Issue #210

A Free Newsletter for Abbey's Customers DVOCAT

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Quarterly Essay #25 **Bipolar Nation**

Peter HARTCHER 120pp Pb \$14.95 Australians are more economically secure, yet existentially as anxious, as ever. On the one hand, we see a more prosperous, confident and 'aspirational' society, and on the other, the continuation of a wellcultivated sense of fear, xenophobia and insecurity. Hartcher revisits Donald Horne's Lucky Country (Pb \$24.95), looks at the legacy of Paul Keating and discusses how

John Howard will set out to craft an election-winning strategy. It explains how the 'Lucky Country' and the 'Frightened Country' will be the two grand themes of the 2007 election, thus setting the political agenda for this election year. Due Mar

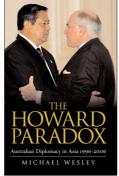
NOW Australia Bad Dreaming Aboriginal Mens' Violence Against Women and Children

Louis NOWRA 128pp Pb \$17.95 Nowra goes behind the media headlines and reveals the endemic male Aboriginal sexual and domestic violence against women and children. He tries to answer the question of whether this violence is traditional or a product of 200 years of white settlement. He examines traditional Aboriginal life and cites

observations by early settlers, explorers and anthropologists. He also analyses a wide range of reports from various governments, health professionals, the media and Aboriginal women and men. The issue is a culturally sensitive one and to write about it is highly controversial, but Nowra strongly believes the issue is so important that it must be openly addressed and dealt with immediately. Due Mar

The Howard Paradox Australian Diplomacy in Asia 1996-2006

Michael WESLEY 256pp Pb \$27.95 How has a government that has done so many things that critics said would damage Australia's relations with its region managed to build such strong links with Asian countries? Paul Keating famously said that Asian countries wouldn't deal with John Howard. The decade of Howard government foreign policy has produced numerous gaffes and foreign policy crises in Asia, yet currently



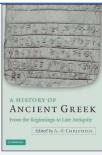
Australia enjoys arguably stronger relations with the Asian region than ever before. This new book explains how this has happened. It finds answers to the Howard Paradox in the unexpected receptiveness of Asian countries to the Howard foreign policy approach, in large dollops of luck and fortuitous timing, and in over-estimations of the impact of Australian statements and actions on the hard-headed policy calculations of Asian governments. It analyses the old debate about whether Australia's alliance with America strengthens or weakens its entree into Asia, and explores the emergence of new forms of Australian diplomacy in the region. Due Mar



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A History of Ancient Greek From the Beginnings to Late Antiquity

1,617pp Hb \$399.00 A F CHRISTIDIS (Ed) This book provides the most comprehensive account of the history of the Greek language from its beginnings to late antiquity. In this revised and expanded translation of the Greek original published in 2001, a distinguished international team of scholars go beyond a merely technical treatment of the subject and examine the language's relationship with politics, society and



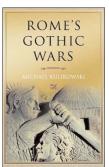
culture. An attempt is made to cover all aspects of the history of Greek, including those that are usually considered marginal, such as obscene language, the language of the gods and child talk. It is an essential reference work for anyone interested in the history of Greek.

Buy this outstanding book and receive a free copy of Harry Potter and the Philosophers **Stone: Ancient Greek Edition** (Hb, normally \$39.95) described by a reviewer

as "one of the most important pieces of Ancient Greek prose written in many centuries".

Rome's Gothic Wars From the Third Century to Alaric

Michael KULIKOWSKI 238pp Hb \$47.95 This is a concise introduction to the latest research on the Roman Empire's relations with one of the most important barbarian groups of the ancient world. Kulikowski traces the history of Romano-Gothic relations from their earliest stage in the third century, through the development of strong Gothic politics in the early 4th century, until the entry of many Goths into the empire in 376 and the catastrophic Gothic war that followed. The book



closes with a detailed look at the career of Alaric, the powerful Gothic general who sacked the city of Rome in 410. For students and the general reader, this is a reliable survey of both Gothic and Roman history, while ancient and medieval historians can use it as a first introduction to the many interpretative controversies that surround the history of the barbarians. Due Mar

The Sydney Harbour Bridge A Life

Peter SPEARRITT

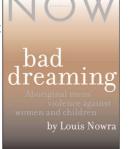
On 19 March 1932, after nine years of planning and building, more than a million Australians crossed the newly opened Sydney Harbour Bridge, the largest arch bridge in the world. This lavishly illustrated book celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Bridge. It tells the extraordinary story of its design and construction and how it became a muchloved feature of the city, from the time of De Groot cutting the official ribbon when it opened, to the spectacular fireworks and bridge-climbers today. Due Mar



192pp Pb \$29.95

March 2007

Books - Where Ideas Grow



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Fiction

Two Caravans

Marina LEWYCKA 320pp Tp \$32.95 On a beautiful summer evening in a Kent field, sitting around their two caravans, a group of strawberry pickers celebrate a birthday. But what lies behind the buy-1-get-1-free offers at your supermarket and who picks our strawberries? The Ukrainians: Irina, just off the coach from Kiev, and Andriy, the miner's son; two Chinese girls; and Emanuel, the round-eyed 18-year-old from Malawi. And although he can't pick strawberries, there is also the Dog ... Hilarious, gritty, moving and slapstick, this has every bit of the extraordinary

distinctiveness, wit and heart that made Lewycka's

previous novel, A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian (Pb \$24.95), so successful.

The Friday Night Knitting Club Kate JACOBS

234pp Tp \$32.95 Casting on... It starts almost by accident: the women who buy their knitting needles and wool from Georgia's store linger for advice, a coffee, a chat and, before they know it, every Friday night is knitting night. Finding a pattern... And as the needles clack and the garments grow, the conversation moves from patterns and varn to life, love and everything. These women are of different ages, different backgrounds and facing different problems, but they are drawn together by threads of affection that prove as durable as the sweaters they knit. Don't you want to join?

Notes on a Scandal

Zoe HELLER

256pp Pb \$24.95 From the first day that the beguiling Sheba Hart joins the staff at St George's, history teacher Barbara Covett is convinced that she has found a kindred spirit. Barbara's loyalty to her new friend is passionate and unstinting and, when Sheba is discovered to be having an illicit affair with one of her young pupils, Barbara quickly elects herself as Sheba's chief defender. But all is not as it seems in this dark story and, as Sheba soon discovers, a friend can be just as treacherous as any lover.

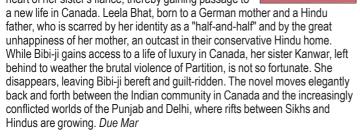
Red River

Lalita TADEMY

In this sequel to her bestselling Cane River (Pb \$22) the heartbreaking and compelling story of her family's experiences of slavery and the US Civil War - Tademy explores her father's life, which was even more dramatic and painful. From Sam Tademy, the son of a runaway slave, and his fiercely strong wife Polly, to the father and son who witness unspeakable crimes, this is an unforgettably moving novel of true lives which collided with history.

Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? Anita RAU BADAMI 320pp Tp \$32.95

Set against the tumultuous backdrop of a fragmenting Punjab, and moving between Canada and India, this novel tells the stories of three women, linked in love and tragedy, over a span of 50 years, sweeping from the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 to the terrible violence of modern times. There is the ambitious and defiant Bibi-ji, born in a Punjabi village, who steals the heart of her sister's fiancé, thereby gaining passage to





The

FRIDAY

NIGHT

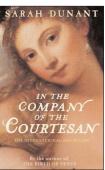
KNITTING

CLUB

In the Company of the Courtesan 416pp Pb \$24.95

Sarah DUNANT

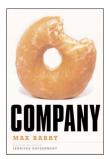
I'm not always fond of historical novels, but this one is fabulous! Buccino the dwarf belongs to the household of the most elegant courtesan of Rome, Fiammetta Biamchini. The Protestant sack of Rome in 1527 forces them to leave their rich and luxurious lifestyle, and they set off for Venice in an attempt to re-establish themselves. It takes some time and connivance, but Fiammetta becomes one of the most sought-after of women in the serene city. Part of her success she owes to a blind herbalist - or is she a witch? Full of jealousy, intrigue, colourful writing and historically accurate



detail, this is a fine way to immerse yourself in this most fascinating period! Due Mar Lindy

Company

Max BARRY 320pp Tp \$29.95 At Zephyr Holdings, no one has ever seen the CEO. The floors are numbered in reverse, the Mission Statement could mean almost anything, and the beautiful receptionist is paid twice as much as anybody else, but does no work. One of the sales reps uses relationship books as sales manuals, and another is on the warpath because somebody stole his donut. In other words, another ordinary big company! Or at least, that's what everyone thinks.



