to town to receive treatment for her advanced cancer. Helen becomes Nicola's nurse, protector, guardian angel and stony judge in this story of compassion and rage as two women negotiate their way through gruelling treatments. A provocative novel that provides rich material for discussion on friendship, faith and death.

**●** 2008 195pp **B1999** 

#### Stasiland

Anna Funder



Forty years of communism in East Germany ended when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989. This book blends travel, history and biography in the true stories of bravery and betrayal under the Stasi, the omnipresent secret police of the former East German Government. Moving, exhilarating and at times funny.

# Still Alice 🔾

Lisa Genova

Alice is a 50-year-old Harvard professor when she starts experiencing symptoms of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. She is forced to re-evaluate her relationship with her husband and three grown children. Genova cleverly addresses the fundamental issue of disease and mental illness: what is left of Alice?

**● ©** 2009 292pp <u>**B2098**</u>

#### The Stolen Children

Carmel Bird

Carmel Bird's short book of the stolen children's own stories sits alongside a copy of the formal Report of the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. Their unadorned accounts are anguishing, but it is necessary witness not only to tragedies and wrongs that were hidden and suppressed but to the importance of acknowledging the truth.

**1** 1998 188pp **B1589** 

# Streets of Hope

Tim Costello

Reverend Tim Costello is a Melbourne lawyer and minister of religion for whom private faith and social issues have always inter-connected. His book chronicles the time leading up to his election as Mayor of St Kilda and his battle for the democratic rights of St Kilda's street workers, drug users and homeless. It provides a rare insight into his life, his beliefs and his ongoing struggle on behalf of others.

**№** 1998 242pp **B1703** 

### Suite Française 🗅

Irène Némirovsky

Némirovsky depicted the experience of war and occupation as it affected the people around her, writing the two sections of *Suite Française* as events unfolded. The first part portrays a group of Parisians as they flee the Germans and make their way through the chaos of the French countryside. The second concerns the inhabitants of a small rural community under occupation.

**● 1913 1913 1919 1919 1919** 



# The Tattooed Flower

Suzy Zail

When Holocaust survivor Emil is diagnosed with motor neurone disease, he gathers his family to share the secrets of his remarkable life. Emil's daughter Suzy Zail takes us through his past and present, crafting an inspirational story on father-daughter relationships and the extent to which we shape our own destinies.

**№** 2006 211pp **B1939** 

#### The Tattooist of Auschwitz Tiger's Eye 🗘 **Heather Morris**

Based on the true story of Melbourne-based Lale Sokolov, a former Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist and privileged prisoner who fell in love with Gita, a Jewish girl whose arm he was forced to tattoo with her prisoner identification number. The novel differentiates itself from other Holocaust memoirs by Lale's outlook: Lale is not just determined to survive, but to manipulate the system to ensure the survival of the prisoners and his lover Gita. A unique survivor's account and love story full of heartbreak, hope, and triumph inside and outside the walls of the Auschwitz prison.

**№** 2018 270pp **B2275** 

#### The Tears of Strangers Stan Grant

Grant recounts the story of the Wiradjuri people of New South Wales and the landowning Grants, descendants of an Irish rebel. White as well as black, he has ultimately to reconcile that he is descended from the oppressors as well as the oppressed and his personal success has removed him from the violence, alcoholism and despair experienced by many of his cousins.

**№** 2002 259pp **B1681** 

# Three Dollars





What effect has the emphasis on 'the bottom line' - downsizing, corporatising, consulting, outsourcing - had on the well educated young couples who are supposed to be among its main beneficiaries? In his compassionate first novel, Perlman gives a moving and imaginative portrait of a loving family at risk in the heartless environment of contemporary Victoria.

**1998** 381pp **B1581** 

# Inga Clendinnen

Burning bright on every page. this is the arresting story of what happened to the distinguished Geelong born historian when serious illness in her early fifties pitched her into an Alice in Wonderland otherworld of hospitals, organ transplant and hallucination. She used writing to 'cling to the shreds of self'. The publisher's blurb is accurate: 'Lucid, fearless, passionate and wise, its true subject is being alive.'

**№** 2000 289pp B1742

#### The Tiger's Wife Tea Obreht



Natalia is a doctor visiting orphanages in the Balkans after a devastating war when she receives news that her beloved grandfather has died. As Natalia struggles to understand his life's quest, Obreht spins around her a series of magical tales that bring home the tragedy of chronic conflict.

**1** 2011 336pp **B2117** 

### To Kill a Mockingbird 🗅 Harper Lee



Atticus Finch is a lawyer who defends a black man who has been accused of raping a white woman. The best and worst of life in a Southern town are brought to life through the eyes of Scout, Atticus' young daughter.

**(L)** 1960 290pp **B0037** 

# Touching the Void

Joe Simpson

In 1985 two climbing friends succeeded in scaling the spectacularly dangerous West face of the Siula Grande, a peak in the Peruvian Andes. Catastrophe struck on the descent, leaving one severely injured, the other also in extreme danger. Would both perish? Could one survive? This anguishing dilemma, Joe's almost unbelievable will to persist and the quality of his writing make this a gripping modern classic of mountain writing.

**1** 1988 216pp **B1866** 

#### Traitor

Stephen Daisley

Barely released before being swamped under awards and praise, Traitor asks the question: What would make a soldier betray his own country? This is an important book about love, loneliness, compassion, war and the bond between two people. Both brutal and beautiful, the writing is nuanced and personal, and gently suffused with the Sufi philosophy. The writing style is unusual but stick with it and you will be rewarded.

**1** 2011 293pp **B2132** 

### The Turning **Tim Winton**

The run-down coastal town of Angelus in Western Australia's south is the setting for seventeen overlapping stories, men and women, young and old, their hopes, longings, second thoughts, disappointments, as they scan the horizon, looking to the world beyond and caught at a point of change or altered awareness. The natural world and human destinies within it are superbly evoked: this is Winton at his best.

**GG** 2004 317pp B1896



#### Wanamurraganya Sally Morgan

Morgan met Jack McPhee while searching for her extended family in Western Australia's north. Here, aged 84, he tells her his life story. Of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry, he worked from the age of seven as an itinerant station hand and mine worker in the Pilbara. Despite the harsh government policies which affected his life, his story is told without rancour. Photographs through the text.

1989 196pp **B1254** 

#### Well Done, Those Men **Barry Heard**

As a young man from a small Victorian country town, Barry Heard was conscripted into the army at age 21, fought in Vietnam and came back to cope as best he could. In his laconic. Aussie, blokey voice, Heard tells us simply what happened - during his training, in action, and after his return to civilian life. Writing this memoir marked his emergence from the massive breakdown which finally overtook him. Gripping, at times funny, affecting, alarming, this book enlarges our understanding of the damage war can do.

**D** 2005 290pp <u>B1914</u>

#### The Wilderness Samantha Harvey



Jake has Alzheimer's disease. It's his birthday, his wife has passed away, his son is in prison, and it is unclear where his daughter is. Told from Jake's point of view, The Wilderness sifts through his past. What really happened and what may have happened blur together until it's difficult to tell what is true and what is not. Beautifully written, this is a compelling study of human frailty.

**●** 2009 328pp **B2086** 

# The Woman Who Walked Into Doors

Roddy Dovle

Paula Spencer's uncensored voice convincingly takes us into her brave attempt to struggle free from a violent marriage, her drinking problem and her own denial: 'After all the years and the broken bones and teeth and torture I still keep blaming myself.' Doyle's writing pulls no punches as she is seen in the wider context of the poor in Ireland.

