

A Free Newsletter for Abbey's Customers

# ABBHEY'S ADVOCATE

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**Five Bells**

Gail Jones 224pp Tp \$29.95

One fine and shining Saturday, four people find themselves in Circular Quay. Ellie and James, who were teenaged lovers, are meeting for the first time in years, over lunch and drinks. Catherine, having recently moved from Ireland to take up a new job, is doing the tourist thing. Pei Xing, who suffered dreadfully in China's cultural revolution, is catching a ferry for a regular visit to someone she knows on the North Shore. Each character is struggling with something from their past and over the course of the novel this is revealed. And beneath the brightness of a day in the heart of Sydney, there is a dark mystery in play which the four people catch glimpses of... A lyrical novel, drenched in descriptions of Sydney Harbour and local colour, with some beautifully rendered characterisations. Sure to be listed for the top literary awards! *Lindy*



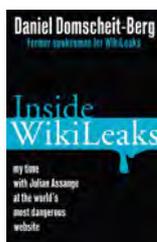
**Buy a copy this month and go in the draw to win a \$150 lunch voucher for Fort Denison Restaurant.**

**Inside WikiLeaks**

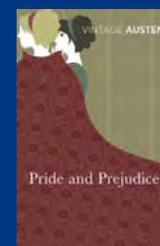
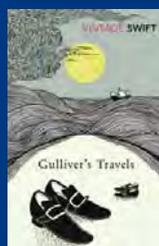
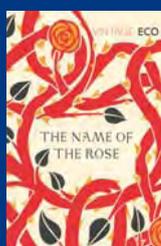
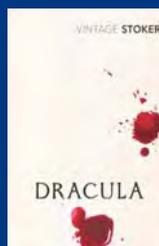
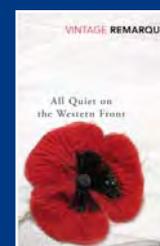
**My Time with Julian Assange at the World's Most Dangerous Website**

Daniel Domscheit-Berg 208pp Tp \$29.95

WikiLeaks, a platform for disclosing information, has managed to produce more scoops in the last three years than *The Washington Post* has in the last 30: the gruesome video of Iraqi civilians and journalists being murdered by members of the US military; the true circumstances surrounding the bombing of two hijacked petrol tankers in Kunduz, Afghanistan, which led to the resignation of Defence Minister Jung; the plundering of the Icelandic bank Kaupthing by its major shareholders, which triggered the country's financial collapse; and many more. Domscheit-Berg, the former spokesman of WikiLeaks, reveals the evolution, finances and inner tensions of the whistleblower organisation, beginning with his first meeting with Assange in December 2007 at the Chaos Computer Club in Berlin. He also describes the circumstances that led to his recent withdrawal from WikiLeaks, including his disenchantment with the organisation's lack of transparency, its abandonment of political neutrality, and the increasing concentration of power by Assange. He also addresses the questions the world is asking: Who is really behind this organisation that has struck fear into the powerful, and prompted the Pentagon to convene a 120-man task force? And what explosive documents are still slumbering there?



VINTAGE CLASSICS - ONLY \$12.95



Here is a small sample of the hundreds of excellent Vintage Classics. Purchase any two Vintage Classics before 31 March and go in the draw to win a Vintage Classic Library of 30 titles of your choice.

Specials

p 10



**The Shelly Beach Writers' Group**

June Loves 352pp Tp \$29.95

What do you do when your husband dumps you for his PA, your company goes broke and your nearly published novel is cancelled? Gina, a 50-something corporate high-flier, is counting her losses when a chance meeting throws a sea change her way. A job as a house-sitter / dog-sitter, albeit in a leaky cottage in windswept Shelly Beach, seems the perfect opportunity to relax and regroup. But she hasn't counted on the locals and soon finds herself reluctantly convening the writers' group, babysitting, baking, seal-watching, bicycling... and perhaps even falling in love. With a cast of unforgettable characters, this is an irresistible story of reinvention.



**More Than You Can Say**

Paul Torday 288pp Tp \$32.99

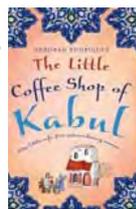
The bestselling author of *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *The Hopeless Life of Charlie Summers* and *The Girl on the Landing* (all Pb \$22.99) returns with a Buchanesque thriller. A late-night gambling session ends in a bet for Richard Gaunt: can he walk to Oxford by lunchtime the next day? He sets off and, as morning breaks, his evening's winnings look set to double. But when men in a Jeep reverse into him, scooping him off the roadside, his life takes a very strange turn. Taken to a country house, he is kept hostage by a man with impeccable manners, Mr Khan, who makes him an unusual offer – £10,000 in return for a 'green card' marriage to a woman called Adeena. Traumatized by a tour of duty in Iraq, Gaunt has a cavalier attitude to life and feels he has nothing to lose. He therefore decides to accept Khan's strange proposal - never imagining where this decision will take him...



**The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul**

Deborah Rodriguez 304pp Tp \$32.95

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. Sunny, the proud proprietor, who needs an ingenious plan - and fast - to keep her cafe and customers safe; Yazmina, a young pregnant woman stolen from her remote village and now abandoned on Kabul's violent streets; Candace, a wealthy American who has finally left her husband for her Afghan lover; Isabel, a determined journalist with a secret that might keep her from the biggest story of her life; and Halajan, the 60-year-old den mother, whose long-hidden love affair breaks all the rules. As these five discover there is more to one another than meets the eye, they form a unique bond that will change their lives and the lives of many others.



**Yearn**

Tales of Lust and Longing  
Tobsha Learner Tp \$32.99

After the success of *Quiver* (Pb \$24.95), Learner returns to the short story format with this collection of nine sensual, witty and mystical stories, exploring the universal experiences of near-miss romantic encounters and secret regrets.



**13 rue Thérèse**

Elena Mauli Shapiro 256pp Tp \$29.99

As he settles into his new office in Paris, American academic Trevor Stratton discovers a box full of century-old artefacts. The pictures, letters and objects in the box relate to the life of Louise Brunet, a Frenchwoman who lived through both World Wars. Trevor begins to piece together the story of her life: her love for a cousin who died in the war, her marriage to a man who works for her father and her attraction to a neighbour in her building at 13 rue Thérèse. As he becomes enamoured with the charming, feisty Louise of his imagination, he notices another alluring Frenchwoman, his clerk Josianne, who planted the mysterious box in his office, and with whom he decides he is falling in love.



**The Messenger**

Yannick Haenel 192pp Tp \$29.95

Jan Karski, a young Polish diplomat turned cavalry officer, joined the Polish underground movement after escaping from a Soviet detention camp in 1939. He served as a courier for the underground, ferrying messages between occupied Poland and the exiled Polish leaders, before he was captured and brutally tortured by the Gestapo. Escaping from the Germans, he was charged with the mission of his lifetime: to convey a message to the Allies about Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews of Europe. He visited Warsaw's Jewish Ghetto so he could relate the truth about inhuman conditions firsthand to leaders and top officials in London, and President Roosevelt in Washington. He had the ears of the decision-makers, yet nothing was done to prevent the ultimate fate of millions of Jews. An extraordinary novelised biography about a man's moral courage and our collective humanity, with parallels to Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's Ark* (Pb \$24.99) and W G Sebald's *Austerlitz* (Pb \$22.95).



**Old Enemies**

Michael Dobbs 432pp Tp \$32.99

In the Swiss Alps, a teenage girl is thrown from a helicopter and her boyfriend is brutally abducted to Trieste, a city filled with undercurrents of past hatreds. Ruari, son of Irish media owner J J Breslin, is in desperate danger, at the mercy of ruthless kidnapers making impossible demands. His terrified mother contacts the only person she knows can help her son: Harry Jones, her former lover, whom she walked out on many years ago. Now memories of their passionate affair - the guilt, hurt, anger and humiliation - come flooding back. Time is running out for Ruari. And Harry, torn between his loyalties, is quickly drawn into a political game played for high stakes. Far higher than he realises...



**The Lightkeeper's Wife**

Karen Viggers 400p Tp \$29.99

A woman at the end of her life. A man unable to restart his. A history of guilty secrets and things left unsaid. This is a moving and redemptive story of love, loss and family, and what we have to do to live the best kind of life.



**Delirium**

Lauren Oliver 448pp Tp \$27.99

There was a time when love was the most important thing in the world. People would go to the end of the earth to find it. They would tell lies for it. Even kill for it. Then, at last, they found the cure. Now, everything is different. Scientists are able to eradicate love, and the government demands that all citizens receive the cure upon turning eighteen. Lena Haloway has always looked forward to the day when she'll be cured. A life without love is a life without pain: safe, measured, predictable and happy. But then, with only 95 days left until her treatment, Lena does the unthinkable...



**Mistaken**

Neil Jordan 320pp Tp \$29.99

Kevin Thunder grew up with a double - a boy so uncannily like him that they were mistaken for each other at every turn. As children in 1960s Dublin, one lived next to Bram Stoker's house, haunted by an imagined Dracula, the other in the more refined spaces of Palmerston Park. Though divided - like the city itself - by background and class, they shared the same smell, the same looks, and perhaps, as Kevin comes to realise, the same soul. They exchange identities when it suits them, as their lives take them to England and America, and find that taking on another's personality can lead to darker places than either had imagined. Jordan's long-awaited new novel is an extraordinary achievement - a comedy of manners at the same time as a Gothic tragedy, a thriller and an elegy.



**Chronic City**

Jonathan Lethem 512pp Pb \$22.99

Chase Insteadman is a handsome, inoffensive former child-star, living a vague routine of dinner parties and glamorous engagements on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Meanwhile, his astronaut fiancée, Janice, trapped on the International Space Station, sends him rapturous love letters. Like Janice, Chase is adrift. Into his life enters Perkus Tooth, a wall-eyed free-range pop-critic, whose soaring conspiratorial riffs are fuelled by high-grade marijuana, mammoth cheeseburgers and a desperate ache for meaning. Together, Chase and Perkus attempt to unearth the Truth - that rarest of artefacts on an island where everything can be bought. Like Manhattan itself, this novel is beautiful and tawdry, tragic and forgiving, a stand-in for the whole world and a place utterly unique.



