The Howard Years
Robert MANNE (editor)
Since 1996, we have seen Pauline Hanson rise and fall and Reconciliation fade away. We have paid the GST and voted down the Republic. We have seen border protection win an election and the War on Terror hijack the political agenda. And all the while our natural environment, our sense of community, our universities and our relationships with the rest of the world have been transformed in ways that will affect the nation for years to come. In a series of engaging and accessible essays by some of our leading thinkers, this book critically assesses how the government has performed on key issues and tracks its larger influence on Australian society.

Boyer Lectures 2003
Benign or Imperial?
Owen HARRIES 138pp Pb $22.95
This is a collection of essays on an international theme, with special focus on US foreign policy, drawn from the 2003 ABC Boyer Lectures. For over 40 years, the Boyer Lectures have been a repository of the thinking and ideas of their time. Lecturers have come from all fields: historians, economists, philosophers and social commentators. This year the essays have come from Owen Harries, a leading political and economic thinker, who has resided in the US for 20 years. They examine international political and economic policies, with special focus on US foreign policy. There are several additional essays that extend and support the material drawn from the lectures.

Cape Grimm
Carmel BIRD 302pp Tp $29.95
Paul Van Loon is the protagonist of Bird’s compelling novel. His name alone signifies the chilling and bewitching tales he will tell. This is a novel that links the strange transgressions of the 19th century with the disturbing attributes of the quasi-religious present. When Caleb Mean is born, his grandmother has a vision that he is the Chosen One - chosen to incinerate his entire community in a church hall? Like the messages about breakaway communities in America’s deep south, Bird brings a mischievous nuance to the strange, tribal communities of our very own deeply southern state of Tasmania. Bird has a majestic feel for the intense social pressures of degenerating European civilisations and what they have brought to bear on new communities transplanted on old land. This book takes Australian literature into the 21st century without all the whimpering. Shelley

Palgrave Macmillan Month
Palgrave Macmillan has the best selection of topical titles! See if you agree. Just buy any Palgrave Macmillan or Routledge title this month and go in the draw to win your selection of their titles to the value of $300.
Never Surrender
Michael DOBBS
Winston Churchill embarks on a battle of wills with Adolf Hitler in the run-up to Dunkirk in this compelling new historical novel from the acclaimed author of *Winston’s War* (Pb $19.95). 10 May 1940 - in the early hours, Hitler launches his attack on France, Holland and Belgium. The Phoney War is at an end. In four weeks, Hitler will win the most devastating series of victories in the history of modern warfare, making him master of Europe. A few hours after Hitler’s attack begins, Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of a beleaguered, confused and disparate Britain. He is surrounded by intrigue and mistrusted by his colleagues, who within days will plot to throw him out of office. He is also about to suffer the most humiliating military setback at Dunkirk, bringing Britain within hours of defeat and surrender. This is the story of those four crucial weeks in which Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler were pitted against each other, man to man, mind to mind, in a confrontation that they both came to regard as a personal battle of wills.

Ascension
Steven GALLOWAY
New York, 1976. 66-year-old Salvo Ursari stands 400 metres above the earth, suspended on a wire strung between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. He has promised his wife Anna this will be his final walk on the wire. So begins Galloway’s epic tale of one man’s life and abiding passion.

Train
Pete DEXTER
Lionel Walk, better known as Train, is a young black caddy at an elite Los Angeles golf course, where he comes to know a detective he calls ‘The Mile-Away Man’. Norah Still is unwillingly at the centre of a criminal investigation, as the only survivor of an attempted boat hijacking gone violently wrong. Sergeant Miller Packer - Train’s ‘Mile-Away Man’ - is in charge of the case and he finds himself drawn to the beautiful widow. Miller’s interest in Norah and Train soon moves beyond his professional obligations. He tries to shield Norah from the events on the boat, fighting her need to hold on to the past and becomes a kind of manager as Train competes as a golfer on a lucrative underground gambling circuit. Miller’s odd personal concern binds the three of them together in an uneasy triangle. Dexter’s remarkable new novel brings to life the most violent and tender impulses of his characters as they struggle to come to terms with the difference between a gift and a passion, between their abilities and their desires.

The Maze
Panos KARNEZIS
Set in Anatolia in 1922, this is the story of a retreating Greek brigade that has lost its way. It is pursued by a Turkish army seeking to avenge three years of Greek occupation, but no help is forthcoming. Commanded by a brigadier with a passion for Greek mythology and an addiction to morphia, the brigade’s only chance of salvation is to reach the Mediterranean coast and sail home. As the army wanders through the desert, their internal divisions become more pronounced and their dementias more florid. Eventually they reach a small town, until now untouched by the war, which is run by a simple-minded mayor and is peopled by a gallery of wonderfully strange characters. When the soldiers leave at last, a tragedy has taken place and the town has changed forever.

The Well of Lost Plots
Jasper FFORDE
Something is rotten in the state of ‘Jurisfiction’. Perkins is ‘accidently’ eaten by the minotaur and Snell succumbs to the ‘Mispeling Vyrus’. Thursday Next, literary detective and soon-to-be single parent, must keep her wits about her and discover what is going on. Leaving Swindon behind her to hide out in the ‘Well of Lost Plots’ (the place where all fiction is created), Thursday Next ponder the recent strange goings-on from within an unpublished book of dubious merit entitled *Caversham Heights*. Along the way, we encounter the cast of *Wuthering Heights* in a rage control session and we meet up with Mr Rochester again and many other lovely literary figures.

Drinking Coffee Elsewhere
Z Z PACKER
In her debut, Packer dazzles with her command of language, surprising and delighting us with unexpected turns and indelible images as she takes us into the lives of characters on the periphery, unsure of where they belong. The title story describes a Yale freshman’s last-ditch attempt to understand his loser father on a trip to the Million Man March in Washington DC. Teeming with life, this is a collection that explores what it is to be human. Never neatly resolved, these provocative and unforgettable stories resonate with honesty and wry humour and introduce us to a major new talent.