Until fresh-faced employee Jones - too new to understand that you just don't ask some questions at Zephyr - starts investigating. Due Mar

The Secret of Lost Things 304pp Pb \$28.00

Sheridan HAY

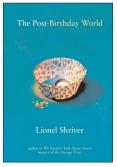
At 18, Rosemary arrives in New York from Tasmania with little more than her love of books and an eagerness to explore the city she has read so much about. The moment she steps into the Arcade bookstore, she knows she has found a home. The gruff owner, Mr Pike, gives her a job sorting through huge piles of books and helping the rest of the staff a group as odd and idiosyncratic as the characters in a Dickens novel. There's Pearl, the loving, motherly transsexual who operates the cash



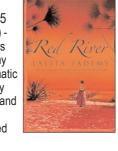
register; Oscar, who shares his extensive, eclectic knowledge with Rosemary, but furiously rejects her attempts at a more personal relationship; and Arthur Pick, who supervises the art section and demonstrates a particular interest in photography books featuring naked men. The store manager Walter Geist is an albino, a lonely figure even within the world of the Arcade. When Walter's eyesight begins to fail, Rosemary becomes his assistant. And so it is Rosemary who first reads the letter from someone seeking to 'place' a lost manuscript by Herman Melville. Mentioned in Melville's personal correspondence, but never published, the work is of inestimable value and proof of its existence brings the simmering ambitions and rivalries of the Arcade staff to boiling point. Due Mar

The Post-Birthday World

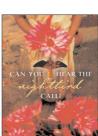
Lionel SHRIVER 896pp Tp \$33.00 It all hinges on one kiss. Whether Irena McGovern does or does not lean in to a specific pair of lips in London will determine whether she stays with her disciplined, intellectual partner Lawrence, or runs off with Ramsey, a hard-living snooker player. Using a parallel universe structure, we follow Irena's life as it unfolds under the influence of two drastically different men. Lawrence is Irena's partner of nearly 10 years. Ramsey is the exhusband of a sometime friend, a once-a-year

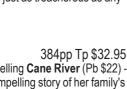


acquaintance to whom Irena has never paid a great deal of attention. Where Lawrence is supportive and devoted, Ramsey is flighty and spontaneous. Lawrence is emotionally withdrawn to the point of repression, while Ramsey is fiery, passionate and volatile. The contrasts between the two men have ramifications for Irena's relationships with friends and family, for her career as an illustrator and, more importantly, for the texture of her daily life. Due Mar



70F HELLER





Fiction **Killing Johnny Fry** A Sexistential Novel

Walter MOSLEY

256pp Tp \$29.95 When Cordell Carmel catches his longtime girlfriend with another man, his world is upended. Suddenly, the normally calm life of this middle-aged New York City translator

becomes something unrecognisable. With the boundaries of his routine existence dissolved, he begins a dark, funny and outrageously explicit sexual odyssey in search of a

new way of life. Along the way, he encounters a mysterious woman named Sisypha, who leads him deep into the erotic heart of the city. Above all, it is about a man questioning the rules we take for granted and the powerful and sometimes disturbing connections that can occur between people when these rules are removed. This story is something new and provocative from a writer already celebrated for his more than 30 crime and science fiction novels.

Due Mar The Other Side of You

Sally VICKERS

320pp Pb \$23.00

"There is no cure for being alive." Thus speaks Dr David McBride, a psychiatrist for whom death exerts an unusual draw. As a young child, he witnessed the death of his sixyear-old brother and it is this traumatic event which has shaped his own personality and choice of profession. One day, a failed suicide, Elizabeth Cruikshank, is admitted to his hospital. She is unusually reticent and it is not until he recalls a painting by Caravaggio that she finally yields up her story. We learn of her dereliction of trust, and the man

she has lost, through David's narration. As her story unfolds, David finds his own life being touched by her account and a haunting sense that the 'other side' of his elusive patient has a strange resonance for him, too. Due Mar

The Uninvited

Geling YAN

288pp Tp \$29.95 Dan Dong is an unemployed factory worker, but his life takes a series of unexpected twists upon his discovery that, simply by posing as a journalist, he can eat exquisite gourmet meals free of charge at state-sponsored banquets. But the secrets he overhears at these events eventually lead him down a twisted, intrigue-laden path, and his true and false identities become increasingly harder to separate. When he becomes privy to a scandal that runs from the depths of society up to its highest rungs, he must find a way to lay bare the corruption, without

revealing the dangerous truth about himself. A thrilling roller-coaster ride through the new world of boomtown China.

The Shoe Queen

Anna DAVIS

432pp Pb \$27.95

English society beauty Genevieve Shelby King parties to the utmost with the Anglo-American artists and writers of Montparnasse. She has a rich husband, a glamorous apartment and an enormous shoe collection. But when she spots a pair of unique and exquisite shoes on the feet of an arch rival one night, her whole collection - indeed everything she has - seems suddenly worthless. The exclusive designer Zachari, renowned for his fabulous shoes and eccentric behaviour, hand-picks his clients at whim. And he has determined to say no to Genevieve. As

her desire for the pair of unobtainable shoes develops into an obsession with their creator, her elaborately designed life comes under threat and she is forced to confront the emptiness at its heart. Due Mar

The Eye of Jade

Diane WEI LIANG

Mei is a modern, independent Chinese woman. She runs her own business in Beijing, working as a private investigator; she owns a car; she even has that most modern of commodities, a male secretary. One day, 'Uncle' Chen (no relation, but a close friend of her mother's) comes to her with a case to investigate. He asks her to find the Eye of Jade, a Han dynasty artefact of great value that was taken from its museum during the years of the Cultural Revolution when Red Guards swarmed the streets, destroying many remnants of the past. Mei's investigations reveal a story that has far more to do with the past, and her own family history, than she could ever have expected. The story forces her to delve into that dark, brutal part of China's history, Mao's labour camps and the countless deaths for which no one was ever held responsible. Due Mar

ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP

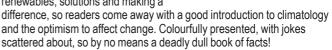
240pp Tp \$32.95

Children's

It's a Climate for Change

Caren TRAFFORD & David WILSHER 32pp Pb \$17.00 There is a lot of talk about climate change at

the moment and this informative picture book is aimed at mid to upper primary children. It explains the difference between weather and climate, and what it is scientists are worried about. It covers clean energy, renewables, solutions and making a



Kokoda Track 101 Days

Peter MACINNIS 179pp Pb \$16.95 How did a small, inexperienced force manage to defeat a better trained, equipped and prepared army, in an extremely rugged area under inhospitable circumstances, hampered by a lack of support from their commanders? An accessible account of the campaign, of the bravery and the stupidity, interspersing factual chapters with imagined scenarios, sidebars and original photographs. Ages 12+

The Odyssey is presented here in a fine style.

journeys of Odysseus as he tries to make his

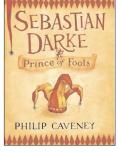


The Adventures of Odysseus Retold by Hugh LUPTON & Daniel MORDEN 92pp Hb \$30.00 The prologue gives the background to the great way home to his wife and kingdom. His trials and

adventures fill the first two thirds and, unusually for retellings, give weight to his homecoming and the difficulties awaiting him. Beautifully illustrated by Christina Balit. Ages 8-12

Sebastian Darke **Prince of Fools**

Philip CAVENEY 320pp Pb \$24.95 Sebastian has left home to seek his fortune as a jester, just like his dear (but deceased) father. Unlike his Dad though, Sebastian can't tell a joke to save his life! Luckily he is handy with a sword, has inherited his elf-mother's intuition and has a sensible, if eternally complaining, companion, Max the Buffalope. Even more fortunate, he befriends a manling, Cornelius,



who is a super warrior, despite his diminutive size. Together they save a princess (more than once) who takes awhile to appreciate their efforts. Lots of fun, although there is a bit of cartoon-like violence. Ages 12+

Sold

269pp Pb \$16.95 Patricia McCORMICK Lakshmi lives in a small and remote village in Nepal. She is aware of the hardness of life, where there is never enough to eat and little hope that her stepfather will ever be anything but selfish and lazy. However, there are small wonders and joys. Then one day her stepfather hands her over to an aunty in exchange for money and she is taken away to work, she thinks, as a maid. Unfortunately, 13-yearold Lakshmi is destined for a squalid brothel in



India. A confronting subject, rendered in exquisite prose that doesn't shy away from the ugliness of her situation, but also avoids direct descriptions of it. Even in this place, Lakshmi finds strength and friendship, and ultimately has the chance for a better life. One of the more powerful young adult books I've ever read...





Weather or Not



reviewed by Lindy Jones

3

Biography

Dying for a Cure A Memoir of Antidepressants, **Misdiagnosis and Madness**

Rebekah BEDDOE 512pp Tp \$34.95 Shortly after the birth of her daughter, Beddoe was diagnosed with post-natal depression. Two years later, she was taking six different drugs, including lithium, a tranquilliser, an antipsychotic and antidepressants. She had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, given electric-shock therapy, had made numerous attempts on her life and was

alternately manic and consumed by crippling despair, during which she could barely move. This is a powerful memoir of the nightmarish three years she endured as she was repeatedly misdiagnosed, only to find that her medication was the cause of her mental deterioration.