**1996 226pp B1505** 

**Enjoyed** The Wilderness?

Try *Together* by Julie Cohen [B2282]













# Dark Deeds

These titles explore the darker side of life with psychological thrillers, true crime, world politics, spy tales and more.





### Alias Grace 🗅 🗘 **Margaret Atwood**



A large, complex fiction combining murder mystery with social comment on class and sexual relationships, and based on historical fact: a notorious murder case in Canada. Atwood explores the ambiguities of 16-year-old Grace Marks, and also brings her usual wit and insight to psychology, morality and the management of Victorian homes and prisons. A must for Atwood lovers. Small print.

1996 545pp B1556

# All That I Am

Anna Funder



Funder's debut novel moves between contemporary Sydney, Weimar Germany, and wartime New York and London. It fictionalises the true story of German revolutionary Ernst Toller and his circle of friends and associates as they struggled to publicise the brutality of the Nazi regime. A compelling exploration of sacrifice, betrayal, and the need to bear witness.

**D D** 2011 365pp **B2137** 

#### Amsterdam

Ian McEwan

Two friends of many years are among the mourners gathered at the North London funeral of Molly Lane, one an esteemed composer, the other, editor of a quality broadsheet. Also present is the Foreign Secretary. Each, it transpires, had at one time been Molly's lover. Incriminating revelations are made, and the careers and destinies of the three men are in question. A cleverly plotted, blackly comic morality tale.

**GG** 1998 178pp **B1861** 

# ..... Another World

Pat Barker

Wonderful writing combines sharp observation of today's family lives with resonant evocations of murders and mysteries. The power of old wounds to hurt or heal the present is explored in another intelligent, honest, generousspirited novel by Pat Barker. It concerns two blended families, one 19th and the other late 20th century, and the centenarian Geordie, who fought in World

**B** 1998 278pp **B**1588





The Arsonist **Chloe Hooper** 





#### LONGLISTED Stella Prize

In 2009 the worst bushfires Victoria had ever seen ripped through the landscape, claiming the lives of 173 people. Unthinkably, some of these fires were deliberately lit. Hooper explores the Gippsland fires and the investigation and prosecution of the arsonist behind the devastation, and the impact on the wider community. She goes deep into the issue and asks: What causes someone to create a tragedy?

**D E** 2018 272pp **B2291** 

Enioved The Broken Shore?

Try Black Tide by Peter Temple [B1853]



### Berlin Syndrome

Melanie Joosten

A psychological thriller by a debut Australian author. Clare is a young backpacker who meets native Berliner Andi at Checkpoint Charlie. He invites her to move in with him and a tale of obsession and psychological intrigue begins. This is an intelligent novel with a masterful description of the loneliness and isolation that can be found in a foreign city - and the potential vulnerability of a woman travelling alone.

**●** 2011 246pp **B2113** 

# Black Tide 🗅

Peter Temple

A ne'er do well son has fleeced his ageing parents, and Jack Irish, AFL devotee and onetime solicitor, promises to look into it. The action shifts from Fitzroy pub to Toorak and across to the horsetrack. Peter Temple's settings are masterly, his characters are convincing, and he writes some of the best dialogue on the current Australian scene.

**1999 356pp B1853** 

# Blood from a Stone

Donna Leon

In Venice, Commissario Brunetti looks into the case of an African street vendor shot dead while selling fake goods to tourists. The man's illegal status and his country of origin are linked into the investigation, and matters with disturbing international implications are interwoven with Venetian family living.

**GG** 2005 320pp **B1858** 

#### The Bone People Keri Hulme



An unusual exploration of the lives of a woman, a child and a man. This novel portrays startling psychological and physical terror as the characters move towards a resolution which weaves together Maori spirituality and the traditional wisdom of East and West. Not easy to read, but a gripping novel with a considerable reputation.

**1**983 450pp **B0404** 

#### **Borderliners**

Peter Høea

This chilling, suspenseful novel is about what we owe to our young. Three abandoned, damaged children end up at a select school where students are rigidly controlled in an atmosphere of subtle menace. One, a boy in his teens, has to work out why, and what can

**(L)** 1993 252pp **B1483** 

#### The Broken Shore **Peter Temple**

Joe Cashin is sent to a quiet Victorian coastal town to do the undemanding work of a country cop. But a brutal attack on the town benefactor brings him back into the thick of things. A novel about place, family, politics and power which reads less like crime fiction and more like literary fiction. Strong language.

**B** 2005 345pp **B**1917

### The Brush Off

**Shane Maloney** 

From the opening sultry sex scene between the ministerial minder and the editor of a small circulation arty magazine, this entertaining thriller deftly mixes humour, satire and the pleasures of the whodunit, as Maloney highlights the hypocrisy in the carryings on of politicians, the acquisitive art world and the greedy corporate high fliers.

1996 314pp B1484

### The Butcher's Wife

In a small traditional town in Taiwan, a wife kills her husband, and her community cannot believe that she does not have a lover. In showing what led to this violent act, Li Ang does not censor the crude language or the brutality of the husband. A haunting and horrific tale, with insight into the gentle, driven woman at its centre.

**1** 1983 142pp **B1366** 



#### Carry Me Down M.J. Hyland

In rural Ireland in the 1970s. painfully awkward and acutely observant 11-year-old John believes he possesses a gift for lie detection, a belief that will have devastating consequences for his family. The crisp prose in Hyland's second novel presents an enthralling portrait of a family, and a chilling study of lies interpreted through the eyes of a boy struggling on the cusp of adolescence.

**B** 2006 313pp **B**1919

# Case Histories

Kate Atkinson

Private investigator Jackson Brodie finds himself immersed in three unsolved mysteries, and as he traces the threads of these interweaving tragedies we discover his own painful misfortunes. This unconventional detective novel focuses on those who are left to pick up the pieces, trapped by their need to know the truth. Each character is haunted by desperation to remember their loved ones, while seeking the relief of closure.

**1** 2004 304pp **B1873** 

All members present thoroughly enjoyed the book and agreed that it was a very different style of 'detective mystery'. The characters and stories engendered a very wide-ranging, thoughtful and insightful discussion, and some members were inclined to follow up and read the other books in the series. The writing style was simple, the plot was ingenious, the stories at times humourous, suspenseful and heart-wrenching. A good read! Blackburn 22

# The Child in Time

Ian McEwan





The only child of a young couple suddenly disappears in McEwan's complex, haunting, almost magical interweaving of the themes of loss, memory and the human capacity for regeneration.

**B** 1987 220pp **B**1316

### The Cove

Ron Rash

In a gloomy valley in the Appalachians there is a farm that the locals believe is cursed. The farm's owners are Laurel, an object of derision with a port wine birthmark, and her brother Hank, maimed from war in Europe. When mute stranger Walter enters her life, Laurel finds happiness she has never known. But will Walter's secret destroy them?

**6** 2012 255pp **B2158** 

# The Cuckoo's Calling

Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling)

Published under a pseudonym, J.K. Rowling's first crime novel tells the story of Private Investigator Cormoran Strike, a wounded war veteran with too many debts and not enough clients. When Strike is asked to investigate the death of a famous supermodel, he enters the privileged world of the rich and famous where things are never what they seem.