Wonderful
Andrew HUMPHREYS
Siggy the Wonder Chimp certainly is. In the motion picture industry of Hollywood in the 1930s, Siggy is a genuine star with more talent, charisma and personality than most of his human counterparts. He also likes to smoke cigars and drink too much - a trait he learnt from his human companion, Jozsef Kiss. Flashbacks reveal Jossel’s dark and sad past, explaining why his only true friend is a chimp; but Siggy is much an opportunity to discover himself as it is simply to get away from the confining expectations of her mother. Unsurprisingly, she falls in love with someone wholly unsuitable. Blake is of mixed race and his father was executed during her father’s tenure as governor of Pennsylvania. This does not bode well for future happiness and in truth what follows is bleeding-heart liberal schmaltz of such awfulness that it took me four attempts to finish the wretched book, with not a single surprise or engaged feeling - other than weary horror - before delightedly closing the pages forever. Avoid! Cara

www.abbeys.com.au
Shakespearean Afterlives
Ten Characters with a Life of their Own
John O’CONNOR 304pp Hb $39.95
Ben Jonson’s famous observation that Shakespeare was “not of an age, but for all time” has proved to be spectacularly true. From art to advertising, psychology to politics, opera to cinema, Shakespeare’s stories and characters have found an enduring place in our consciousness, enjoying ‘afterlives’ as rich and varied as their original incarnations in the playhouse. This is a cultural biography of Shakespeare’s most famous characters. From Shylock to the Shrew, Richard the Third to Romeo, it charts the many and various existences that these characters have led outside the pages of the First Folio. Each chapter offers an original perspective on a well-known character, examining their role in the play, their history in performance and their intriguingly kaleidoscopic life in the popular consciousness. Episodes from the character’s performance history show how audience perceptions have changed through the centuries, and a broader perspective reveals the new and often unlikely afterlives that the character has enjoyed in a wide variety of cultural fields. Featuring interviews with experienced actors and directors, this book is for the great variety of readers who enjoy their Shakespeare and are intrigued by the seemingly endless capacity of his characters for reinvention and reincarnation.

Byron
Life and Legend
Fiona MacCARTHY 674pp Pb $29.95
This is a breakthrough in reinterpreting Byron’s life and poetry for a new generation, showing him as a formative figure in European romanticism, or as Byron described himself, ‘the Napoleon of Rhyme’. MacCarthy brings a fresh eye to Byron’s short but brilliant life, from his embattled relations with his mother, his early travels in the Mediterranean and the East, his relationships with adolescent boys, to the tragi-comedy of his marriage, his incestuous love for his half-sister and the clamorous attention of his female fans.

Persia in the Great Game
Sir Percy Sykes - Explorer, Consul, Soldier, Spy
Antony WYNN 368pp Pb $27.95
Wynn tells the story of Sir Percy Sykes (Persian Percy) and his unique role in preserving British interests in Persia between the 1890s and WW1. Sykes was sent to Persia by Army Intelligence, first as an explorer and spy, then to open consulates along Persia’s eastern borders. His job was to deter Russian expansion towards India. Unpaid, he rode through thousands of miles of the harshest desert, marsh and mountain, often with his indomitable sister. When consul at Meshed during a very turbulent time, he barged the Russian consulate and, armed only with diplomacy, single-handedly faced down a Russian attempt to annex north-east Persia. During the war, Wassmuss - the German Lawrence – incited the southern tribes of Persia against the British. Sykes, who knew everyone that mattered in Persia, was sent out to raise a regiment of local villagers to keep Persian oil safe for the Royal Navy. He hunted gazelle with princes, read Persian poetry, sat at the feet of dervish masters and got to the heart of the country. His 25 years in Persia, laced with humour and domestic detail, give an insight into Persia that is still instructive in the 21st century.

Jung
Diedre BAIR 881pp Hb $69.95
“Never before has there been such a detailed and meticulously well researched biography of C G Jung. The author is to be congratulated for the wealth of hitherto unknown details she has been able to unearth - due, in part, to having been granted extensive access to personal materials still guarded by Jung’s heirs. But also an amazing number of different sources have been discovered and consulted. In a balanced way Bair presents ‘Jung, warts and all’ by spreading out before the reader all the material currently available. For years to come this will remain THE definitive biography of Jung. THE indispensable reference work for professionals and lay persons alike!”
- Gottfried Heuer, Jungian Psychoanalyst

The Ballad of Cauldron Bay
Elizabeth HONEY 291pp Pb $15.95
Henni from Stella Street is back! More accurately, she’s off on holiday to a remote destination on the coast, along with various people from the neighbourhood. It’s perfect, until Tara of the perfect hair and sophisticated ways is invited to stay as well. Turning 13 doesn’t look like much fun for Henni, but with the help of her friends she learns to accept that change is inevitable and not as awful as it first seems. Entertaining, with serious bits - an excellent read for ages 10-13.

Black Juice
Margo LANAGAN Pb $17.95
A boy and his family feast and party to keep his condemned sister company as she sinks into a tar pit; an impetuous girl finally achieves her ambition in following an archaic ceremony when she becomes a Bride; an outcast saves the boy she loves from her own fate only to condemn herself to otherness; a man battles the elements in a slightly different context of the cliché. These stories and more complete this strangely beautiful collection, where the worlds are not ours, but not so different. Haunting, imaginative tales for ages 13+.

Everything I Know About Pirates
Tom LICHTENHELD 32pp Pb $12.95
Labelled a collection of made-up facts, educated guesses and silly pictures about bad guys of the high seas, this is also FUN! For instance, did you know pirates go in for fashion accessories which make a visual statement because their verbal communication consists of grunts and belches? Or that some pirates refuse to use a map and wander aimlessly around the ocean refusing to ask directions, and were usually Dad pirates? Silly yes, entertaining yes, lads and lasses 7-10 yes!

Kingfisher Epics
The Iliad
Retold by Nick McCartY 173pp Pb $14.95
The Odyssey
Retold by Robin LISTER 173pp Pb $14.95
Fine retellings of Homer’s immortal stories aimed at ages 12+, these tales of interfering gods, brave warriors, bloody battles and fated wanderings are faithful to the traditional versions, but more accessible than the drier academic ones. Black and white illustrations are sprinkled throughout the texts, adding to the effect without being childish. Highly recommended.