**What the World Will Look Like When all the Water Leaves Us**

Laura van den Berg 192pp Pb \$24.95

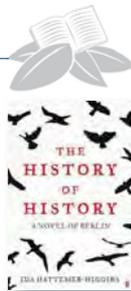
The stories in this rich and inventive debut illuminate the intersection of the mythic and the mundane. A failed actress takes a job as a Bigfoot impersonator. A grieving missionary becomes obsessed with a creature rumoured to live in the forests of the Congo. And, in the title story, a young woman travelling with her scientist mother in Madagascar confronts her burgeoning sexuality and her dream of becoming a long-distance swimmer. Rendered with grace and precision, this breathtaking collection is narrated by women yearning for absolution, for solace, for the flash of extraordinary that will forever alter their lives.

**The History of History**

**A Novel of Berlin**

Ida Hattemer-Higgins  
400pp Tp \$32.99

2002. A young American woman stumbles one morning from the forest outside Berlin - hands dirty, clothes torn. She can remember nothing of the night. She returns to the life she once knew, but soon an enigmatic letter arrives from an unknown doctor claiming to be "concerned for her fate". Shortly after, the city of Berlin transforms. Nazi ghosts manifest as preening falcons; buildings turn to flesh. This is the story of Margaret's descent into madness and her race to recover her lost history, the night in the forest and the chasm that opened in her life as a result. Awash with guilt, Margaret finds her amnesia resonating with two suppressed tragedies of Berlin's darkest hour. Harrowing and provocative, beguiling in its lyricism and sensuality, this is a tale of obsessive love, family ruptures and a nation's grief. And it is an elegy to 'the history of history' - the role of the German past in the psychic life of the present age.



**Palo Alto**

James Franco

208pp Tp \$29.99

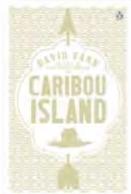
From the talented actor and artist James Franco, here is a fiercely vivid collection of stories about troubled California teenagers and misfits. Violent and harrowing, these stories trace the lives of an extended group of teenagers as they experiment with vices of all kinds, struggle with their families and one another, and succumb to self-destructive, often heartless, nihilism. Franco presents his characters in all their raw humanity, providing insight into the teenage mind.



**Caribou Island**

David Vann 240pp Pb \$24.95

On a small island in a glacier-fed lake on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, a marriage is unravelling. Gary, driven by 30 years of diverted plans, and Irene, haunted by a tragedy in her past, are trying to rebuild their life together. Following the outline of Gary's old dream, they are hauling logs out to Caribou Island in both good weather and in terrible storms, in sickness and in health, to patch together the kind of cabin that drew them to Alaska in the first place. From the author of the acclaimed *Legend of a Suicide* (Pb \$23.95) comes this devastating novel about a marriage, a couple blighted by past shadows and the weight of expectation - of themselves and of each other.



**Blue Skies**

Helen Hodgman

176pp Tp \$29.95

A young wife and mother watches a clock that seems forever stuck at three in the afternoon. Her neighbour obsesses over the front lawn, and the women at the local beach chatter about knitting patterns. Her husband didn't come home last night. She lives for Tuesdays and Thursdays, when her baby is with Mother-in-law and she can escape to a less humdrum life. Jonathan, man about town, is Tuesday. Ben, a freethinking artist, is Thursday. But Jonathan is in serious trouble, and Thursdays are turning sour... A brilliant, acerbic tale set in stultifying suburbia marks the emergence of a unique voice in Australian fiction.



**One Foot in Eden**

Ron Rash 208pp Tp \$29.95

The year is 1951 and Holland Winchester, the local thug and a war veteran, has gone missing from his small, backwater South Carolina town. The local sheriff, Will Alexander, has a gut feeling Holland has been murdered, but the sheriff can find neither body nor killer. He has his suspects, but no evidence. And his suspects have their stories, motives and truths. But secrets can only stay buried so long. Told from the perspective of the sheriff, a local farmer, his wife, their son and the sheriff's deputy, Rash explores the crime, shifting suspicion, blame and guilt with each new voice. This brilliant southern gothic novel observes the consequences of love and murder across generations.

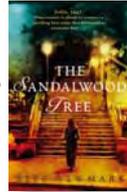


**The Sandalwood Tree**

Elle Newmark

416pp Tp \$32.95

It is 1947 and Evie and Martin Mitchell have just arrived in the Indian village of Masoorla with their five-year-old son. But cracks soon appear in their marriage as Evie struggles to adapt to her new life, and Martin fails to bury unbearable wartime memories. When Evie finds a collection of letters, concealed deep in the brickwork of their rented bungalow, so begins an investigation that consumes her, allowing her to escape to another world, a hundred years earlier, and to the extraordinary friendship of two very different young women. As her fascination with her Victorian discoveries deepens, she unearths powerful secrets... but at what cost to her present, already fragile, existence?



**The Legion**

Cato #10

Simon Scarrow

384pp Tp \$29.99

Trouble is brewing in Egypt. Rebel gladiator Ajax and his men have been posing as Roman soldiers and attacking naval bases, merchant vessels and villages. Prefect Cato and Centurion Macro have been charged with the task of tracking down the renegade warrior before the problem gets out of control. Joining forces with Legion III, they hope to destroy their enemy on the battlefield. But the cunning gladiator has other ideas...



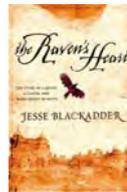
**The Raven's Heart**

**The Story of a Quest, a Castle and Mary Queen of Scots**

Jesse Blackadder

464pp Tp \$32.99

Scotland, 1561. A ship carries Mary, the young Queen of Scots, home from the French court to wrest back control of her throne. Masquerading as a male crew member, Alison Blackadder must find a way to gain the Queen's favour so she can win back her family's castle and lands, cruelly stolen by a murderous clan a generation before. Surrounded by treachery and deep suspicion, the Queen can trust nobody in the Scottish court until Alison, with her flair for disguise, becomes her most valued confidante and spy. But Alison's drive to reclaim the Blackadder birthright is relentless, setting off events that threaten to bring down the monarchy. Alison discovers lies, danger and betrayal at every turn. Then, unexpectedly, she finds love... This sweeping and imaginative tale of political intrigue, secret passion and implacable revenge is a breathtaking epic from a remarkable literary talent.



REVIEWED BY LINDY JONES

**The Story of the Little Mole**

**Who Knew it was None of his Business**  
**Sound Edition**  
Werner Holzwarth & Wolf Erlbruch



16pp Hb \$29.99

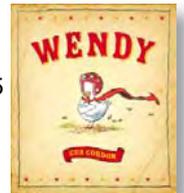
The Little Mole is a classic - very few young boys (or girls!) can resist the story of how he sets off to find out "who has done this on my head". To add to the naughtiness of a book concerned with animal scats, this edition also has sound effects! A lot of fun (and I've seen more than one adult enjoy this book).

**Wendy**

Gus Gordon

32pp Pb \$14.95

Wendy is an irrepressible chook. While she likes the farm she lives on, where there is plenty to do, she really wants something more. Given the chance to join the circus and become a stunt chicken, off she goes! She becomes famous for her daredevil stunts, until one day it all becomes too much. A lovely story about having a go, wherever you are, with jaunty illustrations that often contain little jokes for the reader. Ages 3-6



**Our Australian Girl**

Meet Grace by Sofie Laguna

Meet Letty by Alison Lloyd

Meet Poppy by Gabrielle Wang

Meet Rose by Sherry Clark (all Pb \$14.95)

These are each the first books in a new historical series aimed at girls aged 8-11; there will be three more books on each of these four characters. Grace is arrested and transported to Australia in 1808. Letty is an unintended stowaway when she is waving her sister off, who is migrating to Sydney in 1841. Poppy, who has a Chinese father and an Indigenous mother, experiences the goldfields in 1864 when she runs away from a children's mission. Rose is an upper-class girl whose mother has decided ideas on how she should act, which just don't suit her tomboy daughter. They are appealing, age-appropriate, well written and adventurous, and make a change from all the fantasies currently out there!

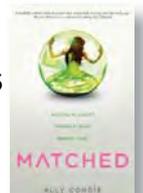


**Matched**

Ally Condie

366pp Pb \$19.95

For the lovers of dystopian Young Adult fiction, here's another to get lost in! The story begins with Cassia on the way to her Match Banquet. The governing body, Society, determines the lives of each and every citizen, from birth to death at the age of 80. At the age of 17, those who have chosen to be paired are told who they are most compatible with and will marry. Cassia's best friend is Xander and it is a great (but delightful) surprise that he is her intended partner. But when Cassia reviews the official material she has been given, she discovers that another boy is named instead. In a highly regulated society with no margin for error, this is a bombshell. She starts to find herself attracted to Ky, who is not what he seems. The first in a trilogy.





**Mennonite in a Little Black Dress**

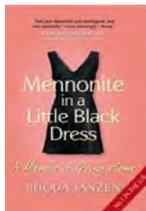
**A Memoir of Going Home**

Rhoda Janzen

256pp Tp \$29.99

Not long after Janzen turned 40, her world turned upside down. It was bad enough that her

husband of 15 years left her for Bob, a guy he met on Gay.com, but that same week a car accident left her injured. Needing a place to rest and pick up the pieces of her life, she packed her bags, crossed the country, and returned to her quirky Mennonite family home, where she was welcomed back with open arms and offbeat advice. (Rhoda's good-natured mother suggested she get over her heartbreak by dating her first cousin - he owned a tractor, see). Written with wry humour and tackling faith, love, family and ageing, this is an immensely moving memoir of healing, certain to touch anyone who has ever had to look homeward in order to move ahead.