**1** 2014 560pp **B2265** 



# Dead Man Walking

Helen Prejean

This passionate case against capital punishment comes from a nun brought into contact with violent criminals on Death Row. Remarkable for exploring evil, love, and grace.

1993 358pp B1502

### Diamond Dove 🗘

Adrian Hyland

Drifting back to the Aboriginal community she left years ago, Emily doesn't know where she belongs. Within hours of her return, an old friend is brutally murdered and an old enemy is the only suspect. This outback crime yarn tackles issues of land, lore and relations between black and white Australians. Strong language may offend some readers.

**●** 2006 322pp **B1949** 

# The Dinner

Herman Koch

Paul and his wife are on their way to a dinner, which he knows neither of them will enjoy, and his satiric, humorously snide observations slowly reveal the reasons for this over five courses. Expertly paced twists expose dark events, and the veneer of middle-class respectability is questioned in the face of parental angst, loyalty and justice.

**G** 2012 309pp **B2171** 

# The Dressmaker

Rosalie Ham

Tilly returns from fashionable Europe to her mother, 'old Mad Molly', and to the small country town in the Victorian wheatbelt where she grew up. In this inventive first novel, part pastoral, part Gothic, there is much comic brio as Tilly brings haute couture to the backblocks.

**D** 2000 296pp B1638

# The Dry

Jane Harper





Set in draught-ravaged rural Victoria, 36-year-old Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives back in his hometown Kiewarra to attend the funeral of his former best friend, Luke Hadler, who allegedly committed suicide after shooting and killing his wife and their 6-year-old son. Falk's unwelcome arrival unearths the suspicion of a mysterious death that digs up a long-buried secret that has been covered up for 20 years.

**6** 2016 339pp **B2274** 



## **Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures**

Kenneth Cain. Heidi Postlewait & Andrew Thomson

The authors, former UN employees, met on peacekeeping assignment in Cambodia. The trio cross paths in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia, and their friendship strengthens. Interweaving stories reveal idealism, humour and desire, beneath accounts of war that will educate and outrage. Confronting descriptions of sex and genocide will offend some, but this is well worth the effort for its brilliant investigation into the human cost of global politics.

**№** 2004 352pp **B1877** 

#### Enduring Love Ian McEwan

Joe becomes the object of obsessive attentions from a young man whom he has only seen once before. Under this stress, his previously happy marriage begins to fail. A chilling study of the troubling phenomenon of the stalker, from a novelist with an uncanny ability to portray disturbing states

**G** 1997 247pp **B1710** 



of mind.

#### Farewell, My Lovely **Raymond Chandler**

Chandler is one of the most enthralling thriller writers and this, his best-known book, withstands the test of time. You may have seen the film with Robert Mitchum and Charlotte Rampling in the leading roles.

**B** 1940 253pp **B** 1060

**Enjoyed** The Dry?

Try The Ruin by Dervla McTiernan [B2305]













#### **Fatal Remedies**

Donna Leon

Police investigator Guido Brunetti deals with domestic tension as his articulate, strong-willed wife makes a stand on an issue of great concern. As crime escalates from the local to the international scene, Leon deals with issues of corruption in the local scene of Venice, where she has lived for 25 years.

**1999 303pp B1855** 

#### The Fig Eater **Jody Shields**

Vienna in 1910. It seems at first that this will be a straightforward historical crime novel, but it mines the fertile tension between morality and passion that provided such rich material for Freud himself. Beneath the imperial city's respectable facade are layers of deception, abuse and sexual perversion. Interweaving two parallel investigations of a young girl's murder, Shields explores the nature of investigation itself. What is the role of logic, and what of intuition?

**D** 2000 349pp **B**1640

#### Fingersmith Sarah Waters



Sue grows up in a house of fingersmiths (petty thieves) in a grimy back alley of Victorian London. Baby farming, gloomy mansions, inheritances and conspiracies, hanging, oppressive relatives and eccentrics and lunatic asylums - it's all here. Full of deceptions, twists and unfolding romance, this novel is brilliantly written. The lesbian love interest and reference to the thriving Victorian pornography industry are post-Dickensian.

**1** 2002 548pp **B1807** 



#### The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo 🗅

Stieg Larsson

The first book in the Millennium trilogy. Set in Sweden, this unconventional and gripping mystery delves into social issues, particularly about violence against women. Disgraced journalist Mikael Blomkvist is hired by a wealthy businessman to investigate the disappearance, of his niece Harriet Vanger. Lisbeth Salander, an anti-social, tattooed, computer hacker becomes his unlikely assistant. Content may offend some readers.

**6** 2008 533pp **B2067** 

# Want to pen your own crime novel? Discover the building blocks of a great story with our creative writing short courses. cae.edu.au 03 9652 0611 keep <mark>growing</mark>

#### Gone Girl Gillian Flynn

When a seemingly happy woman disappears without a trace, convincing evidence points to the involvement of her oddly unemotional husband. This well crafted psychological thriller surprises with each turn of the investigation, unfolding disturbing information with every twist. The unpredictable characters. absorbing storyline and creative structure are stimulating discussion points, and questions

and interview with author Gillian

**⊕** 2012 496pp **B2177** 

Flynn are included.



#### The Hamilton Case 😭 Michelle de Kretser





This brilliant evocation of life in 1930s Ceylon, at the end of the British colonial period, focuses on the murder of an English tea planter and the tangled personal life of the narrator. A Ceylonese lawyer who prides himself on being more English than the English, Sam's complex character and distorted view of the world are beautifully sustained. De Kretser's historical novel is complex and satisfying.

**D** 2003 369pp B1862

#### The Harmony Silk Factory Tash Aw



A kaleidoscopic portrait of Johnny Lim, textile merchant, petty crook and inventor, who marries local beauty Snow Soong. Years later, their son Jasper seeks to unravel the truth about his parents' relationship. Dealing with loyalty, love, and betrayal in 1940s Malaysia on the brink of abandonment by the British, Aw brilliantly exposes the cultural tensions of an era.

**6** 2005 362pp **B1923** 

### Havana Bay

Martin Cruz Smith

Arkady Renko first appeared in 1981 as the maverick Moscow policeman in Gorky Park. Now Arkady has arrived in Cuba to investigate the death of a Russian embassy worker. A richly intricate spy thriller, made more compelling by its evocation of a threadbare, vibrant, dangerous Havana with the insinuation of music never far away.

**●** 1999 453pp **B1761** 



### The Ice Princess

Camilla Lackberg

When writer Erica Falck returns to her hometown in Sweden, she learns that her childhood friend Alex has died. Police are treating it as a suicide, but as Erica interviews people about Alex's death, it becomes clear that deeper secrets are hiding beneath the surface of the small, idyllic town of Fjallbacka.

**₽** 2011 400pp **B2145** 

# In Cold Blood

Truman Capote

A Kansas farmer and his family were murdered early one morning in 1959, an event that captivated Capote's interest. In an effort to escape subjectivism, he spent five years on the case, made friends of the two murderers, and wrote this 'nonfiction novel' about it all.

**№** 1966 288pp **B0100** 

# The Invisible Ones

**Stef Penney** 

In 1980s England, private eye Ray Lovell is investigating the disappearance of a young woman who married into a travelling Gypsy family. Meanwhile, Romani teenager JJ struggles to unravel long-held family secrets. Inspired by film noir, this thriller explores hidden secrets, and the lives of those on the fringes of society. From the author of The Tenderness of Wolves.