The Gunners' Doctor Vietnam Letters David BRADFORD

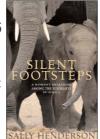
In 2005, Bradford got the surprise of his life - his elderly mother found an old shoe-box at the back of her cupboard containing every letter that David had sent home to her from the Vietnam War. During his time there from May 1967 to May 1968, David wrote home almost daily, documenting his experiences as an idealistic Army doctor with the

Tp \$34.95

officers and gunners of 4 Field Regiment in the Royal Australian Artillery and with the officers and troopers of a squadron of the 3 Cavalry Regiment. These selected and edited letters are not just detailed accounts of his daily life, his medical work and the stresses and pressures of life in a war-zone. They are also a deliberately inaccurate picture of what was a painful forging of his true identity. David was brought up in a very religious, loving home. He didn't drink, smoke, swear or dance and he had never once kissed a girl. This is a snapshot of a short, but powerfully meaningful, time in his life and is told through two distinct voices - David's letters of the time, and his reflections as a man 40 years older and wiser. Due Mar

Silent Footsteps

Sally HENDERSON 400pp Tp \$32.95 After an elephant saved Sally Henderson's life in Botswana, her life changed irrevocably and a passion to conserve this majestic species was ignited. In 1990, she left Australia to join an elephant research project in the wilds of Zimbabwe. What followed was a remarkable journey into the world of Africa's elephants, as presented in this deeply personal memoir of one woman's awakening and



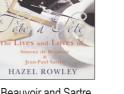
the choices she made to follow her calling. She paints a rare and unforgettable portrait of a Herd and its matriarchs, and the perils they face in an unforgiving landscape further torn apart by civil strife. But it is the daily pleasures of being in their mighty presence that gives her story its countless wonders. Due Mar

Tête-à-tête The Lives and Loves of Simone

de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre Hazel ROWLEY



They are one of the world's legendary couples -Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre - those passionate, free-thinking Existentialist philosopherwriters whose committed, but notoriously open, union generated no end of controversy. Through original interviews and access to new primary



sources, Rowley portrays them up close: we witness Beauvoir and Sartre with their circle, holding court in Paris cafes. We learn the details of their infamous romantic entanglements with the young Olga Kosakiewicz and others; of their efforts to protest the wars in Algeria and Vietnam; and of Beauvoir's tempestuous love affair with Nelson Algren. We hear the anguished discussions that would lead to Sartre's refusal of the Nobel Prize and we listen in on the couple as they comment on each other's great works. The impact of their writings on modern thought can hardly be overestimated, yet Beauvoir and Sartre are remembered just as much for the lives they led. Due Mar

Edith Wharton

Hermione LEE

864pp Hb \$79.95 The name Edith Wharton conjures up 'Gilded Age' New York in all its snobbery and ruthlessness - the world of The Age of Innocence and The House of Mirth (both Pb \$16.95). But this definitive biography overturns the stereotype. This Edith is not the genteel, nostalgic chronicler of a vanished age, but rather a fiercely modern woman writing of sex and incest, love and war - a woman of passionate conviction and conflicting ambitions and desires. Born in 1862 during the US Civil War, Wharton

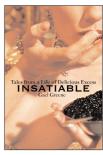


broke away from her wealthy background. She travelled adventurously in Europe, eventually settling in Paris. During WWI, she committed herself to war work and lived in France, her 'second country' until her death in 1937. She created fabulous homes in New England and France, and her life was filled with remarkable friends, including Henry James, Aldous Huxley and Kenneth Clark. She ran her professional life with fierce energy, but also had her secrets, including a passionate mid-life love-affair, recorded in a coded diary. She was unhappily married, childless and divorced, and knew loneliness and anguish. Her brilliant, disturbing fiction shows her deep understanding of the longing and struggle in women's lives. Due Mar

Insatiable

Tales from a Life of Delicious Excess

Gael GREENE 392pp Tp \$29.95 Combining the mouth-watering memoir of her decades as food critic for New York magazine with her intimate revelations of bedding the likes of Elvis, Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds, this is a feast for the senses and an aphrodisiac for the soul. Having eaten and slept her way to the top of the gastronomic ranks in the midst of America's culinary and sexual revolutions, Greene dishes all in this juicy memoir of life's most physical



pleasures. With fierce wit, sensuous prose and some of the most lovingly described meals in literature, she traces her rise from Midwest tuna casserole to Craig Claiborne's cog au vin. Along the way, her erotic adventures - with everyone from Hollywood royalty and top chefs to porn stars and rock 'n' roll idols - are shared with unflinching honesty and humour. Due Mar

Julie and Julia Julie POWELL

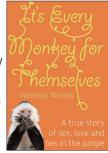
320pp Pb \$24.95 Pushing 30, living in a rundown apartment in Queens and working at a dead-end secretarial job, Powell is, in a word, stuck. In her desperate search for an escape, she comes up instead with The Project - a deranged assignment to take her mother's dog-eared copy of Julia Child's 1961 classic, Mastering the Art of French Cooking, and cook all 524 recipes. In the span of one year. At first, she thinks it will be easy. But as she moves from the smooth sailing of Potage Parmentier into the



obscure culinary backwaters of calves' brains, she realises there is more to mastering the art of French cooking than meets the eye ... Due Mar

It's Every Monkey for Themselves A True Story of Sex, Love and Lies in the Jungle

Vanessa WOODS 336pp Pb \$24.95 Aiming to put as much distance as she could between herself and a dysfunctional relationship, Vanessa left her 'Pleasantville' life in the leafy, safe suburbs of Canberra and headed for the remote, wild and distinctly unsafe jungles of Costa Rica. She had a research job, a contract with Disney Channel, and would spend the year working with a small community of dedicated, likeminded scientific souls researching the behaviour of capuchin monkeys while making a documentary about Costa Rican wildlife. Or so she thought. As it turned out, her housemates in the monkey house didn't



appreciate her Australian sense of humour; she was stung so often by wasps and killer bees that she developed a lethal allergy; and the monkeys were evasive, mean and aggressive, with the only difference between them and her housemates being that at least she could tell her housemates apart. Over the course of a wild, bruising and tumultuous year that can most accurately be characterised as 'Dian Fossey meets Big Brother', Vanessa learned that not all monkeys - or people - are alike, that friendship can be more important than sex, and that sometimes it takes a brush with death and an abscess on your head the size of a melon to make you realise that being pretty isn't always enough. Due Mar

History How to Read the Egyptian **Book of the Dead**

Barry KEMP

128pp Pb \$21.95 The Egyptians created a world of supernatural forces so vivid, powerful and inescapable, that controlling one's destiny within it was a constant preoccupation. In life, supernatural forces manifested themselves through misfortune and illness, and after death were faced for eternity in the Otherworld, along with



the divine gods that controlled the universe. The Book of the Dead empowered the reader to overcome the dangers lurking in the Otherworld and to become one with the gods that governed. Kemp selects a number of spells to explore who and what the Egyptians feared and the kind of assistance that the Book offered them, revealing a relationship between the human individual and the divine that is guite unlike that found in the major faiths of the modern world. Due Mar

Roman Religion

Valerie WARRIOR

184pp Pb \$34.95 Examining sites that are familiar to many modern tourists, Warrior avoids imposing a modern perspective on the topic by using the testimony of the ancient Romans to describe traditional Roman religion. The ancient testimony recreates the social and historical contexts in which Roman religion was practised. It shows how, for example, when confronted with a foreign cult, official traditional religion accepted the new cult with suitable modifications. Basic difficulties, however, arose with regard to the monotheism of the Jews and Christianity. Carefully integrated with the text are visual representations of divination and sacrifice as depicted on monuments, coins and inscriptions from public buildings and homes throughout the Roman world. Also included are epitaphs and humble votive offerings that illustrate the piety of individuals and reveal the prevalence of magic and the occult in the

spiritual lives of the ancient Romans. Rome and Jerusalem The Clash of Ancient Civilizations

Martin GOODMAN

656pp Hb \$59.95 In AD 70, after a war which had flared sporadically for four years, three Roman legions under the future Emperors Vespasian and his son Titus, surrounded, laid siege to, and eventually devastated the city of Jerusalem, destroying completely the magnificent temple which had been built by Herod only 80 years earlier. What brought about this conflict, with its extraordinary consequences? Goodman explains this titanic struggle, showing why Rome's interests were served

by this policy of brutal hostility, and how the first generation of Christians first distanced themselves from its Jewish origins and then became increasingly hostile to Jews as their influence spread within the empire. Due Mar

The Byzantines

Averil CAMERON

296pp Hb \$54.95 Byzantium occupies an uncertain place in European history. Though often misconstrued as a vanished successor to the classical world, Byzantium belongs in the mainstream history of Europe and the Mediterranean. Its impact is still felt throughout the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The Byzantine world was also where early Islam and Christianity met, and the Byzantines engaged with and existed alongside Muslims, from the Arabs in the 7th century to the Ottoman Turks in the 15th. During its long history, the



size and shape of the Byzantine Empire underwent many dramatic changes and the pluralist world of late Byzantium was very different from that of the Roman empire when Constantinople was founded in the 4th century AD. The world around it also changed dramatically during that time, yet Byzantine identity was both tenacious and distinctive.