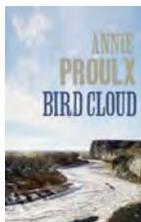


**Bird Cloud**

Annie Proulx

288pp Pb \$27.99

'Bird Cloud' is the name Proulx gave to 640 acres of Wyoming wetlands, prairie and 400-foot cliffs plunging down to the North Platte River. On the day she first visited, a cloud in the shape of a bird hung in the evening sky. She also saw pelicans, bald eagles, golden eagles, great blue herons, ravens, scores of bluebirds, harriers, kestrels, elk, deer and a dozen antelope. She knew she had to purchase the land, then owned by the Nature Conservancy, and she knew what she would build on it - a house in harmony with her work, her appetites and her character - a library surrounded by bedrooms and a kitchen. In her first non-fiction work in more than 20 years, this is the story of building that house - solar panels, a Japanese soak tub, a concrete floor, elk-horn handles on kitchen cabinets - as well as an enthralling natural history and archeology of the region, inhabited for millennia by Ute, Arapaho and Shoshone Indians.



**Irrepressible**

**The Life and Times of Jessica Mitford**

Leslie Brody

405pp Hb \$45.00

Admirers and detractors use the same words to describe Jessica Mitford: subversive, mischief-maker, muck-raker. Those who knew her best simply called her Decca. Born into one of Britain's most famous aristocratic families, she eloped as a teenager with Winston Churchill's nephew. The couple considered Britain's Communist Party insufficiently leftist, so they went to America. For her, the personal was political, especially as a civil rights activist and journalist. She coined the term "frenemies" - and as a member of the American Communist Party she made several! - though not among the Cold War witch-hunters. When she left the Communist Party in 1958 after 15 years, she promised to be subversive whenever the opportunity arose. True to her word, late in life she hit her stride as a writer, publishing nine books before her death in 1996.



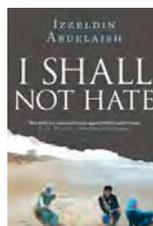
**I Shall Not Hate**

**A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity**

Izzeldin Abuelaish

224pp Pb \$29.99

Dr Abuelaish - now known simply as 'the Gaza doctor' - captured hearts and headlines around the world in the aftermath of horrific tragedy: on 16 January 2009, Israeli shells hit his home in the Gaza Strip, killing three of his daughters and a niece. It was his response to this tragedy that made news and won him humanitarian awards around the world. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred, he called for the people in the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis".



**My Favourite Teacher**

Robert Macklin (Ed)

256pp Tp \$32.95

In this book, high-profile Australians including author Mem Fox, comedian Anh Do, retired Chief Justice Michael Kirby, broadcaster Alan Jones and *The Chaser's* Julian Morrow share very personal stories of their favourite teachers. Their entertaining, inspiring and often moving accounts reveal how these teachers inspired their students to follow their dreams.

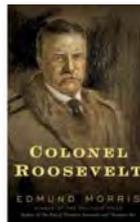


**Colonel Roosevelt**

Edmund Morris

766pp Hb \$52.95

Theodore Roosevelt is the only US President whose greatness increased out of office. When he toured Europe in 1910 as plain 'Colonel Roosevelt', he was hailed as the most famous man in the world. Crowned heads vied to put him up in their palaces. "If I see another king," he joked, "I think I shall bite him." Had he not died in 1919, at the early age of 60, he would unquestionably have been re-elected to a third term in the White House and completed the work he began in 1901 of establishing the United States as a model democracy, militarily strong and socially just. Morris recounts the last decade of perhaps the most amazing life in American history.



**Endgame**

**The Spectacular Rise and Fall of Bobby Fischer**

Frank Brady

416pp Tp \$34.99

When Bobby Fischer passed away in January 2008, he left behind a confounding legacy. Everyone knew the basics of his life - he began as a brilliant youngster, then became the pride of American chess, before taking a sharp turn, struggling with paranoia and mental illness. But nobody truly understood him. What motivated him from such a young age, and what was the source of his remarkable intellect? What drew this man of Jewish descent to fulminate against Jews, and how was it that a mind so famously disciplined could unravel so completely? From his meteoric rise to his eventual descent into madness, the book draws upon hundreds of newly discovered documents, recordings and firsthand interviews with those who knew him best to paint a complete picture of one of America's most enigmatic icons.



**Oh Mexico!**

**Love and Adventure in Mexico City**

Lucy Neville

366pp Pb \$24.99

Graduating from university, Lucy faces a dilemma: find a job or disappear to Latin America, the exotic land of her childhood dreams? She arrives in Mexico City with little money and only basic Spanish. Her to-do list is simple enough: get a job, find a place to live and master the language. She promptly finds work as an English teacher and scores a room in a sunny apartment. Her new flatmate, the well-connected Octavio, is unnervingly attractive. So begins a comic tsunami of challenges as Lucy negotiates Mexico City's stratified worlds, meeting everyone from street-hawkers to crazy gringos, academics and socialites. She marvels at how cheerfully they cope in a town held together by corruption, where kidnapping is a constant threat and decapitations by narcotics gangs are a staple of the daily news. As she struggles with her Spanish verbs, the two men she accidentally falls in love with discover each other's existence. With a curious mind and a knowing eye, this account of life in the riotous metropolis that is Mexico City is irresistible.



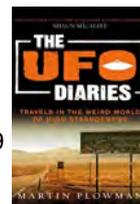
**The UFO Diaries**

**Travels in the Weird World of High Strangeness**

Martin Plowman

320pp Pb \$24.99

When postgrad student Martin Plowman became fascinated by the weird world of UFOs, alien abductions and conspiracy theories, he didn't realise it would lead to an amazing seven-year journey that would take him thousands of kilometres across the world. In his quest to uncover the mystery at the heart of people's fascination with UFOs, he met surprisingly grateful alien abductees in Mexico, reluctant UFO 'witnesses' in Roswell and secretive mountain ufologists in Chile. Both funny and profound, this is the kind of book Bill Bryson and Douglas Adams might have written if they'd been abducted on the same flying saucer!



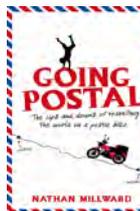
**Going Postal**

**The Ups and Downs of Travelling the World on a Postie Bike**

Nathan Millward

288pp Pb \$29.99

When Millward learns that he has just 20 days to leave Australia before his visa expires, he has a choice to make: fly home to England on the return ticket he already has, or set off on the adventure of a lifetime riding a decommissioned Australia Post bike across the world. With encouragement from the girl who took him to Australia in the first place, he hits the road. No time for planning or preparation, just go - with nothing more than the gear he can carry on the back of the bike - in a race across the Outback and on to Darwin to catch a cargo boat to East Timor. From there it's on, riding the road to England at an average speed of 65 kilometres an hour, through jungles and over mountain passes, on mud roads and dirt highways. Will man and machine make it? And what happens with the girl? This tale has it all: foreign cultures, wrong turns, the kindness of strangers and the bittersweet trials of love.

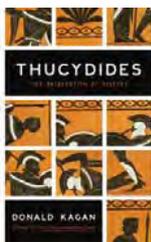




## Thucydides The Reinvention of History

Donald Kagan  
272pp Pb \$22.95

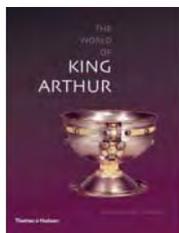
Kagan's magisterial *The Peloponnesian War* (Tp \$32.95) is recognised as a landmark of classical scholarship. Now he turns his attention from one of the greatest conflicts in history to the author who so magnificently chronicled it: Thucydides, the first truly modern historian. This study offers readers a remarkable opportunity to experience one great historian engaging another across the centuries, in a work that is at once an engrossing voyage of discovery, a moving tribute and a revelatory meditation on the practice of history and its value in human affairs.



## The World of King Arthur

Christopher Snyder 192pp Pb \$35.00

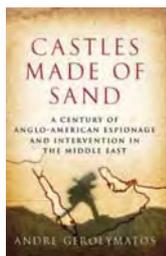
In this lavishly illustrated survey, Snyder examines the historical realities and impact of Arthurian legends on history and the arts. He traces the development of Arthurian literature in medieval Europe, moving from Britain and France to Germany where writers like Wolfram von Eschenbach brought the stories of the Grail and Tristan into association with Arthur. The book also offers a unique look at: the impact Arthur had on European chivalry and monarchy; the 19th century revival of interest in Arthur; 20th century adherents to the myth of Camelot; and a guide to Arthurian websites.



## Castles Made of Sand A Century of Anglo-American Espionage and Intervention in the Middle East

Andre Gerolymatos 347pp Hb \$43.95

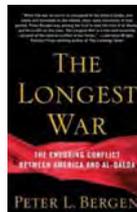
From the Suez Canal to the former Ottoman Empire, British and American intelligence communities have conspired to topple regimes and initiate Muslim leaders as pawns in a geopolitical chess game fought against Marxist expansion. Yet while the Iron Curtain was doomed to fall near the end of the 20th century, this pattern of tunnel vision has created a different monster. The resulting resurgence of Muslim radicalism, and the induction of Arabs and other Muslims into the dark arts of espionage and sabotage, have only served to fan the flames in an already incendiary region. An authority on international studies and the history of guerrilla warfare, the author offers an insight into the intelligence game still being waged internationally with lethal intent, and into the Middle Eastern terrorist networks. He brings to life the extraordinary men and women whose successes and failures have shaped relations, and reveals how the explosive nature of the region has direct roots in the history of American and Western intervention.



## The Longest War America and Al-Qaeda Since 9/11

Peter Bergen  
304pp Hb \$35.00

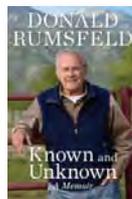
Investigative journalist and bestselling author of *Holy War, Inc* (Pb \$24.95), Bergen is one of the few Westerners to have sat down with Osama bin Laden and is renowned for his analysis of al Qaeda and its evolution over the last decade. He reveals the details of how al Qaeda has evolved since the 9/11 attacks and tells the parallel story of how the US government has changed its own course in response. Bergen has unprecedented insight that comes through many channels: internal documents from both al Qaeda and US counterterrorism offices, personal interviews with al Qaeda members of the highest and lowest ranks, hundreds of interviews conducted with senior officials in the White House, Pentagon, CIA and the FBI, and his own experiences on the ground in Afghanistan.