**1** 2011 438pp **B2135** 



#### Joe Cinque's Consolation

Helen Garner

In this 'true story of death, grief and the law' Garner unravels the bizarre killing of an unsuspecting young man by his girlfriend. Why did those who knew of the murder do nothing? An onlooker during the legal proceedings, Garner comes to know the Cinque family, especially Maria, Joe's mother.

**1** 2004 328pp **B1859** 



#### The Killing of Sister McCormack

Anne Henderson

Sister Irene McCormack was the first Australian Catholic missionary to be murdered abroad. What prompted her to travel to in rural Peru, where she lived simply and taught the children of the poor? Henderson skilfully teases out the many different facets of Sister McCormack's life and death: theology, politics, terrorism, relationships, mission work, and passion.

**№** 2002 308pp **B1673** 

# Kittyhawk Down

**Garry Disher** 

Set on the Mornington Peninsula not far from Melbourne, this crime novel offers dead bodies, manhunts, suspense and intrique. Disher's character development is excellent, especially in unfolding the private and professional life of his police investigator, Hal Challis.

**● 1003** 275pp **B1787** 

**Enjoyed** The Little Stranger?

Try *The Corset* by Laura Purcell [B2296]



# The Legacy

Kirsten Tranter

Reimagines The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James. Ingrid inherits a fortune, moves to New York, marries, becomes stepmother to teenage Fleur, and immerses herself in the art scene. The morning of September 11, Ingrid disappears after an appointment downtown, and her cousin Ralph asks his friend Julia to find out what happened.

**₱** 2010 438pp **B2095** 

#### The Little Stranger Sarah Waters



#### **SHORTLISTED** Man Booker Prize

In post-war rural Warwickshire, country GP Dr Faraday becomes involved in a spiralling series of disturbing events involving the crumbling estate of grand local family, the Ayres. A ghost story, a family in decline, and a rapidly changing society make this compelling reading from this popular author.

**1** 2009 501pp **B2038** 

# The Lovely Bones

Alice Sebold

14-year-old Susie is brutally murdered, and tells her story looking down from heaven. Haunting, compelling, and unsettling, this is an original and challenging novel about healing, recovery, and moving on towards a newly defined future.

**B** 2002 328pp **B**1789



# Midnight In Sicily

Peter Robb

A fascinating collage of Italian art, history and travel - and the story of the Mafia in Sicily. Robb claims that during the 'season of distinguished corpses', the 'men of honour' built on their conservative Sicilian power base. and with the support of the antileft Vatican and CIA, moved into the top positions in Italy. A crime story like no other.

1996 326pp B1549

#### Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil

John Berendt

This ornate, readable book transports us to the lush setting of Savannah, Georgia, a city which is inward looking, ingrown, and caught in a time warp. It's full of eccentric people and anecdotes, with a murder and four trials for good measure.

(L) 1994 388pp B1476

# The Midnight Watch

**David Dver** 

On the night the Titanic sank, her passengers and crew noticed another ship nearby. That ship was the Californian, and as the details of the tragic night emerge, reporter John Steadman is intrigued by the reactions of her crew. Based on true events, this gripping novel explores the human failings of those who could have prevented disaster and yet, stood by.

**D D** 2016 336pp **B2239** 

#### Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow

Peter Høeg

A small boy fell to his death from the roof of an apartment block. But was this really an accidental death? Smilla Jaspersen, descended from the Inuit people of Greenland, has a feeling for snow - and she thinks not. The action moves from Denmark to the Arctic icecap, and snow and ice, beauty and extremity are central to the world of this unusual thriller.

**1**992 410pp **B1413 B1413** 

# The Moonstone

Wilkie Collins

A superb novel which has been regarded as the first of the modern detective stories, and was originally serialised in Charles Dickens' magazine. After a theft in a grand home, Sergeant Cuff must solve a mystery with as many facets as the priceless missing diamond, including tracking down a missing nightgown as the key to a murder.

**6** 1868 526pp **B1170** 

# Morality Play

**Barry Unsworth** 

In 14th-century England, a troupe of travelling players is beset by winter, plague and banditry. The players decide to replace their usual miracle play with an improvisation of the events leading up to a recent murder. Historical novel and murder mystery blend as we witness the birth of modern drama.

**1995** 188pp **B1511** 

#### The Mystery of a Hansom Cab 🗅 🗘

Fergus Hume

This handsome 1999 edition restores the local Melbourne detail and language of the original text of this early murder mystery, which sold 20,000 copies here when it was first printed. This readable, historically significant example of crime fiction is a period piece of late 19th century Melbourne.

**B** 1886 309pp **B**0408



#### Nice Try

**Shane Maloney** 

Melbourne may be the Australian capital of performance comedy and Maloney lives up to this reputation with this delightful tale. Murray Whelan's involvement with Melbourne's bid to stage the Olympic Games allows hilarious insights into 1990s politics, gym culture, and Aboriginal activism.

**B** 1998 312pp **B**1577

#### Nineteen Minutes

Jodi Picoult

Picoult delves into small-town life to explore 'difference' in our society. In Sterling, New Hampshire, 17-year-old Peter has endured years of verbal and physical abuse at the hands of classmates. One final incident sends Peter over the edge, leading him to an act which forever changes the town's residents. Rich with psychological and social insight, Picoult asks: how well can we really know someone?

**B** 2007 600pp **B2001** 





#### On Beulah Height Reginald Hill

Three children are abducted in the small Yorkshire village of Dendale. Fifteen years later, Andy Dalziel, the uncouth but astute detective who worked on the earlier case, is called in when another child goes missing. A haunting novel with sharply observed characters, humour, spirit and an aching sense of loss. Small print.

**■** 1998 440pp **B1727** 

#### One Good Turn 🗅

Kate Atkinson

At the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Jackson Brodie (from Case Histories) becomes enmeshed in a number of murders that ripple out from a road rage incident. An array of characters, from the quirky to the bizarre, feature in this fast moving, deftly plotted comic novel.

**1** 2006 396pp **B1975** 

#### On the Java Ridge Jock Serona





Skipper Isi Natoli is charge of tour boat Java Ridge, currently hosting a group of rich Australian surf tourists in search of perfect waves in the remote Indonesian islands. When a storm approaches, the crew and passengers are anchored beside an idyllic reef where they come into contact with the wreckage of Takalar, a people-smuggling boat harbouring asylum seekers. The novel deals with the unfolding political dilemma in Canberra, at the same time as depicting the desperation to survive.

**6 6** 2017 309pp **B2279** 

# ..... Orpheus Lost 🗘

Janette Turner Hospital

There is an explosion on the underground, terrorists are suspected, and Leela, a gifted American mathematician, is taken to an interrogation centre outside the city. Her childhood friend, Cobb, is conducting an unconventional investigation and reveals that Leela's love interest Mishka, a talented Australian musician, is not who he seems.

**● 2**007 358pp **B2008** 



# The People in the Trees

Hanya Yanagihara

Scientist Norton Perina reflects on his controversial Nobel Prize winning discovery amid a media storm of allegations of child abuse. His matter of fact viewpoint contrasts his questionable morality, lending a dark psychological element to a book which will leave you considering Western colonisation, ecological disruption, and the subjective way we view ourselves - and our heroes. Endlessly discussable. Contains themes that may disturb.

**6** 2013 384pp **B2209** 

#### Perfume: The Story of a Murderer

Patrick Süskind

Jean-Baptiste Grenouille is born with an astounding sense of smell, yet he himself has no scent. He learns the art of the perfumer and creates a scent for himself that can fool people's perceptions of his personality. One day, inspired to possess the scent of a young girl, he murders her, embarking on a journey to the dark side of humanity.