Rose Blanche
Roberto INNOCENTI & Ian McEWAN 30pp Pb $18.95
This is the first time this classic book has been available in paperback. It is the poignant story of a little German girl during WWII who is not told what is happening but learns for herself. Detailed illustrations tell as much as the text. An excellent teaching aid, hidden in a moving but non-sentimental picture book.
History

Swords Against the Senate
The Rise of the Roman Army and the Fall of the Republic
Erik HILDINGER 256pp Pb $36.00
In the first century BC, Rome was the ruler of a vast empire. Yet at the heart of the Republic was a fatal flaw - a dangerous hostility between the aristocracy and the plebeians - each regarding itself as the foundation of Rome’s military power. Turning from their foreign enemies, Romans would soon be fighting Romans. This text describes the first three decades of Rome’s century-long civil war - a war that transformed it from a republic to an imperial autocracy, from the Rome of citizen leaders to the Rome of decadent emperor thugs. As the republic came apart amid turmoil, Gaius Marius, the ‘people’s general’, rose to despotic power only to be replaced by the brutal dictator Sulla. The Roman army, once invincible against foreign antagonists, became a tool for the powerful, and the Roman Senate its foe.

Storming the Heavens
Soldiers Emperors and Civilians in the Roman Empire
Antonio SANTOSUOSSO 280pp Tp $40.00
In the third century BC, the world watched as the Roman armies maintained clear superiority over all they surveyed, but social turmoil prevailed at Rome’s heart. What changed most radically was the behaviour of soldiers in the Roman armies. The troops became the enemies within, their pillage and slaughter of fellow citizens indiscriminate, their loyalty not to the Republic but to their leaders, as long as they were ample providers of booty. This became a drain on the power of the Empire. Other topics are discussed such as the monopoly of military power in the hands of a few, the connection between the armed forces and the cherished values of the state, the dehumanisation of subject peoples, whether they be Gauls, Britons, Germans, Africans, or even the Romans themselves.

1603
The Death of Elizabeth and the Birth of the Stuart Era
Christopher LEE 371pp $24.95
A great step-change in British history took place in 1603: the year that Elizabeth I died and the monarchy passed from the Tudors to the Stuarts, from the house of Henry VIII to James VI of Scotland, who ruled as James I of England. It was also the year the Black Death returned, killing some 30,000 out of a population of only 4 million. This is the story of both the history-makers - Elizabeth, James, Robert Cecil, Shakespeare, Galileo - and of the common people; of turmoil in the Church, state-sponsored piracy and the establishment of new trade routes.

The Rise of the Indian Rope Trick
The Biography of a Legend
Peter LAMONT 264pp Hb $39.95
We assume that the Indian rope trick is a piece of ancient Hindu magic. But think again; it is actually the product of a hoax, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune in 1890. This wonderfully researched, playfully written book takes us on a journey through Victorian society where we discover the interest in the magic of Charles Dickens, Alfred Russell Wallace, Lord Northbrook and Charles Darwin. We learn how in an age of reason the British came to love all things Oriental and how the legend of the rope trick came to be perpetuated throughout the 20th century - as fanciful public figures and aristocrats went to India in search of it - and returned claiming to have seen it being performed. Set against the background of Victorian society, this charming book shows how the writing of history itself can perpetuate myths and legends.

Air Power
Stephen BUDIANSKY 518pp Hb $59.95

Battle of Wits
Stephen BUDIANSKY 518pp Hb $59.95

The Lost Tribes of Israel
The History of a Myth
Tudor PARFITT 240pp Pb $24.95

The New Battle Over Shielding America from Missile Attack
Bradley GRAHAM 445pp Pb $32.00

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Hit to Kill
The New Battle Over Shielding America from Missile Attack
Bradley GRAHAM 445pp Pb $32.00

Masters of War
Latin America and US Aggression from the Cuban Revolution through to the Clinton Years
Clara NIETRO 623pp Pb $52.00

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Ph (02) 9264 3111 Fax (02) 9264 8993
The Sorrows of Empire
How the American People Lost
Chalmers JOHNSON

In Blowback (Pb $23.00), Chalmers Johnson, one of the most distinguished US historians of the Far East and a former consultant to the CIA, predicted events such as September 11 a year before they took place. In this successor volume, he continues the story, deepening his analysis of the American Empire, critically examining its history and forecasting its likely future. He scrutinises the policies, past and present, that have led to American imperialism and the massive defence spending and overseas military deployment that necessarily accompany it. He suggests that the US could suffer the same “overstretch” that led to the demise of the Soviet Union. Elloquent and impassioned, this is a sombre and cogent analysis, written with an authority that is impossible to ignore. due March

The Ordinary Person’s Guide to Empire
Arundhati ROY

In this collection of speeches and essays, Arundhati Roy writes about the subjects dearest to her heart, subjects of interest to anyone interested in democracy, global justice and in the direction certain powerful agencies beyond our control are taking the world. Focusing largely on that intense period leading up to and beyond the attack on Iraq, Roy systematically deconstructs the US government’s argument for going to war. She exposes the gaping errors in their theses, the hypocrisy and false ideology behind the rhetoric that led to 42% of the American public believing that Saddam Hussein was directly responsible for the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre, and that a bombed, besieged and starved country such as Iraq was a direct threat to the safety of the mighty USA.

The Battle for Asia
From Decolonisation to Globalisation
Mark BERGER

Asia has long been an ideological battleground between capitalism and communism, between nationalism and Westernisation, and between the nation-state and globalisation. This book is a history of the Asian region from 1945 to the present day which delineates the various ideological battles over Asia’s development. Subjects covered include: theories of development, decolonisation, US political and economic intervention, the effects of communism, the end of the Cold War, the rise of neo-liberalism, Asia after the crisis and Asia in the era of globalisation. Broad in sweep and rich in theory and empirical detail, this is an essential account of the growth of the ‘Asian miracle’ and its turbulent position in the global economy of the 21st century.