## Known and Unknown A Memoir

Donald Rumsfeld  
832pp Hb \$45.00

Rumsfeld's memoir is filled with previously undisclosed details and insights about the Bush administration, 9/11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It also features his unique and often surprising observations on eight decades of history: his experiences growing up during the Depression and WWII; his time as a Naval aviator; his service in Congress starting at age 30; his cabinet positions in the Nixon and Ford administrations; his assignments in the Reagan administration; and his years as a successful business executive in the private sector. He addresses the challenges and controversies of his career, from the unseating of the entrenched House Republican leader in 1965, to helping the Ford administration steer the country away from Watergate and Vietnam, to bruising battles over transforming the military for the 21st century, to the war in Iraq, to confronting abuse at Abu Ghraib and allegations of torture at Guantanamo Bay. He offers his frank, original views and often humorous anecdotes about some of the world's best known figures, from Margaret Thatcher to Saddam Hussein, from Henry Kissinger to Colin Powell, from Elvis Presley to Dick Cheney, and each American president from Dwight Eisenhower to George W Bush.



## The Woman Who Shot Mussolini

Frances Stonor Saunders  
304pp Pb \$24.95

7 April 1926: on the steps of the Capitol in Rome, surrounded by chanting Fascists, Violet Gibson fires at the Italian head of state, the darling of Europe's ruling class. Of all his would-be assassins, she came closest to changing the course of history. This book rescues her from a silent void and restores her dignity.



## More Than Bobs and Bandages

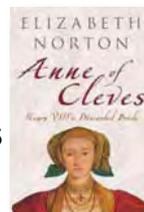
Kirsty Harris 352pp Hb \$34.99

Harris exposes the false assumption that military nurses only nursed, offering an intriguing and sometimes gut-wrenching insight into the Australian Army Nursing Service during World War I.

## Anne of Cleves Henry VIII's Discarded Bride

Elizabeth Norton  
224pp Pb \$24.95

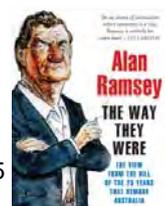
The first major biography of Henry VIII's least favourite wife - but the one who outlived them all. "I like her not!" was the verdict of Henry VIII on meeting his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, for the first time. Anne could have said something similar on meeting Henry and, having been promised the most handsome prince in Europe, she was destined to be disappointed in the elderly and corpulent king. Henry also felt that Anne was not as she had been described, complaining that he had been sent a Flander's mare. Forced to proceed with their wedding for diplomatic reasons, they tried to make the best of the situation, but attempts to consummate the match were farcical. After only seven months of marriage, Henry was so desperate to rid himself of Anne that he declared himself impotent in order to secure a divorce. Anne was also eager to end her marriage and, with her clever handling of Henry, obtained one of the biggest divorce settlements in English history. Following her divorce, she made good use of her many properties, including Richmond Palace, Hever Castle and the house at Lewes now known as 'Anne of Cleves' House'. Often portrayed as a stupid and comical figure, the real Anne was both intelligent and practical, ensuring that, whilst she was queen for the shortest period, she was the last of all Henry VIII's wives to survive.



## The Way They Were The View from the Hill of the 25 Years That Remade Australia

Alan Ramsey  
336pp Tp \$34.95

For many years, reading Ramsey's vitriolic, vindictive, but always entertaining and insightful pieces in the *Sydney Morning Herald* was a standard feature of Saturday mornings for many Australians. He may have disappeared from our Saturday papers, but he certainly hasn't been forgotten by those who applauded his opinions, those who were enraged by them, and by the politicians he wrote about. From mid-1987 to the end of 2008, no one had greater access to our national parliament and politicians than Ramsey. This collection of his best reveals how 25 years of national leadership by Bob Hawke, Paul Keating and John Howard changed Australia, as the Labor Party stopped being the Labor Party and became just another political label. It also includes a new essay, reflecting on the tumultuous political events of 2010.



## Deadly Healthcare

James Dunbar, Prasuna Reddy & Stephen May  
200pp Tp \$34.95

The story of Australia's own 'Dr Death', Jayant Patel, is symptomatic of a tidal wave heading towards all modern healthcare systems. In this absorbing book, the authors have ploughed through the mass of public inquiry data, interviewing key figures to reveal in gripping detail how it happened, who was to blame, and how it can be avoided. Another 'Dr Death' could be working right now in our own modern, overburdened healthcare system.





## Nine Lives

Postwar Women Writers  
Making Their Mark

Susan Sheridan

288pp Tp \$34.95

The traditional view of postwar Australian literature shows a scene of flourishing male writers, with women confined to the domestic sphere. Sheridan rewrites the pages of history to highlight the women writers who contributed to this era's literary renaissance. She traces the early careers of nine Australian women writers born between 1915 and 1925 who each achieved success between the mid-1940s and the 1970s. Judith Wright and Thea Astley published quickly to resounding critical acclaim, while Gwen Harwood's frustration with chauvinistic literary editors prompted her scathing pseudonymous poetry. Fiction writers Elizabeth Jolley, Amy Witting and Jessica Anderson remained unpublished until they were middle-aged: Rosemary Dobson and Dorothy Hewett started strongly as poets in the 1940s, but either reduced their output or fell silent for the next 20 years. This book considers why the shape of these women's careers was so different from their male counterparts and how they managed the balancing act of marriage, family and writing.



## The Music in the Ice

On Writers, Writing and Other Things

Stephen Watson

400pp Tp \$32.95

In this collection of essays, Watson turns to the writers who have endured for him; to the places that have formed him; and always to the nature of writing and literature itself. The range is remarkable: he moves from Leonard Cohen to Dante, from Albert Camus to Allen Ginsberg, not excepting Czeslaw Milosz and T S Eliot. More personally, a final section of the book returns to the site of a love affair, the birth of a daughter, and what it is that defines his native city, Cape Town. Whatever he touches on, he gives substance to the line from Pasternak that gives this collection its title: "the music in the ice". In his hands, the essay form itself becomes an instance of that music.



## Read This Next

And Discover Your 500  
New Favourite Books

Sandra Newman &  
Howard Mittelmark

464pp Pb \$24.95

This is the perfect book for anyone who has ever struggled to choose what to read next. Covering 600 books, both old and new, and exploring all the important issues - like how to tell the difference between Naomis Wolf and Klein, whether anyone really likes Emma Bovary, what makes a really good loo book and whether it's really wrong to marry for money - this reminds you exactly why you love reading and makes you want to go out and read lots more.

From the authors of  
**How Not to Write a Novel**  
(Pb \$26.95).



## Working the Room

Geoff DYER

358pp Hb \$49.95

This collection sees the best of Dyer's extensive essays and journalism from the last 10 years. Characterised by his trademark wit, playfulness and understated intelligence, his writing on art, literature, music and the human condition has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *New York Times* and the *Telegraph*. This lively anthology roves from the photography of Martin Parr to the paintings of Turner, the writing of Scott-Fitzgerald to the criticism of Susan Sontag. There are also extensive personal pieces: *On Being an Only Child*, *Sex and Hotels* and *Otherwise Known as the Human Condition*.



## Writers Gone Wild

The Feuds, Frolics and  
Follies of Literature's  
Great Adventurers,  
Drunkards, Lovers,  
Iconoclasts and  
Misanthropes

Bill Peschel

257pp Pb \$19.95

Truth is stranger than fiction. If you've imagined famous writers to be desk-bound drudges, think again. Peschel rips back the (book) covers and reveals the seamy underside of the writing life. Insightful, intriguing and irresistibly addictive, he reveals such fascinating stories as: the night Dashiell Hammett hired a Chinese prostitute to break up S J Perelman's marriage (and ran off with his wife); why Sylvia Plath bit Ted Hughes on the cheek; why Ernest Hemingway fought a book critic, a modernist poet and his war correspondent/wife Martha Gellhorn (but not at the same time); the near-fatal trip Katherine Anne Porter took while high on marijuana in Mexico; why women's breasts sent Percy Bysshe Shelley screaming from the room; and the day Virginia Woolf snuck onto a Royal Navy ship disguised as an Abyssinian prince. Pull up a chair, turn on your reading light and discover what your favourite writers were up to while away from their desks. Sometimes they make the wildest characters of all.



## The Naive and the Sentimental Novelist

Orhan Pamuk

208pp Pb \$24.95

What happens within us when we read a novel? And how does a novel create its unique effects, so distinct from those of a painting, a film or a poem? In this inspired, thoughtful, deeply personal book, Pamuk takes us into the world of the writer and the reader, revealing their intimate connections. He draws on Friedrich Schiller's famous distinction between 'naive' poets (who write spontaneously, serenely, unselfconsciously) and 'sentimental' poets (those who are reflective, emotional, questioning and alive to the artifice of the written word). Harking back to the beloved novels of his youth and ranging through the work of such writers as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Stendhal, Flaubert, Proust, Mann and Naipaul, he explores the oscillation between the naive and the reflective, and the search for an equilibrium, that lie at the centre of the novelist's craft. He ponders the novel's visual and sensual power - its ability to conjure landscapes so vivid they can make the here-and-now fade away. In the course of this exploration, he considers the elements of character, plot, time and setting that compose the 'sweet illusion' of the fictional world.