**B** 1985 263pp **B** 1453

Enjoyed The Snowman?

Trv The Ice Princess by Camilla Lackberg [B2145]

#### The Poison Principle Gail Bell

Enticingly subtitled A Memoir of Family Secrets and Literary Poisonings. Bell's grandfather was known inside the family to have poisoned his two young sons with strychnine in 1927. Herself a trained pharmacist, Bell spent years disentangling these events, and interweaves her discoveries with precise detail about how arsenic, strychnine, and cyanide work, and accounts of famous poisoners and their victims.

№ 2001 279pp **B1660** 

#### Postmortem

Patricia Cornwell

Set in Cornwell's hometown of Richmond, Virginia; the investigator is Dr Kay Scarpetta, a forensic pathologist. A serial killer is on the loose; three women have been attacked and killed in their own bedrooms. When a fourth victim is discovered, the pressure is on for Scarpetta to produce results. A real spine-chiller: not for the fainthearted. Small print.

**1990 293pp B1422** 

# The Power and the Glory

Graham Greene

Set in Mexico at the time of religious persecution in the name of revolution, and in many ways like a thriller, the story is of the last, hunted days of a whiskysodden priest determined to continue the Church's ministry.

**₱** 1940 288pp **B0139** 



# The Railway Station Man

Jennifer Johnston

Helen has retreated to a small town on the Irish coast as she recovers from the tragic death of her husband. She begins painting again, and slowly forms a relationship with war hero Roger who lives at the nearby railway station house but happiness can be fleeting among the tensions of life. An explosive, well-plotted novel from this Whitbread Novel Awardwinning author.

**D D** 1984 187pp **B** 1234

All members enjoyed this book and greatly admire the author. Her descriptions of the Irish countryside and weather were particularly good. She really brought the characters to life and we felt we knew personally. She developed their relationships very well against the background of political trouble in Ireland at the time. Toowoomba 1 U3A

#### Reading in the Dark Seamus Deane



In the town of Derry in Northern Ireland, a young boy from a Catholic family is gripped with secrets, fears, suspicions and betrayals, all having to do with IRA involvement and the police. The boy's gradual piecing together of events provides chilling suspense, but together with this bleakness Deane renders a magical world of a child's imaginings; of tales, songs and myths.

**1** 1996 233pp **B1545** 

#### Rebecca 🗅

Daphne du Maurier



Max de Winter's second wife lives with him in a suffocating atmosphere of mystery and rising menace, as she becomes vested in the mystery of what became of his first wife, the dazzling Rebecca. A classic thriller and still a gripping story even if you know Hitchcock's film version.

**(L)** 1938 397pp **B1137** 

#### Restless

William Boyd

In the summer of 1976, Ruth discovers the strange truth about her elderly mother, Sally. Russian by birth, she worked for the British Secret Service during World War II. A suspenseful novel of a female spy that sheds a fascinating light into wartime British American relations and explores the consequences of betrayal and duplicity.

**■** 2006 304pp **B1976** 

#### **Resurrection Bay Fmma Viskic**





Deaf since childhood, Caleb has always relied on his instincts. When his best friend is murdered, Caleb begins an investigation that will force him to face the demons from his past. Laced with a dark humour, this original, fast-paced thriller questions what it means to pass for 'normal' in a world where otherness is often seen as 'disability', asking intriguing questions about identity and belonging.

**6** 2015 192pp **B2232** 

# The Return of the **Dancing Master**

Henning Mankell

In a remote location in northern Sweden, an off the job policeman decides to find out more about the violent death of a colleague. Mankell is a master of suspense and tension, able to take on big ideas such as the resurgence across Europe of neo-Nazism. Intelligent, complex crime writing.

**●** 2000 520pp **B1840** 

# The Robber Bride 🗅





Zenia was 'pure, freewheeling malevolence', a manipulator who brilliantly exploited the generosity and weaknesses of friends. They attended her funeral with relief - but now she returns to disrupt their lives again. Atwood at her best: wittily observant, emotionally engaging, and positive about friendship.

**1993 470pp B1456** 

#### **Enjoyed** The Tall Man?

Try The Arsonist by Chloe Hooper [B2291]

#### Room Emma Donoghue



Five-year-old Jack lives in one room with his mother, and believes they are the only real people in a world that exists only within 'Room' - until his mother confides her terrible secret. Jack is by turns poignantly naïve and wise beyond his years, and his story will haunt you long after you finish this powerful novel. Disturbing content with plenty of material for discussion.

**⊕** 2010 400pp **B2110** 

#### NEW



The Rúin Dervla McTiernan



WINNER Australian Book Industry Award

Detective Cormac Reilly doesn't expect to be revisiting a case from 20 years ago. He's never forgotten the two children left behind after their mother's body was discovered in their house. And what is the connection with a body found in the river? In this gripping crime debut set in Ireland nothing is what it seems.

**P** 2018 400pp **B2305** 

An intricately plotted page-turner set in Galway, with complex characters and mystery woven throughout. It will keep you guessing to the very end. Nicole P. CAE Book

Groups staff member



#### Secrets of the Jury Room Malcolm Knox

What happens if twelve randomly chosen men and women do not easily reach a unanimous decision? Prompted by his own experience of jury duty in a criminal case, Malcolm Knox (literary editor of the Sydney Morning Herald) has produced a readable book about jury trials, and their advantages and disadvantages.

**№** 2005 352pp **B1956** 

#### The Scholl Case Ania Reich-Osang



When a woman's body is found in the forest near Berlin, suspicion falls on her husband. Heinrich Scholl, former mayor and well-respected member of the community. They had been married almost fifty years and were considered the perfect couple, could he really be capable of her murder? But when award-winning journalist Anja Reich-Osang investigates deeper into their marriage, she discovers not everything is what it seems. This is a true crime that reads more like a fiction novel.

**D 2** 2016 213pp **B2263** 

#### The Shark Net 🗅 🚓 **Robert Drewe**

In this memoir, subtitled Memories and Murder, Drewe captures key images from his youth in Perth. After his family's transfer from a more conservative Melbourne he experiences the Perth locals as strange and fascinating. There's humour, perceptiveness and also dread as a serial murderer menaces the city, a figure who turns out to be more closely connected with their family than anyone realises.

**№** 2000 358pp **B1843** 

#### Silvermeadow **Barry Maitland**

A missing teenager and a sighting of a vicious bank robber are both linked to Silvermeadow, a glitzy new shopping centre on the outskirts of London. Maitland brings his architecture background into play, not just with the design of the mall but with the social psychology that underpins it. Well written and plotted, with convincing characters. Small print.

**1** 2000 346pp **B1856** 

#### Snow Falling on Cedars 🗂

**David Guterson** 



In 1954 on an island off the Pacific coast of America, a fisherman is found dead, and a second-generation Japanese American is accused of murdering him. This novel about a small community examines prejudice, racial injustice, war, love and conscience. A pageturner offering much to discuss.

1994 404pp B1497

#### The Snowman

Jo Nesbo

The first day of snow has fallen on Oslo, and police investigator Harry Hole is involved in solving a series of brutal murders. Hole finds himself trapped in the killer's evil game, which will bring him to the verge of insanity. Content mav disturb.