Man of the Century
Winston Churchill and his Legend Since 1945
John RAMSDEN

This portrait of Churchill after WWII examines the development of his fame and the construction of his posthumous reputation. It discusses how Churchill’s personality, attitudes and vision of himself have affected Britain’s own political perception of themselves as a nation and argues that his romantic, imperial notion of Britain has contributed directly to many of the political debates of contemporary times – particularly attitudes in Europe. Rather than a dry political analysis, this title is a biographical study of the man who found himself described as the prized possession of the whole world, as well as a study of the whole Churchill phenomenon.
The Moons of Jupiter (240pp Hb $65.95) by Kristin Leutwyler is a spectacular visual tour of Jupiter's Galilean satellites. It draws on the treasure trove of images from the Galileo spacecraft, as well as those from the Voyager and Cassini missions and the Hubble Space Telescope.

Theoretical Concepts in Physics, 2nd Edition (400pp Pb $89.95) by Malcolm Longair is a highly original and truly novel approach to theoretical reasoning in physics. It is intended to be a supplement to the final years of an undergraduate course in physics and assumes that the reader has some grasp of university physics. Some of its case studies include the origins of Newton's law of gravitation, Maxwell's equations, special and general relativity and cosmology.

The Compact NASA Atlas of the Solar System (408pp Hb $125.00) is the ideal reference work to help you follow the progress of the Martian rovers, the Cassini spacecraft when it reaches Saturn and the Messenger mission to Mercury. It has a superb collection of maps of the planets and moons of the Solar System.

Cambridge University's Lucasian professorship of mathematics is one of the most celebrated academic positions in the world, having been held by, amongst others, Isaac Newton, Paul Dirac and, currently, Stephen Hawking. The history of the men who have held this position is told in From Newton to Hawking (486pp Hb $99.00) edited by Kevin Knox and Richard Noakes.

Cosmic Company (161pp Hb $49.95) by Seth Shostak and Alex Barnett is a well-illustrated and accessible look at the existence of life beyond our planet. It highlights current and future space missions and research that is aiming to answer some of the greatest questions mankind has ever asked. New in paperback is the ground-breaking and controversial Rare Earth: Why Complex Life is Uncommon in the Universe (335pp $34.95) by Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee.

Two books on the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia have just been published. Comm Check (366pp Hb $56.00) is by two highly respected space journalists, Michael Cabbage and William Harwood. Using dozens of exclusive interviews and unpublished documents, they provide a rare glimpse into NASA's inner circles, chronicling the agency's most devastating failure and the challenges that face NASA as it struggles to return America to space. The Columbia Accident Investigation Report (261pp Pb $49.95) edited by Robert Godwin has the full text of the report, as well as a CD-ROM containing video from the STS-107 mission, plus more than 700 pages of additional material.

Paul Nahin's When Least is Best (363pp Hb $62.00) looks at how life often works at the extremes - with values becoming as small (or as large) as possible - and how mathematicians over the centuries have struggled to calculate these values of maxima and minima. Written in a conversational tone and requiring only an early undergraduate level of mathematical knowledge, it is full of fascinating examples and ready-to-try-at-home experiments.

State of the World 2004
Progress Towards a Sustainable Society
THE WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE (21st edition) 246pp Pb $39.95

The Worldwatch Institute's award-winning research team focuses on consumption, pointing to the many ways in which our consumption habits drive ecological and social deterioration, as well as how these habits can be redirected to reinforce environmental and social goals. As always, this book provides government officials, journalists, professors, students and concerned citizens with a comprehensive analysis of the global environmental problems we face along with detailed descriptions of practical, innovative solutions - like charting the most environmentally sound path to a hydrogen-fuelled economy, or accelerating the rapidly growing conversion of farmers worldwide to organic farming and sustainable agriculture. Written in clear and concise language, with easy-to-read charts and tables, this book presents a view of our changing world that we cannot afford to ignore.

Plundering Paradise
The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands
Michael D’ORSO 345pp Pb $27.95

Mention the Galapagos Islands to almost anyone and the first things they think of are iguanas, tortoises, volcanic beaches and of course Charles Darwin. That’s what Michael d’Orso imagined until he first travelled there three years ago. What he discovered was a tropical paradise under siege from an onslaught of desperately poor South American refugees and corrupt fishing fleets that have brought crime, crowding, pollution and violence to these idyllic islands. In a narrative as rich and exotic as the landscape and creatures that frame it, D’Orso tells the story of the odd European adventurers who first settled here in the early 20th century, of the eccentric Americans who arrived in the mid-1950s, of the scientists who dug in a decade after that, and of the ecotourism industry that has exploded in the last 20 years. Following a group of outlandish characters, he explores the conflicts on land and at sea that now threaten to destroy this fabled “Eden of evolution”.

Expedition Mars (321pp Pb $84.95) by Martin Turner looks at the challenges involved in getting people to Mars and back. It looks at all aspects of travelling to Mars, in particular the three methods of propulsion - chemical rockets, electric thrusters and fission thrusters. Also of interest is On to Mars: Colonizing a New World (Book & CD-ROM $59.00) edited by Robert Zubrin.

The two Voyager missions to the outer planets were both spectacularly successful in casting new light on the ‘gas giants' and their moons. The story of these missions and the science they produced is told in NASA’s Voyager Missions (284pp Pb $84.95) by Ben Evans and David Harland.

The Road to Stockholm (344pp Pb $29.95) by István Hargittai illuminates the nature of scientific discovery, the Nobel Prize selection process and the effects of the Nobel Prize on science itself.

In A Century of Nature (360pp Pb $54.00), Laura Garwin and Tim Lincoln bring together reproductions of seminal contributions that changed science and the world, accompanied by essays written by leading scientists that provide historical context for each article and explain its insights.

Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics, 2nd Edition (401pp Tp $75.00) by Neil Salkind teaches an often intimidating and difficult subject in a way that is informative, personable and clear. The author takes students through various statistical procedures, beginning with correlations and graphical representation of data and ending with inferential techniques and analysis of variance.

In Magick, Mayhem and Mavericks: The Spirited History of Physical Chemistry (420pp Hb $66.00), Cathy Cobb takes a unique approach to explaining the concepts of this essential body of knowledge by telling the story of the geniuses and eccentrics who over the centuries made groundbreaking discoveries in this fascinating field that bridges chemistry, physics and mathematics.