Katherine Howard

Joanna DENNY

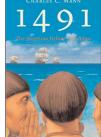
304pp Pb \$28.00 Following Anne Boleyn (Pb \$35), Denny reveals another sensational episode in Tudor history by illuminating the true character of Katherine Howard, the young girl caught up in a maelstrom of ambition and conspiracy, leading to her execution for high treason when only 17. Who was Katherine, the beautiful young aristocrat who became a bait to catch a king? Was she simply naive and innocent, a victim of her

grasping family's scheming? Or was she brazen and abandoned, recklessly indulging in dissolute games with lovers in contempt of her royal position? Denny once again plunges the reader into the heart of the ruthless intrigues of the Tudor court, painting a sympathetic and poignant portrait of a girl tragically trapped and betrayed by her own family. Due Mar

1491

The Americas Before Columbus 576pp Pb \$29.95 Charles MANN

Until very recently, it was believed that in 1491, the year before Columbus landed, the Americas, one-third of the earth's surface, was a near-pristine wilderness inhabited by small, roaming bands of indigenous peoples. But recently unexpected discoveries have dramatically changed our understanding of Indian life. Many scholars now argue that the



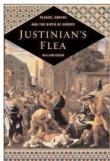
Indians were much more numerous, were in the Americas for far longer, and had far more ecological impact on the land than previously believed. This knowledge has enormous implications for today's environmental disputes, yet little has filtered into textbooks, and even less into public awareness. In this second edition, Mann brings together all of the latest research, and the results of his own travels throughout North and South America, to provide a new, fascinating and iconoclastic account of the Americas before Columbus

Trickster Travels In Search of Leo Africanus, A Sixteenth-Century Muslim Between Worlds

Natalie ZEMON DAVIS 448pp Hb \$59.95 The man whom historians know as Leo Africanus, author of the first geography of Africa, is a celebrated but hitherto elusive figure. Al-Hasan al-Wazzan was born in Granada and grew up in Morocco. He was captured by Christian pirates in the Mediterranean in 1518 and imprisoned by the Pope, then released, baptised and allowed a European life of scholarship as the Christian writer Giovanni Leone. In her characteristically accessible and engaging way, Davis describes this dramatic life in rich detail, scrutinising the evidence of al-Wazzan's movement between cultural worlds, the Islamic and Arab traditions and ideas available to him, and his adventures with Christians and Jews, in a European community of learned men, powerful church leaders and among its ordinary street life. Due Mar

Justinian's Flea

William ROSEN 384pp Hb \$59.95 In the middle of the 6th century, the world's smallest organism collided with the world's mightiest empire. 25 million corpses later, the Roman Empire, under her last great emperor, Justinian, was decimated. Before Yersinia pestis, the bacterium that carries bubonic plague was through; both the Rome and Persian empires were easy pickings for the armies of Muhammad on their conquering march out of Arabia. In its wake,

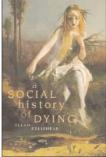


the plague - history's first pandemic - marked the transition from the age of Mediterranean empires to the age of European nation-states, from antiquity to the medieval world. Rosen's narrative weaves together evolutionary microbiology, architecture, military history, geography, rat and flea ecology, jurisprudence, theology, epidemiology and the economics of the silk trade. The climax of 'Justinian's Flea' - the summer of 542, when Constantinople witnessed the death of 5,000 of its citizens every day - is revealed through the experiences of the remarkable individuals whose lives are a window onto a remarkable age. Due Mar

A Social History of Dying

312pp Pb \$49.95 Allan KELLEHEAR Our experiences of dying have been shaped by ancient ideas about death and social responsibility at the end of life. From Stone Age ideas about an otherworld journey to the contemporary Cosmopolitan Age of dying in nursing homes. Kellehear takes the reader on a two-million-year journey of discovery that covers the major challenges we will all eventually face: anticipating, preparing, taming and timing for our eventual death. He

argues that we are witnessing a rise in shameful forms of dying. It is not cancer, heart disease or medical science that presents the greatest moral tests, but poverty, ageing and social exclusion.

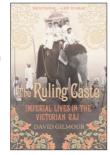


ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP

History

The Ruling Caste Imperial Lives in the Victorian Raj

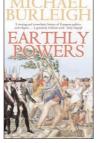
David GILMOUR 416pp Tp \$35.00 For nearly 200 years, a small group of British officials administered vast areas of south Asia. In 1900, just over 1,000 civil servants ruled a population of nearly 300 million people spread over a territory now covered by India, Pakistan, Burma and Bangladesh. It was, as Stalin said with a mixture of envy and annoyance, a "ridiculous" situation. Fascinated by the men who administered the



Empire at ground level - in the districts, courts and provincial governments -Gilmour has worked for much of the last 15 years in archives, public and private, examining the structure of power: Magistrates and Judges, Residents and Political Agents, Lieutenant-Governors and Members of the Viceroy's Council. His absorbing account traces their lives from recruitment to retirement, from jungle to Government House, from a bungalow in Burma to a residency in Rajputana. He describes their work and leisure, their intellectual and private lives. He explains why they went to India, what they did when they got there, and what they thought about it all. *Due Mar*

Earthly Powers The Conflict Between Religion and Politics from the French Revolution to the Great War Michael BURLEIGH 576pp Pb \$30.0

Michael BURLEIGH 576pp Pb \$30.00 This book explores the way in which religion, broadly construed, functions within European societies. Its astonishing scope encompasses the philosophers of the Enlightenment and the influence of thinkers like de Maistre and de Bonald and Lamennais, as well as the pseudoreligious aspects of Marxism. It looks at painters like Zoffany



and David and analyses their representations of their times. It considers the exploits of O'Connell, hero of Catholic Emancipation, Mazzini, Mickiewicz and Garibaldi, and goes via 19th century English and Russian literature to the epic struggles between Church and State, industry and the rise of Christian socialism. It concludes with the advent of the 'old stone gods' that heralded the totalitarian political religions of the 20th century. Burleigh's writing is never less than brilliant and absorbing, handling a welter of ideas and historical detail with confidence, verve and sophistication. *Due Mar*

Blowing Up Russia The Secret Plot to Bring Back KGB Terror Alexander LITVINENKO & Yuri FELSHTINSKY

304pp Hb \$34.95

This book contains the devastating attack of ex-KGB officer Litvinenko against his former superiors. Litvinenko was poisoned in London with a lethal dose of radioactive Polonium 210 in November 2006. In association with academic Felshtinsky, he exposes in a meticulous study how lethal KGB methods were used to catapult Putin into power as one of the most popular Russian leaders ever

elected. Based on Litvinenko's 20 years of insider's knowledge of Russian spy campaigns, this book, banned in Russia, is a meticulous and gripping story of how the secret organs of the Russian state are out of control and plotting a return to Russia as a state of terror. *Due Mar*

Hitler's Beneficiaries

Plunder, Racial War and the Nazi Welfare State Gotz ALY 496pp Hb \$55.00

In this groundbreaking book, Aly addresses one of modern history's greatest conundrums: How did Hitler win the allegiance of ordinary Germans? The answer is as shocking as it is persuasive: by engaging in a campaign of theft on an almost unimaginable scale - and by channelling the proceeds into generous social programs - Hitler literally 'bought' his people's consent. Drawing on secret files and financial records, Aly shows that while Jews and citizens of

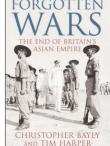
occupied lands suffered crippling taxation, mass looting, enslavement and destruction, most Germans enjoyed an improved standard of living. Buoyed by millions of packages soldiers sent home from the front, Germans also benefited from the systematic plunder of conquered territory and the transfer of Jewish possessions into their homes and pockets. Any qualms were swept away by waves of government handouts, tax breaks and preferential legislation. Gripping and important, this book makes a radically new contribution to our understanding

of Nazi aggression, the Holocaust and the complicity of a people. Due Mar

Forgotten Wars The End of Britain's Asian Empire

Christopher BAYLY & Tim HARPER

704pp Hb \$59.95 Following immense praise for Forgotten Armies (Pb \$26.95), its authors now tackle the even more contentious issue of how new nations were born from the wreck of Britain's empire in Southeast Asia. The almost continual fighting that followed Japan's defeat scarred the entire



region - from the violent British occupation of south Vietnam to the horrors of Partition in India; from the hasty retreat from Burma to the Malayan 'Emergency', one of the first and most dramatic counterinsurgency wars of the 20th century. This book explores the lives of politicians, soldiers and ordinary people as the travails of decolonisation merged with the hatreds of the Cold War. *Due Mar*

American Torture

Michael OTTERMAN

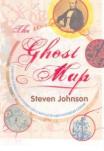
208pp Pb \$24.95

Contrary to US government assertions, the Abu Ghraib photos do not reflect the perverse handiwork of 'a few bad apples'. As this book reveals, tortures such as sensory deprivation, sexual humiliation and forced standing are core elements of the American detention regime, a product of more than 60 years of government research and development fully detailed in extensive CIA manuals. Otterman examines the origins of this detention regime and traces how it was refined, spread and kept legal. He uncovers the effects of statesponsored torture and deconstructs the myths espoused by its proponents. An interview with Mamdouh Habib is included, as well as an examination of the plight of Guantanamo Bay detainee David Hicks. *Due Mar*

The Ghost Map

A Street, an Epidemic and the Two Men Who Battled to Save Victorian London

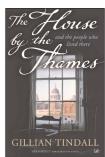
Steven JOHNSON 202pp Hb \$39.95 At 6am on 28 August 1854, the city of London struggled to sleep at the end of an oppressively hot summer. But at 40 Broad Street, Soho, Sarah Lewis was awake tending to her feverish baby girl. As she threw a used bucket of water into the cesspool at the front of her lodgings, it marked the start of a cholera epidemic that would consume 50,000 lives in England and Wales, and become a battle between man and microbe unlike any other. Johnson takes us day



by day through what happened, recreating a London full of dust heaps, furnaces and slaughterhouses; where a ghost class of bone-pickers, rag gatherers, dredger men and mud-larks scavenged off waste; where families were crammed into tiny rooms and cartloads of bodies were wheeled down the streets.