## Proust's Overcoat

The True Story of One  
Man's Passion

for All Things Proust

Lorenza Foschini

160pp Hb \$29.95

The story of the overcoat begins with a chance meeting - between an obsessive bibliophile and the head of a French perfume house, Jacques Guerin, and his physician, Dr Robert Proust, the brother of the late writer Marcel Proust. Glimpsing the possibility of adding to his collection, Guerin stumbles into a tense and tangled relationship with the novelist's family who, embarrassed by Proust's writings and homosexuality, are in the process of destroying the mountain of notebooks, letters and manuscripts they had inherited. Little by little, over decades, Guerin acquires Marcel's remaining personal effects, including - eventually - the relic he had come to covet more than any other: the moth-eaten, otter-lined overcoat Proust had worn every day and used as a blanket every night while writing in bed. Like the novelist's second skin, this coat was as close as Guerin could ever come to touching Proust himself: it was the jewel of his collection.



## PHILOSOPHY

### Searching for Utopia

The History of an Idea

Gregory Claeys

224pp Hb \$65.00

From classical times to the present day, this highly illustrated book surveys the enduring human need to imagine and construct ideal worlds. Claeys, a leading scholar in the field, surveys the influence of the idea of utopia on history, literature, art, architecture and religious and political thought, and covers the most significant utopias throughout history, whether envisaged or actually attempted. Complete with a wealth of photographs, paintings, engravings, maps, documents, posters and film stills, this is a compelling exploration of the rich diversity of the utopian imagination.



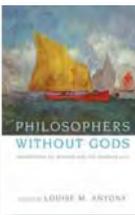
### Philosophers Without Gods

Meditations on Atheism  
and the Secular Life

Louise Antony (Ed)

320pp Pb \$34.95

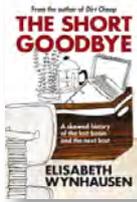
Atheists are frequently demonised as arrogant intellectuals, antagonistic to religion, devoid of moral sentiments, advocates of an 'anything goes' lifestyle. Now, in this revealing volume, 19 leading philosophers open a window on the inner life of atheism, shattering these common stereotypes as they reveal how they came to turn away from religious belief. None of the contributors dismiss religious belief as primitive, and several even express regret that they cannot, or can no longer, believe. In these reflective pieces, they offer fresh insight into some of the oldest and most difficult problems facing the human mind and spirit. For instance, if God is dead, is everything permitted? This book demonstrates convincingly, with arguments that date back to Plato, that morality is independent of the existence of God. Indeed, every writer in this volume adamantly affirms the objectivity of right and wrong. Collectively, these essays highlight the richness of atheistic belief, not only as a valid alternative to religion, but as a profoundly fulfilling and moral way of life.





**The Short Goodbye**

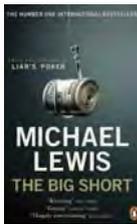
**A Skewed History of the Last Boom and the Next Bust**  
 Elisabeth Wynhausen  
 272pp Pb \$29.95



Wynhausen was at her desk writing a story about people being sacked... when she was sacked herself. This is the untold story of a nation forever changed by the Global Financial Crisis and the people whose lives have been glossed over in the grand narratives of politicians and commentators. With verve and wit, she dissects the myth that Australia dodged a financial bullet, documenting the lives of those discarded on an economic minefield - from bankers to factory workers - and warns that without reform Australia could suffer a more terrible social and economic calamity from the next global rout.

**The Big Short**  
**Inside the Doomsday Machine**

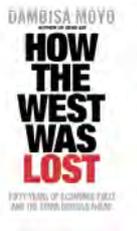
Michael Lewis  
 288pp Pb \$24.95



'We fed the monster until it blew up ...' While Wall Street was busy creating the biggest credit bubble of all time, a few renegade investors saw it was about to burst, bet against the banking system - and made a fortune. From the jungles of the trading floor to the casinos of Las Vegas, this is the outrageous story of the misfits, mavericks and geniuses who, against all odds, made the greatest financial killing in history. From the author of *Liar's Poker* (Pb \$29.99).

**How the West was Lost**  
**Fifty Years of Economic Folly and the Stark Choices Ahead**

Dambisa Moyo  
 244pp Tp \$32.95



We think we know what's coming. But is it already too late? This book is a radical wake-up call to a complacent elite. Moyo charts how, over the last 50 years, the most advanced and advantaged countries of the world have squandered their dominant position through a sustained catalogue of fundamentally flawed economic policies that have resulted in an economic and geopolitical decline which is now poised to tip irreversibly in favour of China and other emerging economies. The future for the West looks bleak. However, Moyo outlines the stark choices that political leaders need to make if they are to stem the tide. By forging closer ties with emerging economies, rethinking trade barriers, overhauling tax systems and addressing the three essential ingredients for growth - capital, labour and technology - it might yet be possible for the West to get back in the race, but Western governments need to recognise just how critical the situation is.

**Outrageous Fortunes**

**The Twelve Surprising Trends That Will Reshape the Global Economy**  
 Daniel Altman

272pp Tp \$29.95



A Harvard-trained economist's startling predictions reveal critical challenges in the decades ahead, helping individuals, businesses and governments to make smarter decisions. As individuals, companies and countries struggle to recover from the economic crisis, many are narrowly focused on forecasts for the next week, month or quarter. Yet they should be asking what the global economy will look like in the years to come; where will the long-term risks and opportunities arise? These are the questions Altman confronts in his provocative and indispensable new book. The fate of the global economy, he argues, will be determined by deeper factors than those that move markets from moment to moment. His incisive analysis brings together hidden trends, societal pressures and policy endgames to make 12 surprising, yet logical, predictions about the years ahead. And his forecasts for the future raise a pressing question for today: with so many challenges awaiting us, are our political and economic institutions up to the task?

**Too Big to Fail**  
**Inside the Battle to Save Wall Street**

Andrew Ross Sorkin  
 618pp Pb \$26.95



They were masters of the financial universe. They thought they were too big to fail. Yet they would bring the world to its knees and be forced to fight to save the system - and themselves. Sorkin, the news-breaking *New York Times* journalist, delivers the first true in-the-room account of the most powerful men and women at the eye of the financial storm - from Lehman Brothers CEO Dick 'the gorilla' Fuld, to banking whiz Jamie Dimon, and bullish Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to AIG's Joseph Cassano, dubbed 'The Man Who Crashed the World'. Through unprecedented access to the key players, this *Samuel Johnson Award*-winning book meticulously recreates frantic phone calls, foul-mouthed rows and white-knuckle panic as Wall Street fought to save itself. "A fascinating, scene-by-scene saga of the eyeless trying to march the clueless through Great Depression II." - Tom Wolfe

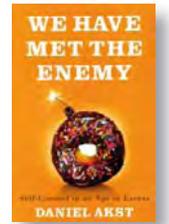
**Europe's Decline and Fall**

Richard Youngs  
 240pp Pb \$23.99

The European Union is in inexorable decline. The outlook is gloomy for the economy and nobody listens to European politicians. Any authority or power that it once had on the world stage is being lost, and its claims to the moral high ground in international affairs are increasingly shaky. But this lamentable state of affairs is neither inevitable nor irreversible. The emerging new world order offers opportunities for the EU, if it can only act systematically and develop a new cosmopolitan strategy based on principled and consistent support for universal values. Here is a bold analysis of the problem and a brilliant proposal for a remedy.

**We Have Met the Enemy**  
**Self-control in an Age of Excess**

Daniel Akst  
 321pp Tp \$32.95



A witty and wide-ranging investigation of the central problem of our time: how to save ourselves from what we want. Freedom is dangerous. Half of all deaths in America, for instance, come from overeating, smoking, drinking too much, failing to exercise and other deadly behaviours that we indulge in against our own better judgement. Why are we on a campaign of slow-motion suicide? While temptations like fast-food outlets have multiplied, crucial social constraints have eroded. Tradition, family, church and ideology have lost much of their capacity to circumscribe behaviour, while financial limits, once a ready substitute for thrift, were swept away by surging affluence and the remarkable open-handedness of lenders (a confluence that recently ended in tears). The result is a world that puts more pressure than ever on the 'self' in self-control, sorely testing the limits of human willpower. This is a brilliant and irreverent search for answers that delves into overeating, overspending, procrastination, anger, addition, wayward sexual attraction, and most of the other homely transgressions that bedevil us daily in a world of freedom, prosperity and technological empowerment. Using self-control as a lens, rather than a cudgel, Akst draws a vivid picture of the many-sided problem of desire - and delivers a blueprint for how we can steer shrewdly toward the wants we most want for ourselves.

**Freefall**

**Free Markets and the Sinking of the Global Economy**  
 Joseph Stiglitz

444pp Pb \$24.95



When the world economy went into freefall, so too did our unquestioning faith in markets. But what happens now? Are bailouts and stern lectures enough, or do we need a rethink of our entire financial system? This acclaimed and inspiring book, by one of the world's leading economic thinkers, dissects the flawed ideas that led to the crisis, but also looks to the future. Drawing on his years spent shaping policy at the World Bank, Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz shows why far more radical reforms are needed to avoid future crises, why the cost of recovery should be borne by the financial sector, and how we now have the opportunity to create a new global economic order. Out of the crisis of our times, Stiglitz has written a convincing, coherent and humane account that goes to the heart of how economics and societies work.

**Bust**

**Greece, the Euro, and the Sovereign Debt Crisis**  
 Matthew Lynn

288pp Hb \$37.95



In 2001, Greece saw its application for membership into the Eurozone accepted, and the country sat down to the greatest free lunch in economic history. This title explores Greece's spectacular rise and fall from grace and the global repercussions of its financial disaster.

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

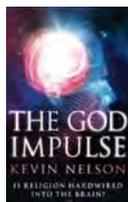
If you are after one of the fine titles from Cambridge University Press, please ask. We stock virtually all titles held by Cambridge in Australia, plus a few more!