Mathematical Perspectives on Theoretical Physics: A journey from Black Holes to Superstrings (835pp Pb $84.95) by Nirmala Prakash presents the basics of mathematics that are needed for learning the physics of today. It describes briefly the theories of groups and operators, finite- and infinite-dimensional algebras, concepts of symmetry and supersymmetry and then delineates their relations to theories of relativity and black holes, classical and quantum physics, electroweak fields and Yang-Mills.

The Life and Science of Léon Foucault (338pp Hb $120.00) is a fascinating biography of one of the 19th century's greatest scientific pioneers. It is a comprehensive account of Foucault’s achievements and explains the underlying physics in simple terms so that the non-physicist reader can gain a real feeling for those achievements.

Dave
The Pig Who Sang to the Moon
Jeffrey MASSON
290pp Hb $55.00
Weaving history, literature, science and his own vivid experiences observing pigs, cows, sheep, goats and chickens, Masson bears witness to the emotions and intelligence of these remarkable animals, each unique with distinct qualities. He reveals that these creatures, often despised and abused, feel complex emotions. He argues that an animal can only be happy when it is living under conditions that allow it to express its natural behaviour and to feel the emotions that accompany that behaviour. As the domesticated animals that live on our farms are very little removed from their wild ancestors, they retain the emotions that belonged to those animals when they lived free. Tragically, this means that the confinement that farm animals are subject to is little less than torture. Masson is passionate in his beliefs and a strong thread of animal rights runs through his entire narrative. Readers not convinced by his philosophy will learn a lot about the animals we (mostly) take for granted.

Seeds of Deception
Exposing Industry and Government Lies about the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You’re Eating
Jeffrey SMITH
The three fundamental propositions of the GM industry are: that modified genes will only do what they were intended to do; that “horizontal transfer” of genetic material from one living organism to another is not possible; and that altered genetic material will not survive digestion. Wrong, wrong wrong! There is a perception that this science is highly sophisticated and scientists carefully take one gene and somehow surgically insert it into another. What really happens is that they take the genetic material they want to transfer (say the antifreeze gene from a deep sea fish) and slather it on top of a 22-calibre bullet, then blast it into the cells of another organism (say tomato cells) and hope that some of them stick together. Finding out which have actually stuck is a difficult process, so they attach an antibiotic-resistant molecule (ARM) to the test cells and after the shooting they douse the lot with a normally fatal dose of antibiotics. The cells that survive the dose have the new gene. GM companies say the ARM molecules will not transfer to other organisms (which could render antibiotics ineffective in treating disease). Guess what? Wrong again! Tests on humans show that these molecules can transfer and survive digestion after only one meal. Scientists not susceptible to huge bribes or threats from GM companies admit that there are so many unknowns and dangers that it is not advisable to continue this industry. This is very frightening, real-life science fiction. Read it and get active.

Recoding Nature
Critical Perspectives on Genetic Engineering
Richard HINDMARSH & Geoffrey LAWRENCE (eds)
285pp Tp $39.95
Are GM foods safe to eat? Is it appropriate to delete a gene for sadness? What are the real risks of genetic pollution? This book addresses these questions and many more, and is at the cutting edge of critical reflection about the “biotechnology revolution” - the redesign of nature through genetically modified plants, animals and even designer humans. Pete Hay from the University of Tasmania has this to say: “Just how important can one book be? Frankenstein science is alive and well in the guise of genetic manipulation and, if you would know what it may portend, you should read and ponder the compelling analyses within this book. What is at stake is nothing less than the very meaning and status of life.”

The Travels and Adventures of Serendipity
A Study in Sociological Semantics and the Sociology of Science
Robert MERTON & Elinor BARBER
328pp Hb $58.95
This delightful book traces the eventful history of “serendipity” from its coinage by Horace Walpole in 1754 into the 20th century - chronicling along the way much of what we now call the natural and social sciences. The book itself has an unusual history. Written in the 1950s, it was intentionally never published, but finally, shortly after his 91st birthday, following Barber’s death and preceding his own by but a little, Merton agreed to expand and publish this major work. This is a scholarly and very readable look at the history of a very interesting word and an equally interesting concept - one which plays a big part in science and all other creative endeavours.

Pox
Genius, Madness, and the Mysteries of Syphilis
Deborah HAYDEN
290pp Tp $29.95
From Beethoven to Oscar Wilde, from Van Gogh to Hitler, Hayden throws new light on the effects of syphilis on the lives and works of seminal figures from the 15th to the 20th centuries. Writing with remarkable insight and narrative flair, she argues that biographers and historians have vastly underestimated the influence of what Thomas Mann called “this exhilarating yet devastating disease”. Shrouded in secrecy, syphilis was accompanied by wild euphoria and suicidal depression, megalomania and paranoia, profoundly affecting sufferers worldview, their sexual behaviour, and their art.

Looking forward...

Due April: The House of the Eagle, vol 1 in the Ptolemy’s Quartet by Duncan Sprott (Pb $29.95), combines historical accuracy with the driest of wit in one of the original soap-operas from Hell which makes it the best deal this summer for those wishing to be better informed about the Macedonian connection to the ancient Pharaohs. Cara

Due May: The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space Time and the Texture of Reality by Brian Greene Hb $49.95. From the author of The Elegant Universe (Pb $27.95) comes a grand tour of the universe that makes us look at reality in a completely different way.

Looking back...

They F*** You Up: How to Survive Family Life by James Oliver (Pb $24.95). The title is taken from a poem by R D Laing about how parents make a mess of their children’s lives, who invariably proceed to do the same with their own kids. Oliver looks at the effects of parenting on children, and discounts genetic factors for personality disorders, schizophrenia and so on. How can it be that children with the same parents can be dramatically different, when they have the same parents? But in reality parents often treat children so differently that in effect they do have different parents. Oliver stresses over and over again the crucial nature of empathic care in the first three years. Now I realise that I was right to feel guilty about dumping my one-year-old with strangers and a large group of other toddlers in day care.

Due April: A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson (Hb $54.95) is now back in stock. Bryson writes superbly on scientific subjects, despite his non-scientific background. Fascinating.
**Agnes's Final Afternoon**
An Essay on the Work of Milan Kundera
François RICARD
This text imitates the protagonist, Agnes, of Kundera's novel *Immortality* (Pb $22.95). Like all readers of fiction, Agnes steps out of the car, out of the world of planned routines, responsibilities and social self, and gives herself up to the discovery of a new landscape, an experience that will transform her. Ricard's essay enters into the writings of Milan Kundera in much the same way. The landscape he explores includes a chain of 10 novels, composed between 1959 and 1999. This book takes us through the themes and characters of the novels and innovations that stretch the boundaries of the form to breaking point.