**6** 2010 576pp **B2154** 

# Something Fishy

**Shane Maloney** 

It may be summer at the beach. but the Hon. Murray Whelan MP is onto something: criminality in one area of the fishing industry. There are sharply observed scenes of Lorne, and Maloney's usual liking for fast, funny action.

**6** 2002 242pp **B1844** 

#### Started Early, Took My Dog

Kate Atkinson

The fourth Jackson Brodie book in the bestselling series that began with Case Histories and was followed by One Good Turn and When Will There Be Good News? This gripping mystery is as compelling as its precursors.

**₱** 2010 400pp **B2088** 

#### Sucked In

**Shane Maloney** 

The discovery of a body in a recently drained lake in country Victoria sends Murray Whelan into investigation mode. Are these the remains of a union leader, drowned 20 years back? Maloney brings us a sharp-witted picture of Melbourne during the late 1990s.

**1** 2007 276pp **B1978** 



#### The Summer That Melted Everything

Tiffany McDaniel

When 13-year-old Sal arrives in the summer of 1984 to Breathed, Ohio, claiming to be the devil, he is adopted into the Bliss family as one of their own. As the Bliss family struggle with their own personal demons, a scorching heat-wave brings out a fanatical hysteria of the town's people that question the nature of good and evil. A poetic, lyrical and literary depiction of a fractured family and a small town in crises.

**6** 2016 320pp **B2256** 

#### The Surgeon of Crowthorne

Simon Winchester

The Oxford English Dictionary, a massive work which took 70 years to complete, was based on the contributions of thousands of volunteers, but a mystery surrounded W.C. Minor, one of the most prolific and helpful of these. Winchester's bestselling book sets out the bizarre tale of Minor and his torments, and also offers a diverting account of dictionaries.

1998 207pp **B1704** 

# Surrender 🗘

Sonya Hartnett

Gabriel once did a thing unforgivable in the eyes of his community. Now 20 years old and dying, he has only his faithful dog and his childhood friend Finnigan with whom he made a chilling pact. This demanding, disturbing and exhilarating psychological thriller explores the impact of suffering on a child's mind.

**B** 2005 245pp **B**1895

#### The Suspicions of Mr Whicher

Kate Summerscale



The murder of a child lies at the heart of this biography of a middle-class Victorian family, Summerscale's meticulous research turns a mystery into an accessible social history of Britain's 19th-century love affair with detectives, and the birth of the detective novel.

**№** 2008 372pp **B2085** 



#### The Tainted Trial of Farah Jama

Julie Szego

A Somali teen in Melbourne was convicted of the rape of an Australian woman - but the tireless efforts of his lawyer led to shocking revelations 18 months later. Raising questions about justice, migration, cultural taboos, prejudice and gender politics, this is a confronting story about the legal system in Australia.

**№** 2014 242pp **B2213** 

#### The Tall Man

Chloe Hooper

In 2004, Cameron Doomadgee was arrested for swearing at a white police officer. Within 45 minutes he was dead in a watch house cell, the main suspect is well respected Senior Sergeant Christopher Hurley. Hooper tells the full story of the subsequent trial and its repercussions. Her reports won her a Walkley Award and were published around the world.

**D E** 2008 288pp **B2062** 

#### The Tenderness of Wolves **Stef Penney**



#### **WINNER** Costa Book Award

1867, Canada. As winter grips the isolated settlement of Dove River, a man is brutally murdered and a 17-vear-old boy disappears. Tracks outside the dead man's cabin head north. One by one journalists, trappers, and traders set out across a desolate and dangerous landscape; pursuing the tracks before the snow erases the past for good. But do they want to solve the crime or exploit it?

**1** 2006 440pp **B1980** 

# The Thirteenth Tale

**Diane Setterfield** 

Angelfield House was once the home of the March family - the manipulative Isabelle, her brutal brother Charlie, and wild twins Emmeline and Adeline. But now the house stands forgotten, its chilling secrets hidden from view - until a biographer begins investigating Angelfield's past.

₱ 2006 459pp B1994

#### This House of Grief

Helen Garner

Garner was shocked by the tragic story of a man whose three children drowned when his car plunged into a dam on Father's Day in 2005. Here, she follows the engrossing twists of the man's court case and various appeals in this true crime story, watching as the theatre of the law tries to determine: was this accidental, or deliberate?

**1** 2014 288pp **B2223** 

# This Is How

M.J. Hyland

This is a vividly imagined novel about a young man on the edge of sanity. Patrick is moving into a boarding house on the English seaside, leaving behind his parents, an unfinished university degree, and a failed engagement. There is a mounting sense of unease as we follow the emotionally inarticulate Patrick in this study in claustrophobia and loneliness.

**₱** 2009 320pp **B2056** 

#### Trespass

**Rose Tremain** 

Antiques dealer Anthony escapes his fading London life to his sister's house in France, where his presence disrupts her life and relationship. When he decides to buy the run-down family home of local siblings Aramon and Audrun, he becomes entangled in a struggle between brother and sister which runs deeper than he can know. Tremain explores family history and what it means to 'trespass' in this haunting novel.

**1** 2010 253pp **B2072** 

# Truth

**Peter Temple** 



#### **WINNER** Miles Franklin Literary Award

Inspector Stephen Villani is head of the Victoria Police Homicide Squad and he faces a series of new murders to solve. A dark novel that explores corruption, deceit and truth. 'Truth is both confronting and electrifying. It is Temple's best book' – The Age.

**1** 2009 387pp **B2083** 

#### Two Caravans

Marina Lewycka

From the author of the international bestseller A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian comes a hilarious, yet gritty look at what lies behind the arrival of food at our tables. Lewycka's depiction of the exploitation involved in the global labour market is just one part of a picaresque tale involving itinerant migrant workers, young love and a caravan journey from the strawberry fields of Kent.

**B** 2007 310pp **B**1982



# The Unfortunate Victim

**Grea Pvers** 

Set in the gold-mining town of Daylesford in 1864, this historical crime fiction revolves around the brutal murder of a newlywed, and the chase to find her killer. Based on a true story, the novel offers plenty of discussion around the treatment of female victims and the state of law enforcement during Australia's gold-rush period.

**D D** 2017 320pp **B2260** 

# The Untouchable

John Banville

Quintessential member of the English Establishment, Anthony Blunt was disgraced in 1979 when he was revealed as one of the Cambridge spies recruited in the 1930s. The central figure in Banville's exploration of the spy's mentality is loosely based on Blunt, with a supporting cast of randy, heavy drinking dissemblers. A dazzling read: cool, ironic, sad and funny.

**1**997 405pp **B1566 B1566 B1566**

Enjoyed We Need to Talk About Kevin?

Try Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult [B2001]



#### The Verge Practice **Barry Maitland**

The glamorous world of architect Charles Verge is disturbed when his second wife is murdered. and he disappears. Is Verge the killer, now on the run, or has someone killed both Verge and his wife? The action moves between London. Barcelona and the British countryside as police investigators Kolla and Brock follow the trail. Small print.

**●** 2003 313pp **B1854** 

# Vernon God Little

D.B.C. Pierre





The riotous adventures of 15-year-old Vernon Gregory Little in small-town Texas and beachfront Mexico mark one of the most spectacularly irreverent, satirically acute and critically acclaimed debuts of the 21st century. Strong language.

**₱** 2003 279pp **B1941** 



### We Need to Talk About Kevin

**Lionel Shriver** 



When her son commits mass murder days before his sixteenth birthday, Eva is robbed of everything important to her. In a series of letters to her estranged husband, Eva revisits the events that led to the horrific incident. This chilling, deeply psychological novel asks controversial questions about parenting and family in the modern age.