**The God Impulse  
Is Religion Hardwired  
into the Brain?**

Kevin Nelson 336pp Tp \$35.00

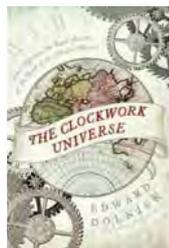
Why do people have near-death experiences? Are there physical explanations for those out-of-body sensations and tunnels of light? And what about moments of spiritual ecstasy? If Buddha had been in an MRI machine and not under the Bodhi tree when he attained enlightenment, what would we have seen on the monitor? Nelson, a neurologist with three decades experience examining the biology behind human spirituality, deconstructs the spiritual self, uncovering its origin in the most primitive areas of our brain. When we feel close to God or sense the presence of departed relatives, we may believe we are standing at the border of this world and the next. The reality is far different: our brain function resembles a Cubist painting by Picasso or Braque, and the experiences we regard as the height of our humanity are in fact produced by primal reflexes. This book takes us on a journey into what Nelson calls the borderlands of consciousness, offering the first comprehensive, empirically-tested, peer-reviewed examination of how we are capable of near-death experience, out-of-body experience and the mystical states produced by hallucinogenic drugs.



**The Clockwork Universe  
Isaac Newton, the Royal Society,  
and the Birth of the Modern World**

Edward Dolnick  
400pp Hb \$43.95

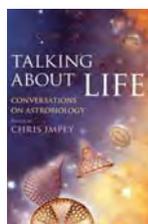
As presented in this pivotal history, the prime movers of the 17th century scientific revolution were men of their time, yet against it. Newton, Leibniz, Galileo and Kepler all lived in a Europe wracked by war, plagues, savage religious conflict and economic upheaval, yet each constructed cosmological theories in which the universe ran with clockwork perfection. As Dolnick (*The Rescue Artist* Pb \$24.95) notes, these seminal deist thinkers believed that God had created flawless mechanisms that they were labouring hard to understand. He places these eccentric, tormented geniuses within the context of their radically tumultuous age.



**Talking About Life  
Conversations  
on Astrobiology**

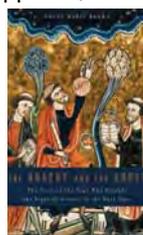
Chris Impey  
418pp Hb \$49.95

With over 500 planets now known to exist beyond the Solar System, spacecraft heading for Mars, and the ongoing search for extraterrestrial intelligence, this timely book explores current ideas about the search for life in the Universe. It contains candid interviews with dozens of astronomers, geologists, biologists and writers about the origin and range of terrestrial life and likely sites for life beyond Earth. The interviewees discuss what we have learnt from the missions to Mars and Titan; the search for Earth clones; the surprising diversity of life on Earth; post-biological evolution; and what contact with intelligent aliens will mean to us.



**The Abacus and the Cross  
The Story of the Pope Who Brought  
the Light of Science to the Dark Ages**  
Nancy Marie Brown 328pp Hb \$43.95

The popular picture of the Dark Ages is wrong. The earth wasn't flat. People weren't terrified that the world would end at the turn of the millennium. Christians did not believe Muslims and Jews were their mortal enemies. The Church was not anti-science. In fact, the Pope of the year 1000, Gerbert of Aurillac, was the leading mathematician and astronomer of his day. Called 'The Scientist Pope' during his lifetime, he rose from peasant beginnings to the pinnacle of the Christian world through his knowledge of science and his love of books. A professor of mathematics at a French cathedral for most of his career, Gerbert was the first Christian to teach math using the nine Arabic numerals and zero. He wrote treatises on acoustics and logic, and tutored kings and emperors. He was a spy, a traitor, a kingmaker and a visionary. Drawing on 25 years of experience as a science writer and medievalist, Brown shows how science was central to the lives of monks, kings and even popes 1,000 years ago. It was the mark of true nobility and the highest form of worship of God.



**Atoms and Eden  
Conversations on Religion  
and Science**

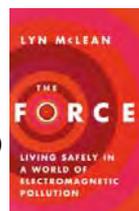
Steve Paulson (Ed) 320pp Tp \$34.95

Here is an unprecedented collection of 20 freewheeling and revealing interviews with major players in the ongoing and increasingly heated debate about the relationship between religion and science. Paulson explores these topics with some of the most prominent public intellectuals of our time, including Richard Dawkins, Karen Armstrong, E O Wilson, Elaine Pagels, Daniel Dennett, Jane Goodall and Paul Davies. The interviewees include Christians, Buddhists, Jews and Muslims, as well as agnostics, atheists and other scholars who hold perspectives that are hard to categorise. Collectively, these engaging dialogues cover the major issues that have often pitted science against religion - from the origins of the universe to debates about God, Darwin, the nature of reality and the limits of human reason.

**The Force  
Living Safely in a World of  
Electromagnetic Pollution**  
Lyn McLEAN

402pp Tp \$35.00

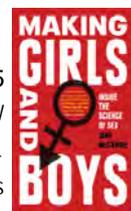
Technology infiltrates our lives so rapidly that few of us stop to consider the potential health implications. Yet could the technology designed to improve our lives actually be making us sick? Scientists have long believed there is a link between health problems and radiation from mobile phones, wireless connections, power lines and electronic devices. Radiation has been linked to issues such as depression, fatigue, miscarriage, childhood leukaemia and even brain tumours. McLean shows us why electro-pollution is among the most important health issues of our time. Examining research from around the world, she explains how and why we are all at risk and offers practical, easy-to-understand advice for homeowners, parents and employees wanting to reduce their exposure at home and in the workplace.



**Making Girls and Boys  
Inside the Science of Sex**  
Jane McCredie

224pp Pb \$34.95

What is it that makes a person a boy or a girl? From our cradles to our graves, a pair of letters, either XX or XY, will define much of our lives. "It's a girl!" or "It's a boy!" will be the first label applied to us, the first thing said about who we are as an individual. Of course, we assume we know what this gender thing is: boys are boys, girls are girls. Sex is fixed, biologically determined, simple. But what if it isn't? As McCredie moves from laboratories to café tables, trying to find out exactly what sex is, the picture becomes much more complicated. Evolutionary psychologists, trans-gendered people, children playing with trucks and dolls, hormone specialists – they all have different stories to tell about what makes us girls and boys. Are we all really just stamped out in blue and pink? Leading us on a remarkable exploration of the ground where biology and culture meet, intertwine and ultimately blur, this book examines the new science which is helping us answer these important questions.



**The Discovery of Jeanne Baret  
A Story of Science, the High Seas,  
and the First Woman to  
Circumnavigate the Globe**  
Glynis Ridley

304pp Tp \$29.99

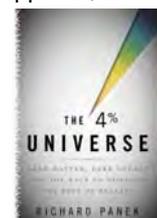
Confronted with the dreary lot of an 18th century woman, Jeanne Baret eschewed a life of servitude to follow her lover and eminent botanist Philibert Commerson on a naturalistic expedition. In 1766, she disguised herself as a teenage boy to gain a place on the first French ship to sail around the world, pursuing her love of botany as Commerson's principal assistant. Amid deceit and suspicion, she travelled the world, surviving for two years on a boat with 115 men. It wasn't long, however, before crew members on the small ship began to suspect her secret. Despite her precarious position, she discovered the showy vine bougainvillea, among some 6,000 other specimens she amassed over the course of her life. Finally leaving the expedition to stay with Commerson on Mauritius and build up the French botanic garden there, she would be separated from her collection on his death, and would have to find her own way back to France. When she next set foot on French soil in 1775, she became the first woman to have sailed around the world.



**The 4% Universe  
Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the  
Race to Discover the Rest of Reality**  
Richard Panek

320pp Hb \$39.95

In the past few years, a handful of scientists have been racing to explain a disturbing aspect of our universe: only 4 percent of it consists of the matter that makes up you, me and every planet, star and galaxy. The rest - 96 percent of the universe - is completely unknown. Panek tells the dramatic story of how scientists reached this cosmos-shattering conclusion and what they're doing to find this dark matter and an even more bizarre substance called dark energy. Our view of the cosmos is profoundly wrong and Copernicus was only the beginning: not just Earth, but all common matter, is a marginal part of existence. Panek's fast-paced narrative, filled with behind-the-scenes details, brings this epic story to life.





## The Humans Who Went Extinct

### Why Neanderthals Died Out and We Survived

Clive Finlayson

288pp Pb \$27.95

Just 28,000 years ago - the blink of an eye in geological time - the last Neanderthals died in caves near Gibraltar. Thanks to cartoons and folk accounts, we have a distorted view of these other humans - for that is what they were. We think of them as crude and clumsy and not very bright, easily driven to extinction by the lithe, smart, modern humans who came out of Africa some 100,000 years ago. But was it really as simple as that? Finlayson reminds us that the Neanderthals were another kind of human, and their culture was not so very different from that of our own ancestors. He presents a wider view of the events that led to the migration of the moderns into Europe, what might have happened during the contact of the two populations, and what finally drove the Neanderthals to extinction. It is a view that considers climate, ecology and migrations of populations, as well as culture and interaction. His conclusion is that the destiny of the Neanderthals and the Moderns was sealed by ecological factors and contingencies. It was a matter of luck that we survived and spread, while the Neanderthals dwindled and perished.

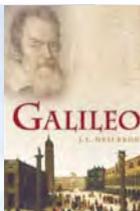


## Galileo

John Heilbron

528pp Hb \$52.95

Galileo is aptly known as 'the father of modern science', but there is much more to him than his well-known discoveries in physics and astronomy, and his infamous clash with the Catholic church. This wonderfully rounded new biography presents a multi-talented, but difficult, man - writer, philosopher, scientist, musician and artist.



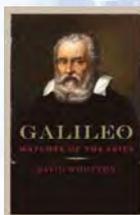
## Galileo

### Watcher of the Skies

David Wootton

354pp Hb \$49.95

Galileo (1564-1642) is one of the most important and controversial figures in the history of science. A hero of modern science and key to its birth, he was also a deeply divided man: a scholar committed to the establishment of scientific truth, yet forced to concede the importance of faith; a brilliant analyst of the elegant mathematical workings of nature, yet bungling and insensitive with his own family. Tackling Galileo as astronomer, engineer and author, this book places him at the centre of Renaissance culture. It traces his early rebellious years; the beginnings of his scientific career constructing a 'new physics'; his move to Florence seeking money, status and greater freedom to attack intellectual orthodoxies; his trial for heresy and narrow escape from torture; and his house arrest and physical (though not intellectual) decline. Central to his significance - and to science more broadly - is the telescope, the potential of which he was first to grasp. Wootton makes clear it totally revolutionised and galvanised scientific endeavour to discover new and previously unimagined facts.