**Away**
The Indian Writer as an Expatriate
Amitava KUMAR
399pp Pb $35.00
This book brings together great writing by figures from South Asia who give voice to the experience of the exile and the emigrant. K R Narayan writes of his first visit to America. Rabindranath Tagore, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, writes of his first trip by airplane. Salman Rushdie's fictional hero Gabriel Farishta turns London into a tropical city in an excerpt from *The Satanic Verses* (Pb $24.95). V S Naipaul describes his sister's funeral ceremony in Trinidad, while the poet Sarojini Naidu sends love letters home to her husband. The memoirist Ved Mehta recounts applying for an American visa. The rising politician Jawaharlal Nehru asks for news from India as he travels across the world campaigning for freedom. This star-studded list of contributors also includes Hanif Kureishi, Rohinton Mistry, Meera Syal and others. Amitava Kumar's introduction beautifully sets out the complex feelings that animate the writings that follow.

**Island and Otherland**
Christopher Koch and his Books
Noel HENRICKSON
356pp Tp $29.95
This book examines Christopher Koch's novels and their genesis through the events that have shaped them and the writers who have influenced him. It is the first definitive study of Koch, who is now recognised as a great writer - profound, original and enduring. Koch took up painting in his youth and was trained in New York. His roots probe deep into Australia's geography and his tendency to lyricism continued to stamp his prose. A writer of international stature, Koch has twice been recipient of the Miles Franklin Award. His roots probe deep into Australia's past: he is descended from celebrated architects, sea captains, dispossessed gentry and convicts. Beneath his words is a wealth of allusion and mythological, metaphysical and philosophical depth. He has conjured places and times with vitality and truth: Sydney in the 60s; colonial Tasmanian hop-fields, vast houses and the ring of convict chains; Singapore's Boat Quay, steamy with the mixed smells of sandalwood-smoke and fetid water; or paddy fields peacefully light-green with newly planted rice in Cambodia's Year Zero.

**Consciousness and the Novel**
David LODGE
320pp Pb $24.95
David Lodge has always balanced his academic work with his novels effectively (*The Art of Fiction* versus *Therapy* and *Thinks...* all Pb $22.95). Here, in the title essay of this collection of meditations on creativity and writing, he shows how recent ideas on consciousness from science have close relationships to the way novelists work. Fascinating as much for his analysis of particular novels as for his conclusion tying the brain, consciousness and narrative, Lodge makes his return to literary theory fun. In this volume, other essays hover around these themes, focusing on writers from Henry James to the Amis's. Great writing itself, Lodge is never dry or stuffy. Come for his essay on consciousness, stay for his take on Waugh, Forster, or Roth...
**Miscellaneous**

**Mouse or Rat?**  
Translation as Negotiation  
Umberto ECO  
164pp Hb $35.00

Using examples from classic literary texts including his own bestselling novels, Eco examines the rights and wrongs, the misunderstandings and the "negotiations" needed in order to translate. He examines various problems in translation with great wit and humour. Pointing out the pitfalls of literal translation, he asks a machine to translate the beginning of the Bible into Spanish then back into English, then into German and then again back into English. The result is very funny, but as Eco points out, it is still vaguely recognisable as a version of the Bible and obviously not the first adventure of Harry Potter. He discusses every form of interpretation and expression from poetry to film and music, always demonstrating with vivid examples the disastrous but often hilarious outcome of mistranslation. The main point of these essays is that translation is always a matter of negotiation, whether it be a loss or a gain on either side, a translator's job is to decide which elements are vital and which may be neglected.

**The Guardian Book of Obituaries**  
Phil OSBORNE (editor)  
384pp Tp $35.00

The Guardian obituaries are among the paper's most loved and well-read pages. They contain detailed eulogies to the most interesting and significant figures of the day. From monarchs, politicians, campaigners and generals to musicians, scientists, actors, confidence tricksters and inventors, there is something for everyone who is interested in anyone. This collection brings together the retrospectives of over 100 men and women who shaped the world we live in today. It is a testimony - occasionally inspiring and often amusing - to the achievements of some remarkable people.

**52 Ways of Looking at a Poem**  
Ruth PADEL  
288pp Pb $24.95

Over the last 20 years, there has been a massive renaissance in British poetry. Never have so many published poets developed such new ways of saying things, or of touching people in so many different parts of society. And yet modern poetry is often represented as being difficult and remote from most people's lives and interests. Once poets were an important part of culture, yet now they are hardly represented in the media. In a passionate attempt to rectify this omission and to show that today's poems are no more difficult to decode than modern films - we are simply less used to them - Ruth Padel proposed to the Independent on Sunday that she write a weekly column in which she offered a possible reading of a contemporary poem. In this selection of 52 of her Sunday Poem columns, she uses a broad range of poets to examine all aspects of modern poetry from the intricacies of rhythm and rhyme to the choice of subject matter. As she argues in her lively and provocative introduction, poetry should not intimidate us!

**Economia**  
New Economic Systems to Empower People and Support the Living World  
Geoff DAVIES  
496pp Pb $39.95

Most of us feel that the brave new world of globalization hasn't delivered. If, as our leaders tell us, the industrial and technological revolutions existed to make our lives freer and easier, why are we still stressed? In a time of unprecedented prosperity for the Western world, why do we feel impoverished? Davies explains how the economic systems under which we live do not fit the needs of the people they're supposed to serve. Drawing on his scientific background as a geophysicist at ANU, he describes the way the natural world operates and argues that there is no reason why economies cannot operate according to the same principles as the human societies and the living systems from which they have emerged.