The House by the Thames And the People Who Lived There

Gillian TINDALL 272pp Pb \$30.00 Just across the River Thames from St Paul's Cathedral stands an old house. It is the last genuine survivor of what was once a long ribbon of elegant houses overlooking the water. Built in the days of Queen Anne, it stands in the footprint of a far older habitation. Once, on this spot, was the Cardinal's Cap, a timbered Tudor inn. Its vaulted cellars are still there, beneath the bricks



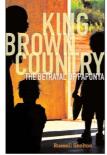
and plaster and panelling of later centuries. Over the course of almost 450 years, the dwelling on this site has seen changes on the river and in the city on the opposite bank. From its windows, people have watched the ferrymen transport Londoners to Shakespeare's Globe; they have gazed on the Great Fire and seen goods from all corners of the world shipped from the Pool below London Bridge. They have watched new bridges rise and the ships change from sail to steam. They have also seen the countrified lanes of London's marshy south bank give way to a network of wharves, workshops and tenements - and then seen these, too, become dust and empty air. Rich with anecdote and colour, empathetic, scholarly and textured, this is social history at its most enjoyable.



Australian History

King Brown Country Russ SKELTON

160pp Pb \$24.95 What has gone wrong with indigenous policy in Australia over the past 30 years? In the 1970s, indigenous Australians were given equal pay, access to the nation's welfare net and greater freedom than ever before to run their own affairs. But for so many remote communities, the new-found freedoms have delivered unmitigated misery. Plagued by shocking levels of domestic violence and sex abuse, fuelled by alcohol and



CONSTRUCTING

substance dependency, many of these isolated communities have become dysfunctional outposts where women and children are at risk every day and life expectancy is no better than it was 30 years ago. In this dramatic case study of one community, Skelton tracked down and interviewed a wide range of people - from government ministers and bureaucrats to former store owners, teachers, aid workers and members of the Anderson family - to piece together a portrait of a township in crisis. Due March

Constructing a Nation

Richard EVANS with Alex WEST 160pp Pb \$34.95 This book is published to coincide with a 3-part ABC miniseries (Sunday nights at 7:30pm beginning 17 March). The first three episodes feature the making of Sydney Harbour Bridge, the creation of the Telegraph Line across Australia and the building of the pipeline from Perth to Kalgoorlie. Covering the epoch from the 1860s to the 1930s, what emerges from these stories of hubris,

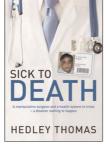
survival, wilderness, struggle, conflict and the indigenous

frontier, is nothing less than an epic: the emergence of the nation and its relationship with the wider world.Due March

Sick to Death A Manipulative Surgeon and a Health System in Crisis A Disaster Waiting to Happen

Hedley THOMAS

320pp Tp \$29.95 They called him Dr Death. A 15-year-old boy's leg had to be amputated as a result of his poor judgement. He botched a procedure on a young man, leaving him impotent and urinating through his rectum - and with a 30cm surgical clamp embedded in his abdomen. Undeterred by the atrocities he was causing, he continued to deceive patients who trusted him to fix their pain. At least 17 people in his care did not survive. Dr Jayant Patel's reign at Bundaberg Base Hospital lasted two years. A life-threatening combination of the doctor's manipulative personality and a culture of concealment in politics and



A DISTANT

medicine meant that the surgeon's incompetence went unchallenged by Queensland authorities, despite the fact that Dr Patel had previously been banned from surgical practice in the US. But a courageous nurse blew the whistle, taking the appalling story of a sick health system to a leading journalist and a state parliamentarian. Their combined efforts forced two powerful enquiries. This is a true story of deceit, tragedy and heroism, one that forces us to question our faith in Australia's medical system.

A Distant Grief

Australians, War Graves and the Great War Bart ZIINO 256pp Pb \$39.95

In WWI, Australian reactions to death were defined by distance, a circumstance that impelled mourners towards communal responses to their loss. It drove them to create and sustain links with the graves that most knew they would never see. A widespread recognition of this condition resulted in an Australian community keenly aware of the shared nature of their grief. Due Mar

Bean's Gallipoli

The Diaries of Australia's Official War Correspondent **Kevin FEWSTER** 304pp Hb \$35.00

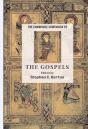
Probably no person saw more of the Anzacs in battle on Gallipoli than C E W Bean. After sailing with the first convoy, he landed with them on that first fateful morning of 25 April and remained on Gallipoli until the evacuation, despite being wounded. Unique among war correspondents of his day, no place in the line was too dangerous for him. No other pressman dared to go ashore with the first landings. Throughout the fiercest battles, he would sit in the dust or mud of the frontline trench, taking notes or making sketches. This new edition of Frontline Gallipoli contains new extracts from Bean's diaries, new commentary by Fewster and over 80 photographs, most taken by Bean at Gallipoli. Due Mar



From the Academic Presses

If your interest in atheism was piqued by The God Delusion (Tp \$35.00), you might like to read The Cambridge Companion to Atheism (331pp Pb \$49.95). Edited by Michael Martin, this contains 18 essays on various aspects of atheism - its history, both ancient and modern, defence and implications.

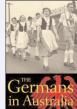
Another new Companion is The Cambridge Companion to the Gospels (300pp Pb \$49.95) edited by Stephen Barton. It treats the gospels not just as historical sources, but as crucial testimony to the life of God made known in Jesus Christ. This approach helps overcome the sometimes damaging split between critical gospel study and questions of theology, ethics and the life of faith.



Victory in War (436pp Hb \$59.95) by William Martel is an extraordinarily topical book that deals with questions such as How long does it take to achieve victory? How do we know when victory is achieved? Is it possible to win a war and yet lose the peace? It explores historical definitions of victory, how victory has evolved and how it has been implemented, and looks at case studies that include the US military interventions in Panama, Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Shameful Flight (336pp Hb \$59.95), Stanley Wolpert narrates the last half-century of the British in India, framed by the surrender of Singapore in February 1942, the partition of South Asia in 1947 and the assassination of Gandhi in January 1948. Great Britain's mid-August transfer of power to new-born Dominions of India and Pakistan was immediately followed by the withdrawal of all British forces from India. He argues that the disaster of partition was largely due to Lord Mountbatten's misguided decision to get Britain out of India as quickly as possible.

The Germans in Australia (216pp Pb \$39.95) by Jurgen Tampke offers a detailed insight into the impact on Australia of large-scale German immigration, highlighting the social and cultural impact they have had on Australian life.



The Oxford History of English (485pp Hb \$100.00) edited by Lynda Mugglestone traces the

English language from its obscure Indo-European roots to its position as the world's first language. The 15 contributors reveal its rich and protean variety over the centuries and chart the progress of all its versions - standard, regional and international.

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language (326pp Pb \$49.95) by Michael Morris is a critical introduction to the central issues of this subject. Each chapter focuses on one or two texts that have had a seminal influence and uses these as a way of approaching both the central topics and the various traditions of dealing with them.

In The Emergence of a Scientific Culture (563pp Hb \$120), Stephen Gaukroger offers a detailed and comprehensive account of the formative stages of the development of science - and one which challenges the received wisdom that science was seen to be selfevidently the correct path to knowledge and that the benefits of science were immediately obvious to the disinterested observer.

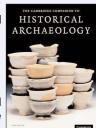
In What Stalin Knew: The Enigma of Barbarossa (310pp Tp \$39.95), David Murphy illuminates many of the enigmas that have surrounded the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, offering keen insights into Stalin's thinking and the reasons for his catastrophic blunder.

The Green and the Brown (230pp Tp \$43.95) by Frank Uekoetter is the first comprehensive discussion of conservation in Nazi Germany. It tells a story of ideological convergence, tactical alliances, careerism, implication in crimes against humanity, and deceit and denial after 1945.

The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archaeology (404pp Pb \$49.95) edited by Dan Hicks and Mary Beaudry provides an

overview of the international field of historical archaeology through 17 specially-commissioned essays from leading researchers in the field. It explores key themes in historical archaeology including documentary archaeology, the writing of historical archaeology, colonialism,

capitalism, industrial archaeology, maritime archaeology, cultural resource management and urban archaeology. Dave



ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP

7

Science

How to Cut a Cake

And Other Mathematical Conundrums

Ian STEWART 246pp Pb \$32.95 Welcome back to Stewart's magical world of mathematics! This is a strange world of never-ending chess games, empires on the moon, furious fireflies and, of course, disputes over how best to cut a cake. Each guirky tale presents a fascinating mathematical puzzle challenging and fun, introducing the reader to a significant mathematical problem in an engaging and witty way.

The Birth of Stars and Planets

John BALLY & Bo REIPURTH 295pp Hb \$75.00 Scientists are beginning to understand the beauty and complexity of star and planet formation and their role in cosmic evolution. This fascinating book combines the latest astronomical images and data with descriptions of the exciting recent developments in the study of star and planet formation. The authors



HOW TO

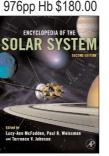
1AN STEWART

CUTACAKE

discuss isolated star birth in dark clouds, the formation of star clusters and nebulae, the 'ecology' of interstellar gas and dust, and the violent starbursts that may produce black holes. Written using non-technical language, this will appeal to readers with an interest in understanding the Universe and our cosmic origins.

Encyclopedia of the Solar System

Edited by Lucy-Ann McFADDEN et al The first edition of this book was excellent, but this new edition is superb. It has been completely revamped to reflect our current understanding of our celestial backyard. The articles, written by leading astronomers, are for the most part understandable by the average Scientific American reader and are accompanied by plenty of illustrations, many in fullcolour. Every object in the solar system is covered by at least one of the 47 chapters, while other chapters are devoted to the relationships among the objects and the processes that operate on them. Highly recommended.