₱ 2005 468pp B1942

#### When Will There Be Good News?

Kate Atkinson

From the bestselling author of Case Histories and One Good Turn comes the third literary mystery with Jackson Brodie. Dr Hunter is missing and Reggie raises the alarm. In a series of deadly coincidences, Jackson joins Reggie's search and reconnects with Detective Chief Inspector Louise Monroe. With strong character development and multiple plot twists accompanying Atkinson's dark, humorous style.

**6** 2008 348pp **B2029** 

# White Dog

Peter Temple

Jack Irish, gambler, cook, cabinet maker and one-time lawyer has a quiet, understated appeal. In a rainy autumn he moves in a world of shady property deals, the squalid exploitation of young women, and untimely death. Peter Temple is admired for his superb ear for dialogue and Australian idiom and his unillusioned portrayal of the Melbourne and Australian scene.

**€** 2003 337pp **B1799** 

#### The White Tiger **Aravind Adiga**



The son of a rickshaw puller. Balram leaves school to work in a teashop. When a rich village landlord hires him as a chauffeur in Delhi. Balram's re-education begins, but to access the wealth and opportunity of the city he must embrace a new morality. Provincialism and the caste system clash with the economic glitter of the techno-boom. where murder is sometimes the best option.

**£** 2008 336pp **B2030** 

#### The Woman in White Wilkie Collins

One of the first mystery novels and still a fine example of the genre one hundred and fifty years after it was written. Walter helps a distressed young woman dressed in white, then realises that she had escaped from a nearby asylum. This sets up a surprising plot involving insanity, hidden identities and illegitimate children. It is said that politician William Gladstone cancelled an evening at the theatre to read it; novelist William Makepeace Thackery sat up all night to finish it – and it may produce a similar response in you. Small print.

**B** 1859 648pp **B**1059

# FIVE WAYS TO LIVEN UP YOUR BOOK GROUP

Although familiarity and routine are great factors in keeping a successful book group meeting month after month, sometimes a bit of change can energise your book group's dynamic and bring some fun into your discussions. Here are six tips for livening up your next meeting.

#### Read the book, watch the movie

Compliment your book discussion with the film or television adaptation, which can also be a fun night in for the group! As you flick through Dialogue, keep an eye out for the film symbol next to titles, so you know which of our titles have been adapted.

#### Use your discussion notes effectively

Use your supplied discussion notes to draw out ideas, themes, background information and suggested questions to enrich a discussion that has run out of steam. You can also flag quotes of passages in the text that you loved, and share them with the group.

#### Invite new members

Open up your group to new members to experience a different point of view and gain a fresh perspective on the titles you read. You can advertise online, through social media, at your local community centre or by contacting the CAE Book Groups team.

#### Plan a potluck dinner

Have each member bring their their own signature or themed dish for the entire group to share. Similarly, get different members to choose a venue each month if your group meets out of home - expand your palate while you expand your mind!

#### Investigate current affairs and controversial reviews

Most literary titles can be tied into discussions about current court cases, social movements or societal issues, to give the novel an immediate relevance to current affairs.











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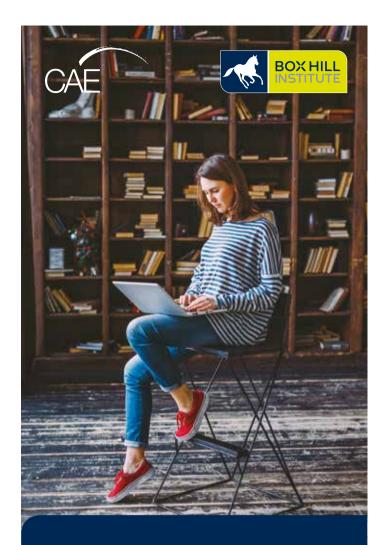
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B1690	28	B1758	33	B1815	11	B1866	69	B1924	7	B1974	41	B2024	55	B2076	65
B1691	10	B1759	13	B1816	63	B1867	43	B1925	34	B1975	74	B2025	46	B2077	27
B1692	53	B1760	19	B1817	23	B1868	55	B1926	66	B1976	74	B2026	61	B2078	34
B1693	10	B1761	72	B1818	47	B1869	5	B1927	66	B1977	42	B2027	53	B2079	44
B1695	57	B1762	57	B1819	56	B1870	17	B1928	58	B1978	75	B2028	20	B2080	59
B1696	54	B1763	57	B1820	7	B1871	62	B1929	58	B1979	15	B2029	77	B2081	35
B1700	14	B1764	26	B1821	20	B1872	5	B1930	58	B1980	76	B2030	77	B2082	64
B1703	68	B1765	41	B1822	28	B1873	71	B1931	35	B1981	29	B2031	34	B2083	76
B1704	76	B1766	35	B1823	42	B1874	55	B1932	14	B1982	76	B2032	33	B2084	50
B1705	16	B1767	60	B1825	38	B1875	39	B1933	9	B1983	43	B2033	39	B2085	76
B1706	5	B1769	60	B1826	32	B1877	71	B1934	36	B1984	37	B2034	52	B2086	69
B1707	55	B1770	43	B1827	56	B1878	39	B1935	60	B1985	48	B2036	23	B2087	63
B1709	39	B1772	54	B1828	18	B1879	47	B1936	53	B1987	14	B2037	49	B2088	
	71	B1774	41	B1829	6	B1880	6	B1937	53	B1988	11	B2038	73	B2089	
B1711	25	B1775	14	B1830	18	B1881	25	B1938	53	B1989	47	B2039	52	B2090	50
B1712	64	B1776	55	B1831	25	B1882	48	B1939	68	B1990	35	B2040	8	B2091	
B1713	33	B1778	24	B1832	48	B1883	57	B1940	16	B1991	23	B2041	30	B2092	
B1715	66	B1781	39	B1833	19	B1884	26	B1941	77	B1992	5	B2042	47	B2093	
B1716	35	B1782	48	B1834	58	B1885	19	B1942	77	B1993	8	B2043	41	B2094	
B1717	59	B1783	65	B1835	58	B1886	40	B1943	22	B1994	76	B2044	23	B2095	
	51	B1784	57	B1836	59	B1888	35	B1944	54	B1995	31	B2045	5	B2096	
B1719	21	B1785	13	B1837	59	B1889	8	B1945	16	B1996	10	B2046	18	B2097	
B1720	16	B1786	26	B1838	51	B1890	59	B1946	67	B1997	36	B2048	30	B2098	
B1725	40	B1787	73	B1839	67	B1891	21	B1947	31	B1998	45	B2049	12	B2099	
	74	B1788	40	B1840	75	B1892	52	B1948	38	B1999	68	B2050	13	B2100	
B1728		B1789		B1841		B1893		B1949		B2000		B2051		B2101	
B1730	68	B1790	58	B1842		B1894		B1950		B2001		B2052	45	B2102	
	16	B1791	58	B1843			76	B1951		B2001		B2053	30	B2103	
B1733	26	B1792	8	B1844			69	B1952		B2002		B2054	37	B2104	
	12	B1793	67	B1845		B1897	30	B1953		B2004	60	B2055	61	B2104 B2105	
B1735	24	B1794	14	B1846	29		22	B1954			15	B2056	76	B2106	
B1736	26	B1795	51	B1847		B1906	39	B1955			11	B2057	43	B2100	
	19	B1796	52	B1848	60	B1907		B1956			60	B2057	36	B2107 B2108	
	14	B1797	36	B1849	60	B1907	7	B1957			74	B2059	55	B2100	
B1740	51	B1798	10	B1850	29	B1909	41		10	B2009	13	B2060	27	B2109 B2110	
B1740		B1799		B1851				B1959				B2061			
	9		77		30	B1910			8	B2010	68		7	B2111	
B1742	69	B1801	62	B1852		B1911		B1960		B2011	48	B2062	76	B2112	
B1743	24	B1802	26	B1853		B1912	9	B1961		B2012		B2063	19	B2113	
	11	B1803	58	B1854		B1913		B1962		B2013		B2065	20	B2114	
B1745	63	B1804	41	B1855		B1914		B1963	48		48	B2066	42	B2115	
B1746	25	B1805	9	B1856		B1915		B1964	65	B2015		B2067	72	B2116	
B1747	66	B1806	43	B1858		B1916		B1965	66	B2016		B2068	6	B2117	
B1749	51	B1807	72	B1859		B1917		B1966		B2017		B2069	35	B2118	
B1751	43	B1808	0/	B1860	7	B1918	19	B1967	00	B2018	23	B2070	43	B2119	00
<u> </u>															