## The Panic Virus

### Fear, Myth and the Vaccination Debate

Seth Mnookin 320pp Tp \$32.95

In 1998, Andrew Wakefield claimed to have found a link between a common childhood vaccine and autism. He based his findings on a case study of just a dozen children, and his methods and conclusions almost immediately came under fire. Rather than appealing to his colleagues, however, he went to the press, who seized on the story of a maverick doctor standing up to the powerful pharmaceuticals industry. Within months, vaccination rates across Europe and America had started to fall, resulting in deaths from diseases previously thought to be disappearing. The panic triggered by Wakefield's study is part of a much bigger story about fear, myth and medicine. Decisions about children's health have always aroused strong passions, but the rise of alternative medicine and the internet have magnified such anxieties. This book takes us inside the anti-vaccination community and the medical establishment. He examines how the anti-vaccination movement spread, and looks at a controversial Australian case that exposed the claims and tactics of the movement to new scrutiny. This is an extraordinary and gripping feat of research and reporting.

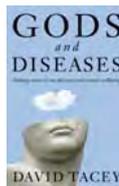


## Gods and Diseases

### Making Sense of Our Physical and Mental Wellbeing

David Tacey 256pp Tp \$35.00

There are many problems in today's society that cannot be resolved by the application of reason, logic or medical science. These include child abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction and suicide. Numerous mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and phobias are rising dramatically and there seems to be no solution in sight. Tacey argues that the solution lies in breaking free from the confines of modern medicine. Instead we must turn to spirituality and to what Tacey calls 'meaning-making' - to make sense of our physical and mental wellbeing.



## The Emperor of All Maladies

Siddhartha Mukherjee 400pp Tp \$35.00

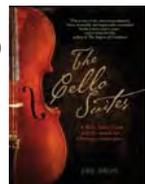
Mukherjee - doctor, researcher and award-winning science writer - examines cancer with a cellular biologist's precision, a historian's perspective and a biographer's passion. The result is a lucid and eloquent chronicle of a disease that humans have lived with - and perished from - for more than 5,000 years. The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience and perseverance, but also of hubris, arrogance and misperception, all leveraged against a disease that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out 'war against cancer'. Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories and deaths, told through the eyes of predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary. From the Persian Queen Atossa, whose Greek slave cut off her malignant breast, to the 19th century recipient of primitive radiation and chemotherapy, and Mukherjee's own leukemia patient, Carla, this book is about the people who have soldiered through toxic, bruising and draining regimes to survive and to increase the store of human knowledge.



## The Cello Suites

Eric Siblin 336pp Pb \$23.99

One autumn evening, not long after ending a stint as a rock music critic, Siblin attended a recital of Johann Sebastian Bach's Cello Suites. There, in a spine-tingling moment, something unlikely happened: he fell deeply in love with the music, and had to hear more, know more. So began an epic quest that would unravel three centuries of mystery, intrigue, history, politics and passion. His quest takes him to the back streets of Barcelona, a Belgian mansion and a bombed-out German palace; to interviews with cellists Mischa Maisky, Anner Bylisma and Pieter Wispelwey; to archives, festivals, conferences and cemeteries; even to cello lessons - all in pursuit of uncovering the mysteries that continue to haunt this music more than 250 years after the composer's death.



## Listen to This

Alex Ross 400pp Tp \$35.00

Ross, the music critic for *The New Yorker*, looks both backward and forward in time, capturing essential figures and ideas in classical-music history, as well as giving an alternative view of recent pop music that emphasises the power of the individual musical voice in whatever genre. His international bestseller, *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century* (Pb \$35), has become a contemporary classic. After relating his first encounter with classical music, he vibrantly sketches canonical composers such as Schubert, Verdi and Brahms; gives us in-depth interviews with modern pop masters such as Bjork and Radiohead; and introduces us to music students and indie-rock hipsters in Beijing. In his essay *Chacona, Lamento, Walking Blues*, he brilliantly retells hundreds of years of music history - from Renaissance dance to Led Zeppelin - through a few iconic bass lines of celebration and lament. Whether his subject is Mozart or Bob Dylan, Ross writes in a style at once erudite and lively, showing how music expresses the full complexity of the human condition. He explains how pop music can achieve the status of high art and how classical music can become a vital part of the wider contemporary culture.



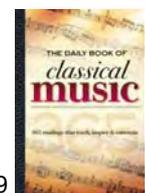
## The Daily Book of Classical Music

### 365 Readings that Teach, Inspire and Entertain

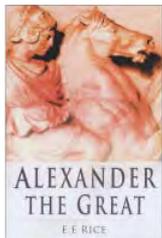
Leslie Chew et al

376pp Hb \$34.99

Music lovers of all ages are drawn to the pure melodies of classical music. Now aficionados of this timeless genre can learn something about classical music every day of the year, with everything from brief biographies of favourite composers to summaries of the most revered operas. Interesting facts about the world's most celebrated songs and discussions of 'classical music meets pop culture' make this book as fun as it is informative. 10 categories of discussion rotate throughout the year: Classical Music Periods, Compositional Forms, Great Composers, Celebrated Works, Basic Instruments, Famous Operas, Music Theory, Venues of the World, Museums & Festivals and Pop Culture Medley.

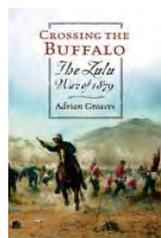


# FEBRUARY SPECIALS while stocks last



**Alexander the Great**  
E E Rice

Pb ~~\$19.99~~  
**\$9.95**



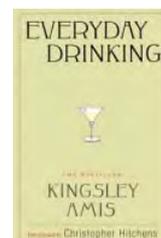
**Crossing the Buffalo**  
The Zulu War of 1879  
Adrian Greaves

Hb ~~\$75.00~~  
**\$25.00**



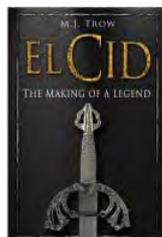
**Drinking for England**  
The Great English Drinkers and Their Times  
Fergus Lianne

Hb ~~\$59.95~~  
**\$20.00**



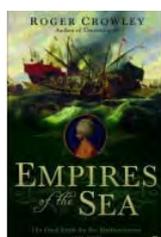
**Everyday Drinking**  
The Distilled  
Kingsley Amis

Hb ~~\$35.00~~  
**\$14.95**



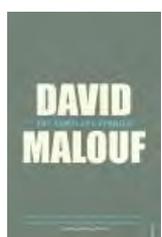
**El Cid**  
The Making of a Legend  
M J Trow

Hb ~~\$59.95~~  
**\$20.00**



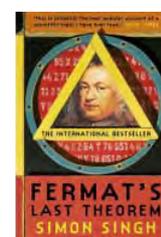
**Empires of the Sea**  
The Final Battle for the Mediterranean 1521-1580  
Roger Crowley

Hb ~~\$59.95~~  
**\$20.00**



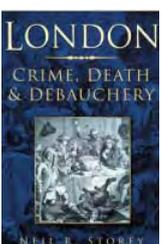
**David Malouf**  
The Complete Stories

Hb ~~\$45.00~~  
**\$14.95**



**Fermat's Last Theorem**  
Simon Singh

Pb ~~\$24.95~~  
**\$12.95**



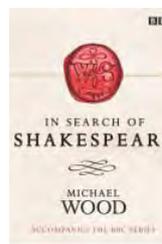
**London**  
Crime, Death and Debauchery  
Neil Storey

Pb ~~\$39.95~~  
**\$18.95**



**Musicophilia**  
Tales of Music and the Brain  
Oliver Sacks

Hb ~~\$20.00~~  
**\$20.00**



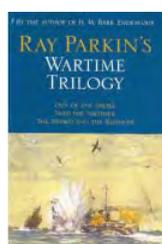
**In Search of Shakespeare**  
Michael Wood

Hb ~~\$59.95~~  
**\$20.00**



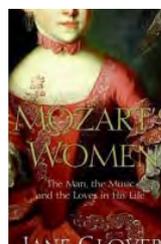
**Great Victorian Lives**  
An Era in Obituaries  
Ian Brunskill

Pb ~~\$53.99~~  
**\$20.00**



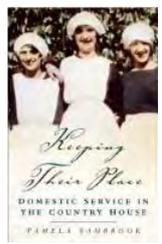
**Ray Parkin's Wartime Trilogy**  
Out of the Smoke/  
Into the Smother/  
The Sword and the Blossom

Pb ~~\$59.95~~  
**\$18.95**



**Mozart's Women**  
His Family, His Friends, His Music  
Jane Glover

Hb ~~\$20.00~~  
**\$20.00**



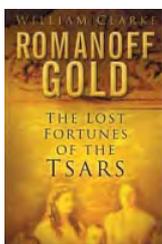
**Keeping Their Place**  
Domestic Service in the Country House  
Pamela Sambrook

Pb ~~\$29.99~~  
**\$14.95**



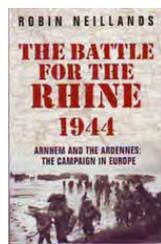
**Life in Ancient Rome**  
People and Places  
Nigel Rodgers

Hb ~~\$20.00~~  
**\$20.00**



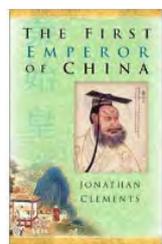
**Romanoff Gold**  
The Lost Fortunes of the Tsars  
William Clarke