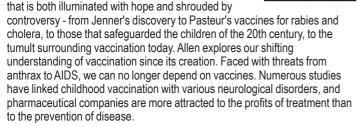


Dave

Vaccine

The Controversial Story of **Medicine's Greatest Lifesaver**

Arthur ALLEN 512pp Hb \$41.95 In 1796, as smallpox ravaged Europe, Edward Jenner injected a child with a benign version of the disease, then exposed the child to the deadly virus itself. The boy proved resistant to smallpox and Jenner's risky experiment produced the earliest vaccination. This deftly written account reveals a history of vaccination

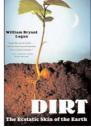


Dirt

The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth

William Bryant LOGAN 224pp Pb \$22.95

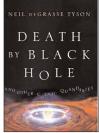
"You are about to read a lot about dirt, which no one knows very much about." So begins the book that brings mystery and magic to "that stuff that won't come off your collar". Thomas Jefferson, Saint Phocas, Darwin and Virgil parade through this thought-provoking work, taking their place next to the dung beetle, the compost heap,



dowsing and the microscopic biota that till the soil. Whether Logan is traversing the far reaches of the cosmos or ploughing through our planet's crust, his delightful, elegant and surprisingly soulful meditations greatly enrich our concept of that substance from which we all arise and to which we all return. Due Mar

Death by Black Hole And Other Cosmic Quandaries

Neil Degrasse TYSON 320pp Hb \$37.95 Readers of his essays in Natural History magazine recognise Tyson's talent for guiding them through the mysteries of the cosmos with clarity and enthusiasm. Here he compiles his favourite essays across a myriad of topics. The title essay introduces readers to the physics of black holes by explaining the gory details of what would happen to your body if you fell into one.

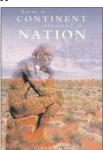


Holy Wars examines the needless friction between science and religion in the context of historical conflicts. And Hollywood Nights assails the movie industry's feeble efforts to get its night skies right.

How a Continent Created a Nation Libby ROBIN

272pp Pb \$39.95

Robin explores the links between nature and nation by looking at some of those who observe the natural world most closely, including scientists, field naturalists and farmers, telling the story of how we as a nation have come to understand our land. Having left the cultural cringe behind, settler Australians are struggling with the 'strange nature' of this continent. Robin suggests new ways of living in an arid and urbanised continent in times of global change and gives hope that Australia can move beyond the biological cringe.



The Never-Ending Days of Being Dead Dispatches from the Front Line of Science

Marcus CHOWN 288pp Hb \$39.95 What happens when you die? According to one prominent physicist, you will be instantaneously resurrected - despite trillions of years having passed in the dying days of the Universe. Stretching before you will be a subjective eternity of existence: the never-ending days of being dead ... This is just one of the strange but wonderful scientific ideas, each from the mind of one of the world's most daring and imaginative scientists, in Chown's superbly readable



new book. Learn how the big bang may have been spawned by a collision between 'island universes'; where we came from; will we ever find ET and more. Due Mar

A Measure of All Things The Story of Man and Measurement

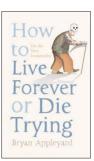
Ian WHITELAW

160pp Hb \$29.95

The progression and evolution of measurement has run parallel to the development of civilisation. From early systems that made universal trade possible all the way to modern methods that allow investigation, understanding and control of the chemical, physical and biological processes of the natural world. Understand the origins of our units of measurement, who discovered them, the ways in which they have developed and changed over time and the many connections between them. Together units of measurement help us to fathom the scale of the universe and give mankind a set of tools that enable us to think in detail about the physical world and extend our knowledge. Due Mar

How to Live Forever or Die Trying On the New Immortality

Bryan APPLEYARD 320pp Tp \$34.95 "I want to live for ever" sang the Kids from Fame, and they are not alone: the search for immortality has been a constant human refrain throughout history. But medical science has improved at an exponential rate in recent decades and there are those who believe that the ability to cheat death will soon be within our reach. They say the first person to live to be 1,000 years old has already been born. What has happened to get



people so excited about the prospect of eternal life? And if they are right, what would it mean for us as human beings? If death becomes negotiable, will we still fall in love or have children? Will we still be human? Appleyard tackles these and myriad other questions with dazzling skill. Funny, thoughtprovoking and often profound, he manages to grapple with the big issues of existence without blinding the reader with science and sheds new light on why we are the way we are. Due Mar

www.abbeys.com.au

Briefly noted...

In Darwin Loves You (336pp Hb \$53.95), George Levine argues persuasively that an understanding of Darwinism can lead to a secular enchantment of the sort experienced by Darwin himself as he worked to make sense of the world around him - an attitude of awe and love toward the multiple forms of life in all their extraordinary diversity. Enchantment of this type, he explains, is no less important or meaningful than enchantment arising from religion.

James Kaler's The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stars (338pp Hb \$99.00) provides a fascinating and fully

comprehensive description of stars and their nature. Filled with beautiful colour images, it begins by telling the story of astronomy from ancient constellations and star names to the modern coordinate system. Further chapters explain magnitudes, distances, star motions and the Galaxy at large.



GIROIRARE ILIENVIROIR

The Measure of God (358pp Pb \$28.00) by Larry Witham is a history of the Gifford Lectures which, for over 100 years, have been a prestigious forum for discussing faith and reason. The lectures have been presented by people such as William James, Henri Bergson, Arthur Eddington, Niels Bohr and Iris Murdoch, as well as Carl Sagan, whose lectures have just been published as The Varieties of Scientific Experience (304pp Hb \$59.95).

String Theory and M-Theory: A Modern Introduction (756pp Hb \$120.00) guides the reader from the basics of string theory to recent developments. It introduces the basics of perturbative string theory, world-sheet supersymmetry, space-time supersymmetry, conformal field theory and the heterotic string, before describing modern developments including D-branes, string dualities and M-theory and more

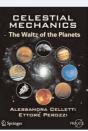
Mathematics and Common Sense (242pp Hb \$60.00) by Philip Davis consists of a number of loosely linked essays (that can be read independently) that throw light on the relationship between mathematics and common sense. Some of the topics considered are the nature of logic and the uses of inconsistency, discussions of numbers and what to do with them, mathematical intuition and what constitutes mathematical proof or evidence.

The new edition of The Field Guide to Geology (304pp Pb \$40.00) by David Lambert recounts the story of the Earth in an engaging, accessible fashion. It is a concise, comprehensive overview of the processes that forge the planet and the technologies that have revolutionised the way scientists investigate Earth's systems. Suitable for teenagers as well as adults

From Clockwork to Crapshoot (340pp Hb \$59.95) by Roger Newton is a concise, well-written history of physics. The author gives brief explanations of the scientific concepts involved, thumbnail sketches of the protagonists, and descriptions of the changing instruments that enabled scientists to make their discoveries. He traces a profound change from a deterministic explanation of the world - accepted at least since the time of the ancient Greek and Taoist Chinese civilisations - to the notion of probability, enshrined as the very basis of science with the quantum revolution at the beginning of the 20th century.

Carl Zimmer's Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea (485pp Pb \$33.00) presents a rich and up-to-date view of evolution that explores the far-reaching implications of Darwin's theory and emphasises its power, significance and relevance to our lives today. It covers topics ranging from Darwinian medicine and sexual selection to the origins of language, evolutionary psychology and the controversies surrounding creationism, detailing the story of a remarkable scientific journey, from the emergence to the triumph of an idea.

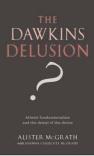
Celestial Mechanics (245pp Pb \$51.95) by Alessandra Celletti and Ettore Perozzi uses the bare minimum of mathematics to explain the underlying physical phenomena behind celestial mechanics. Writing in an easy-to-read style, the authors discuss everything from the rotation of the Moon to spaceflight and exoplanets. Dave



Philosophy & Religion The Dawkins Delusion?

Alister McGRATH

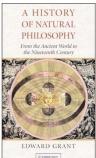
96pp Pb \$27.95 World-renowned scientist Richard Dawkins writes in The God Delusion (Tp \$34.95), "If this book works as I intend, religious readers who open it will be atheists when they put it down." McGrath, once an atheist himself, gained a doctorate in molecular biophysics before becoming a leading Christian theologian. He wonders how two people, who have reflected at length on substantially the same world, could possibly have come to such different conclusions about God. McGrath asks: Is



faith intellectual nonsense? Are science and religion locked in a battle to the death? Can the roots of Christianity be explained away scientifically? Is Christianity simply a force for evil?

A History of Natural Philosophy From the Ancient World to the Nineteenth Century Edward GRANT 376pp Pb \$39.95

Natural philosophy encompassed all natural phenomena of the physical world. It sought to discover the physical causes of all natural effects and was little concerned with mathematics. By contrast, the exact mathematical sciences were narrowly confined to various computations that did not involve physical causes, functioning totally independently of natural philosophy. Although this slowly began to change in the late Middle Ages, a much more thorough union of natural philosophy and



mathematics occurred in the 17th century and thereby made the Scientific Revolution possible. The title of Isaac Newton's great work, The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy, perfectly reflects the new relationship. Natural philosophy became the Great Mother of the Sciences, which by the 19th century had nourished the manifold chemical, physical and biological sciences to maturity, thus enabling them to leave the Great Mother and emerge as the multiplicity of independent sciences we know today. Due Mar

Little Book of Big Ideas Religion

Trevor BARNES & Jeremy STANGROOM

128pp Hb \$19.95 This book contains encyclopaedic entries on 50 of the world's religious and theological giants. From Jesus and Buddha to Moses and Mohammed, all major movements of religious thinking are explored and explained, providing not only a basic religious reference, but also an invaluable aid to cultural sensitivity and global understanding. Crucial and sometimes complex ideas are made accessible to the general reader and

this book examines questions such as: What is the history of religious difference? Where did our major spiritual arguments come from? Due Mar

Ecrits

The First Complete Edition in English

Jacques LACAN, Bruce FINK (Trans) 896pp Pb \$37.95 Brilliant and innovative, Jacques Lacan's work lies at the epicentre of modern thought about otherness, subjectivity, sexual difference, the drives, the law and enjoyment. Fink's precise new translation offers welcome, readable access to Lacan's seminal thinking on diverse subjects touched upon over the course of his inimitable intellectual career.