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**Travel**

**Green Dragon, Sombre Warrior**  
A Journey Around China's Symbolic Frontier  
Liam D'ARCY BROWN  
304pp Pb $24.95

The ancient Chinese divided the zodiac into four quadrants, each with its own ruler - the Green Dragon of the East, the Scarlet Phoenix of the South, the White Tiger of the West and the Sombre Warrior of the North. They believed that these governed human affairs and that together they demonstrated a harmony in divergence. Taking the same frame of reference, Brown undertook a 10,000-mile journey across China. He travelled from an isolated fishing community in the East China Sea and a 'steamy' tropical holiday resort on the tip of Hainan Island to a rebellious Muslim city on the Silk Road and a primitive riverside village in remote Manchuria. In each, he discovered aspects of China that the wider world seldom glimpses. Yet despite the astonishing contrasts of her physical and social geography, the variety of her peoples and the tangled web of her many histories and possible destinies, some constants remain. Pork buns steaming in a bamboo basket, gold Chinese characters pasted to a doorway on a red paper diamond, empty crates of beer bottles, a battered thermos flask stencilled with the Double Happiness symbol - all these endure. But most fascinating of all were the many conversations that Liam had with ordinary Chinese people of diverse cultures and races within a seemingly homogeneous People's Republic.

**Paris was Yesterday**  
1925-1939  
Janet FLANNER  
320pp Pb $24.95

In 1925, Flanner began writing a fortnightly Letter from Paris for the nascent New Yorker magazine. Her brief: to tell New Yorkers, under her pen name 'Genet', what the French thought was going on in France, not what she thought. This is a collection of the columns written in the 20s and 30s, perhaps one of the most fascinating periods in the city's 20th century history. It reads like a Who's Who of the Arts. Flanner saw it all and knew everyone (or at least all about them), so there are tidbits about the likes of James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, the Fitzgeralds, Picasso and Marlene Dietrich, to name but a few. Observing the intellectual and social life of a city couldn't possibly have been more enjoyable than sampling the customs of toujours gai Paris!

**Travelling with Che Guevara**  
The Making of a Revolutionary  
Alberto GRANADO  
215pp Tp $30.00

In 1952, Alberto Granado, a young doctor, and his friend Ernesto Guevara, a 23-year-old medical student from a distinguished Buenos Aires family, decided to explore their continent. They set off from Cordoba in Argentina on a 1949 Norton 500cc motorbike and travelled through Chile, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. They worked as casual labourers along the way, as football coaches, medical assistants and haulage hands. The poverty and exploitation of the native population changed them forever. Each man later wrote an account of the journey. Granado realised later in his life that what they saw and encountered on their journey represented a crucial turning point. It strengthened his determination to forge his career as a scientist. And it started the process that was to turn Ernesto - the debonair, fun-loving student - into Che, the man who fought for the liberation of Cuba and became the heroic and glamorous warrior fighting for freedom and social justice, who remains to this day in people's minds Latin America's foremost hero and one of the world's great revolutionaries. A companion to Che's Motorcycle Diaries (Pb $22.00), this is a moving and at times hilarious account of how two carefree young men found their true purpose in life.

www.abbeys.com.au
I've read Anne Tyler's latest book, *A Life* ($65 Hb 550pp incl index). It is a life indeed, as Gelhorn was still reporting wars in her 80s and still striking fear into the hearts of young admirers, including Caroline Moorehead, whose father Alan Moorehead was Gelhorn's devoted friend. I recall reading some very amusing travel stories that Gelhorn wrote about travelling in China with UC (unhappy companion), who very obviously was her husband at that time, Ernest Hemingway. I can't read it all just now, as I am one of three judges for the *National Biography Award* (generously donated by Geoffrey Cains), and I have a large pile of Australian biographies to read first. I also notice another paperback autobiography by another well-known British journalist, *A Kindness of Strangers* ($24.95 Pb 438pp incl index) by Kate Adie. I suspect this will be a much softer book.

New Zealand writer Janet Frame died in late January amidst rumours she was listed for the *Nobel Prize for Literature*. Imagine the excitement in New Zealand! I remember the thrill when Patrick White won this award. Her famous autobiography, *An Angel at My Table* ($32.95 Pb), is now available in a single-volume. You can also read *Wrestling with the Angel: A Life of Janet Frame* ($22 Pb) by Michael King, who I assume is the same Michael King who wrote *The Penguin History of New Zealand* ($26.95 Pb), due soon.

Our Film Studies section continues to grow, with film reference books now moving to the top of Theatre Studies. Can this be because film is one of the subjects being studied at university by Adrian, Abbey's manager? Or perhaps there is some strength to the theory that DVDs are helping to make film critics of us all, thanks to the increase in features and picture quality. There are some very interesting titles out at the moment, including *Modernism: Film and Politics in the Age of the New Deal* by Saverio Giovacchini ($65 Pb 292pp incl index). The author considers the period up to the 1950s as being the New Deal era and comments on industry newcomers wanting to educate the public in anti-fascist ideals. Also of interest is *The Cinema of Federico Fellini* by Peter Bondanella ($68 Pb 367pp incl index) and *The Emperor and the Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune* by Stuart Galbraith ($49.95 Pb 823pp incl index). A series from the University Press of Mississippi, *Conversations with Film Makers*, includes Robert Altman, Theo Angelopoulos, Jane Campion, George Cukor, John Ford, Clint Eastwood, Peter Greenaway, John Huston, Jim Jarmusch, Elia Kazan, Spike Lee, Mike Leigh, George Lucas, Steven Soderberg, Oliver Stone, Billy Wilder and Zhang Yimou.

While tidying up Plays, in the bottom half of Theatre Studies, I came across a play that won the 2002 *Tony Award* for Best Director, Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses* ($34 Pb), which is described as 're-animating' Ovid’s famous play, using a translation by David Slavit. I then had a look in *Translated Classics* to see how many translations of this play we had in stock. I found the *Penguin edition* translated by Mary Innes ($11.95), the *Oxford World’s Classic edition* translated by A D Melville ($18.95), one from Indiana University Press translated by Rolf Humphries ($19.95), and finally the same translation by Arthur Goldberg (as used by Shakespeare) edited and with an introduction and notes by Madeleine Forey, published by Johns Hopkins University Press ($45.95 Pb 533pp incl index). Of course, you can also have the dual-language edition in Loeb Classics ($49.95 each Hb). Not bad for a Sydney booksop, is it? As far as we know, Abbey’s is the only booksop in the world that carries the entire range of the Loeb Classical Library. We can only do this because you buy them!