B2120	42	B2171	71	B2222	64	B2271	7
B2121	49	B2172	50	B2223	76	B2272	13
B2122	65	B2173	65	B2224	21	B2273	50
B2123	20	B2174	46	B2225	10	B2274	71
B2124	13	B2175	63	B2226	42	B2275	69
B2125	33	B2176	20	B2227	62	B2276	45
B2126	38	B2177	72	B2228	31	B2277	65
B2127	9	B2178	36	B2229	40	B2278	20
B2128	53	B2179	49	B2230	6	B2279	74
B2129	30	B2181	64	B2231	64	B2280	60
B2130	46	B2182	28	B2232	75	B2281	16
B2131	38	B2183	58	B2233	56	B2282	29
B2132	69	B2184	22	B2234	36	B2283	24
B2133	21	B2185	40	B2235	38	B2284	56
B2134	42	B2186	58	B2236	44	B2285	37
B2135	72	B2188	59	B2237	14	B2286	40
B2136	15	B2189	17	B2238	15	B2287	34
B2137	70	B2190	56	B2239	73	B2288	54
B2138	29	B2191	23	B2240	49	B2289	47
B2139	47	B2192	46	B2241	22	B2290	15
B2140	19	B2193	32	B2242	23	B2291	70
B2141	65	B2194	14	B2243	36	B2292	40
B2142	60	B2195	63	B2244	24	B2293	27
B2143	60	B2196	49	B2245	51	B2294	12
B2144	21	B2197	45	B2246	60	B2295	10
B2145	72	B2198	48	B2247	20	B2296	32
B2146	36	B2199	67	B2248	9	B2297	8
B2147	16	B2200	34	B2249	9	B2298	22
B2148	27	B2201	51	B2250	44	B2299	14
B2149	27	B2202	5	B2251	68	B2300	49
B2150	29	B2203	6	B2252	62	B2301	39
B2151	47	B2204	22	B2253	20	B2302	29
B2152	66	B2205	34	B2254	28	B2303	28
B2153	41	B2206	41	B2255	48	B2304	67
B2154	75	B2207	28	B2256	76	B2305	75
B2155	32	B2208	15	B2257	12	B2306	57
B2156	61	B2209	74	B2258	33	B2307	17
B2157	17	B2210	24	B2259	24	B2308	64
B2158	71	B2211	18	B2260	76	B2309	57
B2159	27	B2212	41	B2261	36	B2310	37
B2160	57	B2213	76	B2262	39	B2311	51
B2161	7	B2214	35	B2263	75	DZOTT	
B2162	56	B2215	54	B2264	62		
B2163	68	B2216	14	B2265	71		
B2164	17	B2217	28	B2266	15		
B2165	54	B2217	33	B2267	47		
B2166	34	B2219	34	B2268	59		
B2169	23	B2219 B2220	46	B2269	38		
B2170	38	B2221	57	B2270	43		



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# **Book Groups Enrolment Form**

Centre for Adult Education Level 2, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000 Phone: 03 9652 0620

Group Name:					Group Number: ZZ	<u>.</u> 19		
Have you enrolled at CAE of	or Box Hill Institut	te before? Yes	□ No □ If yes, p	lease supply your s	student number:			
Surname:			Given names:					
Preferred name:			Home phone:					
Mobile:	Email:				Date of Birt	h:		
Residential address:								
State:								
Postal address (if different to								
State:	,							
Do you wish to join/re-join our Book Groups E-Newsletter: Pl CAE Marketing: Please tick the	r complementary e lease tick box if you	Book service? No DO NOT want to r	O EXTRA COST Dreceive CAE Book (	☐ <b>Yes</b> ☐ <b>No</b> Groups Newsletter by				
Fee Schedule 2020: Vic	toria (GST Incl	usive) Please t	tick the <u>number of</u>	meetings your group	o is having and tick the	e appropriate fee.		
No. of group meetings	Full Fee	Seniors Fee	Concession Fee		-	Pro-rata fee approved		
11	\$153	\$139	\$103	\$89				
9	\$142	\$129	\$96	\$83				
6	\$113	\$104	\$77	\$67				
Fee Schedule 2020: Into	erstate (GST In	clusive) Pleas	se tick the number	of meetinas vour ard	oup is having and tick	the appropriate fee.		
No. of group meetings	Full Fee	Seniors Fee	Concession Fee	Secretary Fee		Pro-rata fee approved		
11	\$176	\$154	\$121	\$100				
9	\$159	\$140	\$110	\$91				
6	\$122	\$107	\$85	\$70				
Please note: Interstate members	ship fees differ due t	o postage/delivery	/ charges.					
Seniors, Students and	Concession Fe	es If you are cla	iming a reduced f	ee, please attach a p	hotocopy of your care			
Senior Fees – Must have a valid			-			12		
Student Fees - Same as the Se			,	ornor Edonicos Gara II	iot inoladda).			
Concession Fees - Must have	a valid Pensioner C	oncession Card, H	lealth Care Card or	Veterans Affairs Gold	Card.			
☐ Senior/Student	☐ Pensio	ner	☐ Health Ca	re 🗆 🗸	/eterans Affairs Gold			
Payment Details:								
Cash and EFTPOS payments	can only be made	by paying in pers	on at the CAE rec	eption counter on Le	evel 2, 253 Flinders Lai	ne, Melbourne 3000.		
☐ Cheque (to Box Hill Institu	ute) 🗆 Mo	ney Order	☐ Visa [	☐ Mastercard	Total Amount \$ _			
Card No /	/	/	_ E	Exp /	CVC:			
Card Holders Name:								
Please note: Your credit card st				<u> </u>				
Receipt Options (please tick on	-	•		st				
Terms and Conditions								
Refunds, less a \$30 administrative notes will be issued. CAE is a bran-policies, procedures, regulations, S	d of Box Hill Institute a	and you will be enrol	lled as a Box Hill Insti	tute student. By enrolling	g in this book group you a	gree to abide by the		
Office Use Only								
Book Groups Administration Signa	ature:				Date:			
Service Hub ONLY	Batch Number		Date Processe	1	Service Hub Initials			



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