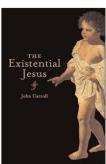


The Existential Jesus

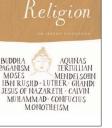
John CARROLL

320pp Tp \$35.00 Jesus is the man who made the West. What kind of man was he? Is he relevant to a modern world shaken by crises of meaning? The churches have mainly projected him as Jesus the carer and comforter, Jesus meek and mild, friend of the weak. This is Jesus the Good Shepherd, who preaches on sin and forgiveness. But this church

Jesus is not remotely like the existential hero portrayed in the first and most potent telling of his life story - that of Mark. Mark's Jesus is lonely and restless, a mysterious stranger. His mission is dark and obscure. Everything he tries fails. By the end, there is no God, no loyal followers, just torture by crucifixion, climaxing in a colossal death-scream. The story closes without a resurrection from the dead. There is just an empty tomb and three women fleeing in terror. The existential Jesus speaks today. He does not spout doctrine; he has no interest in sin; his focus is not on some after-life. He gestures enigmatically from within his own gruelling experience, inviting the reader to walk in his shoes.

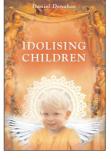


ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP



Miscellaneous **Idolising Children**

Daniel DONAHOO 234pp Tp \$29.95 Obsessed with our own youth and wanting perfect, genius children who live in a world of designer clothes and toys, Donahoo says it's time for us to find new ways of parenting and a new kind of childhood. We need to remove the guilt that comes with trying to be perfect parents, asking us to respect children and allow them to experience childhood with all its ups and downs. Due Mar



The No Asshole Rule Building a Civilised Workplace and Surviving One That Isn't

192pp Tp \$29.95

Robert SUTTON When the Harvard Business Review asked Sutton for suggestions for its annual list of Breakthrough Ideas, he told them that the best business practice he knew of was "the no asshole rule". Spurred on by the fear and despair that people expressed, the tricks they used to survive with dignity in asshole-infested places, the revenge stories that made him laugh out loud and the other small wins that they celebrated against mean-spirited people, Sutton was persuaded to write this book. He believes passionately that civilised workplaces are not a naive dream, that they do exist, do bolster performance and that widespread contempt can be erased and replaced with mutual respect when a team or organisation is managed right.

The Mature Mind

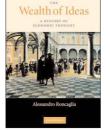
The Positive Power of the Aging Brain Gene COHEN

256pp Pb \$29.95

I knew it, the mind can improve with age! In this landmark book, Cohen challenges the long-held belief that our brainpower inevitably declines as we age. He shows that there are actually positive changes taking place in our minds. Based on the latest studies of the brain, as well as moving stories of men and women in the second half of life, he reveals for the first time how we can continue to grow and flourish. His groundbreaking theory - the first to elaborate on the psychology of later life - describes how the mind gives us 'inner pushes' and creates new opportunities for positive change throughout adult life. He shows how we can jump-start that growth at any age and under any circumstances, fine-tuning as we go, actively building brain reserves and new possibilities. Due Mar Ann

The Wealth of Ideas A History of Economic Thought Alessandro RONCAGLIA

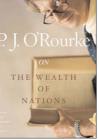
596pp Pb \$75.00 This book traces the history of economic thought, from its prehistory (the Bible, Classical antiquity) to the present day. This eloquently written and scientifically rigorous book examines William Petty, Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Karl Marx, William Stanley Jevons, Carl Menger, L Walras, Alfred Marshall, John Maynard Keynes, Joseph Schumpeter and other important



figures, and on debates of the period. Economic thought is seen as developing between two opposite poles: a subjective one, based on the ideas of scarcity and utility, and an objective one based on the notions of physical costs and surplus. Roncaglia focuses on the different views of the economy and society, and on their evolution over time and critically evaluates both notions. Due Mar

On the Wealth of Nations **Books that Shook the World**

P J O'ROURKE 256pp Pb \$22.95 Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations, the book that created the field of economics, is transformed into a page-turner of global significance by America's sharpest political commentator. "Although its contents didn't make people gasp, something about The Wealth of Nations was grit in the gears of Enlightenment thinking. And that something is still there, grinding on



our minds. I could feel it myself when the subject of self-interest came up. Gosh, I'm not selfish. I think about the environment and those less fortunate than me. Especially those unfortunates who don't give a hoot about pollution, global warming and species extinction. I think about them a lot and I hope they lose the next election. Then maybe we can get some caring and compassionate people in public office, people who aren't selfish. And let's face it, the 'lower ranks of the people' do have too much money. Look at Britney Spears ... " Due March

Risky Business People, Pastimes, Poker and Books

AI ALVAREZ 416pp Tp \$35.00 Alvarez's writing career has come in many guises. One of the most influential post-war critics, he has written profoundly and eloquently about writers and their craft for over 50 years. As the Observer's poetry editor, he introduced British readers to the new poetry of the 50s and 60s, most famously to the poetry of Sylvia Plath. But Alvarez has also been a passionate amateur of risky pursuits poker playing, mountaineering, flying in old aeroplanes - and he has written about these



subjects with a rare depth, liveliness and perception. Due Mar

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Simon ARMITAGE 160pp Hb \$35.00 Preserved on a single surviving manuscript dating from around 1400, composed by an anonymous master. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight was rediscovered only 200 years ago and published for the first time in 1839. One of the earliest great stories of English literature (after Beowulf), the poem narrates in crystalline verse the strange tale of a green knight on a green horse, who rudely interrupts the Round Table festivities one Yuletide, casting a pall of unease over the company and challenging one of their number to a wager. Armitage's new



version is meticulously responsive and responsible to the tact and sophistication of the original, but responds equally to its own powerfully persuasive ambition to be read as an original new poem. Due Mar

Mozart and his Operas

David CAIRNS 304pp Pb \$26.95 Mozart's music still speaks to us across the centuries, yet our view of the composer is often clouded by myth. Cairns distils a lifetime of knowledge to tell Mozart's story afresh through some of his greatest works - the operas. From the early works to The Magic Flute, he shows us how Mozart's operas can deeply enrich our experience of his music as a whole and radically transform our understanding of the man.



A Game as Old as Empire

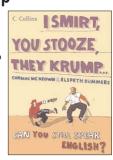
Steven HIATT (Ed)

250pp Hb \$45.00 Introduced by he author of Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (Pb \$24.95), Hiatt goes further in revealing how the Hit Man game has functioned and continues to function in many countries around the world. Through detailed confessions and hard facts and figures, this new book exposes a monstrous web of systematic corruption that is sure to evoke widespread controversy and interest. Due Mar

I Smirt, You Stooze, They Krump Can You Still Speak English?

Cormac McKEOWN & Elspeth SUMMERS

192pp Pb \$20.00 What if we told you there's an Evil Twin downstairs? That your children are at the silent disco and your dad's been dooced? What if we called you a flashpacker, or worse: an orthorexic? Frightened? Confused? You needn't be. If dog-whistling goes over your head and global dimming leaves you in the dark, let this be your guide to the biggest, boldest, fastest-changing language on Earth.



Walking with the Anzacs Mat McLACHLAN

Tp \$40.00 This book aims to become the new essential companion for Australians visiting the Western Front. Each of the 14 most important Australian battlefields is covered with descriptions of the battles and Australia's involvement in it. The book presents a well-illustrated walking tour across the old battlefields. The tours are along easily accessible walking routes and show readers battlefield landmarks that still exist, memorials to the men who fought there and the cemeteries where many of them still lie. Due Mar



News from Eve Abbey

March 18 is the 75th birthday of Sydney Harbour Bridge. It will be closed to traffic all day, but open to anyone who cares to walk the distance. Register to walk on www.ourbridge.com.au. Last time this happened was in 2000, when thousands of people walked across in support of Aboriginal Reconciliation. I remember lots of them turned up here at Abbey's Bookshop at the end of the walk, as they headed straight up York Street once they got to the city, and it was quite an exciting day. It was also the moment when Kate Grenville felt she should investigate the life of her ancestor, Solomon Wiseman, and out of this idea came her wonderful book, **The Secret River** (\$29.95 Tp), which questions the actions of our very early settlers as they tried to make new lives for themselves. You may be one of the many hundreds who have read this thrilling book and, if so, you will also thrill to read her account of how the

book changed from non-fiction to fiction. It is called **Searching for the Secret River** (\$32.95 Tp 221pp). We currently have this in Fiction, next to her novel, although it may end up in Writing & Publishing. Even if you are not a writer, you will marvel at the work and thought Kate Grenville has put into this. If you have read the novel, it will be even more fascinating. I'm afraid this is a book which I am going to press upon my friends. Other books by Kate Grenville are **Dark Places** (\$22.95), **The Idea of Perfection** (\$22.95), **Joan Makes History** (\$24.95) and **Lilian's Story** (\$22.95), while upstairs in Writing & Publishing you



can find her Writing Book: A Workbook for Fiction Writers (\$24.95), Writing from Start to Finish (\$24.95) and, with Sue Woolfe, How Ten Australian Stories Were Written (\$26.95).