Pb ~~\$19.95~~  
**\$9.95**



**The Battle for the Rhine 1944**  
Arnhem and the Ardennes - The Campaign in Europe  
Robin Neillands

Pb ~~\$12.95~~  
**\$12.95**



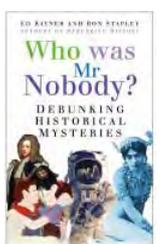
**The First Emperor of China**  
Jonathan Clements

Pb ~~\$19.95~~  
**\$9.95**



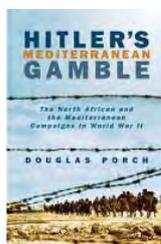
**Stanley**  
The Impossible Life of Africa's Greatest Explorer  
Tim Jeal

Pb ~~\$24.95~~  
**\$12.95**



**Who Was Mr Nobody?**  
Debunking Historical Mysteries  
Ed Rayner & Ron Stapley

Hb ~~\$39.95~~  
**\$18.95**



**Hitler's Mediterranean Gamble**  
The North African and Mediterranean Campaigns in World War II  
Douglas Porch

Pb ~~\$49.99~~  
**\$20.00**



**The Secret Pulse of Time**  
Making Sense of Life's Scarcest Commodity  
Stefan Klein

Pb ~~\$30.00~~  
**\$14.95**

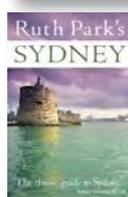
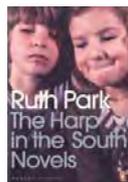


**Red Baron**  
The Life and Death of an Ace  
Peter Kilduff

Hb ~~\$39.99~~  
**\$18.95**



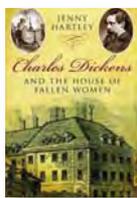
Spare a moment to give acknowledgement to a great Australian writer, Ruth Park, who died aged 93 in December last year. Many of her books are Australian classics and I personally remember her as the author of the first books I read which were set in our own country. As a teenager I loved **Harp in the South** and its sequel **Poor Man's Orange**. (Do people still call that marmalade orange 'Poor Man's Orange' I wonder?) Both **Harp in the South** and **Playing Beatie Bow** were chosen as Penguin 75th anniversary classics (\$9.95 each) or you can buy **The Harp in the South Novels (Harp in the South, Poor Man's Orange and Missus \$29.95 Pb 732pp)**. **Playing Beatie Bow** is the story of a little girl who time-travels in Sydney's Rocks area in the 19th century (\$16.95 Pb 208pp). The story of a girl just approaching maturity, **Callie** (\$16.99 Pb 230pp) is illustrated by one of Ruth Park's daughters, Kilmenny Niland. Her two autobiographies, **A Fence Around the Cuckoo** and **Fishing in the Styx**, are wonderful books, although unfortunately now out of print. I feel sure they will be reissued soon, but meanwhile look in your library. The endearing **Muddleheaded Wombat** (\$39.99 Hb 352pp) has recently been reissued. Ruth Park and her husband Darcy Niland were dedicated writers - true professionals. Her best gift to Sydney is the recently updated **Ruth Park's Sydney** (\$22 Pb), the best guide to Sydney you'll ever find.



Professor Michael Samuels also died in December. He was one of the originators of **The Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary**, which contains 800,000 meanings in 4,000 pages in two volumes, and took over 40 years to produce. According to David Crystal, this is "at once awe-inspiring, humbling, motivating, moving. It actually made me gasp with amazement - and I mean out loud - several times, and I can't recall lexicology doing that to me before!" Still available at the introductory price of \$550 (\$45 off the normal price).



I found an interesting little book in British History called **Charles Dickens and the House of Fallen Women** (\$44.95 Hb, \$24.95 Pb 287pp incl index) by Professor Jenny Hartley from Roehampton University. Between 1846 and 1858, when Dickens was at the height of his fame, he threw himself into a new project to rescue young women from the streets or the courts. This was Urania Cottage in Shepherd's Bush. Heiress Angela Burdett Coutts provided the cash and Dickens oversaw the expenditure and every detail, including choosing the young women and the staff of the cottage. His idea was not only to 'rescue' them, but they also had to agree to emigrate - he had to make sure they understood the difference between emigration and transportation! His interest waned in 1858, about the time he began his affair with the young actress Nellie Ternan, but it is guessed that about one hundred young women voyaged to Australia, New Zealand or South Africa under this scheme. The author has tried to trace descendants, through the female line, with some success. She does mention sceptical views about the intensity of Dickens' interest and often suggests passages from his books which show his more than usual knowledge of the streets and the women, especially in **Little Dorritt** (Pb \$16.95). A good story previously overlooked. I remind you again of Claire Tomalin's **Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens** (\$26.95 Pb 376pp), another good story previously deliberately overlooked.



One of our bestsellers over Christmas was **Chocolate Wars: From Cadbury to Kraft: 200 Years of Sweet Success and Bitter Rivalries** (\$35 Pb 340pp incl index). I've just finished this and enjoyed it immensely. The author, Deborah Cadbury, is a distant relative and has enlarged her scope to include not only the other Quaker chocolate manufacturers such as Fry and Rowntree, but also the French and Swiss chocolatiers, and American rivals such as Hershey and Mars. You would be surprised what went into the early chocolate mixtures and you will be amazed to see how very well the workers at the Cadbury factory were treated. Cadbury began in the

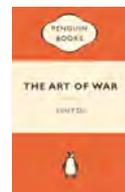


early 19th century and the enormously successful global company was taken over by Kraft in an unnecessarily hostile takeover at the beginning of 2010 in one of the largest business deals in British history. Questions were asked in Parliament and letters to the paper raged. Cadbury was more than just a business. It stood for all those past pioneering, altruistic businessmen. It is interesting that not only the Quaker families, but also the American chocolate families, all set up Foundations to benefit their workers and their communities.

I read two very different crime novels over the holidays. One was Historical Crime - **The Holy Thief** by Ellis Peters (\$24.99 Pb 274pp) featuring Brother Cadfael. This was number nineteen in the series, which is noted for accuracy in background details. For instance, did you know that in the late 12th century there were slaves in England? The slow and steady pace of Brother Cadfael did not prepare me for the staccato complexities of Kate Atkinson's **Started Early, Took My Dog** (\$32.95 Pb 350pp), a current bestseller getting rave reviews. I had to take a deep breath and start again! Three interlocking stories are set in Leeds, beginning in 1975 and finishing in recent times. This is part Police Procedural and part School of Hard Knocks. There is a difference in the crime novels written by authors who are better known for their non-crime fiction - for example, I also think of Susan Hill - as they manage to include a great deal more personal and social detail. Some readers will enjoy this, while others just want the crime and the solution!



Did you happen to see some of the gifts presented to various Defence Department officials? The best one was from the Chinese Ambassador, who sent a nice copy of Sun Tzu's famous treatise **The Art of War**. Abbey's stocks several editions of this, from the nice little orange replica Penguin (\$9.95 Pb 100pp), to another which calls it the most influential book of strategy in the world (Pb \$19.95), to **The Art of War: New Illustrated Edition** translated by Samuel Griffith which has a shiny red linen cover with gold symbols and a black bookmark (Hb \$49.99), also containing a long introduction, biography and notes. I like the blurb on the orange Penguin: "Offering ancient wisdom on how to use skill, cunning, tactics and discipline to outwit your opponent, this bestselling 2,000-year-old military manual is still worshipped by soldiers on the battlefield and managers in the boardroom as the ultimate guide to winning." Not to be confused with one of our January Specials, **The Art of War: Great Commanders of the Ancient and Medieval World 1500BC-AD1600** (Hb 432pp), an excellent reference illustrated in full-colour, now down from \$65 to only \$40.



We always carry the classic **Doctor Zhivago** by Boris Pasternak (\$12.95 Pb), however there is a new translation (\$49.95 Hb 513pp) by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, who translated both **War and Peace** and **Anna Karenina**. This edition contains Pasternak's poems (or are they Zhivago's?) and with a shiny, snow crystal cover, it would make a very nice present for someone about to see the new **Doctor Zhivago** musical soon to open in Sydney. As the novel was first published in 1957, there are also many younger people who have never read it.

Thinking of new shows, a new film version of **True Grit** by Charles Portis (\$22.99 Pb 215pp) is on my list. Who can ever forget John Wayne in the classic western charging across the valley like a jousting knight with both rifles firing? I've now reread the book with much delight. I do hope the film casting of Mattie is okay. Her voice and attitude steal the book. Son Alan, now our Managing Director, gave it to his sister Jane for Christmas in memory of the many great film outings we had in the seventies, when we didn't have television at home - we only hired it in the holidays!

Did you know there are societies devoted to various writers? There is the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Kipling Society of Australia, the D H Lawrence Society of Australia, the Byron Society in Australia, the Anthony Trollope Group of Australia, the Australian Bronte Association, the Sydney Passengers (the Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia), the NSW Dickens Society and the Jane Austen Society of Sydney. They have their own websites and contacts, but have formed a loose association called Literary Societies of Sydney where you can find all their information in one place. Go to [www.litsocsyd.net](http://www.litsocsyd.net) and follow on. Have fun!

Eve

# ABBEY'S BESTSELLERS - JANUARY 2011

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- Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean** by Philip Mansel (Hb \$59.99)
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## FICTION

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- To the End of the Land** by David Grossman (Tp \$35.00)
- Hand Me Down World** by Lloyd Jones (Tp \$32.95)

**Editor:** Ann Leahy

**Contributors:** Eve Abbey, Lindy Jones & Ann Leahy

### Binding Key

- Pb Paperback
- Tp Trade paperback (slightly larger than Pb)
- Hb Hardback

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**The Legacy** by Kirsten Tranter \$24.99  
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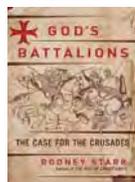
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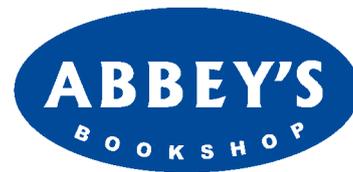
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