Another addition to the growing number of titles about Islam is Irshad Manji’s *The Trouble with Islam: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith* ($32.95 Pb 239pp). This is an interesting book from a woman trying to revive Islam’s lost tradition of independent thought. Born in Uganda, Manji fled from Iid Amin with her Indian family and is today a Canadian TV journalist. She hopes the internet will be one way that people like her (interestingly, she calls herself a Muslim Refusenik) can have their opinions heard. There are several pages of good recommended reading, plus a number of websites.

On Australia Day, we had quite a few new browsers in the shop and one man commented on our excellent Philosophy section, but said he found it hard to find his way through, so let me remind you how it works. First there is a General Section, containing overviews of Philosophy, shelved by author. Then, also in author order, is a subsection called Philosophy - Science and Maths, where you’ll find such books as Gudel Escher Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid ($45 Pb) - it’s 25 years since this was published - and W V Quine’s *Methods of Logic* ($52 Pb).

Then there is the long run of books about a particular philosopher shelved next to that philosopher’s original works, regardless of the book’s author; so this section can appear seriously out of order, but we do see some sense in having criticism of a philosopher right next to their own work.

Daughter Jane has been home for the holidays from her home on the Burma border and took the opportunity to choose some books for the library at her PDC (Personal Development College), which is for young people after they leave the high school in the camp. Jane says it’s lucky they didn’t call it the SPDC (Special Personal Development College) as this is the acronym for the hated junta in Burma. She is especially proud of the little library, having not only chosen every book, but also physically carried every book into the camp, not always an easy task. If her students can obtain a work permit (again, not easy), they are snapped up by local NGOs. She brought me a lovely hand-woven bedspread as a gift from the Karen Women’s Organisation.

No doubt many of you are preparing for another year of study, so I hope we can be helpful for you as always. Don’t forget, if you can’t find the book you want, please ask! We’ll do our best to find it, or otherwise order it for you. Good Luck.

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There is a new book from an American author I really admire, Tobias Wolff. It’s called *Old School* ($35.95 Hb 195pp) and Bloomsbury Publishers have rewarded it with a good binding and a bookmark. The story is set in a prestigious American boy’s school, where the protagonist is studying on a scholarship, all the while pretending, discreetly, that he is one of “them”. The school has high standards, not least in its wish for the boys to write well. In fact, the only snobbiness accepted is a literary one. At one stage, the boys are described as “book-drunk”. The book is dedicated “for my teachers” and teachers will love this book. If the new film about Sylvia Plath inspires you to read her *Collected Poems* ($35 Pb), this may well inspire you to read Robert Frost’s poems or to read Hemingway again. You’ll find them all here at Abbey’s.

Tobias Wolff’s novel, *In Pharaoh’s Army* ($16.45 Pb), is the best book I’ve read about young American men drafted into the Vietnam War, and his *Collected Stories* ($23.95 Pb) are also superb. In Biography, find *This Boy’s Life* ($21.95 Pb), which was made into an excellent film starring Robert de Niro. In fact, much of Wolff’s work is very male, not macho, and we can’t think where else to put it! It’s only snobbery accepted is a literary one. At one point, the protagonist is studying on a scholarship, all the while pretending, discreetly, that he is one of “them”. The school has high standards, not least in its wish for the boys to write well. In fact, the only snobbiness accepted is a literary one. At one stage, the boys are described as “book-drunk”. The book is dedicated “for my teachers” and teachers will love this book. If the new film about Sylvia Plath inspires you to read her *Collected Poems* ($35 Pb), this may well inspire you to read Robert Frost’s poems or to read Hemingway again. You’ll find them all here at Abbey’s.

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I’ve read Anne Tyler’s latest book, *Amateur Marriage* ($32.95 Pb). At first thought it was excessively trivial, but I persevered (after all, I’ve read all her previous books) and of course discovered by the end that she continues to be the master at portraying the daily distractions of ordinary lives.

I found an interesting book in *New Non-Fiction*, *The Essential Boswell: Selections from the Life of Samuel Johnson* ($49.95 Hb $11.95 Pb abridged) that somehow Boswell has become the more important personage! Last year, the book was dedicated “for my teachers” and teachers will love this book. If the new film about Sylvia Plath inspires you to read her *Collected Poems* ($35 Pb), this may well inspire you to read Robert Frost’s poems or to read Hemingway again. You’ll find them all here at Abbey’s.

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2. *Death Sentence: The Decay of Modern Language* by Don Watson (Hb $29.95)
4. *New Biographical Dictionary of Film* by David Thomson (Hb $39.95)
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**Now in Paperback**

**Churchill** by John Keegan $21.95

The greatest politician and statesman of the 20th century - by Britain's leading military historian.

New Biographical Dictionary of Film by David Thomson Pb $39.95

Striking the perfect balance between personal bias and factual reliability, David Thomson - novelist, critic, biographer and unabashed film addict - has given us an enormously rich reference book, a brilliant reflection on the art and artists of the cinema.

The Prophet Armed: Trotsky 1879-1921 (Part 1) by Isaac Deutscher $33.00

Originally published in 1954, this biography was the first major publication to counter the powerful Stalinist propaganda machine that sought to expunge Trotsky from the annals of the Soviet Union.

Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood $22.95

With breathtaking command of her material, Atwood again projects us into a less-than-brave new world. This is an outstandingly fresh and compelling novel. Its richly created characters will long inhabit our dreams.

Brick Lane by Monica Ali $24.95

*This exciting and deeply moving debut novel follows the tumultuous life of Nazneen from her birth in a Bangladeshi village hut to her arranged marriage to Chanu and the subsequent move to London’s Tower Hamlets.*

31 Songs by Nick Hornby $19.95

Hornby writes about 31 songs - most of them loved, some of them once loved, all of them significant to him. He discusses, among other things, guitar solos, losing your virginity to a Rod Stewart song, singers whose teeth whistle and the sort of music you hear in The Body Shop.

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**Editor:** Ann Leahy

**Contributors:** Eve Abbey, David Hall, Adrian Hardingham, Lindy J ones, Shelley Kay, Ann Leahy & Cara Willetts.