If you are a history buff and want to enter the debate about how history is presented, look at the inimitable Inga Clendinnen's **Quarterly Essay #23: The History Question: Who Owns the Past?** and see Kate Grenville's reply in the March issue, **Quarterly Essay #25: Bipolar Nation** (both \$14.95).

I went to see the film Miss Potter and found it a nice, although not very subtle, account of the life of Beatrix Potter. If you were surprised to read at the end that Miss Potter became an important conservationist and successful countrywoman, and you would like to know more about her interesting life, I suggest you read Margaret Lane's **The Tale of Beatrix Potter** (\$22 Pb).

If you like magical-realism, there is a big, astounding book from an aboriginal writer who manages to present vernacular language in a true and unembarrassed way. It is **Carpentaria** by Alexis Wright (\$29.95 Pb 519pp of good clear print), very well-presented, as it deserves. The story is largerthan-life, a mixture of myth, scripture, politics and farce, set in the Far North. You'll laugh as well as cry and you won't forget some of the characters.

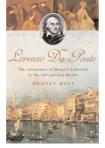


I've read another unusual and wonderful book. It is **Mister Pip** (\$29.95 Pb) by New Zealand writer Lloyd Jones. This is set on a remote Solomon Island, where tribal disputes are violent. The schoolteacher has been killed and most of the young men are missing. A "left-over" white man, married to an apparently mad local, takes on the task of educating the children. He does this by reading to them Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. The story is told by a very observant little girl who understands the respect her teacher gives to her culture and, like Pip before her, she is prepared to leave her homeland to discover more stories, such as the life of her teacher, and to delve even deeper into the world of Dickens in London. A very satisfying book.

Have you been, like me, in the habit of putting new 50c coins in a tin? What for? For later? In the Activities area of the Children's section upstairs, I found some excellent folders, complete with niches into which you fit coins, plus a booklet describing the various issues and the numbers minted, etc. Very

interesting and fun. I'm only missing one 50c coin. It is a reminder to think about the events commemorated on our coins. A good idea for your children or grandchildren. They are \$9 or \$10 each and available for 20c, 50c and \$1.

Chris Scott has been reading the biography of famous librettist, Lorenzo da Ponte: The Adventures of Mozart's Librettist in the Old and New Worlds by Rodney Bolt (\$49.95 Hb 428pp illustrated).



Chris has encouraged me to read this, not only because he considers librettists unfairly overlooked for their difficult task, but also because the breezily written book is fascinating. Lorenzo turns out to be a Venetian Jew, a friend of Casanova, who converted to Christianity. He was not only a Catholic Priest (who officiated at his own wedding; how?) but a failed shopkeeper in New York and the first Professor of Italian at Columbia University. This sounds like a life worth reading in a book which is both serious and humorous. We've decided it will be happier shelved in Music, rather than Biography, so look for it there. Rodney Bolt has also written another successful book, **History Play: The Lives and After Life of Christopher Marlowe** (\$24.95 Pb) in Literary Criticism.

I was especially pleased to sell a copy of **The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review** by Nicholas Stern (\$89.95 Pb 692pp). Perhaps that magic word "economics" will make people think harder.

Abbey's have had an Environment section for a very long time. In fact, as I remember it, we were the first Sydney bookshop to have a separate section for this subject. It is good to report that nowadays it is a busy area, not only with bestselling titles such as **The Weather Makers: The History and Future Impact of Climate Change** by Tim Flannery (\$32.95 Tp), but also titles such as **Back from the Brink: How Australia's Landscape can be Saved** (\$29.95 Tp) by horse breeder and farmer, Peter Andrews, whose unusual farming methods have been the focus of two enormously popular episodes of ABC-TV's *Australian Story*. Also Jennifer Thomson's **GM Crops: The Impact and the Potential** (\$39.95 Pb 158pp) - are they monsters or miracles? **From Resource Scarcity to Ecological Security** (\$39.95 Pb), a collection of articles edited by Denis Pirages and Ken Cousins, update Jimmy Carter's Global 2000 Report and look at climate changes, as well as social changes.

I also read about the Tathra Surf Life Saving Club, which has installed wind and solar energy for their clubhouse. This will save them money and also spread the word. This year is the Year of the Surf Lifesaver and I already have a little pin to wear. I don't like the surf myself (I prefer calmer water), but I certainly admire the brave young men and women who volunteer to help others enjoy our beautiful beaches.

Dr Seuss books are 50 years old this year. Our family favourite is **The Cat in the Hat** (\$8.95), while Cara's favourite was **Horton Hatches the Egg** (\$8.95). We have a large selection of Dr Seuss on the top shelf of Younger Readers, so indulge in a bit of nostalgia for your family. Not only is Kathryn Hanna going on maternity leave, but Cara Willetts, voracious reader and author of many of the intriguing reviews in our newsletters, has left bookselling for another field. We'll miss her enormous contribution and I'm sure you will miss her reviews.



While I was looking at our range of Dr Seuss, I discovered a number of titles in Younger Readers by none other than Alexander McCall Smith! He is certainly prolific and I think his style will appeal very much to young people. Two titles I noticed were **The Banana Machine** and **Popcorn Pirates** (both \$11.95).

I also noticed two good books for Young Scientists. Firstly, **Australian Backyard Astronomy** by Dr Ragbir Bhathal & Jenny Bhatal (\$24.95 large Pb 132pp, well illustrated) and **Uneversaurus** (\$24.95 Hb), a book for beginners interested in dinosaurs. Of course, we have many books on dinosaurs, both in Young Science upstairs and Prehistoric Life downstairs.

A reminder that entries for the Australian Museum *Eureka Prizes for Science* close on 4 May. Details and entry forms at

www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka. Do I need to remind you to listen to *The Science Show* on ABC Radio National each Saturday lunchtime? A favourite for me.



Eve



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- Letter to a Christian Nation by Sam Harris (Hb \$32.95) 3
- Quarterly Essay #23: The History Question: Who Owns the Past? by Inga Clendinnen (Pb \$14.95) 4
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- 10 Easter 1916 by Charles Townsend (Pb \$26.95)

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- 9 Amazing Disgrace by James Hamilton Paterson (Tp \$29.95)
- 10 Penguin Henry Lawson Short Stories by Henry Lawson (Pb \$24.95)

Now in Paperback

Colour by Victoria Finlay \$16.95

This remarkable and beautifully written book remembers a time when red paint was really the colour of blood, when orange was the poison pigment, blue as expensive as gold, and yellow made from the urine of cows force-fed with mangoes. Finlay lifts the lid on the historical palette and unearths an astonishing wealth of stories about the quest for colours and our efforts to understand them. Due Mar

The Race for Timbuktu: In Search of Africa's City of Gold by Frank Kryza \$25.00 Kryza follows Major Alexander Gordon Laing's arduous trek in 1825 across an unforgiving Sahara to be the first white man in centuries to reach the lost city of Timbuktu, Africa's legendary City of Gold. Due Mar

The Last Revolution: 1688 and the Creation of the Modern World by Patrick Dillon \$30.00 Dillon brings to life the revolutionary world of the late 17th century. He offers timely reminders about religious tolerance and the political freedoms on which we depend, and, finally, provides a brilliant insight into the emergence of the dynamic, constantly changing world we inhabit today. Due Mar

For Lust of Knowing: The Orientalists and their Enemies by Robert Irwin \$26.95 Irwin's history of Orientalism leads from Ancient Greece to the present. He shows that, whether making philological comparisons between Arabic and Hebrew, cataloguing the coins of Fatimid Egypt, or establishing the basic chronology of Harun al-Rashid's military campaigns against Byzantium, scholars have been unified not by politics or ideology, but by their shared obsession. Due Mar

The Cold War by John Lewis Gaddis \$26.95

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In 1945, war came to an end, but a whole new terror was just beginning. Gaddis explains why America and the Soviet Union became locked in a deadly stalemate; how close we really came to nuclear catastrophe; what was going on in the minds of leaders from Stalin to Mao Zedong, Reagan to Gorbachov; how secret agents plotted and East German holidaymakers helped the Berlin Wall fall.

City of Oranges: Arabs and Jews in Jaffa by Adam LeBor \$26.95

There are libraries of books on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but this is the first to recount the human story of those who have experienced the century-long struggle, from both sides simultaneously. Due Mar The Undercover Economist by Tim Harford \$27.95

Looking at familiar situations in unfamiliar ways, this is a fresh explanation of the fundamental principles of the modern economy, illuminated by examples from the streets of London to the booming skyscrapers of Shanghai to the sleepy canals of Bruges. Leaving behind textbook jargon and equations, Harford reveals the games of signals and negotiations, contests of strength and battles of wit that drive not only the economy at large, but the everyday choices we make. Due Mar

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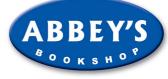
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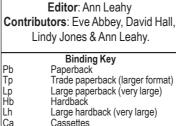
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